

Reference Number: DAERA/26-535

Request Details:

Please provide the number of operational ADs plants in NI that: a. provided NIEA or DAERA with a nutrient management plan, fertilisation plan, digestate management plan or equivalent document; b. were specifically asked to provide such a plan.



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

Waste Industrial Pollution, Regulation
and Enforcement Division

████████████████████
Via
████████████████████

Waste Regulation Unit
17 Antrim Road,
Tonagh
Lisburn,
Co. Antrim.
BT28 2AL

E-mail: WRU.Queries@daera-ni.gov.uk

18 August 2026

Dear ████████████████████

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on [date] which sought the following information:

Under the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, particularly regulation 12 concerning the application of anaerobic digestate, would you be able to provide information on the extent to which the fertilisation-plan requirements have been enforced in relation to anaerobic digestion plants and the agricultural holdings receiving their digestate?

For the previous calendar year please provide the number of operational anaerobic digestion plants in Northern Ireland that:

- a. provided NIEA or DAERA with a nutrient management plan, fertilisation plan, digestate management plan or equivalent document;**
- b. were specifically asked to provide such a plan**

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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NIEA Water Catchment Unit – Agricultural Regulations team advises:

You have asked ‘under the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, particularly regulation 12 concerning the application of anaerobic digestate, would you be able to provide information on the extent to which the fertilisation-plan requirements have been enforced in relation to anaerobic digestion plants and the agricultural holdings receiving their digestate?’

Please see information below about records to be kept on farm and provided during a Farm Sustainability Standards (1) Inspection. Where sufficient records are not kept, this is seen as a breach of the Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and may result in a penalty being applied to the Farm Sustainability Support payment.

To comply with The Nutrient Action Programme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (NAP) the controller of the holding should keep sufficient records for each calendar year which should include:

- Slurry/Anaerobic digestate/poultry litter/organic manure import records including AD nutrient analysis, soil tests and fertilisation plan if relevant (see note below).
- Slurry/Anaerobic digestate/organic manure export records.

In addition, if they are spreading, or intend to spread, Anaerobic Digestate, high P manures or chemical phosphate fertiliser on grassland, they must also have available their current Fertilisation Plan, soil tests and if applicable, a recent analysis of the Anaerobic Digestate being applied.

Further information and guidance can be found at the link below (see page 71 – Section 10 – Record Keeping).

[Nutrients Action Programme 2019-2022 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/nutrient-action-programme-2019-2022)

You also asked ‘For the previous calendar year please provide the number of operational anaerobic digestion plants in Northern Ireland that:

- a. provided NIEA or DAERA with a nutrient management plan, fertilisation plan, digestate management plan or equivalent document;
- b. were specifically asked to provide such a plan;’

NIEA can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is detailed below:

Number of operational AD plants providing said information	5
Number of requests for said information from operational AD Plants	6

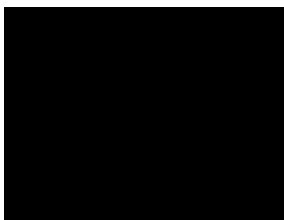
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If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

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,



Waste Management Licensing Branch

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