

Reference Number: DAERA/26-592

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Regulation and Enforcement Division



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

By e-mail to: [REDACTED]

Development Management & Major Client
Interface
Water Catchment Unit
Water Regulation and Enforcement Division
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
17 Antrim Road, Tonagh, Lisburn, BT28 3AL

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

14 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 10 August 2026 that sought the following information:

1) 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.

2) 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.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is attached as **Annex A**.

Some of the information held constitutes personal data of which you are not the data Subject; this information is being withheld under Regulations 12(3) and (13(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). 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 B** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under 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 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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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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

[Redacted title]