



Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Gníomhaireacht Comhshaoil Thuaisceart Éireann
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Our Reference: DAERA/26-220

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

29 April 2026

Water Catchment Unit

NIEA Lisburn

17 Antrim Road

Tonagh

Lisburn

BT28 3AL

Telephone: 0800 80 76 60

Email: WMU.FOI@darea-ni.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department on 26 March 2026 which sought the information about:

- The total number of pollution incidents relating to the Cregagh Glen River that have been reported between January 2024 and present via:
- The Water Pollution Hotline (0800 80 70 60), and:
- Any other DAERA/NIEA reporting channels (for example, emergency-pollution@daera-ni.gov.uk)

The Department has conducted a search and can confirm that it holds the information that you have requested. There were a total of 9 water pollution reports received, indicating varying pollutant types, with 6 of the reports being substantiated upon investigation, relating to the Cregagh Glen River between January 2024 and the date of issue of this response.

In response to your request for copies of internal reports, investigation summaries or enforcement decisions, the Department has decided to withhold this information as it considers **Regulation 12(5)(b) - The course of justice and enquiries exception** engaged whereby it considers the case as if 'sub-judice', as release of information could potentially interfere with current ongoing legal proceedings. The appropriate public interest test has been completed, attached as **Annex A**.



An Agency within the Department of
Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

An Agency w/in the Department o
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

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Most cases of water pollution reported to NIEA are, following investigation, found to be unsubstantiated or of Low Severity which would not reach the threshold for formal enforcement action. In the case of Low Severity incidents, NIEA ensures that the pollution is stopped and provides advice to minimise the risk of recurrence. Note that breaches of Cross-Compliance may be applied for certain Low Severity incidents, of agricultural source, where a polluter has been identified.

NIEA seeks to undertake enforcement action that is proportionate to the significance of the offence. This includes consideration of the level of environmental harm, the impact on communities, the level of financial benefit arising from the offence(s), or the regulatory costs avoided.

Formal enforcement action is normally considered for incidents having a Medium or High Severity environmental impact where a polluter has been identified. In such cases where it is suspected that a criminal offence has occurred; there is sufficient evidence and it is warranted in line with DAERA's Enforcement Policy, a file is submitted to the Public Prosecution Service, who review the file and decide whether to direct a prosecution. Other enforcement actions available to the Department include the issuing of Warning Letters, Notices and breaches of Cross-Compliance for agricultural incidents.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,



Water Catchment Unit

