

Reference Number: DAERA/26-676
Request Details: Information on any sand dredging and pollution incidents regarding Lough Neagh and breaches of a discharge consent issued to Moy Park in last 3 years.



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Waste & Industrial Pollution Regulation
& Enforcement Division

Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical
Inspectorate
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
17 Antrim Road
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Email: ipri@daera-ni.gov.uk

29 September 2026

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 30 August 2026 that sought the following information:

Information on any sand dredging companies who have breached their licenses in Lough Neagh in the last three years including 1. The number of breaches 2. The nature or details of each breach 3. Details do any enforcement action taken.

Secondly, 1. How many pollution incidents have occurred in or around Lough Neagh or its major tributaries in the past 3 years?

a. Please include the full pollution incident report for each

b. Please provide information on any enforcement action taken in each case.

2. How many exceedance notices have been issued to Moy Park in the past 3 years at its sites in Dungannon, Ballymena and Nutt's Corner in relation to its discharges to sewers and waterways?

Please provide each of these exceedance notices and related correspondence?

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b. What enforcement action has been considered or taken against Moy Park in the past 3 years?

3. How many breaches of a discharge consent issued to Moy Park have been detected in the past 3 years?

a. Please provide any relevant information on each breach, including sampling data, related correspondence etc.

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

In relation to the sand dredging question, a trawl was issued across the department and there was no information provided.

For question 1, in the past 3 years (2023 to 2025) there have been 907 confirmed water pollution incidents within the Lough Neagh catchment. For reference the Lough Neagh catchment map can be accessed online via the DAERA webpage:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/lough-neagh-catchment-map>

For part 1a the Department has considered your request for copies of each report, and, under Regulation 12(4)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the request imposes a disproportionate burden in terms of time and resources. The Department has carried out the appropriate Public Interest Test which is attached as Annex A.

For part 1b please see attached Annex B which contains the enforcement action outcomes for the High and Medium Severity environmental impact incidents, where a polluter was identified, that occurred within the Lough Neagh catchment in the past 3 years.

Formal enforcement action, under the Water (NI) Order 1999, is normally only considered for incidents having a High or Medium Severity environmental impact where a polluter has been identified. In such cases where it is suspected that a criminal offence has occurred; there is sufficient evidence and it is warranted in line with DAERA's Enforcement Policy, a file may be submitted to the Public Prosecution Service, who review the file and decide whether to direct a prosecution. Other enforcement options open to NIEA include the issuing of Warning Letters, binding Notices and Breaches of the NAP Regulations where the incident is of agricultural source. For Low Severity water pollution incidents, NIEA will ensure that the pollution is stopped and that advice is provided to minimise the risk of recurrence. Breaches of the NAP Regulations may also be progressed for Low Severity incidents where the incident is of agricultural source.

For question 2 the sites that you have referenced are permitted under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013. Under this legislation exceedance notices are not issued. We have therefore taken this to mean enforcement notices issued. Please see Annex C for a list of public register links which includes any enforcement notices issued to Moy Park Dungannon, Ballymena and Nutts Corner since 30th August 2023 until 29th August 2026. Any correspondence relating to these enforcement notices is also attached separately.

For question 2b please see Annex D PPC Enforcement and Prosecution Data 30.08.23 - 29.08.26.

For question 3 we have understood these to mean all Moy Park sites permitted under The Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 and have interpreted “discharge consent” to mean the emissions to water and the emissions to sewer conditions within their PPC permit. If these limits are exceeded the operator must submit a completed schedule 1 form. Please see Annex C for a list of public register links to relevant schedules 1s and any relevant correspondence and analysis reports have been attached separately.

Some of the information held constitutes personal data of which you are not the data subject. In these instances, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection Principle, which states that processing must be lawful, fair and transparent.

The Department has considered this element within the test attached at Annex E and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under EIR exists. Please bear in mind that any disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large” and not just to you, the requester. Consequently, third party personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld.

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.

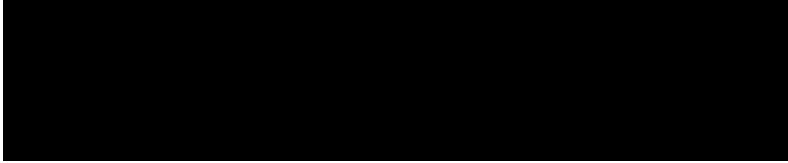
If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk 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,

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Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,



Industrial Pollution and Radiochemical Inspectorate

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