



Our reference: DAERA/26-550

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Via email - [REDACTED]

Climate Change Public Body Reporting Team  
Climate Change Legislation and Policy  
Division

Department of Agriculture, Environment and  
Rural Affairs

Clare House

303 Airport Road West

Belfast BT3 9ED

Email: [ClimatePBR@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:ClimatePBR@daera-ni.gov.uk)

27 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

I refer to your request for information, received by the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA or the Department) on 5 August 2026, which seeks the following information relating 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.
2. Any recorded information identifying the legal or policy basis for delaying publication of submitted reports pending completion of DAERA's quality assurance process.
3. Any guidance, circulars, emails, letters or other communications issued by DAERA to reporting bodies concerning:
  - publication of submitted reports;

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- whether reporting bodies should or should not publish their reports before DAERA publishes them; and
  - the interaction between Regulation 10, concerning correction of reports, and Regulation 11, concerning publication of reports.
4. Any recorded information explaining DAERA's interpretation of Regulation 11 in relation to when:
- reporting bodies are required or expected to publish reports submitted under the Regulations; and
  - DAERA is required or expected to publish reports received from reporting bodies.
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.
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 process.
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**

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information relating to your request.

The information held, which can be disclosed, is attached at **Annex A**.

### **Information not disclosed**

The Department has decided not to disclose certain information within the scope of your request, as it considers that this information engages the following exceptions:

- i. Regulation 6(1)(b) - Information is already publicly available, please see links below to documents:

- The Climate Change Mitigation - Reporting Guidance for Public Bodies can be accessed at: [Public Body Climate Change Mitigation Reporting: Guidance and Supporting Documents | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#);
  - The Climate Change Adaptation – Reporting Guidance for Public Bodies can be accessed at: [Public Body Climate Change Adaptation Reporting: Guidance and Supporting Documents | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#);
  - The press release relating to the milestone achievement event for public bodies can be found at: [Public Bodies Celebration Event | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#).
- ii. Regulation 12(4)(d) - Material which is still in the course of completion, unfinished documents, or incomplete data.
- iii. Regulation 12(4)(e) - The request involves the disclosure of internal communications.
- iv. Regulation 12(5)(b) - Disclosure would adversely affect the course of justice, as the information is subject to legal professional privilege.

In these instances, the Department is legislatively required to consider the public interest in disclosure. An associated Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached for your information at **Annex B**.

### **Personal Data**

As the disclosure of personal data under FOI or EIR is a disclosure to the world at large, doing so on the strength of a requester's private interests alone could constitute a disproportionate and unwarranted level of interference with the data subject(s) rights and freedoms, particularly their right to privacy and family life under the Human Rights Act 1998.

In these instances, the Department is legislatively required to consider the lawful basis of disclosure. An associated Lawfulness, Fairness and Transparency Test has been conducted and is attached for your information at **Annex C**.

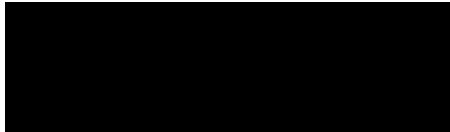
If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

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](mailto: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,



**Public Body Reporting Team**

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