

Our reference **DAERA/26-344**

Reply via email

[\[REDACTED\]@bbc.co.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@bbc.co.uk)

Water Catchment Unit  
NIEA Lisburn  
17 Antrim Road  
Tonagh  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL

Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

Email: [WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk)

01 July 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

### Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your request for information received by the Department on 19 May 2026 which sought the following information:

**A breakdown of all legal cases NIEA taken against a 'Public Body', 'Private Company' or 'Individual' for the period 2020 to the date of your request. Details you requested were:**

- **Month/Year legal case taken**
- **Name of individual/company/public body action taken against**
- **Reason legal action taken**
- **Is this case concluded or ongoing**
- **If ongoing what was the outcome**
- **If there was a financial settlement please provide details of it**

The Department has conducted a search and can confirm that it holds information relating to your request. Please see **Annex A** for details of legal cases relating to offences in respect of the Water (NI) Order 1999 as enforced by the NIEA Water Pollution Response and Enforcement Team (WPRET).



In respect of water pollution, please note that formal enforcement action is normally considered for incidents having a High or Medium Severity environmental impact where a polluter has been identified. In addition to formal prosecution under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999, other enforcement actions available to the Department include the issuing of Warning Letters, Notices and Breaches of Cross Compliance for Agriculture related incidents.

Legal cases undertaken by other NIEA teams under various legislative provisions are attached at **Annex B**.

In respect of the information being provided, the Department considers the following exceptions to be engaged:

### **Regulation 12(3) and 13(1)**

Some information within the data constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. Regulation 12(3) requires that personal data is not disclosed and Regulation 13 prohibits the disclosure of third-party personal data that would contravene UK GDPR or the DPA 2018. In this instance, releasing the data would be in contravention of principal (1) “personal data should be processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to a data subject”. This is an absolute exemption; therefore, no public interest test applies. The Department has, however, carried out the appropriate Lawfulness, Fairness & Transparency Test which is attached as **Annex C**.

### **Regulation 12(5)(b)**

Some of the legal cases listed are currently subject to ongoing enforcement action and, therefore, further information cannot be disclosed at this time as NIEA treats all details of live and ongoing cases as if ‘sub judice’. The Department has carried out a Public Interest Test, attached as **Annex D**, which provides further detail.

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.

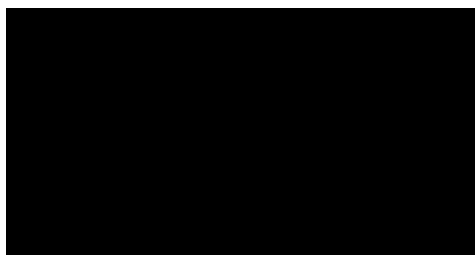
If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.



If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto: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,



**Water Pollution Response and Enforcement Team**



An Agency within the Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne  
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil  
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency wí'n the Depairtment o  
**Fairmin, Environment  
an' Kintra Matthers**

**INVESTORS IN PEOPLE**  
We invest in people Standard