

Reference Number: DAERA/26-573

Request Details:
Information on Policy Timelines for
Injuries at Work

**Department of Agriculture,
Environment and Rural Affairs**
Estate Transformation Division



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Limavady
BT49 9HP

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estatetransformationsupportdev@daera-ni.gov.uk

27 August 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 07 August 2026 that sought the following information:

Information on Policy Timelines for Injuries at Work

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 below:

1. What is the policy for injuries at work?

DAERA has policy arrangements in place for the reporting and management of work-related incidents. These policy arrangements require employees to report work-related injuries, with incidents being recorded, reviewed and, where appropriate, investigated. Certain incidents may also be reportable to the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 (RIDDOR).

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- 2. Are the policies any different historically for any open investigations pre 2016 which may have been carried over from the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) when it was amalgamated into other departments?**

The policies currently in place are DAERA policies. The Department does not retain information on DCAL policies.

- 3. The process involved upon the reporting of an injury at work and the associated timelines for investigation and decisions being made?**

When a work-related injury is reported, the incident is recorded, reviewed and investigated by local management. A copy of the incident report is also provided to the Central Health and Safety Branch.

DAERA does not have a single mandatory investigation or decision-making timescale that applies to all incidents. The extent and duration of any investigation, and the timing of any decisions arising from that investigation, will depend on the case specific nature of the incident.

- 4. If a favourable decision (for the employee) is made, what would the timeline be for compensation?**

The reference to a 'favourable decision' is unclear and could encompass a range of outcomes, not all of which would necessarily result in a compensation payment. However, the department does not hold information on timescales for compensation payments.

- 5. If an unfavourable decision (for the employee) is disputed through legal avenues and subsequently settled outside of the courts, what is the timeline for compensation?**

The reference to 'unfavourable decision' and the type of proceedings involved is unclear, however, if a timeline is set out in a settlement agreement the payment of compensation will be made in accordance with the agreement.

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 and Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady, BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

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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]

Estate Transformation Division

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