

Reference: **DAERA/23-106**

[REDACTED]

Information Management Team
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
Derry / Londonderry
BT49 9HP
Telephone: [REDACTED]

Reply by e-mail: [REDACTED]

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

Date: 06 April 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004

Thank you for your e-mail received by the Department on 16 March 2023. You requested information the Department holds relating to how the Environmental Farming Scheme (EFS) has been used to support hedge laying.

I can confirm that the Department holds the information requested and I will respond to your questions in the order listed.

Q1 What is the total estimated length of hedgerows that have been planted under this program? (The March 2022 estimate is 527 km)

Q2 Where have the hedgerows been planted to date? Any breakdown by region, county, or council area would be very beneficial.

Q3 Compared to other measures, how much support has been disbursed for the purposes of supporting hedgerows?

Question 1

EFS Higher

Option	Amount Established (km)
Planting new Hedgerows including two protective fences	24.90
Hedge laying including two protective fences	0.46

EFS Wider

Option	Amount Established (km)
Planting new Hedgerows including two protective fences	523.07
Hedge laying including two protective fences	36.57

The total of length of hedges planted or laid in EFS up to December 2022 is or 584.98km

Question 2:

Geographic Breakdown of the total length of hedges planted or laid.

County	Total (km)
Antrim	68.82
Armagh	50.83
Down	64.02
Fermanagh	44.75
Londonderry	112.79
Tyrone	243.77

Question 3:

How much has been spent on supporting hedgerows compared with other measures?

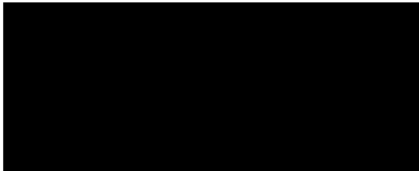
- Total Amount Paid £57.50 M
- Amount Paid for hedge options £8.59 M
- % Spent on hedges compared to other measures 15%

If you require any clarification or believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood, or misinterpreted, please contact ASD Information Management Team at the email address 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, 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,



Head of Agri-environment Management Branch