

Reference Number: DAERA/26-685
Request Details:
Engagement between DAERA/NIEA and
MPANI or QPANI concerning The Draft
Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland to
2032 and The Draft Air Quality
(Amendment) Regulations (Northern
Ireland) 2026



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department of

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Air and Environmental Quality
Clare House
303 Airport Road
BELFAST
BT3 9ED

Telephone: N/A

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

23 October 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department of Agriculture Environment Rural Affairs (DAERA) on 03 September 2026 which sought records of engagement between DAERA / Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Mineral Products Association Northern Ireland (MPANI) concerning The Draft Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032 and The Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 between 1 January 2024 to 31 August 2026.

Of the information requested I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested as referenced below:

1. You requested correspondence between MPANI and DAERA/NIEA relating to either consultation or its underlying policy development. MPANI was not consulted with during policy development for either policy. Therefore, under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

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2. The Department does not hold any records of meetings, telephone calls, workshops, briefings or informal discussion involving MPANI in relation to either the Draft Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032 or The Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026, hereby referred to as the 'Strategy' and the 'Regulations'. Therefore, under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.
3. Stakeholder engagement plans, stakeholder lists and consultation logs show that MPANI and QPANI were not consulted or otherwise engaged during the preparation of the Strategy or the Regulations. A stakeholder list shared internally, for information purposes only, includes Quarry Products Association Northern Ireland among approximately 300 other stakeholders. However, this list was not the consultee list used for either the Strategy or the Regulations. All information disclosed in relation to stakeholder engagement is available in Annex A.
4. The Department does not hold copies of any draft strategies, policy proposals, consultation documents or supporting evidence which were shared with MPANI or QPANI therefore under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.
5. The Department does not hold copies of any submissions, representations, evidence or proposed wording received from MPANI concerning these policies, nor did MPANI or QPANI respond to the 2026 Air Quality Regulations consultation. Therefore, under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.
6. The Department does not hold internal correspondence briefings, meeting notes or decision records which discuss, summarise, assess or respond to MPANI's position or representations as they were not consulted with. Therefore, under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.
7. The Department does not hold any records which show that the proposed Draft Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032 or The Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026, consultation questions, evidence base or stated policy scope were changed, or deliberately not changed following engagement with MPANI. Therefore, under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

8. The Department holds records which show that previous drafts of the Clean Air Strategy made a passing reference to quarrying. The Department also holds previous drafts of the Strategy and internal communications which discuss permits issued under the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 (as amended) as the legislative means for regulating emissions from certain industries. These are provided in Annex B.
9. The Department does not hold any records involving MPANI which discuss placing industrial emissions outside the scope of the Strategy or the adequacy of permits issued under the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 (as amended) in protecting ambient air quality and nearby communities. Therefore, under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.
10. The Department holds records which show that previous drafts of the Clean Air Strategy made a passing reference to quarrying these are provided in Annex B. The Department does not hold records showing the other industries specified were specifically named in the Strategy and therefore under Environmental Information Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose this information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

The decision not to include certain industries in the scope of the Clean Air Strategy was made as it was not deemed feasible or achievable to deliver new actions in the industry sector over the time period of the Strategy. At a national level, the UK Air Quality: Provisional Common Framework sets out how the UK government and devolved governments propose to work together on air quality policy. There is also a second UK Common Framework, covering industrial emissions, namely, the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control: developing and setting of Best Available Techniques (BAT) Provisional Framework.

As there is a strong regulatory structure in place for industry at present, no changes are proposed in this first Clean Air Strategy to 2032. That said, the Strategy is not yet finalised, and the views of our stakeholders, and the Executive still need to be taken into account.

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.

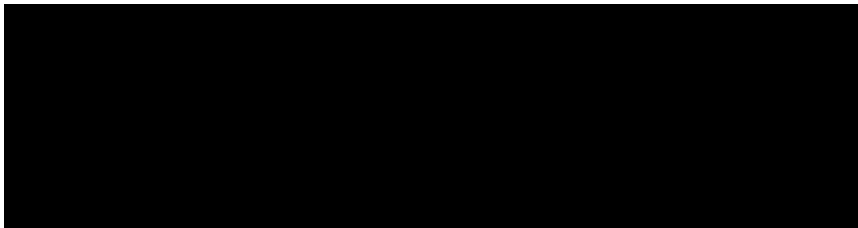
If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review

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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,



Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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