

Reference Number: DAERA/26-353
Request Details:
HRA for release of gamebird and mallards
for shooting on Special Protection Areas
and Special areas of Conservation

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Natural Environment 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

██████████
Via email
██████████@rspb.org.uk

Conservation, Designation and Protection
Clare House
303 Airport Road
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Telephone: 028 90 33 6973

E-mail: cdp@daera-ni.gov.uk

10 June 2026

Dear ██████████

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 20 May 2026 as detailed below.

Has a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) been carried out for the release of a) gamebirds b) Mallards (for shooting) on i) Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and ii) Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Northern Ireland. If so, please can you provide a copy.

Under Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

- The Department has carried out a search and has no record of any Habitats Regulations Assessments being carried out for the release of gamebirds or mallards for shooting on Special Protection Areas or Special Areas of Conservation.

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.

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NIEA has not been made aware of any landowner actively engaging in the release of a) gamebirds b) Mallards (for shooting) on i) Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and ii) Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in Northern Ireland.

Activities such as this should be subject to the full rigours of the Habitats Regulations and a HRA should be undertaken to fully scrutinise all elements of the practice against the conservation objectives of the designated site.

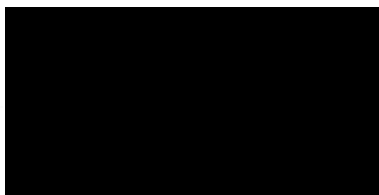
If RSPB are aware of incidences of this practice, please report to CDPCompliance@DAERA-ni.gov.uk and the Team will investigate it through the appropriate channels.

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 & 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,



[Issuing Officer's Branch]

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