

Reference Number: DAERA/26-754
Request Details:
Invasive Alien Species Strategy,
CEDaR, iRecord and Pirri-pirri Bur

**Forest Management and Inspection
Services
Forest Service**



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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23 October 2026

Dear Mr Beaney

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 28 September 2026 which sought the following information:

Invasive Alien Species Strategy, CEDaR, iRecord and Pirri-pirri Bur

Under Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that some of the information sought is not held.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested which is below in bold text.

1. Data Recording and Use

Do DAERA staff routinely record sightings of invasive non-native species identified during site visits, inspections, surveys or other official duties?

Yes (Forest Service and NIEA staff)

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During the last two years, how many times have the CEDaR and iRecord databases been interrogated, reviewed or analysed by:

1. The Invasive Species Team; and
2. Any other DAERA business areas with responsibilities relating to invasive species?

Following a search of all relevant systems, we have not found the information sought. DAERA is not responsible for the CEDaR Online Recording System or iRecord. You may wish to contact National Museums NI who may hold the relevant information.

The NIEA Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) Team does not hold data on the number of times they have the interrogated, reviewed or analysed CEDaR/iRecord databases.

Please provide details of:

The data extracted from these systems during the last two years;

Following a search of all relevant systems we have not found the information sought. The NIEA INNS Team have not produced any reports, summaries or analyses of the data contained within CEDaR/iRecord. Any reports, summaries or analyses produced from that data; and

Any management, policy, operational or other decisions that resulted from the use of that data.

The NIEA INNS Team primarily verify records relating to Widely Spread or Rapid Response species of (European) Union concern. Where officials can confirm the species and identify a landowner, the landowner is contacted and asked to put management measures in place, as per the requirements of the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019. From the records verified on CEDaR/iRecord, the NIEA INNS Team, in the last two years, have actioned 224 enforcement cases relating to Widely Spread species and 41 Rapid Response Species. None of these cases relate to pirri pirri burr as it is a Schedule 9 species.

2. Pirri-pirri Bur

In relation to Pirri-pirri Bur (*Acaena novae-zelandiae*), please provide details of the measures taken by DAERA to fulfil the strategic aims of the Invasive Alien Species Strategy, specifically for:

Preventing new introductions;
Establishing early detection systems;
Raising public awareness; and

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Forest Service contributes to the objectives of the Invasive Alien Species Strategy through its role as a major land manager and as a partner organisation, working collaboratively with other public bodies and stakeholders. The prevention of new introductions and the early identification of invasive species form an important part of Forest Service's routine land management activities.

Operational staff regularly undertake site inspections, forest management assessments and monitoring activities across the forest estate. During these visits, staff remain vigilant for the presence of Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) and are encouraged to report any new or emerging occurrences through established internal reporting and management processes.

Forest Service also plays an active role in raising awareness of invasive species issues through engagement with other DAERA business areas, local councils, government agencies, landowners, environmental organisations and community groups. This collaborative approach helps promote the sharing of information, best practice and lessons learned, supporting a coordinated response to invasive species management across Northern Ireland.

Through these activities, Forest Service contributes to improving awareness, supporting early detection and facilitating appropriate management responses, while recognising that effective control of invasive species often requires long-term cooperation across multiple land ownerships and organisations.

Please provide details of any policies, procedures, guidance documents or operational instructions currently in place for responding to reports of Pirri-pirri Bur. **The NIEA INNS team have produced Invasive Non-native Species identification guides, including providing management advice within the Department and to other landowners who request it. NIEA Regional Operations have a management plan in place on the nature reserve site in Rostrevor Oak Wood.**

<https://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/species-accounts/established/terrestrial/pirri-pirri-bur>

3. Species Records

How many records of Pirri-pirri Bur are currently held within:

The CEDaR database; and

The iRecord database?

On what date was the earliest record of Pirri-pirri Bur submitted to:

CEDaR; and

iRecord?

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Following a search of all relevant systems we have not found the information sought. DAERA is not responsible for the CEDaR Online Recording System and iRecord. You may wish to contact National Museums NI who may hold the relevant information.

Please provide, where available:

The number of records submitted annually for the last ten years; **Not available**

The number of unique recorded locations; and **Not available**

Any distribution maps or summary reports held by the Department relating to the species. **Not available**

What rapid response systems or management processes are activated when an infestation of Pirri-pirri Bur is reported or identified?

Forest Service does not operate a dedicated rapid response system specifically for Pirri-pirri Bur. Any actions taken to manage the species are considered and delivered through existing land management and operational frameworks. Management decisions are made on a site-by-site basis, taking account of local circumstances and priorities. Where Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) are identified on Forest Service land, their locations are recorded and mapped, with follow-up control measures programmed and prioritised subject to available resources and contractor capacity.

4. Training

What training is given to DAERA staff in Forest Service to recognise this species?

Forest Service staff receive training and briefing appropriate to their operational roles. Forest Service has provided in-house training to Forest Officers to support the identification of invasive alien species during field-based assessments. Staff may draw upon guidance from specialist colleagues, working closely with the NIEA Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS) Team, and make use of both online and printed INNS identification guides to verify and validate species identification.

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

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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,

[Redacted Signature]

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