

Our Reference: DAERA/26-611

Water Pollution Response &

Enforcement Team

NIEA Lisburn

17 Antrim Road

Tonagh

Lisburn

BT28 3AL

██████████ via email

7 September 2026

Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

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

Dear ██████████,

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your environmental information request received by the Department on 8 August 2026 seeking further information, including laboratory analysis and Internal Policy & Procedures, relating to water pollution incidents within 200m of 47A Feney, Road Magheralin.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested.

(1) Can you now supply me with copies of all laboratory analysis carried out on all water samples in the last 5 years taken within 200 metres from 47A Feney, Road Magheralin (at the stone bridge).

The six water pollution incidents referred to in our previous correspondence, were classified as Low Severity in terms of environmental impact. In such cases, NIEA ensures that the pollution is stopped and provides advice to minimise the risk of recurrence. Significant water pollution incidents i.e. those that reach, or exceed, the threshold for formal enforcement action under the Water (NI) Order 1999, may have statutory samples collected depending on the circumstances at the time of investigation. No water samples are collected in respect of the Low Severity incidents identified, as such incidents tend to be of lower and short-term water quality impact. NIEA receive and investigate around 1800 water pollution reports annually and, consequently, enforcement, sampling and analytical resources are targeted to those incidents where the impact is significant.



The waterway is not classified as a waterbody within DAERA's statutory monitoring programmes due to its size, therefore, NIEA not undertaken any statutory water quality monitoring or ecological assessments there. No post-incident monitoring has been undertaken. There are no routine water quality samples taken at the Stone Bridge.

(2) And in addition to the above supply me with copy/copies of Policy / Procedures / Staff Guidelines issued to Water Quality Inspectors conducting inspections for water quality inspections

The Department has considered this part of your request, and, under Regulation 12(4)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the request involves the disclosure of internal communications. It has been legislated that public authorities should have the necessary space to think in private. The Department has carried out the appropriate Public Interest Test which is attached as **Annex A**.

With regards to your request for a review of the decisions to not disclose certain information under DAERA/26-475, that review is underway separately and you will be contacted in due course.

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]

[Redacted Title]

Water Catchment Unit



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**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
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