Annex 1 - Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-650

Requested Information

Information relating to fires which have taken place at recycling centres in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, up to and including 2026

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Manifestly Unreasonable under Regulation 12(4)(b) EIR.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- EIR Regulation 12(2) requires DAERA to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure and 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:

- Complying with the volume of information requested would apply an unjustified level of distress & disruption to staff already working in difficult circumstances due to already busy workloads.
- The time commitment to fulfil the request in full would pose a disproportionate burden on the Department and would involve an unreasonable diversion of resources including staff resources from essential and statutory responsibilities
- The requestor's right to access does not justify the commitment of a significant sum of public money and resources to collect the information.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided that on balance, the public interest in maintaining the exception / exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. The Department considers this to be a manifestly unreasonable request based on the cost and burden of dealing with the requests and consequent diversion of resources in dealing with this request.

[redacted]