

Reference Number: DAERA/26-486
Request Details:
Information on BGA testing for
Camlough



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Water Regulation and Enforcement
Division

[Redacted]
Email: [Redacted]

Freshwater Monitoring and Assessment
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Water Regulation and Enforcement Division
Water Science & Evidence Unit
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

E-mail: WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk

05 August 2026

Dear [Redacted]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 17 July 2026 which sought the following information:

Subject: Recent Blue-Green Algae at Camlough Lake.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is below and attached as Annexes A & B.

1. Method of testing/ verification for toxins (concentration, what was tested, what results were)

DAERA holds data on a single sample from Camlough Lake on 22nd July 2026. Information is provided in Annex A

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.

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2. Timeline for results of testing

Information is provided in Annex A. It is the responsibility of the site owner/operator (Newry, Mourne and Down District Council) to ensure the safety of water users. Although, Camlough Lake is not an identified Bathing Water, the council may conduct toxicity testing following confirmed reports of BGA.

3. Frequency of tests

DAERA holds data on a single sample on 22nd July 2026. Information is provided in Annex A

4. Documentation for tests (photographic evidence or site reports)

NIEA investigate reports of algal blooms submitted through the incident hotline or Bloomin' Algae App to confirm if blue green algae are present. Notifications of confirmed blooms are sent to the person who reported the bloom and the relevant local authority. Photographs of the reports can be viewed on the Bloomin' Algae App at <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/bloomin-algae>

DAERA's web viewer details each confirmed report and is available at <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c2a28780d7554bed9d1f47f3ae710fa4/page/bluegreenalgaemap>

Information held on the recent confirmation of presence of BGA in Camlough is provided in Annex B.

5. Causation (assessments as to potential causes)

Information on the causes of blooms can be found at DAERA's blue-green algae information resources at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/blue-green-algae>. The Department holds no data on a specific assessment for Camlough Lake.

The Department published a consultation on Significant Water Management Issues on 18th December 2025. Information on water quality issues in the Carlingford and Newry Local Management Area may be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/significant-water-management-issues>

6. Location for where toxins detected

Information is provided in Annex A

Some of the information held constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. In these instances, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection Principle, which states that processing must be lawful, fair and transparent.

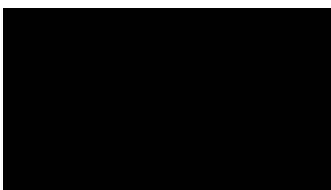
The Department has considered this element within the test attached at **Annex C** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under FOI / EIR exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large” and not just to you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld

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,



Freshwater Monitoring and Assessment

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