

Reference Number: DAERA/26-734

Request Details:

Information relating to any meetings between Minister and reps of Dalradian and copies of any Internal Memo/Submission for the Minister relating to Dalradian or the Sperrins mine application, between 1/1/2017 to present

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Water 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

Water Regulation Unit
17 Antrim Road
Lisburn
Tonagh
BT28 3AL

Tel: 028 9262 3181

E-mail:
waterregulationcorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk

27 October 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 22nd September 2026 that sought the following information:

- 1. Information relating to any meetings between Minister and reps of Dalradian and*
- 2. Copies of any Internal Memo/Submission for the Minister relating to Dalradian or the Sperrins mine application, between 1/1/2017 to present*

I would like to apologise for the delay in issuing the response to this request for information.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested as set out below:

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

- 1) I can confirm that no meetings have taken place with the Applicant since the commencement of the Public Local Inquiry in March 2024. Minutes of meetings held with the Applicant prior to the commencement of the Inquiry are already publicly available on the Planning Appeals Commission website at the following link: [Consents for Water Discharge and Abstraction for the Curraghinalt Project | Planning Appeals Commission](#)
- 2) When considering the disclosure of internal memos and submissions prepared for the Minister, the Department has determined that Regulations 12(5)(b) (course of justice), and Regulation 12(4)(e) (internal communications) apply. In these instances, the Department is legislatively required to consider the public interest in disclosure. An associated Public Interest Test has been conducted and is attached for your information at **Annex A**. On the basis of the public interest test, the Department has decided not to disclose some of the information you requested.

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

Yours sincerely,

Water Regulation Unit
Northern Ireland Environment Agency

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