



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 require significant diversion of staff time and resources and would represent a poor use of public funds.

The Department estimates the cost of compliance with this request to be £2,225 and a summary of how figures has been reached is outlined below:

Description	At X minutes per record = X Minutes	At X Minutes/60 = X Hours	Total estimated cost. Hours X £25/hr
Locating, retrieving and extracting the information	2.5 x 2136 = 5340	89	£2,225

In these instances, the Department is required to consider the public interest in complying with the request. A Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached.

When a request is refused on the grounds of cost, in line with Regulation 9(1), the department is required to provide advice and assistance on how your request could be refined in order to reduce the cost.

Therefore, it would be helpful to understand whether your primary focus is on one or more of the following areas:

- The policy and decision-making process around the non-commencement of aquaculture licensing provisions; or
- Legal or jurisdictional issues relating specifically to Lough Foyle; or
- Enforcement activity concerning aquaculture; or
- Engagement with the Assembly or Committees on this issue.

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 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.

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]

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**Aquaculture Policy Branch**

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