

Reference Number : DAERA/26-724



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

Veterinary Service Animal Health Group
Information Communication Branch

Via Email:

VSAHG Information Communications Branch
1st Floor
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Limavady
BT49 9HP

Email: vsinfocommsbranch@daera-ni.gov.uk

14 October 2026

Dear [REDACTED]

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Thank you for your email received by the Department on 17 September 2026 which you sought the information in bold below.

I would like to request information held by DAERA/NIEA relating to animals killed or injured as a result of road traffic between January 2015 and the latest available date.

Where possible, I would be grateful for:

- **Annual numbers of recorded wildlife/animal road casualties**
- **Species or animal type**
- **Date of incident/record**
- **Location or road**
- **Local council area**
- **Any identified wildlife roadkill hotspots**
- **Any records of unusual, rare or unexpected species killed or injured on roads**
- **Any reports, studies or assessments concerning wildlife road casualties since 2015**
- **Any wildlife mitigation measures or recommendations made in response to road casualties**

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I would prefer the information to be supplied in Excel/CSV format, where available.

I would also be grateful if you could clarify:

- **How complete the available data is**
- **Whether there are any significant limitations, biases or gaps in the data**
- **Whether DAERA/NIEA has undertaken any analysis of trends in wildlife road casualties since 2015**

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that DAERA holds some of the information you request.

1. Annual numbers of recorded wildlife/animal road casualties.

DAERA does not record the numbers of wildlife/animal road casualties in general as DAERA does not have any statutory responsibility for dealing with roadkill. However, DAERA does collect roadkill badgers, foxes and occasionally otters which have been reported to us and which meet certain criteria that make them suitable for inclusion in surveillance studies. The table in **Annex A** attached outlines the number of road traffic accident (RTA) badgers collected per year by DVO area. The table at **Annex B** outlines the number of RTA foxes collected per year by DVO area. The table at **Annex C** outlines the number of RTA otters collected per year by DVO. Please note we only hold the information for otters from 2023. Forest Service, in managing its forests sustainably, retain information for its purposes on deer kills (RTA) that are reported to have occurred in geographic areas within which it manages forests. Details are provided at **Annex D**.

2. Species or animal type

DAERA does not hold any information on species or animal type killed or injured as a result of road traffic accidents, aside from badgers, foxes, otters and deer as outlined in 1 above.

3. Date of incident/record

4. Location or road

As explained in the information sheet enclosed with my acknowledgement letter, under certain conditions, the Department has the right to refuse to respond to a request for information. In this instance, under Section 12(1) of the FOI Act the Department is not obliged to comply with your request for information as the estimated cost of compliance exceeds the appropriate limit of £600.

The Department has identified that there are approximately 4922 records that may fall within the scope of your request. The work required to collate all the information you have requested will greatly exceed the appropriate limit (24 hours) of staff time as some of this information will require analysis of data which has not previously been done.

A breakdown of the estimated costs is provided:

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Potential records falling within scope	Potential number of hours to review	Total estimated cost. Hours X £25/hr
4922	164	£4100

Under Section 16 of the FOI Act 2000, the Department has a duty to provide advice and assistance to enable you to refine your request to reduce the cost of compliance to within the appropriate limit of £600. To that end, I should be grateful if you would refine your request to the information provided in question 5 below.

Even if your request is narrowed, some of the requested information may still not be able to be released to you, for example if it is considered exempt under any provision of the Act such as commercially sensitive information or third-party personal data.

5. Local council area

DAERA does not record the local council area in which badger, fox, otter and deer RTA incidents are reported. However, **Annex A**, **Annex B** and **Annex C** show the number of RTA badgers and foxes collected per year by DVO area. A map showing the DVO areas is attached at **Annex E**. **Annex D** outlines road traffic accident (RTA) Deer reported to and recorded by Forest Service in areas within which it manages forests.

6. Any identified wildlife roadkill hotspots

DAERA does not carry out analysis to identify wildlife roadkill hotspots.

7. Any records of unusual, rare or unexpected species killed or injured on roads

DAERA does not record the species of animals killed or injured in road traffic accidents apart from those species listed above.

8. Any reports, studies or assessments concerning wildlife road casualties since 2015

DAERA has not conducted any studies or assessments concerning wildlife road casualties since 2015.

9. Any wildlife mitigation measures or recommendations made in response to road casualties

There have been no wildlife mitigation measures or recommendations made by DAERA in response to animal road casualties.

10. How complete the available data is.

This is the only data which DAERA holds in relation to animals killed or injured as a result of road traffic as of 30 September 2026.

11. Whether there are any significant limitations, biases or gaps in the data.

See above.

12. Whether DAERA/NIEA has undertaken any analysis of trends in wildlife road casualties since 2015

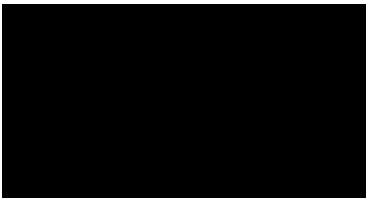
DAERA has not undertaken any analysis of trends in wildlife road casualties since 2015

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 way 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,



Veterinary Service Animal Health Group

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