Reference Number: DAERA/26-736
Request Details:
Spatially disaggregated livestock/manure data for Northern Ireland comparable to Defra/ADAS's MANURES-GIS model used for England relating to biomethane potential from livestock manure.

Department of
Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
An Roinn
Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe
Depairtment o'
Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Insert Business
Natural Environment Policy Division

[redacted]

Environmental Farming
Clare House
303 Airport Road
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT9 3ED

Telephone: 028 9052 5570

E-mail: brian.ervine@daera-ni.gov.uk

04 November 2026

Dear [redacted]

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 16 September 2026 as detailed below and I apologise for the delay in replying.

1. Whether DAERA holds, or has commissioned, any spatially disaggregated (grid-cell or sub-regional) estimate of livestock manure volumes or nutrient loading for Northern Ireland — in particular, any output from the AENEID model (used in UKCEH's spatial ammonia-emissions modelling for DAERA) that expresses gridded livestock-based ammonia or manure/nitrogen output at 1km resolution or finer, in a format that could be aggregated to district or council area.
2. The licensing terms and any cost associated with accessing such gridded outputs, or an appropriately aggregated/anonymised version of them that would not disclose individual holding-level data.
3. Whether any equivalent to Defra/ADAS's MANURES-GIS grid exists or is planned for Northern Ireland, and if so, how it can be accessed.
4. If none of the above exists, whether DAERA/AFBI can point me to the closest available dataset for estimating the spatial distribution of livestock manure production across Northern Ireland below district council level.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

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

Although the Department does not have the information you have requested, I am aware of analysis that was completed several years ago. You may find useful information within a CASE Report by QUB and AFBI at the following link: - https://phoenixenergyni.com/assets/general/Final-Published-CASE-Report.pdf.

I also attach two Case Report documents which I hope you find helpful. It may be useful for you to know that the two lead authors of the report, Neha Mehtaa and Aine Anderson are no longer working at QUB, if you were to follow up with QUB or CASE.

For the data requested in relation to ammonia emissions, this data should be available online from the National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory (NAEI).

The latest NAEI report was published on 24th September and is for 2024.

The 2024 information is available at the link below
Maps | National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory

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.

I trust this response is helpful and I apologise for the delay in replying.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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