

Reference Number: **DAERA/26-370**

Request Details:

Request for the number of 11th night bonfires for each of the last 5 years.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Environmental Crime Unit



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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26 June 2026

Dear ██████████

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 02 June 2026 which sought the following information:

“How many ‘Eleventh Night’ related bonfire investigations have been carried out by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency’s Environmental Crime Unit in each of the past five years.

Please provide brief details of the outcome in each case.”

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

The information you requested is detailed below and in Annex A.

In the last 5 years, ECU has received 74 reports of waste crime occurring at Bonfire sites. It is not possible to classify all these reports into defined characteristics such

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as 11th Night/Cultural/Domestic/Social/Community Bonfires. A range of outcomes has been attributed to these reports such as:

- Council remediated site
- Landowner remediated site
- NIEA Remediated site
- NIEA notified council of fly tipping
- No evidence provided to bring forward enforcement action
- Risk assessments not provided by PSNI to NIEA to proceed with remediation
- Individual waste (tyres) removed by bonfire builders
- Advice given to by NIEA to council/Landowner
- Advice and guidance given by NIEA to complainants

ECU has opened up full Enforcement investigations into a number of these reports as seen in Annex A. All these enforcement cases involved Cultural 11th Night bonfires.

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,


Environmental Crime Unit

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