



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

Reference Number: DAERA 26/323

Request by email: [\[REDACTED\]
\[REDACTED\]
\[REDACTED\]@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto: [REDACTED]@whatdotheyknow.com)>

Waste Permitting Team
Lisburn NIEA
17 Antrim Road
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Tel: 02890569596

Email: daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk

3rd June 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

The Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) 2004

With regard to your *request for information received by the Department on the 8th May 2026* which sought the following information:

EIR Information Requested:

This request relates to records retention and disposal practices concerning engineering validation, approval and enforcement records associated with Lisbane Landfill, from Waste Management Licence LN/04/11A through to PPC Permit P0145/06A (including Variations 1–7).

In DAERA/25-545, the Department's internal review response stated that:

> "Some legacy records may have been included in the disposal process..."

The response further referred to statutory disposal obligations relating to records normally created seven years previously.

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

In light of that response, please provide:

1) Any records retention schedule, retention policy, disposal guidance or similar document applicable (currently and historically) to:

- landfill engineering validation records;
- landfill CQA validation records;
- hazardous/asbestos cell approval records; or
- landfill enforcement records, including draft enforcement notices.

2) Any destruction log, disposal record, archive review record or similar audit documentation evidencing the disposal, deletion or destruction of records relating to the following at Lisbane Landfill:

- the Phase 7 asbestos/SNRHW cell;
- Condition 2.8.8 approvals for the Phase 7 asbestos/SNRHW cell;
- Schedule 7 CQA validation for the Phase 7 asbestos/SNRHW cell; or
- the 2009 draft Enforcement Notice referenced within the Golder Associates 2009 report.

3) Any record identifying whether the categories of records identified above:

- were transferred to archive storage;
- remain held within legacy systems; or
- were formally authorised for disposal.

4) Any policy, guidance or criteria governing retention periods for hazardous landfill engineering validation or containment approval records during the operational, restoration or aftercare lifetime of a landfill.

Please also identify the statutory basis referred to within DAERA/25-545 for the statement that certain legacy records “may have been included in the disposal process which the Department is statutorily obliged to complete on information which is normally on records created seven years previously.”

Yours faithfully,

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 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/26-323

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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