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

Our reference: DAERA 26/768

[redacted]
EWC 19 09 02 at Lisbane - WAC Assessment and Chief Inspector Approval

Waste Permitting Team
Lisburn NIEA
17 Antrim Road
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Tel: 02890569596

Email: daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk

30th October 2026

Dear [redacted]

I refer to your request for information received by the Department on 25 August 2026 which sought the following information.

EIR Information Requested:

Dear Northern Ireland Environment Agency,

I am submitting this deliberately narrow EIR request following my earlier request DAERA/25-664 concerning drinking water treatment residuals accepted at Lisbane under EWC 19 09 02.

My previous request was refused as manifestly unreasonable. I have therefore narrowed this new request to two specific categories of regulatory record only.

For the purposes of this request, I am concerned specifically with drinking water treatment residuals originating from NI Water and accepted at the Lisbane site at 29 Aughlish Road, Tandragee, during the period 1 December 2022 to 30 June 2025.

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 the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, please provide:

1. A copy of each inert Waste Acceptance Criteria (WAC) assessment, or any alternative form of recorded assessment relied upon by NIEA in determining that the NI Water-origin EWC 19 09 02 drinking water treatment residuals could lawfully be accepted at Lisbane during that period.
2. A copy of each written approval of the Chief Inspector relied upon by NIEA as authorising the acceptance of those EWC 19 09 02 drinking water treatment residuals at Lisbane during that period.

For clarity, the records requested are not limited by their date of creation. If an assessment or Chief Inspector approval was issued before 1 December 2022 but was relied upon by NIEA to authorise acceptance of this material at any time between 1 December 2022 and 30 June 2025, it falls within this request.

Likewise, if different assessments or approvals applied during different parts of that period, please provide each of them.

This is a very narrow request. I am not requesting correspondence, waste transfer notes, movement records, sampling records, inspection records, internal discussions or the wider body of material previously considered under DAERA/25-664.

I am requesting only the inert WAC assessment(s), or any alternative form of recorded assessment relied upon by NIEA, together with the Chief Inspector approval(s) relied upon to authorise acceptance of the specified material during the stated period.

If either category of record is not held, or if no such assessment or approval existed for any part of the stated period, please state this explicitly.

Please provide the records electronically.

Yours faithfully,

Response:

As explained in the information sheet enclosed with the acknowledgement letter, under certain conditions, the Department has the right to refuse to respond to a request for information.

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The Department will engage regulation 12 (4) (b) Manifestly unreasonable in this instance, a completed Public Interest Test is included in Appendix A for your information.

NIEA has received a significant number of complex, extensive and often repetitive requests for information relating to the Lisbane site near Tandragee. Many of these requests seek similar or substantially the same information that has previously been requested and responded to.

The volume and complexity of these requests have placed a disproportionate burden on departmental resources and are significantly impacting the ability of NIEA staff to carry out their statutory functions. In particular, the time required to identify, retrieve, review and prepare responses to requests concerning the Lisbane site is affecting the Waste Permitting Team's capacity to fulfil its other statutory duties and regulatory responsibilities.

NIEA has already released a substantial amount of information relating to the Lisbane site into the public domain. This information is available through the DAERA Publication Scheme and can be accessed at the following link:

DAERA Publication Scheme | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

In light of the significant volume of information already published and the ongoing impact that repeated requests are having on the department's resources, NIEA will not provide further responses to requests that seek information already published, previously released, or that substantially duplicate earlier requests. Requesters are therefore encouraged to consult the information available through the DAERA Publication Scheme in the first instance.

Kind regards,
Waste Permitting Team

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APPENDIX A

Public Interest Test – Environmental Information Regulations

Reference Number – DAERA/26-768

Requested Information:

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Exemption / Exceptions under consideration
Regulation 12(4)(b)

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Everyone has the right to access environmental information.
- Disclosure of the information would provide greater detail on the regulator's decision making process in withholding information.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Complying with the volume of information requested would apply an unjustified level of diversion of resources away from statutory duties, including the regulation of the site in question.
- This subject of this request has already been partially addressed.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test, the Department has decided that it would not be in the public interest to completely fulfil the request made by the requestor. The Department considers this to be manifestly unreasonable based on the burden of dealing with the request and consequent diversion of resources in dealing with this query away from other statutory duties.

Waste Permitting

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