

Reference Number: DAERA/26-717

Request Details:

Information concerning the aerial application of pesticides/plant protection products within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area



Department of

**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

**Environment, Marine and Fisheries
Group**

Natural Environment Policy Division



Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Telephone: 02890525570

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

13 October 2026

Dear 

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 15 September 2026 which sought the following:

Information concerning the aerial application of pesticides/plant protection products within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area during the period 1 January 2025 to 14 September 2026 -

1. A list of all permits issued for the aerial application of pesticides/plant protection products within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area during this period.
2. For each permit, provide, where held:
 - the location/site or general location of the application;
 - the date(s) for which the application was authorised;
 - the crop, vegetation or land being treated;
 - the pesticide/plant protection product authorised, including its active ingredient where available;
 - the method of aerial application (for example aircraft, helicopter or drone);

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- the operator/company authorised to undertake the application;
- any conditions or restrictions attached to the permit.
- 3. The number of permits that were actually exercised/used, if DAERA holds this information, as distinct from permits that were issued but not used.
- 4. Copies of any relevant applications, permits or authorisations, with personal information redacted where necessary.
- 5. The number of complaints or reports received by DAERA concerning aerial pesticide/chemical spraying within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area during the same period, together with:
 - the date of each complaint/report;
 - the general location;
 - the nature of the complaint;
 - whether DAERA investigated it; and
 - the outcome of any investigation.
- 6. Details of any enforcement action, investigation, inspection or regulatory intervention relating to unauthorised or suspected unauthorised aerial pesticide application within the area during this period.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search of our records and can confirm that it holds some of the information you have requested, as stated below.

Requests 1, 2, 3 & 4 –

The Department has determined under Regulation 12(4)(a), following a search of our records, that the information you have requested is not held by the Department. This information may be held by the Chemicals Regulatory Division of the Health and Safety Executive in Great Britain. Enquiries may be directed to pppenquiries@hse.gov.uk.

Requests 5 & 6 -

- There have been no complaints or reports received by DAERA concerning aerial pesticide/chemical spraying within the Ards and North Down Borough Council area during this period.
- There has been no enforcement action, investigation, inspection or regulatory intervention relating to unauthorised or suspected unauthorised aerial pesticide application within the area during this period.

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.

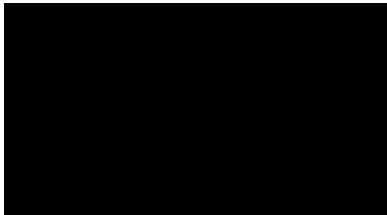
If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk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

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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,



Environmental Farming Branch

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