

Reference Number: DAERA/26-544



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

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group
Information Communication Branch

Via email:

VSAHG Information Communications Branch
1st Floor
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Limavady
BT49 9HP

Email: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

04 September 2026

Dear

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 06 August 2026 which you sought the information in bold below.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that we hold some of the requested information.

1) In the years 2023, 2024, 2025 and 2026 until the date of this request (Aug 6th), how many animal culls (including birds) did DAERA or DAERA-sanctioned officials carry out? Please give an annual breakdown.

Clarification received: Meaning of cull - animals that have been euthanised by DAERA officials

2) For each of those breakdowns, could you please specify which animals (and birds) were culled?

3) For each cull, could you please clarify the manner of death (for example shooting, chemical etc)?

4) For each cull, could you please specify the official recorded reason for the cull?

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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The information in relation to 1 - 4 of your request is attached as **Annex A**. Please note that you may have to expand some of the columns on the CSV file to view all of the information.

In line with EU reporting obligations, reasons for euthanasia are recorded under the following headings:

“Animal health” reasons relate to the killing of the animals primarily to prevent spreading the disease to other animals.

“Public Health” reasons relate to the killing of animals primarily to prevent microbiological or chemical contamination of human beings.

“Other” relate to the killing of animals for animal welfare or environmental reasons

In line with EU reporting obligations, manner of death is recorded under the following headings:

“Mechanical” (i.e. shot)

“Controlled atmosphere method” (i.e. gassing)

“Other authorised method” (i.e. drugs)

5) As per DAERA guidelines, how much notice does an animal (or bird) owner routinely get in advance of a cull or euthanasia?

The advance notice provided prior to humane destruction is not explicitly defined in DAERA guidance.

6) In each cull detailed in this response, can you confirm if the animal or bird owner received adequate notice according to DAERA guidelines.

Information not held.

If you are unhappy with the way 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,



Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

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