

Reference Number: DAERA/26-716

Request Details:

Please provide Information relating to fires that have taken place at recycling centres in Northern Ireland latest financial year 25/26

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

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

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

28 September 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 15 September 2026 which sought the following information:

1. Can DAERA confirm how many fires have taken place at recycling centres in Northern Ireland in the latest financial year (2025/26)?
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 at recycling centres here in the past year or recent years?

You confirmed in your e-mail of 02 September 2026, in relation to DAERA/26-650, that "recycling centres in Northern Ireland" means Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) operated by the 11 local councils across Northern Ireland.

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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I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested in relation to questions 1 to 3, for the period 1 April 2025 to 30 March 2026, which is detailed below:

1. There were four fires reported to NIEA, two of which involved smoke but no flames.
2. The operators suspect that all four incidents were caused by batteries within small domestic appliances; however, this is unconfirmed.
3. The operators suspect that all four incidents were caused by batteries; however, this is unconfirmed, as is the type of batteries suspected of causing the fires.

In relation to question 4, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, the information requested cannot be released as it is not held by the department. This information may be available from the local Councils.

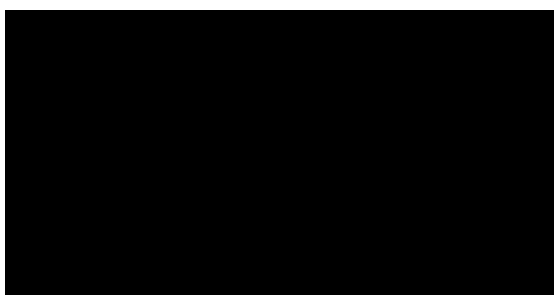
If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

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 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,



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