

**Environment Marine & Fisheries
Group**
Marine & Fisheries Division



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: **DAERA/26-355**

[Redacted]
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19 June 2026

Dear [Redacted],

Environmental Information Request (2004)

I refer to your request for information regarding proposed sewage infrastructure works within the Connor Burn catchment. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which can be found in the table below.

1	Whether there are currently any active or pending Section 48 applications or Schedule 6 permits in relation to the installation of sewage infrastructure along the Connor Burn, including any authorisation for in-river works associated with	A Section 48 application was received, assessed and consent granted in respect of works along the Connor Burn. Section 48 consent relates to the removal of material from the riverbed and includes conditions to protect fisheries interests and habitat. It does
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	the burial of sewage pipes beneath the river channel by NI Water.	not in itself authorise the installation of infrastructure. Matters relating to Schedule 6 drainage consents fall within the remit of DfI Rivers, and you may wish to contact DfI directly in this regard.
2	Any current or proposed applications relating to these works.	See above.
3	Whether consent has been granted for in-stream excavation or pipe burial operations.	Consent has been granted for in-stream excavation as part of the pipe burial operations works.
4	The current status and outcome of any Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) and Habitat Impact Assessment (HIA) undertaken in connection with the project.	The proposed works were screened under the Habitats Regulations and were not considered likely to have a significant effect on any European designated site; therefore, a formal Habitats Regulations Assessment was not required.
5	Any mitigation measures or environmental protections proposed to safeguard fisheries interests, aquatic habitat, and water quality during and after the works.	Conditions were applied to the Section 48 consent to minimise impacts on the watercourse and aquatic environment during construction, including appropriate best practice measures to protect fisheries and habitat. A Construction Method Statement is required to be submitted alongside the application.
6	Whether Inland Fisheries has been formally consulted as part of the approval process.	As above.

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7	Concerns regarding sewage infrastructure overflows, water quality, and potential impacts on fish populations, spawning habitat, and ecological status.	<p>The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has advised that the Connor Burn is monitored under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. NIEA monitoring indicates that the waterbody is currently classified at less than good ecological status.</p> <p>Matters relating to sewage discharges, water quality and ecological status fall within the statutory remit of NIEA.</p>
8	Information regarding monitoring requirements associated with these works.	<p>DAERA Inland Fisheries will monitor compliance with conditions set out in any Section 48 exemption when notified by the applicant that works are commencing.</p> <p>NIEA has advised that matters relating to water quality monitoring, environmental compliance, and any post works inspection or reporting arrangements fall within its regulatory remit. You may wish to contact NIEA directly at nieainfo@daera-ni.gov.uk for further information on these aspects.</p>

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 &

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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]

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