

Reference Number: DAERA/26-472
Request Details:
Information on Headcount of Designated
Wildlife Inspectors



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

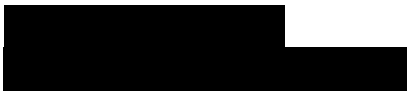
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Natural Science Unit
Natural Environment Division



Wildlife & Invasive Branch
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Telephone: 028 9056 9558

E-mail: elmswildlife@daera-ni.gov.uk

11 August 2026

Dear 

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 14 July 2026 which sought the following information:

Could you please provide the following information regarding the staffing and designation of Wildlife Inspectors within the Department and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA):

1. The current headcount of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff explicitly employed within the NIEA Wildlife Team whose primary job role/title is "Wildlife Inspector".
2. The total number of other DAERA or NIEA staff members (e.g., Veterinary Officers or Agriculture Inspectors) who currently hold an active operational designation/warrant to exercise the statutory powers of a Wildlife Inspector under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended).
3. If applicable, any recent historical data or targets for these staffing numbers over the last three financial years.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is below.

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.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

1. NIEA Wildlife Team currently have 1 Wildlife Inspector and 3 Wildlife Officers.
2. There are a total number of 45 DAERA or NIEA staff members who currently hold a warrant card that allows them to exercise the statutory powers of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 (as amended). It should be noted that not all of these holders have been trained under the Police & Criminal Evidence (NI) 1989 legislation.
3. Among the many duties of the NIEA Wildlife team they have a NIEA business plan target of:
Issuing decisions for 95% of Wildlife Order licences within 15 working days

2023/24:	93.35% (511 licence processed)
2024/25:	98.5% (801 licence processed)
2025/26:	99.9% (781 licences processed)

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,



Wildlife & Invasives Branch