

Reference Number: DAERA/26-456



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

**Veterinary Service Animal Health
Group**
Information Communications Branch

Email:

[\[REDACTED\]@btinternet.com](mailto:[REDACTED]@btinternet.com)

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Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Limavady
BT49 9HP

E-mail: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

28 July 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 26 June 2026 which sought the following information:

- 1. Whether all licences, permits and approvals required to undertake the regionalisation pilot wildlife intervention have been granted. This includes, but is not limited to, any licences issued by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Department of Health, or any other relevant authority.**
- 2. If any required licences have been granted, please state:**
 - the date each licence was granted;
 - the issuing authority; and
 - the period for which each licence is in force.
- 3. Please provide copies of all granted licences.**
- 4. Whether the planned wildlife intervention associated with the regionalisation pilot has commenced.**
- 5. If the intervention has commenced, please provide:**
 - the date on which operational activity began; and

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- a brief description of the activities undertaken to date (for example, trapping, vaccination, selective or non-selective culling, or any other wildlife intervention).

6. If the intervention has not yet commenced, please confirm this and, if known, provide the anticipated commencement date.

We advised you on 09 July 2026 that this request was being dealt with Freedom of Information legislation, however, on consideration of the information requested this request has been processed under Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

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

1. Whether all licences, permits and approvals required to undertake the regionalisation pilot wildlife intervention have been granted. This includes, but is not limited to, any licences issued by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, the Department of Health, or any other relevant authority.

All licences, permits and approvals to commence the regionalisation pilot wildlife intervention have been granted. Some recently appointed staff are still waiting for NIEA licences to be granted.

2. If any required licences have been granted, please state:

- the date each licence was granted;
- the issuing authority; and
- the period for which each licence is in force.

An example of each licence is provided at **Documents 1 to 6**. NIEA licences are valid until November 30 2026. ASPA project and personal licences are valid for 5 years from date of issue.

3. Please provide copies of all granted licences.

Please see attached **Documents 1 to 6**. The Department has considered this data and has decided to invoke Environmental Information Regulation 2004 12(3) being Third Party personal data of which you are not the data subject.

The Department has considered this element with the test attached at **Annex A** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under Environmental Information Regulation 2004 exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large” and not just to you, the requestor. Consequently, third party personal data falling under the scope of this request has been withheld.

4. Whether the planned wildlife intervention associated with the regionalisation pilot has commenced.

The planned wildlife intervention has commenced.

5. If the intervention has commenced, please provide:

- the date on which operational activity began; and
- a brief description of the activities undertaken to date (for example, trapping, vaccination, selective or non-selective culling, or any other wildlife intervention).

Badger sampling commenced on Tuesday 14 July. Prior to this there was a period of placing and baiting cages. The process currently is trap, sedate, take and check bloods for TB, take a range of non-invasive measurements and recordings (weight/ length/ neck and head circumference along with a basic health check for wounds/ parasites and a hair sample). All badgers are then microchipped and, if positive for TB, euthanised. If negative, they are vaccinated and released back to where they are found.

6. If the intervention has not yet commenced, please confirm this and, if known, provide the anticipated commencement date.

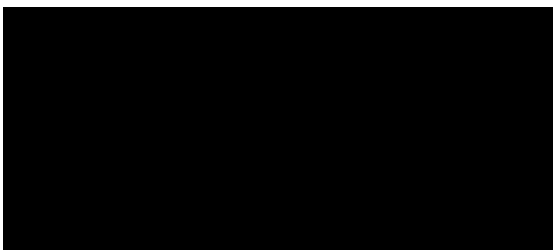
N/A (see above response).

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,



Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

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