

Reference Number: DAERA/26-526

Request Details:

any documents in relating to any meetings, whether by email of records of minutes of any and all meetings relating to any discussions in relation to my requests and how and why you came to the outcome that you saw fit to deny me any answers to any and all of my questions



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

NIEA

Natural Environment Division

Email: [REDACTED]

NIEA Central Services Unit
Natural Environment Division
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

E-mail: NIEA.Informationrequests@daera-ni.gov.uk

24 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 29 July 2026 that sought the following information:

any documents in relating to any meetings, whether by email of records of minutes of any and all meetings relating to any discussions in relation to my requests and how and why you came to the outcome that you saw fit to deny me any answers to any and all of my questions.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested.

The information held which can be disclosed is attached at **Annex A – Records 1 to 3**.

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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The Department has decided not to disclose some of the information you requested as it considers Freedom of Information Act 2000 Section 40(2) to be engaged.

Some of the information held constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. In these instances, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection Principle, which states that processing must be lawful, fair and transparent.

The Department has considered this element within the Lawful Processing and Fairness Test attached at **Annex B** and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under FOI exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large” and not just to you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld.

As indicated in previous correspondence with you on 04 June 2026, your original request dated 17 March 2026 was not handled in accordance with the required timescales due to an oversight. Once made aware of this handling error, NIEA apologised for the oversight and sought to respond to your correspondence.

A response to your original information request (DAERA/26-372) issued advising that more information was required in terms of the names of the windfarms, exact locations of the windfarms or planning reference numbers for the windfarms so that a search could be undertaken.

With regards to your request, dated 22 May 2026, for the Civil Service number of the person who received the FOI and who their supervisor was; a chronological chain of the names of the Civil Service person who dealt with the request as it passed through the organisation; and, the number of the supervisor in each case who was overseeing, a response issued to you on 18 June 2026 (DAERA/26-358) which confirmed that the information was being withheld as it is information relating to junior staff below the level of senior civil servants.

Consequently, in your follow up correspondence of 22 July 2026, you asked for civil service numbers and were again informed on 27 July 2026 that the information requested is considered personal information relating to junior staff and would not be released. You were also advised that if you had any further queries regarding this matter you may contact the DAERA Data Protection Officer at dataprotectionofficer@daera-ni.gov.uk.

You subsequently wrote on 28 July 2026 asking for information on point 1 only and a reply issued to you on 29 July 2026 seeking clarification on which information you were referring to which has resulted in the current request (DAERA/26-526) received on 29 July 2026. You then wrote on 5 August 2026 clarifying the information

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requested and this has been raised as DAERA/26-533 with an acknowledgement issued: this case is ongoing.

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,

