

Our reference **DAERA/26-295**

██████████ via email

████████████████████

15 May 2026

Water Catchment Unit

NIEA Lisburn

17 Antrim Road

Tonagh

Lisburn

BT28 3AL

Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

Email: WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk

Dear ██████████

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department on 6 February 2026 which sought the following information:

1. Please detail NIEA's actions concerning your response to our complaint of 7th November 2025 regarding cypermethrin spraying at Warrenpoint Port.
2. Is NIEA aware of the continued use of cypermethrin at Warrenpoint Port?
3. If so, given the well-documented risk to human health and to aquatic life from cypermethrin, why has this spraying been permitted to continue unabated?
4. Which section(s) within NIEA is/are currently investigating this reported situation?
5. When is a decision by NIEA due in relation to the ongoing spraying and future use of cypermethrin at Warrenpoint Port?
6. Has there been any correspondence between NIEA and Warrenpoint Harbour Authority relating to the use of cypermethrin at Warrenpoint Port?
7. Has there been any correspondence between NIEA and Re-Gen relating to the use of cypermethrin at Warrenpoint Port?
8. Is there/will there be any enforcement action to be taken by NIEA against either Warrenpoint Harbour Authority or Re-Gen in relation to this chemical spraying?
9. Has NIEA taken samples from the marine environment in the proximity of Warrenpoint Port within the last year?
10. If samples have been taken, has cypermethrin been tested for?
11. If so, please supply the analysis reports and confirm or deny that cypermethrin has been detected within any sample.

The Department has conducted a search and can confirm that it holds some of the information that you have requested. In answer to request 1, the Water Pollution Response and Enforcement Team (WPRET) deployed a Water Quality Inspector (WQI) to investigate. This report is attached as **Annex A**, with some information redacted as the Department considers the following exceptions to be engaged:

Regulation 12(3) and 13(1) – Personal Information

Some information within the report constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. Regulation 12(3) requires that personal data is not disclosed, and Regulation 13 prohibits the disclosure of third-party personal data that would contravene UK GDPR or the DPA 2018. In this instance, releasing the data would be in contravene of principal (1) “personal data should be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to a data subject”. This is an absolute exemption; therefore, no public interest test applies. The Department has, however, carried out the appropriate Lawfulness, Fairness & Transparency Test which is attached as **Annex B**.

Regulation 12(5)(e) - Confidentiality of Commercial or Industrial Information

Some of the information within the report constitutes confidential commercial information and disclosure would or would be likely to adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest. Disclosure could prejudice the entity’s commercial position, including potential reputational harm, particularly as the information relates to regulatory matters not otherwise in the public domain. The appropriate public interest test has been completed and included, attached as **Annex C**.

In answer to request 2 and 5, Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Waste Team’s understanding from the operator that cypermethrin has not been used since the Summer of 2025 and that product approval was removed in January 2026.

In answer to request 3 and 4, the NIEA Waste Team were consulted and have stated that matters relating to the approval and use of such products sit outside the regulatory remit of NIEA.



In answer to request 6 and 7, this information is not held by the Department. Therefore, the Department must engage the following exception:

Regulation 12(4)(a) – Information Not Held

This exception applies where a public authority does not hold the requested environmental information at the time the request is received. Following appropriate searches, the Department can confirm that it does not hold information falling within the scope of this part of the request. The Public Interest Test is included in **Annex C**.

In answer to request 8, referring to the incident reported on 7 November 2025, following investigation, there was no pollution found, therefore no enforcement action will be taken.

In answer to request 9, 10 and 11, DAERA Marine and Fisheries Division (MFD) collected water samples from Carlingford Lough in 2025. These samples will be analysed for a range of substances, including cypermethrin this year. As these samples have not yet been analysed, the information is not presently held by the Department. The Department also holds a record of sediment samples collected by Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate (IPRI) from Narrow Water, these records are attached as **Annex D** and **Annex E**. The Department considers Regulations 12(3) and 13(1) engaged for these documents.

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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]

Water Pollution Response and Enforcement Team

