



Our reference: TOF-0315-2025

[Redacted]

via email

[Redacted]

25 September 2025

Green Growth Initiatives and
Innovation Branch

Clare House

303 Airport Road West

Sydenham Intake

Belfast BT3 9ED

Telephone: [Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

[Redacted]

via email

[Redacted]

Via email

Dear [Redacted]

Concerns Regarding Funding Link to Proposed Anaerobic Digestate Facility LA05/2025/0400/F

Thank you for your recent correspondence about the planning application for a proposed anaerobic digestate processing facility at Carrowreagh Road, Dundonald (Ref: LA05/2025/0400/F). I appreciate the time you have taken to outline your concerns about location, traffic, amenity, and local business impacts. I am responding as the DAERA Project Manager for the Sustainable Utilisation of Livestock Slurry (SULS) Phase 2 project. I have responded below to each of the points on which you have sought clarity.

1) Does SULS Phase 2 funding amount to a planning endorsement, or is it conditioned on any specific site?

The funding and contractual support provided under SULS Phase 2 does not constitute an endorsement of any planning proposals brought forward by participating suppliers, nor is there any condition regarding development taking place at a specific site.

Decisions in relation to planning applications are made by the relevant Local Planning Authority (which in this case is Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council) with due regard to relevant planning policy.

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2) How does DAERA ensure that innovation it funds does not come at the expense of community wellbeing or local amenity?

SULS Phase 2, a Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) is a research and development initiative, intended to pilot an innovative approach to reduce surplus phosphorus from agriculture. The project is a specific action within the Lough Neagh Action Plan to help address excess nutrients ultimately entering the lough. Several safeguards apply:

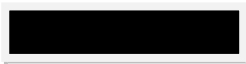
- **Planning controls:** Any supplier participating in a DAERA funded innovation project are subject to planning controls. This means that location, scale, induced traffic, odour, noise, hours of operation, and visual/amenity considerations in relation to any planning application are assessed by the Local Planning Authority through the planning process, with opportunities for public representation.
- **Environmental regulation:** any necessary environmental permits (for example, waste management or pollution control) are determined through regulatory processes. All SBRI suppliers are required to comply with relevant legislation and adhere to appropriate regulations.

3) Would DAERA support a review of the site location to avoid conflict with residential or food-sensitive environments?

DAERA has not prescribed sites for the SULS projects. It would not be appropriate for DAERA to comment on a live planning application. However if you have not already done so, I would encourage you to submit any representations on Ref: LA05/2025/0400/F directly to the Local Planning Authority via the council's planning portal so that your views are formally considered.

Please be assured that DAERA's support for innovation must always sit alongside full compliance with planning and environmental regulation.

Yours sincerely,



Project Manager, SULS Phase 2 (SBRI) Green Growth & Innovation Division, DAERA

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