

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/26-671

Requested Information

Communications between NIEA/DAERA and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Planning relating to actual, suspected or potential non-compliance with planning conditions associated with the Pigeon Top and Cornavarrow wind farm.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(5)(g) – protection of the environment.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- There is a presumption in favour of disclosure
- DAERA is committed to conducting its business in a manner that is as open and transparent as possible.
- There is wide public interest in matters concerning the environment.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- The requested information relates to a protected species.
- Disclosure of the information would more likely than not have an adverse effect on the protection of the environment as it would expose the protected species to interference or damage.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided to withhold this information under EIR exception 12(5)(g).

Whilst there is merit in demonstrating openness and transparency, disclosing the information would assist in locating sites of a protected species. Therefore, the above points in favour of withholding are satisfied and strongly outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

