



Reference: **DAERA/26-536**



AESD Information Management Team
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Date: 26 August 2026

Dear [Redacted],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 5 August 2026, in which you requested information relating to Review of Decisions (ROD) for DAERA Agricultural and Environmental Schemes.

The Department has considered your request and carried out a search of its records. I can confirm that it holds some information relevant to your request. For ease of reference I have responded to your questions in the order in which they were asked:

1. Number of ROD received by the Department.

Please find the information requested below for the last five years for which data is held.

- 2021 - 190
- 2022 - 162
- 2023 - 279
- 2024 - 205
- 2025 - 171

2. Number of reviews where original decision overturned at written stage

Reviews resulting in a change to the original decision at written stage are recorded as either fully overturned or partially overturned and are set out below.

Year	Fully overturned	Partially Overturned
2021	42	25
2022	40	28
2023	95	21
2024	87	22
2025	40	15

3. Number of ROD that progressed to Independent Panel.

- 2021 - 26
- 2022 - 18
- 2023 - 15
- 2024 - 23
- 2025 - 21

4. Number of original decisions overturned at Independent Panel

- 2021 - 11
- 2022 - 10
- 2023 - 6
- 2024 - 10
- 2025 - 13

5. Most common Agricultural and Environmental Schemes or reasons which RODs are submitted

- 2021 – Cross-Compliance
- 2022 – Overpayment
- 2023 – Cross-Compliance
- 2024 – Cross-Compliance
- 2025 – Overpayment

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.

6. Average length of time to assign a case officer

The Department has considered this part of your request and can confirm that it does not hold the information requested. Accordingly, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information as it is not held.

The Department does not hold recorded information on the average length of time taken to assign a case officer. While information related to individual cases may be held, the requested average is not recorded, maintained or routinely reported by the Department. Consequently, the information requested for the period from January 2023 to the date of your request cannot be identified or extracted from existing records.

7. Average length of time to provide decision at written stage

For information, the average time taken to provide a decision at written stage is recorded in working days, whereas the timescales relating to Independent Panel hearings are recorded in calendar days. The information has therefore been provided in the format in which it is held.

Year	Average Time (working days)
2021	157
2022	145
2023	132
2024	97
2025	91

8. Average length of time between written stage and independent panel hearing

For information, applicants have 60 days from the date of the written stage decision to apply for consideration by an Independent Panel. In calculating the average times below, the period attributable to the applicant submitting their request has been excluded.

Year	Average Time (days)
2021	248
2022	291
2023	118
2024	111
2025	82

9. Average length of time to provide decision from independent panel hearing

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The figures provided are derived from departmental management information and are presented as held by the Department.

Year	Average Time (days)
2021	93
2022	34
2023	29
2024	23
2025	27

If you require any clarification or believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood, or misinterpreted, please contact the Agricultural and Environmental Schemes Division Information Management Team at the email address or telephone number above 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, 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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted contact information]

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