

**Environment Marine & Fisheries
Group**
Marine & Fisheries 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

Your reference: 3875

Our reference: DAERA/26-504

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
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18 August 2026

Dear [Redacted]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your correspondence concerning the reported restriction on recreational angling on Lough Neagh and your subsequent clarification email dated 12 August 2026.

Following your clarification email of 7 August 2026, the Department has distinguished between:

- requests for recorded information considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); and
- requests seeking policy clarification, legal interpretation, operational views or future actions, which have been addressed separately through business correspondence.

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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This approach reflects the agreement recorded in your clarification email and allows the Department to address the information access and business correspondence elements of your submission through the most appropriate channels. The outcome of the Department's consideration of the EIR elements of your request is summarised below.

Request Reference	Outcome
3(a) – 3(d)	Information disclosed
4(d)	Information disclosed
9(h) – 9(j)	Information disclosed
9(l)	Information disclosed
9(o)	Information disclosed
9(r)	Information disclosed
1(d)	No information held
5(a), 5(b)	No information held
6(a), 6(b), 6(d)	No information held
9(n)	No information held
9(p)	No information held
9(s)	No information held
2(a) – 2(c)	Refused under Regulation 12(4)(b)
9(k)	Refused under Regulation 12(4)(b)
9(q)	Refused under Regulation 12(4)(b)
9(m)	Withheld under Regulation 12(5)(b)

Information Disclosed

Information falling within the scope of requests 3(a)-3(d), 4(d), 9(h)-9(j), 9(l), 9(o) and 9(r) has been identified and is attached at **Annex A**.

Regulation 12(4)(b) – Manifestly Unreasonable Requests

Following your clarification email of 7 August 2026, you confirmed that you wished requests 2(a)-2(c), 9(k) and 9(q) to remain at their original breadth and that, where a date range was required, the scope should extend from 1992 to the present day. Having considered the scope of these requests, the Department concluded that compliance would require extensive searches across multiple current and historic record systems, archived records and business areas spanning more than three decades. The Department therefore considers the requests to be manifestly unreasonable within the meaning of Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. An associated Public Interest Test is attached at **Annex B**.

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Regulation 12(5)(b) – Course of Justice / Legal Advice

The Department has applied Regulation 12(5)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 to information identified under request 9(m). The records comprise legal advice and related communications concerning fishing rights on Lough Neagh. Disclosure would adversely affect the course of justice and the confidentiality of legal proceedings, and the information is therefore withheld. An associated Public Interest Test is attached at **Annex C**.

Regulation 13 – Personal Data

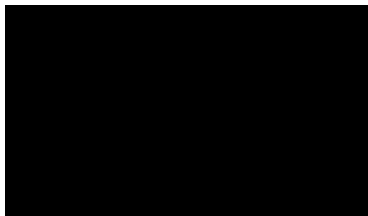
Certain information has been redacted under Regulation 13 of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 as it comprises third-party personal data. The associated Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency Test is attached at **Annex D**.

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,



DAERA Marine & Fisheries Division

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