

LAWFULNESS, FAIRNESS AND TRANSPARENCY TEST

DAERA/26-592 - Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

Request Details:

"Copies of all correspondence and attachments, sent to/from WMU NIEA, regarding the issue of misrepresented soil sample analysis, from Feb 2026 onwards. Note: This should cover issues with Tier 2 grants, where relevant. Copies of all correspondence and attachments, sent to/from WMU NIEA, regarding any issue (other than the soil samples issue) relating to misrepresentation of information submitted as part of agricultural planning applications, from Feb 2026 onwards."

Brief description of the Personal Data falling within the scope of the request

Personal data of which the requester is not the data subject is also held within this report. This includes the name, telephone number and email address of individuals outside the Department and individuals inside the Department.

LAWFULNESS

Please identify the lawful basis for processing

Personal data is processed when it is lawfully disclosed in response to an FOI / EIR request.

The lawful basis for processing are set out in Article 6 of the GDPR and the ICO expects at least one of two lawful bases (Consent / Legitimate Interest) to apply before the personal data held can be disclosed.

- ☐ **Consent:** This will apply when the data subject(s) clear consent exists that allows you to disclose the personal data falling within the scope of this request.
- ☐ **Legitimate interests:** the processing is necessary for the Department's legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party that overrides the data subject(s) rights and freedoms, particularly their right to privacy.

Consideration of Legitimate Interests

1. PURPOSE

As the disclosure of personal data under FOI or EIR is a disclosure to the world at large, doing so on the strength of a requester's private interests alone could constitute a disproportionate and unwarranted level of interference with the data subject(s) rights and freedoms, particularly their right to privacy and family life under the Human Rights Act 1998.

2. NECESSITY

The right of access under FOI or EIR does not in itself constitute a **pressing social need**.

The Department has considered and not identified any such need for the data subject's right to privacy to be interfered with.

CONCLUSION

Having considered all of the information contained within this test, the Department has established that, on balance, there is no lawful basis for the disclosure of third-party personal data falling within the scope of the request.

[REDACTED]

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