



Our reference: **DAERA/26-541**



Marine & Fisheries Division

Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast BT3 9ED

By Email:



Tel: 0300 200 7860

Email: anglingcorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk

19 August 2026

Dear



Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 6 August 2026 concerning information held by DAERA in relation to fisheries enforcement activity within the Co Down operational area from 18 February 2026 to date. Following subsequent correspondence, you confirmed that the scope of your request should be limited to information held directly by DAERA. The Department has now completed its searches and can confirm that it holds some of the information requested. The information held within the scope of your request is provided in the table below.

1	Detections: Total individuals detected or caught illegally fishing/poaching by DAERA Inland Fisheries/enforcement officers.	During the period specified, DAERA recorded 9 detections involving individuals and identified 17 breaches of the relevant fisheries legislation.
2	Prosecutions: Number of individuals formally prosecuted or referred for prosecution by DAERA.	Enforcement action was taken in line with the DAERA Enforcement policy. No individuals were formally prosecuted or referred for prosecution during the

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		period specified. In a number of cases, warning letters were issued as an alternative enforcement outcome.
3	Seizures: Total number of illegal nets, traps, or related illegal fishing tackle seized directly by DAERA officers.	DAERA officers did not seize any illegal nets, traps, or related illegal fishing tackle during the period specified.
4	Translation Costs: Total expenditure incurred by DAERA for translation or interpretation services provided in connection with these fisheries' enforcement incidents/interviews.	The Department does not retain translation and interpretation costs at the level of individual enforcement cases. However, for the relevant DAERA operational area during the period specified, recorded expenditure was Translation Services: £255.60; Source Recreation: £62.00; Total (excluding VAT): £317.60.
5	Operations: Total number of enforcement operations (including night-time operations) conducted by DAERA Inland Fisheries/enforcement officers.	During the period specified, DAERA conducted 16 coastal (shore) patrols, 2 boat patrols (one on a lake and one on a river), 266 South East Area foot patrols, 6 dealer inspections, and 10 abstraction inspections.
6	Operational Cost: Direct operational expenditure or allocated budget incurred directly by DAERA for resourcing, staffing, and running this specific taskforce element.	The Department does not retain operational costs separately for this operational activity.

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,

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If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,



DAERA Inland Fisheries

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