

Reference Number: DAERA/26-650

Request Details:

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

Waste Industrial Pollution, Regulation and Enforcement Division



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Via e-mail [REDACTED]

Waste Regulation Unit
17 Antrim Road,
Tonagh
Lisburn,
Co. Antrim.
BT28 2AL

E-mail: WRU.Queries@daera-ni.gov.uk

09 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 24 August 2026 which sought the following information:

1. Can DAERA confirm how many fires have taken place at recycling centres in Northern Ireland in each of the last 10 years, up to and including 2026?
2. For each fire in each year, can DAERA note the cause?
3. I'd specifically like to know how many were caused by discarded lithium batteries?
4. Can you note the cost of damage caused by fires altogether?
5. And if any were caused by lithium batteries, the specific cost of damage in each year for those cases involving batteries?

As explained in the information sheet enclosed with the acknowledgement letter, under certain conditions, the department has the right to refuse to respond to a request for information. Under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the EIR, the department may refuse to comply with a request for information where it is considered to be manifestly unreasonable.

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.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE®
We invest in people Standard

You confirmed in your e-mail of 02 September 2026, that “recycling centres in Northern Ireland” means Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) operated by the 11 local councils across Northern Ireland.

Regarding questions 1 to 3, the department has determined the cost to comply with your request to be **£4050**. A breakdown of how this figure was reached is in the table below:

Potential records falling within scope.	At 5 minutes per record to review. Minutes / 60 = Hours	Total estimated cost. Hours X £25/hr
1950 records	162 hours	£4050

In these instances, the department is required to consider the public interest in complying with the request. A Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached as Annex 1.

You may wish to narrow the scope of your request, e.g. to a shorter time period.

Under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR the information requested in questions 4 and 5 cannot be released as it is not held by the department.

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 Internal 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]

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.