

Dear [REDACTED]

Please see attached letter in response to your email below.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Head of Green Growth Business Development Branch

Clare House

303 Airport Road West

Belfast

BT3 9ED



An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department of
Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers

*Sustainability at the heart of a
living, working, active landscape
valued by everyone.*

From: [REDACTED] Sent: 10 September 2025 08:25 To: Muir, Andrew ; Muir, Andrew CO Cc: Long, Naomi ; sorcha.eastwood.mp@parliament.uk Subject: Concerns Regarding Funding Link to Proposed Anaerobic

CAUTION – This email has been received from outside the NICS network. If you have any concerns, please report for investigation.

sophos

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 10 September 2025 08:25

To: Muir, Andrew <andrew.muir@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>; Muir, Andrew CO <andrew.muir@co.niassembly.gov.uk>

Cc: Long, Naomi <naomi.long@mla.niassembly.gov.uk>; sorcha.eastwood.mp@parliament.uk

Subject: Concerns Regarding Funding Link to Proposed Anaerobic Digestate Facility

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]
important

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Re: Concerns Regarding Funding Link to Proposed Anaerobic Digestate Facility – Carrowreagh Road, Dundonald

Dear Minister Muir,

I am writing as a concerned resident regarding a current planning application (Ref: LA05/2025/0400/F) for a Class B3 industrial anaerobic digestate processing facility at lands adjacent to Carrowreagh Road, Dundonald – a site located directly beside residential areas and food businesses.

I understand that your department, through the Sustainable Utilisation of Livestock Slurry (SULS) Phase 2 programme, has recently announced funding for a consortium that includes Blakiston Houston Estates, the applicant for this proposal.

I am certain you will have discussed this directly with Blakiston Houston as you are photographed with them in this article regarding their proposals.

<https://climatenorthernireland.org.uk/daera-launches-12m-three-year-programme-to-demonstrate-innovative-solutions-for-livestock-slurry-in-ni/>

While I fully support investment in sustainable agriculture and nutrient management, I respectfully wish to highlight the inappropriateness of the proposed location and the damaging perception that DAERA's financial support may be seen to endorse or legitimise a planning application which is causing serious concern within the local community.

The Carrowreagh Road site is on the **edge of a major residential area** ([REDACTED] where I live and surrounding developments), directly visible and downwind from hundreds of homes, and in close proximity to a food preparation business. The application proposes:

- 24/7 industrial operations involving the handling of animal waste;
- An estimated 2,400 HGV movements per year through local roads;
- No meaningful public consultation with adjacent neighbourhoods;
- A Class B3 use on zoning (MCH 06) where such use is restricted in the northern undeveloped portion;
- No carbon assessment, despite clear obligations under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022.

This facility, while perhaps aligned with elements of DAERA's climate goals, is entirely misaligned with local planning policy, community wellbeing, and the wider objectives of reducing emissions from transport. Locating a high-impact operation of this nature in such close proximity to homes and food businesses risks long-term damage to community trust in both DAERA's programmes and the planning system.

I would be grateful if you could provide clarity on:

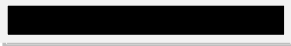
1. Whether DAERA's SULS Phase 2 funding carries any planning endorsement or is conditioned upon any specific site being used;
2. How your department ensures that funded innovation does not come at the cost of community wellbeing or local amenity;
3. Whether you would support a review of the site location to ensure that sustainability goals are achieved without creating avoidable conflict with residential and food-sensitive environments.

For information, a long established local fresh food manufacturer is located directly behind this proposed industrial processing facility, employing 130 staff and contributing £2.5m p/a of wages locally.

I am certain your intention is to promote a forward-looking, environmentally responsible agricultural sector—but I hope you will agree that siting is as important as strategy, and that the burden of innovation should not fall on those least equipped to absorb it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I would welcome any engagement from your department to better understand how this can be resolved in a way that supports both innovation and community protection.

Yours sincerely,

A black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.