

From: [REDACTED]
To: [DAERA Private Office](#)
Subject: Concerns Regarding Inaccurate FOE NI Reporting on Broiler Litter Management
Date: 23 July 2026 13:38:24
Attachments: [0.png](#)
[Pilgrims DAERA Minister July 2026 FOE NI Report.pdf](#)

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Dear Minister,

Please find attached a letter from [REDACTED] outlining our concern regarding unfounded claims in a recent FOE NI report and subsequent media coverage of same.

We offered direct engagement with FOE NI throughout the report drafting process to discuss its concerns, answer questions and ensure our response was accurately reflected. Those offers were not taken up.

While scrutiny and challenge are entirely legitimate, the standards applied in this instance fall significantly below what should be expected of organisations and individuals seeking to contribute to an evidence-based public debate.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require any further information.

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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**From the Office of the
Minister of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**

[REDACTED]
Moy Park Limited
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[REDACTED]



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Our Ref: COR-0531-2026
Date: 12 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

CONCERNS REGARDING INACCURATE FRIENDS OF THE EARTH NORTHERN IRELAND REPORTING ON BROILER LITTER MANAGEMENT

Thank you for your letter of 23 July 2026. I note your concerns regarding the Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland reporting on broiler litter management.

In response to media queries on this issue, NIEA has clarified that it does not approve, nor is it required to approve, Moy Park's overarching Litter Utilisation Strategy.

NIEA has also highlighted that each individual new broiler farm application for a Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permit is required to demonstrate with supporting evidence that they have a sustainable outlet(s) for the total litter which will be produced from their proposed development.

My department and officials will continue to work closely with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the Northern Ireland environment is adequately protected for the benefit of current and future generations.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

Mr Andrew Muir MLA,
Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Clare House
303 Airport Road
West Belfast BT3 9ED

By email

23 July 2026

Concerns Regarding Inaccurate FOE NI Reporting on Broiler Litter Management

Dear Minister,

I write to make you aware of serious concerns regarding a recent article published by *The Detail* and promoted by Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland (FOE NI), which alleges that Moy Park/Pilgrim's Europe spread "20 times more poultry manure on Northern Irish fields than agreed with environmental authorities."

The central claim underpinning both the article and the associated FOE NI report is incorrect.

As repeatedly explained to FOE NI and the journalist, [REDACTED] who also drafted the report foreword, the claim is based on a comparison of two entirely different datasets. The 1% figure cited by FOE NI is from documentation on the DAERA PPC portal relating to potential litter outlets identified within permitting documentation at a specific point in time.

By contrast, the 21% figure provided by Pilgrim's Europe relates to actual litter movements during the year across both IPPC and non-IPPC farms. This information was voluntarily supplied to FOE NI in the interests of transparency and has also been shared with your Department, NIEA, the OEP and other relevant bodies. As you will be aware, this figure represents a reduction of more than 60% in broiler litter land-spreading over the past five years.

Critically, this allegation was not included in the limited material shared with us prior to publication, denying us an opportunity to fact-check or correct it before it entered the public domain. Subsequent attempts to explain the distinction and secure a correction have been ignored, and we have now escalated the matter to IPSO.

We also offered direct engagement with FOE NI throughout this process to discuss its concerns, answer questions and ensure our response was accurately reflected. Those offers were not taken up.

More broadly, we are concerned that the report relies heavily on outdated information, in some cases more than a decade old, alongside a number of incorrect assumptions. As a result, it does not accurately reflect our business today or the significant progress made in recent years.

Our Northern Ireland poultry operations are among the most highly regulated and transparent in the agri-food sector. We are undertaking a significant privately funded transition towards fully circular, off-land litter management, delivering environmental protection, renewable energy generation and wider circular economy benefits.

While scrutiny and challenge are entirely legitimate, the standards applied in this instance fall significantly below what should be expected of organisations and individuals seeking to contribute to an evidence-based public debate.



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Continuing to publish claims founded on a fundamental misunderstanding of the underlying data risks misleading stakeholders and undermining confidence in informed, fact-based discussion of this important issue.

We remain committed to science-led, evidence-based approaches to reducing the environmental impact of our business and to working transparently with regulators, policymakers and stakeholders to achieve this. We trust that those seeking to influence DAERA policy will engage in that process in good faith, with due regard for factual accuracy and the full context of the available evidence.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

R&D and Technical Director