

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-332

Requested Information

“I’m looking for information regarding the number of sites in Northern Ireland that have asbestos on them.

Covering the 10 year period 2016-2025, please provide the following information for each such site that NIEA is aware of:

Location of site - please provide the nearest street and postcode.

Date at which NIEA became aware of it:

Amount of asbestos discovered:

Action taken by NIEA to date:

How much of clean up costs have been recouped:

Is asbestos still on site?

Date by which all asbestos removed from site.

Note: Previous information was released for 2015-2024 (attached). However the location was not provided to the street and postcode level. In this request I am also asking for the date by which all asbestos removed from site.”

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(5)(a)

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Transparency and openness
- Public awareness of environmental risks
- Accountability of regulators and operators
- Supporting environmental protection

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Risk to public safety
- Lead to unauthorised access or trespass
Result in disturbance of asbestos-containing materials
Increase risk of exposure to harmful fibres

- Potential for misuse of information
- Undermining safe site management
- Disproportionate harm relative to benefit

The exact address/postcode often adds limited additional public benefit where wider location/context is already provided.

- Alternative means of transparency available
Generalised location data
Summary information (as in Annex A)

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided on balance, the public interest is better served by withholding this specific information while providing relevant details in a less precise form, as set out in Annex A.



Environmental Crime Unit