

Reference Number – DAERA/26-411

Requested Information

Sight of the following sections associated with the applications please? (bTB Regional Approach Project Wildlife Intervention Licences)

Programme of Work
Protocols

Exemption / Exception under consideration

- EIR Regulation 12 (5) (a) – Public safety
- EIR Regulation 12 (4) (e) – Internal communications
- EIR Regulation 12 (5) (d) – Confidentiality of proceedings.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- There is a recognised public interest in transparency and in providing access to information relating to any wildlife interventions.
- Release would assist public understanding of wildlife intervention proposals and the evidence underpinning them.
- Releasing information would aid accountability and transparency regarding government policy development and decision making.
- DAERA is committed to conducting its business in a manner that is as open and transparent as possible.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- It is in the public interest to protect the public, public buildings and industrial sites from accident or acts of sabotage.
- The requested information contains detailed operational and methodological information concerning proposed wildlife intervention activities.
- Disclosure could increase risks to the safety of staff, contractors, researchers and other individuals involved in the project by identifying locations, activities or operational arrangements associated with the interventions.
- Release could create opportunities for interference with licensed activities, equipment or study areas, potentially placing individuals at risk and compromising safe working practices.
- There is a significant public interest in ensuring that measures designed to protect human safety and the safe delivery of official functions are not

undermined.

- Disclosure could adversely affect the Department's ability to carry out wildlife management activities safely and effectively.
- There is a need for confidentiality in the dealings between government professionals – advice is sought and provided on this basis and there should be no factors which inhibit open and frank discussion or provision of advice;
- There is a need for confidentiality in the dealings between government professionals – advice is sought and provided on this basis and there should be no factors which inhibit open and frank discussion or provision of advice;
- The information forms part of proceedings that are subject to a recognised duty of confidentiality and where confidentiality is provided for by law.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided that the public interest is best served by maintaining the exceptions 12 (5) (a), 12 (4) (e) and 12 (5) (d) at this time.

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group