

Reference Number: DAERA/26-451
Request Details:
Information and correspondence regarding - Use of "National Landscape" for Lagan Valley AONB in Northern Ireland.

NIEA
Natural Environment Division



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

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Natural Environment Division
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

E-mail: NIEA.Informationrequests@daera-ni.gov.uk

05 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information dated 6 July 2026 seeking the information detailed below:

1. Any recorded information relating to the use, consideration, adoption or subsequent discontinuation of the term "National Landscape" in relation to Northern Ireland's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the date of any decision, the authority responsible and any reports, briefing papers or other documents recording or supporting that decision. If no formal decision exists, please confirm that.

No formal policy exists on the consideration of the use of the term "National Landscape" in relation to Northern Ireland's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

2. Any correspondence between DAERA and DEFRA, National Landscapes UK, Ordnance Survey, Google, local councils or any other organisation relating to the naming, branding or mapping of Northern Ireland's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, including the appearance or subsequent removal of the term "Lagan Valley National Landscape" on Google Maps or other digital mapping platforms.

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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There is no correspondence between DAERA and DEFRA, National Landscapes UK, Ordnance Survey, Google, local councils or any other organisation relating to the naming, branding or mapping of Northern Ireland's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

3. Please confirm whether Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty remains the only statutory landscape designation recognised in Northern Ireland and whether "National Landscape" has ever been adopted or recognised by DAERA as an official or supplementary designation,

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty remains the only statutory landscape designation recognised in Northern Ireland.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our records the Department has determined under Regulation 12(4)(a) that the information sought is not held.

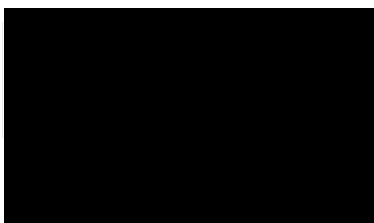
Under Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

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,



NIEA Chief Executive's Office

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