

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-677

Requested Information

List of destination sites that NIEA accredited plastic exporters have exported plastic packaging waste to showing the total tonnage reported as exported to each site period 1 Jan - 30 Jun 2026.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 - Regulation 12(5)(e) - adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure

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

The information requested above relates to Companies involved in commercial contracts with the potential for this information to give a commercial advantage to a competitor of the Companies involved if released.

Therefore, to release this information would cause a substantial prejudice to the commercial and operational undertakings and economic interest of these Companies, which impacts on the wider public interest of the wider Northern Ireland economy as a whole.

The Department, having previously consulted with such Companies, has prior knowledge of their position which is that they consider giving out such detailed information as commercially sensitive as if the information were released it would provide a competitor with an unfair market advantage.

Conclusion

In considering the Public Interest Test in relation to the use of this exception we recognise that Regulation 12(2) requires DAERA to apply a presumption in favour of disclosure and to be as open and transparent as possible. However, withholding the information under Regulation 12(5)(e) allows all companies to operate in a fair market without unfair advantage being given to competitors. The public interest in favour of disclosure is outweighed by that of the wider public interest in favour of withholding as a result.

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