

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Resource Efficiency Division



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: **DAERA/23-241**

██████████

Via e-mail: ██████████

NIEA Lisburn
Water Management Unit
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Tel: 0300 200 7850

Email: WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk

02 August 2023

Dear ██████████,

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 10 July 2023 which sought the following information, only some of which the Department holds:

'For each month since January 2018 up to 11th July, please provide a list of confirmed cases of blue green algae found in Northern Ireland's water, specifying the location concerned E.g Lough Melvin, Craigavon Lakes, Portstewart Strand.

If the location is Lough Neagh please identify a particular area if possible'

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested on confirmed blue/green algae locations which is attached.

You also requested the following.

'Does the Department record details of incidents where humans or animals such as dogs, sheep and cows that have become sick or died as a result of blue green algae - if so please specify the number of cases each year (broken down by human/type of animal)'

Under Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

The third part of your request sought:

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.



Has the Department identified any particular causes for the aforementioned blue green algae cases E.g. poor water quality. If so please outline the causes next to each confirmed case.

Also for each case outlined, please detail any negative outcome that blue green algae may have had in fish in the area e.g estimated number of fish to have died in the incident.

The Department has not identified specific causes for the blue/green algae bloom events although they are usually associated with warm weather and high nutrient levels within waterbodies.

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,

██████████

██████████

Freshwater Monitoring and Assessment

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.

