

Reference Number: DAERA/26-625
Request Details:
Information regarding forestry road works

Environment, Marine & Fisheries
Forest Service



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Email: forest.regulation@daera-ni.gov.uk

15 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 17 August 2026 which sought the following information:

1. How many new forest roads did DAERA approve for creation in the last 3 years.
2. How many existing forest roads underwent maintenance or improvement works within the last 3 years

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

In relation to your first question, the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended) regulate forest road works, among other forestry activities, and require certain projects to be assessed before they proceed. A person proposing to undertake a forest road works project should apply to the Department for an opinion on whether the proposed project is likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore require consent under the Regulations.

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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In the three-year period 2023/24 to 2025/26, the Department considered two forest road works projects that fell within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended). These projects related to forest roads located in Conagher Forest, County Fermanagh, and Drumkeeragh Forest, County Down respectively.

In respect of how many existing forest roads underwent maintenance or improvement works within the last 3 years, under Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

Forest road maintenance and improvement works can include a wide range of activities, such as vegetation cutting, culvert repairs, drainage maintenance and reprofiling. These routine maintenance and repair works do not generally fall within the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended). Consequently, the Department does not hold records of such activities under the Regulations.

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]

[Forest Service]

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