Food Farming and Rural Affairs Group
Agricultural and Environmental Schemes Division

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/26-800**

[redacted]

Your Ref. [redacted]
Business Id: [redacted]

Reply by E-mail: [redacted]

AESD Information Management Team
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
Derry / Londonderry
BT49 9HP

E-mail: aesd.foi@daera-ni.gov.uk

Telephone: 02877 442242

Date: 04 November 2026

Dear [redacted],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Thank you for your email received on 15 October 2026 in which you provided clarification of the Farm Survey Number and field numbers which are the subject of your client's proposed planning application. You have indicated you can provide five years' confirmation of farming activity and require details for proof of activity for one further year.

The Department has considered your request and carried out a search of records, and I can confirm that it holds some information related to your request. However, please note that information relating to subsidy payments made to any third party has been withheld as the Department considers this to be personal data, of which your clients are not the data subject.

The Department considers regulations 12(3) and 13(1) of the EIR to be engaged, which state:

12(3) "To the extent that the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject, the personal data shall not be disclosed other than in accordance with Regulation 13"; and

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13(1) “To the extent that the information requested includes personal data of which the applicant is not the data subject.”

As some of the information held constitutes personal data, the Department is required to consider if disclosure would breach the first Data Protection principle which states that processing must be “lawful, fair and transparent.” A lawfulness, fairness and transparency test has been conducted and is attached.

The Department has considered this element and has determined that no lawful basis for disclosure under EIR exists, bearing in mind, that any such disclosure must be considered in terms of disclosure to the “world at large,” and not to just you, the requester. Consequently, the personal data falling within the scope of this request has been withheld.

If you require any clarification or believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact the Agricultural and Environmental Schemes Division Information Management Team at the email address or telephone number above 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, 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.

For your information, I can confirm the Department has an agreed and established process in place with all of the N. Ireland Planning Authorities in relation to information required for planning purposes. Once a planning application is submitted, the relevant planning authority will subsequently contact DAERA directly to request information they require to determine a planning outcome decision for your clients.

Yours sincerely,

[redacted]

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