

Our reference: **DAERA/22-152**



Planning Response Team
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park
Belfast BT7 2JA

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email: planningresponse.team@daera-ni.gov.uk

By email: [REDACTED]

19 May 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 28 April 2022 which sought the following information:

1. In relation to (a) local and (b) major planning applications for each District Council, please outline the average time from the receipt of correspondence seeking the views of the Department or any branch within it (please specify) as a statutory consultee to the issue of your response for the last five years.
2. The staffing complement of the team that responds to statutory consultee requests for each year of the last five years

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is attached in the tables at Annexes A and B.

With regard to staffing complement, we have provided the permanent complement within the Environment, Marine & Fisheries Group and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. It should be noted that this has been supplemented on occasion with the use of temporary promotions, temporary workers or redeployed staff.

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

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, Ballykelly 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,



DAERA Planning Response Team

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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.



EMFG/NIEA Average Response Times on Planning Consultations Received (Days Taken)

		2017/2018 Average Days Taken to Respond	2018/2019 Average Days Taken to Respond	2019/2020 Average Days Taken to Respond	2020/2021 Average Days Taken to Respond	2021/2022 Average Days Taken to Respond
1.	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council					
	Local	14	20	24	38	27
	*Major/Regionally Significant	20	30	33	65	49
2.	Ards & North Down Borough Council					
	Local	11	17	20	24	23
	*Major/Regionally Significant	15	22	42	40	55
3.	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council					
	Local	18	22	22	31	26
	*Major/Regionally Significant	20	30	39	47	42
4.	Belfast City Council					
	Local	13	14	18	38	22
	*Major/Regionally Significant	15	24	29	42	35
5.	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council					
	Local	16	16	23	25	20
	*Major/Regionally Significant	30	34	93	60	34

EMFG/NIEA Average Response Times on Planning Consultations Received (Days Taken)

		2017/2018 Average Days Taken to Respond	2018/2019 Average Days Taken to Respond	2019/2020 Average Days Taken to Respond	2020/2021 Average Days Taken to Respond	2021/2022 Average Days Taken to Respond
6.	Derry City & Strabane District Council					
	Local	20	25	31	42	37
	*Major/Regionally Significant	18	40	43	54	57
7.	Department for Infrastructure					
	Local	21	38	40	57	39
	*Major/Regionally Significant	35	43	114	61	47
8.	Fermanagh & Omagh District Council					
	Local	31	31	38	50	41
	*Major/Regionally Significant	22	33	66	88	54
9.	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council					
	Local	10	12	14	18	14
	*Major/Regionally Significant	19	27	28	67	47
10.	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council					
	Local	24	24	32	37	32
	*Major/Regionally Significant	17	31	57	66	64

EMFG/NIEA Average Response Times on Planning Consultations Received (Days Taken)

		2017/2018 Average Days Taken to Respond	2018/2019 Average Days Taken to Respond	2019/2020 Average Days Taken to Respond	2020/2021 Average Days Taken to Respond	2021/2022 Average Days Taken to Respond
11.	Mid Ulster District Council					
	Local	23	30	35	38	28
	*Major/Regionally Significant	26	31	36	85	39
12.	Newry Mourne & Down Borough Council					
	Local	14	25	24	38	32
	*Major/Regionally Significant	25	39	32	66	44

*Note data captured for both **Major and Regionally Significant applications** to provide accurate recording for **ALL cases** in any given year.

INFORMATION REQUEST
EMFG/NIEA Staff Complement

<u>DAERA STAFFING RESOURCE</u>	<u>2017/2018</u>	<u>2018/2019</u>	<u>2019/2020</u>	<u>2020/2021</u>	<u>2021/2022</u>
Planning Response Team (PRT)	8	8	7	6	7
Countryside Coast & Landscapes (CC&L)	10	12	13	12	12
Conservation Designation and Protection (CDP)	6	6	8	5	7
Regulation Unit (RU)	7	8	8	6	7
Water Management Unit (WMU)	5	5	5	5	5
Industrial Pollution & Radiochemical Inspectorate (IPRI)	20	21	25	29	31
Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI)	1	1	1	1	1
Marine & Fisheries Division (MFD)	10	10	9	9	9
Inland Fisheries (IF)	1	1	1	1	1