

Requested Information

I request the following information relating to the badger intervention element of DAERA's Regionalisation Project.

Please provide:

3. A breakdown of costs by category, including but not limited to:

- * staff costs;
- * contractor and consultancy costs;
- * veterinary services;
- * equipment and materials;
- * traps and trapping equipment;
- * transport and vehicle costs;
- * laboratory testing;
- * training;
- * licensing;
- * communications and public engagement;
- * legal and regulatory costs;
- * project management; and
- * any other relevant expenditure.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

EIR Regulation 12(4)(b) – Manifestly unreasonable

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Disclosure would promote openness about how public authorities are planning to spend public money.
- Demonstrating transparency about financial planning may reassure the public that resources are being managed responsibly.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Complying with the request would impose a disproportionate burden on the authority in terms of time, cost and resources, making the request manifestly unreasonable.
- Significant resources would need to be diverted from the authority's core functions and statutory duties, potentially impacting service delivery to the wider public

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided that the public interest is best served by maintaining the exception 12 (4) (b).