

**Environment Marine & Fisheries
Group**
Marine & Fisheries Division Division



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Reference Number: **DAERA/26-587**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Marine & Fisheries Division

Clare House
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E-mail:

InlandFisheries.OfficialCorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk

02 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 5 August 2026.

The Department has completed searches for recorded information falling within the scope of your request. Relevant information has been identified, and some information is being disclosed with this response.

The information requested and the Department's response are set out below.

Request	Response
<i>(i) Purpose of Visit: A full explanation of the purpose of the visit, including the statutory basis and powers relied upon by your officers, and details of any suspected offence or regulatory breach</i>	The Department can confirm that Inland Fisheries Officers attended the site in connection with the exercise of their statutory duties and powers under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966.

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<i>under the Fisheries Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 or any other relevant legislation.</i>	The Department holds further information relating to the purpose of the visit; however enforcement action and related investigative processes have not yet concluded. Accordingly, the Department is not providing further information relating to investigative assessments, operational decision-making, evidential matters or other information associated with the ongoing enforcement process at this time.
<i>(ii) Use of Body-Worn Cameras: Confirmation as to whether body-worn cameras were in use during the visit, and if so, why this was not properly disclosed on the visitor questionnaire at the first instance. Please provide a copy of your policy and legal basis for the deployment of body-worn video recording equipment by Inland Fisheries officers.</i>	The Department confirms that Body Worn Camera / Body Worn Video equipment was in use during the visit of 30 June 2026. Officers advised those present that recording was taking place. The Department does not hold a specific DAERA policy relating to the use of Body Worn Video equipment by Inland Fisheries officers. The Department does, however, hold operational and procedural documentation relating to the use of this equipment. Copies of the DAERA Inland Fisheries Body Worn Camera Procedures and Process document (Annex A) and the DAERA Inland Fisheries Body Worn Video Operational Protocol (Annex B) are enclosed.
<i>(iii) Recording and Footage: Confirmation of whether any audio or video recording was made during the visit.</i>	The Department confirms that audio and video recordings were made during the visit of 30 June 2026. The recordings are retained within the Department's evidential management system and have been identified as evidential material. As the recordings form part of an ongoing enforcement matter, they are not being disclosed at this time.
<i>(iv) Administration of the Caution: An explanation as to why our client was</i>	The Department holds records relating to the administration of a caution on 30

<i>cautioned, the specific allegation or offence for which he was cautioned, and why the officers proceeded to caution and question him after he had expressly requested legal representation.</i>	June 2026, including contemporaneous notebook entries and Body Worn Video recordings. The records relating to the circumstances surrounding the administration of the caution form part of an ongoing enforcement matter. Accordingly, the Department is not providing further information relating to suspected offences, investigative considerations, evidential assessments or other information associated with the ongoing enforcement matter at this time.
<i>(v) Compliance with PACE (NI) 1989: Confirmation that your officers complied with the requirements of PACE (NI) 1989, in particular the obligation to cease questioning and to re-caution a suspect in appropriate terms once a request for legal advice has been made.</i>	The Department holds records relating to this aspect of the request, including notebook records and Body Worn Video recordings. The records associated with this matter form part of an ongoing enforcement matter. Accordingly, the Department is not providing further information relating to investigative records, evidential matters or assessments concerning the application of PACE in relation to this matter at this time.

Documents Released

Annex A

DAERA Inland Fisheries Body Worn Camera Procedures and Process

Annex B

DAERA Inland Fisheries Body Worn Video Operational Protocol

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

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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,



DAERA Marine & Fisheries Division