

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-473

Requested Information

Details of all DAERA and associated bodies' or agencies' communications and correspondence (both electronic and physical, internal and external) in relation to the Ulster Farmers' Union and Lough Neagh since 2019. This would include, but is not restricted to:

- 1) Letters, email, electronic messenger and any other communications discussing this.
- 2) Minutes and any other records from meetings and engagements (virtual, hybrid and in-person).
- 3) The time(s), date(s), venue(s) and a full list of attendees of any such meetings and engagements (virtual, hybrid and in-person).
- 4) Any presentation materials circulated or used at any such meetings and engagements.
- 5) Any briefing notes or documents shared or used at any such meetings and engagements.

Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(3) and 13(1) – Personal Data

Exception engaged:

The requested information includes personal data relating to identifiable individuals. Disclosure would contravene the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 principles, particularly lawfulness, fairness and data minimisation.

Public interest in disclosure:

- Promoting openness and transparency in public authority decision-making.
- Enhancing public understanding of how environmental matters are managed.
- Supporting accountability in the use of public resources.

Public interest in maintaining the exception:

- Protecting individuals' rights to privacy and data protection.
- Ensuring compliance with UK GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.
- Preventing unfair or unlawful disclosure of personal data.

Conclusion:

The public interest in protecting personal data and complying with data protection legislation outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(5)(e) - Commercial confidentiality

Exception engaged:

The requested information includes material that shows costings and financial data that if disclosed could adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial information, where that confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

Public interest in disclosure:

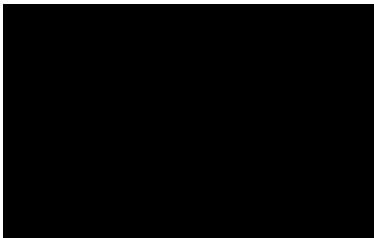
- Public interest in transparency and accountability.
- Supporting accountability in the use of public resources.

Public interest in maintaining the exception:

- Protecting legitimate economic interests (e.g. preventing loss of competitive advantage).
- Avoiding reputational or financial harm that could hinder or deter future investment or commercial activity.

Conclusion:

The public interest in maintaining the exception is favoured to protect lawful commercial confidentiality and legitimate economic interests.



Environment, Marine and Fisheries Group (DAERA)