

Our Reference: DAERA/26-420

Water Pollution Response &

Enforcement Team

NIEA Lisburn

17 Antrim Road

Tonagh

Lisburn

BT28 3AL

via email

@umail.ucc.ie

10 July 2026

Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

Email: WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk

Dear Madam,

As all the information requested is Environmental in nature, we have dealt with your request under Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Thank you for your environmental information request, received by the Department on 19 June 2026, seeking the following.

1. The number of enforcement actions taken in relation to water pollution incidents affecting Lough Neagh and/or Lough Beg for each year from 2021 to the most recent year available.
2. If held, a breakdown of enforcement actions by type (e.g. investigations, warning letters, statutory notices, enforcement notices, prosecutions or civil sanctions).

In respect of your Request at Part 1 –

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

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Enforcement Actions (Completed)	40	23	24	26	16

No Further Action, Cost Recovery Only and Ongoing have been removed from the figures above.



In respect of your Request at Part 2 –

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested. This is presented in the Table below.

Enforcement Actions	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Warning Letter	1	1	1	1	1
Warning Letter and Breach	0	4	4	12*	6
Warning Letter and Cost Recovery	15	7	7*	7	5
Warning Letter and Cost Recovery and Article 8 Notice	1	0	2	0	0
Warning Letter and Cost Recovery and Breach	0	2	4	2*	3
Prosecution	4*	2	3**	0	0
Prosecution and Breach	1	3**	3	4	0
Breach	17	4	0	0	1
Article 27 Notice	1	0	0	0	0
Enforcement Action - ONGOING	0	0	0	2*	8
Other Outcomes					
Cost Recovery Only	1	0	2	1	1
No Further Action	6	1	3	2	0

*where an incident is linked to another incident, at the same location, enforcement actions may be amalgamated i.e. the number of individual incidents may be greater than the sum of all enforcement actions.

**includes 1 Prosecution Case(s) that was discontinued.

For context, the enforcement categories in the above Table are intentionally detailed to ensure each case is counted only once and to avoid any potential for double counting. While this increases the number of categories, it maintains data accuracy and consistency.

Where the term 'Breach' is mentioned, this refers to an agricultural business receiving a financial penalty for having breached regulations under the Nutrients Action Programme.

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.

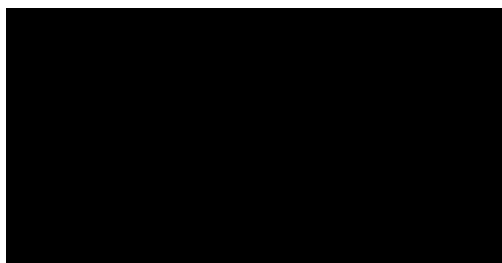
If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department.

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,



Water Pollution Response & Enforcement Team



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
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**

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