

Public Interest Test – EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/ 26-728

Requested Information

From Ken via email Ken@righttoknow.ie

1. All correspondence between DAERA/NIEA and the National Trust, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust, British Geological Survey, Geological Survey of Northern Ireland concerning the insertion, environmental impact, assessment or removal of coins at the Giant's Causeway.
2. A copy of any surveys, reports, assessments, photographs, estimates or other records detailing the scale of the problem, damage caused to the rock, number or weight of coins involved, recommended removal techniques or projected cost of remedial work.
3. All records created since 1 January 2024.
4. To receive this information electronically, ideally in its original electronic format

Exemption / Exception under consideration

2004 - Regulation 12.-(5)(b)

“the course of justice, the ability of a person to receive a fair trial or the ability of a public authority to conduct an inquiry of a criminal or disciplinary nature.”

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- There is a presumption in favour of disclosure.

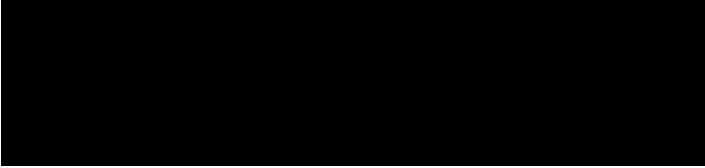
Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Releasing the information would adversely affect the ability of the Department to conduct investigations pursuant to Police and Criminal Evidence investigation guidelines.
- The risk of revealing information would considerably weaken the Department's position in relation to its investigation strategy.
- Releasing the information requested would adversely affect the ability of a person to receive a fair trial.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department has decided that In relation to investigations carried out by DAERA with regard to the Environment (NI) Order

2002 (and later amendments), whilst there is merit in demonstrating openness and transparency, the release of the information at this time, given its sensitive nature, would undermine the ability of a person to receive a fair trial.
The public interest in withholding the information strongly outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.



Conservation, Designations & Protection (CDP)
CDP Compliance