



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Our reference: DAERA 26/318

████████████████████  
████████████████████@whatdotheyknow.com>

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2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026

Dear ██████████,

### **The Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) 2004**

With regard to your *request for information received by the Department* on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026 which sought the following information:

#### **EIR Information Requested:**

Dear Northern Ireland Environment Agency,

Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, please provide the number of records identified by NIEA/DAERA as falling within scope of each numbered section of my original request dated 23 January 2026 (Internal Review Ref: DAERA/26-44), titled 'Lisbane Landfill: Closure Strategy, Asbestos Cells, and Proposed Extension Linkage'.

<https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=whatdotheyknow.com&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2hhdGRvdGhleWtub3cuY29tL3JlcXVlc3QvbGlzYmFuZV9sYW5kZmlsbF9jbG9zdXJlX3N0cmF0ZWciaW5jb21pbmctMzQwODM5NQ==&i=NjU1NTQ1Y2Y2MjBmMmMyMzA0ZGUxOTVj&t=TFIEMGt0NzRibHFyZ0h5WnBRN2dsbjdPQUhaWjBnN0hjS1pyRE9WSE5KYz0=&h=21c79d4d077d495>

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**  
We invest in people Standard

[3b985459468a3a949&s=AVNPUEhUT0NFTkNSWVBUSVbLMDQSF1xXAADZgl0VjSYt0FLI6bbETaA1nruHKnxVN5uDKTmeYgmOb Jdu1 SDzq](https://www.foi.gov.uk/foi/3b985459468a3a949&s=AVNPUEhUT0NFTkNSWVBUSVbLMDQSF1xXAADZgl0VjSYt0FLI6bbETaA1nruHKnxVN5uDKTmeYgmOb Jdu1 SDzq)

Please provide separate figures for:

- Questions 1–10;
- and, where applicable, each individual sub-section (for example 7(a)–(e), Question 9(1)–(4), etc).

For the avoidance of doubt, I am not requesting disclosure of the environmental information itself, only the number of records identified by the Department in relation to each section of the request when estimating that “1000+ records” fell within scope for the purposes of Regulation 12(4)(b).

If exact figures are not held, approximate estimates are sufficient.

Yours faithfully,

George Clarke

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested. However, after careful consideration, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) is refusing your request under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(b), on the grounds that it is **manifestly unreasonable**.

The department considers your request to be manifestly unreasonable on the grounds of diversion of resources. The department has always accepted a greater burden when responding to requests for environmental information than other information, however, in this instance, it considers complying with this request to be overly burdensome, in so far as it will divert the existing resources available to the department to such an extent that the delivery of its public services would be affected.

The department has determined that the cost to comply with your request to be **£2,400**. A breakdown of how this figure was reached is in the table below:

Number of potential records identified	Time to review each record and extract information	Time taken @ £25/hr of staff time	Total
1,152 records	1,152 x 5 minutes = 5,760 minutes	5,760 / 60 = 96 Hours x £25=	£2,400

A public Interest Test has been included for your consideration. Please see appendix A.

If you require any clarification, believe 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](mailto: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,

**Waste Permitting Team**

## **APPENDIX A**

### **Public Interest Test – Environmental Information Regulations**

**Reference Number – DAERA/26-318**

**Requested Information:**

Dear Northern Ireland Environment Agency,

Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, please provide the number of records identified by NIEA/DAERA as falling within scope of each numbered section of my original request dated 23 January 2026 (Internal Review Ref: DAERA/26-44), titled ‘Lisbane Landfill: Closure Strategy, Asbestos Cells, and Proposed Extension Linkage’.

[https://eu-west-](https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=whatdotheyknow.com&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2hhdGRvdGhl eWtub3cuY29tL3JlcXVlc3QvbGlzYmFuZV9sYW5kZmlsbF9jbG9zdXJlX3N0cmF0ZWcja W5jb21pbmctMzQwODM5NQ==&i=NjU1NTQ1Y2Y2MjBmMmMyMzA0ZGUxOTVj&t= TFIEMGt0NzRibHFyZ0h5WnBRN2dsbjdPQUhaWjBnN0hjS1pyRE9WSE5KYz0=&h=21c 79d4d077d4953b985459468a3a949&s=AVNPUEhUT0NFTkNSWVBUSVbLMDQSF1xXA ADZgI0VjSYt0FLI6bbETaA1nruHKnxVN5uDKTmeYgmOb_Jdu1_SDzg)

[1.protection.sophos.com?d=whatdotheyknow.com&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2hhdGRvdGhl eWtub3cuY29tL3JlcXVlc3QvbGlzYmFuZV9sYW5kZmlsbF9jbG9zdXJlX3N0cmF0ZWcja W5jb21pbmctMzQwODM5NQ==&i=NjU1NTQ1Y2Y2MjBmMmMyMzA0ZGUxOTVj&t= TFIEMGt0NzRibHFyZ0h5WnBRN2dsbjdPQUhaWjBnN0hjS1pyRE9WSE5KYz0=&h=21c 79d4d077d4953b985459468a3a949&s=AVNPUEhUT0NFTkNSWVBUSVbLMDQSF1xXA ADZgI0VjSYt0FLI6bbETaA1nruHKnxVN5uDKTmeYgmOb\\_Jdu1\\_SDzg](https://eu-west-1.protection.sophos.com?d=whatdotheyknow.com&u=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cud2hhdGRvdGhl eWtub3cuY29tL3JlcXVlc3QvbGlzYmFuZV9sYW5kZmlsbF9jbG9zdXJlX3N0cmF0ZWcja W5jb21pbmctMzQwODM5NQ==&i=NjU1NTQ1Y2Y2MjBmMmMyMzA0ZGUxOTVj&t= TFIEMGt0NzRibHFyZ0h5WnBRN2dsbjdPQUhaWjBnN0hjS1pyRE9WSE5KYz0=&h=21c 79d4d077d4953b985459468a3a949&s=AVNPUEhUT0NFTkNSWVBUSVbLMDQSF1xXA ADZgI0VjSYt0FLI6bbETaA1nruHKnxVN5uDKTmeYgmOb_Jdu1_SDzg)

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Yours faithfully,

George Clarke

### **Exemption / Exceptions under consideration**

Regulation 12(4)(b)

### **Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:**

- Everyone has the right to access environmental information.
- Disclosure of the information would provide greater detail on the regulator’s decision making process in withholding information.

### **Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:**

- Complying with the volume of information requested would apply an unjustified level of disruption to staff already working in difficult circumstances due to already busy workloads.
- This subject of this request has already been partially addressed.

## **Conclusion**

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test, the Department has decided that it would not be in the public interest to completely fulfil the request made by the requestor. The Department considers this to be manifestly unreasonable based on the burden of dealing with the request and consequent diversion of resources in dealing with this query.

## **Waste Permitting**