

Our reference: DAERA/23-9

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

DAERA Private Office  
Room 438  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Ballymiscaw  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB

Tel: 028 [REDACTED]

Email: [private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk)

31 January 2023

Dear [REDACTED]

### Freedom of Information Act 2000

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 9 January 2023 which sought the following information:

1. *Please provide the number of decisions not taken because of the absence of a minister and/or fully functioning Executive at your department.*
2. *Please list all these pending decisions/issues*
3. *Please state in each case how long a decision has been waiting - the total number of days?*

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested. DAERA is taking decisions on a case by case basis. There are currently 15 decisions which are under consideration in the context of the NI (Executive Formation Etc) Act 2022 or which cannot be taken because they require Ministerial or Executive approval. The decisions are listed at Annex A. Please note that the total number of days has not been provided as this would be dependent on a point in time however a date of referral to Minister has been provided.

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.

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

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.

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](mailto: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,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**PRIVATE OFFICE**

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| <b>Date Referred</b> | <b>Decision/Description</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Ministerial/Executive Approval</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 13/05/2022           | Approval to lay the Loughs Agency's Annual Report and Accounts 2020 before the Assembly.                                           | Ministerial                           |
| 24/05/2022           | Agree to stakeholder engagement on the proposed new Domestic Spirit Drinks Enforcement Regulation                                  | Ministerial                           |
| 07/07/2022           | Approval of Zootechnical Common Framework and Concordat                                                                            | Ministerial                           |
| 09/08/2022           | Approval of amended version of the Round 3 Roads Noise Action Plan.                                                                | Ministerial                           |
| 09/08/2022           | Approval of legislation to update Domestic Identification, Registration and Movement Legislation                                   | Ministerial                           |
| 24/08/2022           | Agree EP Kilroot Revised Direction                                                                                                 | Ministerial                           |
| 11/10/2022           | Agree the draft Statutory Rule to make the Aquatic Animal Health (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022                   | Ministerial                           |
| 17/10/2022           | Make amendments to Northern Ireland Legislation in respect of Invasive Alien Species and Restrictions on use of Lead Shot          | Ministerial                           |
| 19/10/2022           | Approval to commence a competition for a new Agricultural Wages Board Chair and two independent Members                            | Ministerial                           |
| 19/10/2022           | Agree consultation on draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement                                                              | Ministerial                           |
| 16/03/2022           | Executive approval for the Environment Strategy - Approved by Minister 23/03/2022                                                  | Executive                             |
| 27/09/2022           | Executive approval for Northern Ireland's Third Cycle River Basin Management Plan - Approved by Minister 18/10/2022                | Executive                             |
| 13/10/2022           | Northern Ireland Fishery Harbour Authority (NIFHA) Draft Corporate Plan 2022-2026 and Business Plan 2022-23                        | Ministerial                           |
| 18/10/2022           | Executive approval for the revised version of Green Growth Strategy - Approved by Minister 27/10/2022                              | Executive                             |
| 31/01/2022           | Executive approval for the publication of the final Food Strategy Framework for Northern Ireland - Approved by Minister 03/02/2022 | Executive                             |