

Public Interest Test –EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-611

Requested Information

Supply me with copy/copies of Policy / Procedures / Staff Guidelines issued to Water Quality Inspectors conducting inspections for water quality inspections

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(4)(e) – Internal Communications

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Regulation 12(2) requires DAERA to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure.
- DAERA is committed to conducting its business in a manner that is as open and transparent as possible.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- The Department requires the necessary space to think in private.
- Any Submissions to the Minister are internal documents compiled by his civil service executives detailing facts, advice and guidance to the Minister.
- The disclosure of internal departmental documents would impede the work of the Department.
- Disclosing internal documents would adversely affect the future confidentiality of a public authority's proceedings as the information sought provides commercial confidential information submitted in confidence.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exemption does outweigh the public interest in disclosing the available information. The Department has decided that, on balance, the information held by the Department as requested in question (2) regarding policy, procedures and staff guidelines or any other correspondence, briefings, or assessments by DAERA should not be disclosed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Water Pollution Regulation and Enforcement Team