

**Windsor Framework Implementation
Directorate**
Windsor Framework Business
Management Office



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

Our reference: FOI 26/325

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Date: 10 June 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 12th May 2026 that sought the following information:

- **all correspondence between DAERA, the Food Standards Agency, and DEFRA relating to hormone-treated Brazilian beef since 1 March 2026;**
- **any briefings, internal notes, or advice provided to the Minister regarding this matter; any assurances, assessments, or responses received concerning whether hormone-treated Brazilian beef has entered supply chains in the North of Ireland.**
- **This request relates in particular to correspondence references COR-0196-2026, COR-0268-2026, and COR-0287-2026.**

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I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested.

The information held which can be disclosed is attached.

Timeline of Events

For your ease of reference, I include a summary timeline of when advice was provided to the Minister on these cases;

- COR-0196-2026 was received by the Department on 19th March 2026. Advice on this case was provided to the Minister on 31st March 2026, and a response issued to you on 3rd April 2026.
- COR-0268-2026 was received by the Department on 15th April 2026. Advice on this case was provided to the Minister on 21st April 2026 and a response issued to you on 23rd April 2026.
- Because CORs-0196 and 0268-2026 (and, latterly, COR-0287-2026) touched on subjects falling under the direction and control of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), and as notified to you in responses to those correspondences, your query (logged as DCOR-0009-2026) was passed to Baroness Hayman of Ullock, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Animal Welfare and Biosecurity) for consideration on 14th April 2026. A response from the Defra Minister issued to you on 26th May 2026.
- COR-0287-2026 was received by the Department on 23rd April 2026. Advice on this case was provided to the Minister on 1st May 2026, and a response issued to you on 11th May 2026.

Records within Scope of Request

In relation to your request, the Department identified 56 records, 19 of which were deemed not to be within scope. For 26 records, the following FOI exemptions have been engaged;

- Section 35(1)(a) – Formulation of Government Policy. In these instances, the Department is legislatively required to consider the public interest in disclosure. An associated Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached for your information at **Annex A**.
- Section 21 – Information accessible to the applicant by other means. We have identified 13 records that engage this exemption. These records relate exclusively to;
 - The receipt of correspondence from you to the Department concerning CORs 0196, 0268 and 287-2026; and/or

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- The issue of formal responses to you from the Department concerning these COR cases.

For your further ease of reference, the 11 records being released under this request have been numbered. Some of those 11 records contain attachments, which have been appended as separate documents; hence the actual number of documents being released to you totalling 22.

Some of the information contained in these records constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. In these instances, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection Principle, which states that processing must be lawful, fair and transparent.

The Department has considered this element within the test attached at **Annex B** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under FOI exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large” and not just to you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld.

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,

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Windsor Framework Implementation Directorate

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