

Reference Number: DAERA/26-783
Request Details:
Seven questions on AI usage in the
Department

DAERA
Digital Services Division



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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Digital Services Division
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

16 October 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 05 October 2026 which sought the following information:

AI or Generative AI tools to assist with Departmental work.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is attached / below

1. Are staff within your regulatory body under a general instruction to use AI or Generative AI tools to assist your work?
There is no directive, but DAERA does have a guidance policy (attached)
2. Is your regulatory body currently using AI or Generative AI tools to assist your work?
DAERA has various tools available for general support and performance such as M365 Copilot
3. Is your regulatory body using AI to assist you in selecting targets for investigations or other compliance work?

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contact the Department via the Next Generation Text
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No information available

4. For each of the last two years, how many investigations or other compliance actions were identified or targeted, wholly or in part, using AI? Please categorise these by whatever intended categorisation you use internally.

No information available

5. Does your regulatory body use AI or Generative AI tools as part of its recruitment processes?

No information available within DAERA, try HR Connect

6. Does your regulatory body have an AI strategy?

See attached Data & AI Strategy

7. If your regulatory body does not have an AI strategy, is it planning to have an AI strategy?

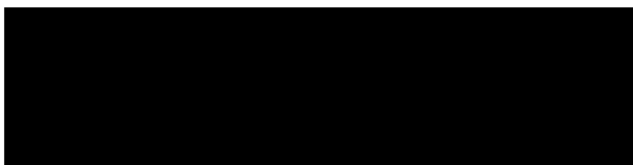
See attached Data & AI Strategy

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,



Digital Services Division

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