

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Water Regulation and Enforcement
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

Our reference: DAERA/26-594



Water Catchment Unit
Water Regulation and Enforcement
Division
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Email: WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk

08/09/2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 10 August 2026 that sought the following information:

information regarding enforcement actions and derogations within the Lough Neagh catchment area. Enforcement & Penalties (January 1, 2024 – Present).

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 and attached.

The Department has decided not to disclose some of the information you requested as it considers Regulation 12(5)(b) and 12(4)(e) to be engaged. In these instances, the Department is legislatively required to consider the public interest in disclosure.

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.

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An associated Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached for your information at **Annex A**.

Part 1: Enforcement & Penalties (January 1, 2024 – Present)

1. An itemised list of all enforcement notices issued to agricultural or industrial entities regarding nutrient pollution, slurry management, or harmful runoff within the Lough Neagh catchment area between January 1, 2024, and the date of this request. For each notice, please state:

- o The date the notice was issued.
- o The type of notice (e.g., Water Order Prevention Notice, Enforcement Notice, Warning Letter).
- o The general location (e.g., Council area, postal district, or river sub-catchment).

File Reference	Date of Notice	Type of notice	Location
TC29/06_3	26/07/2024	Water Order Article 12 Enforcement Notice	Dungannon, County Tyrone, BT71 7NN
TC78/12_2	26/07/2024	Water Order Article 12 Enforcement Notice	Lurgan, Craigavon, Co Armagh, BT66 6NE
TC185/05_2	20/11/2024	Water Order Article 12 Enforcement Notice	Allistragh, Co. Armagh, BT61 8DT

WwTW Consent No	WwTW - Name	Council Area	Enforcement Type (Jan 2024 to August 2026)	Issue Date
6510/2007	Kilrea	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice RESCIND & REISSUE	06/10/2025
6108/2007	Robinsonstown	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice RESCIND & REISSUE	24/03/2025
6510/2007	Kilrea	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Warning-Under-Notice	20/12/2024
5841/2007	Galbally	Mid Ulster District Council	Postal Caution	19/12/2024
0445/2009	Hamiltonsbawn	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Warning Letter	17/12/2024
6510/2007	Kilrea	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	At Risk Email	05/12/2024
6556/2007	Moy	Mid Ulster District Council	At Risk Email	05/12/2024
6419/2007	Clogher	Mid Ulster District Council	At Risk Email	04/12/2024
6590/2007	Roughfort	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council	At Risk Email	04/12/2024

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5815/2007	Dunnamore	Mid Ulster District Council	Warning Letter	05/11/2024
6629/2007	Grange	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area in Northern Ireland	Postal Caution	04/11/2024
6381/2007	Bellaghy	Mid Ulster District Council	Warning-Under-Notice	21/10/2024
6389/2007	Blackwatertown	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Email	15/10/2024
0001/2017	The Loup	Mid Ulster District Council	At Risk Email	15/10/2024
6610/2007	Swatragh	Mid Ulster District Council	At Risk Email	11/10/2024
5841/2007	Galbally	Mid Ulster District Council	At Risk Email	10/10/2024
6629/2007	Grange	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Email	10/10/2024
6556/2007	Moy	Mid Ulster District Council	Postal Caution	24/09/2024
0434/2010	Annaghmore	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Email	12/08/2024
0418/2009	Maghery	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Email	12/08/2024
6424/2007	Cluntoe (Richardstown)	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Warning Letter	18/07/2024
0001/2017	The Loup	Mid Ulster District Council	Postal Caution	01/05/2024
6383/2007	Belleek Fermanagh	Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	At Risk Notification	05/12/2025
6484/2007	Glenavy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	At Risk Notification	05/12/2025
2027/2006	Richhill PPP	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Notification	05/12/2025
5508/2007	Annahugh Road	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Notification	05/12/2025
6510/2007	Kilrea	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Warning-Under-Notice	02/09/2025
6629/2007	Grange	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Postal Caution	02/09/2025
6474/2007	Eglishe Dungannon	Mid Ulster District Council	Warning Letter	22/12/2025
6445/2007	Derrymore	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Warning Letter	22/12/2025
5841/2007	Galbally	Mid Ulster District Council	Warning Letter	22/12/2025
0445/2009	Hamiltonsbawn	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Notification	28/05/2026
6381/2007	Bellaghy	Mid Ulster District Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice	14/11/2023
6381/2007	Bellaghy	Mid Ulster District Council	Warning-Under-Notice	21/10/2024
6381/2007	Bellaghy	Mid Ulster District Council	Warning-Under-Notice	02/09/2025
6108/2007	Robinsonstown	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice	18/02/2021
6108/2007	Robinsonstown	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Warning-Under-Notice	02/09/2025
6348/2007	Aughnacloy	Mid Ulster District Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice	20/03/2025

