

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-371

Requested Information

In relation to Regen Waste Management Limited, which sought:

Quarterly Waste Returns, Site Inspection Reports and Correspondence (WML 22/59 LN/13/35, WML 38/10 LN/17/16, PPC permit number P0418/13A and PPC permit number P0610/23A), to include;

We would be grateful if NIEA could now please provide copies of quarterly waste returns from Regen operations as follows:

- i. relating to its Warrenpoint Harbour sites WML 22/59 LN/13/35/V3 (“Warrenpoint Harbour”) for the periods covering July 2024 to March 2026;
- ii. relating to PPC permit number P0418/13A (“Shepherds Drive PPC”) for the periods covering July 2024 to March 2026;
- iii. relating to Waste Management Licence 38/10 LN/17/16 (“Shepherds Drive WML”) for the periods covering July 2024 to March 2026; and
- iv. relating to PPC permit number P0610/23A (“Derryboy Road”) for the periods covering January 2025 to March 2026.

Furthermore, we would be grateful if NIEA could please provide copies of the following:

1. Records relating to correspondence between NIEA and Regen regarding enforcements relating to Regen’s operations at Shepherds Drive, Warrenpoint Harbour and Derryboy Road, covering the period from 28 July 2023 to the date of this correspondence.
2. Copies of all site inspection reports, including sniff test reports and all correspondence relating to any non-compliances for the Warrenpoint Harbour site and sniff test results from the period of 24 July 2024 to the date of this correspondence.

3. The number of complaints received by NIEA relating to Regen's sites at Warrenpoint Harbour, Shepherds Drive and Derryboy Road in 2023, 2024, and 2025 to date, with the date of each complaint and the date of any corresponding site inspection.
4. A copy of any site inspection reports and any other correspondence, file notes, and internal memoranda between NIEA, Regen, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority and others relating to non-compliance and enforcement relating to the storage of RDF or SDF at Regen's site at Warrenpoint Harbour, covering the period from 24 July 2024 to the date of this correspondence.
5. A copy of any site inspection reports and any other correspondence, file notes, and internal memoranda between NIEA, Regen and others relating to non-compliance and enforcement at Regen's site at Derryboy Road, up to the date of this correspondence.
6. A copy of any site inspection reports and any other correspondence, file notes, and internal memoranda between NIEA, Regen, Newry Mourne and Down District Council and others relating to non-compliance and enforcement at Regen's site at Shepherds Drive, up to the date of this correspondence.
7. A copy of correspondence between NIEA and Regen regarding the approval of any changes to Regen's Working Plans, relating to Warrenpoint Harbour, Shepherds Drive and Derryboy Road, covering the period from 24 July 2024 to the date of this correspondence.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Regulation 12 (4) (b), Manifestly unreasonable request.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Greater understanding of local environmental issues.
- More effective public participation.
- Promote transparency.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Puts the Department under a burden of excessive work.
- Puts a strain on the resources available to the Department.
- Detracts Department officers from the regulation work that still needs to be carried out.
- 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.
- Compiling, reviewing, and redacting all responsive records would require a disproportionate amount of staff time and resources, diverting NIEA from its core regulatory and compliance duties.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test, the Department has decided that it would not be in the public interest to fulfil the request made by the requestor.

The Department considers this to be manifestly unreasonable based on the cost and burden of dealing with the request and consequent diversion of resources in dealing with this query.

[REDACTED]

NIEA Waste Industrial Pollution, Regulation and Enforcement Unit