

DAERA/26-550

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

I refer to your e-mail on 5 August 2026 requesting information in relation to the implementation of the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024:

1. Any guidance, policy, procedure, briefing, legal advice or other recorded information held by DAERA explaining the quality assurance process applied to Climate Change Mitigation Reports and Climate Change Adaptation Reports submitted under the Regulations.

Departmental Response:

The information held by the Department has been provided in documents 2 and 3 which are attached to this response.

2. Any recorded information identifying the legal or policy basis for delaying publication of submitted reports pending completion of DAERA's quality assurance process.

Departmental Response:

The Department does not hold the requested information. The Department has not identified or relied upon any legal or policy basis for delaying publication of submitted reports pending completion of quality assurance.

3. Any guidance, circulars, emails, letters or other communications issued by DAERA to reporting bodies concerning:
 - o publication of submitted reports;
 - o whether reporting bodies should or should not publish their reports before DAERA publishes them; and
 - o the interaction between Regulation 10, concerning correction of reports, and Regulation 11, concerning publication of reports.

Departmental Response:

The information held by the Department has been provided in the documents listed 1-8 which are attached to this response.

4. Any recorded information explaining DAERA's interpretation of Regulation 11 in relation to when:
 - o reporting bodies are required or expected to publish reports submitted under the Regulations; and
 - o DAERA is required or expected to publish reports received from reporting bodies.

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.

Departmental Response:

The information held by the Department has been provided in document 1 which is attached to this response.

5. Please identify the specific statutory provision, if any, which DAERA considers permits a reporting body to delay publication of a report after it has been submitted under the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.

Departmental Response:

The Department does not hold recorded information identifying a statutory provision requiring reporting bodies to delay publication of their reports pending completion of the Department's quality assurance.

6. If DAERA does not rely on a specific statutory provision, please provide any guidance, policy, legal advice, briefing or other recorded information explaining the basis on which reporting bodies are advised or expected to delay publication pending completion of DAERA's quality assurance.

Departmental Response:

The Department does not hold guidance, policy, legal advice, briefing or other recorded information explaining a statutory or policy basis on which reporting bodies are advised or expected to delay publication pending completion of the Department's quality assurance process. The Department has, however, previously outlined its intended approach to the publication of reports following the completion of quality assurance and receipt of any corrected reports.

7. Please provide any timetable, target date, publication schedule or other recorded information showing when:
- the first mitigation reports are expected to be published by DAERA;
 - the first adaptation reports are expected to be published by DAERA; and
 - reporting bodies are expected to publish those reports on their own websites.

Departmental Response:

The information held by the Department has been provided in document 1 which is attached to this response.

I hope you find the information provided helpful.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted Signature]