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6556/2007	Moy	Mid Ulster District Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice	29/09/2025
0001/2017	The Loup	Mid Ulster District Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice	23/12/2025
6510/2007	Kilrea	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice	23/10/2025
5834/2007	Feumore WwTW (Small WwTWs <250PE)	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	Warning Letter	13.01.2026
6556/2007	Moy	Mid Ulster District Council	Article 12 Enforcement Notice	29/09/2025
6556/2007	Moy	Mid Ulster District Council	Warning-Under-Notice	04/03/2026
6108/2007	Robinsonstown	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Warning-Under-Notice	19/08/2026
6443/2007	Derryhale	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	Warning Letter	14/08/2026
6474/2007	Eglish Dungannon	Mid Ulster District Council	Postal Caution	14/08/2026
0445/2009	Hamiltonsbawn	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Notification	28/05/2026
6424/2007	Cluntoe Richardson	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Notification	11/08/2026
6541/2007	Markethill	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council	At Risk Notification	11/08/2026
6151/2007	Belleek Fermanagh	Fermanagh & Omagh District Council	At Risk Notification	11/08/2026

2. The total number of unannounced on-site inspections carried out by DAERA/NIEA inspectors on agricultural premises within the Lough Neagh catchment area during this same period.

A total of 208 unannounced on-site inspections were carried out by NIEA inspectors on agricultural premises within the Lough Neagh catchment between January 1, 2024, and the date of this request.

3. The total number of cases referred to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) or Chief State Solicitor's Office relating to water pollution in the Lough Neagh catchment area during this period, and the total financial value of all fines successfully levied by the courts in these cases.

Please see **Annex B** for enforcement actions relating to the Lough Neagh catchment area from 01 January until 30 June 2026.

4. The total number of active derogations currently granted by DAERA allowing farmers within the Lough Neagh catchment area to spread livestock manure above the standard 170kg N/ha limit.

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A total of 168 farm businesses within the Lough Neagh catchment have been approved for a nitrates derogation to spread livestock manure above the standard 170 kg N/ha limit (up to a maximum of 250 kg N/ha/year), for the 2026 calendar year. Please note that farm businesses are permitted to withdraw from derogation by 31 December 2026, therefore this number may decrease by the end of 2026.

5. Copies of any internal briefing notes, memos, or email correspondence prepared for the Minister or the DAERA Permanent Secretary between January 1, 2025, and the date of this request, specifically discussing the legal risks or environmental impacts of maintaining the current nitrates derogation regime. (Please include discussions relating to the ongoing High Court judicial review Conlon v DAERA).

Documents withheld include legal advice on a matter which is currently the subject of legal proceedings and it is therefore not appropriate to disclose them.

The documents do not contain factual and statistical background data regarding the environmental impact of derogations. Therefore, there is no such information within them, which may fall outside the scope of the relevant exceptions, to disclose. Please see Annex A.

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 & 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,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

NIEA - Water Catchment Unit

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