

EIR Request (received 14 January 2026) - Reference: DFI/2026-0029

Re: Egyptian Arch Billboard, Newry.

Please see attached letter from the Minister to the Infrastructure Committee dated 3rd December in which she states that on two separate occasions (the 18th August and 5th November) the Department requested the removal of the Billboard once by email and once by letter.

Under FOI can I ask who the Department wrote to on both of these occasions?

Response (issued 12 February 2026)

Egyptian Arch Billboard, Camlough Roundabout, Newry.

Thank you for your email dated 14 January 2026 requesting under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), information held by the Department. You requested the following:

- Details of whom the Department has written requesting the removal of the billboard.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the Environment Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to FoI. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information. EIR gives rights of public access environmental information held by public authorities.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at: [Guide to the Environmental Information Regulations | ICO](#).

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department for Infrastructure does hold information related to your request.

As EIR relates to public rights of access to information, I must consider whether information is suitable for release to the world at large, and not solely to the applicant. I have examined the information you requested and carried out a public interest test to determine whether this information is suitable for release to the public and can advise that this information is suitable for release.

The information requested is detailed below.

I can advise the Department hold records of three items of correspondence in relation to the removal of the billboard at the Egyptian Arch, Camlough Roundabout, Newry. The most recent email/letter dated 25 November 2025 refers to additional illegal advertising in the Newry area and not specifically to the billboard at the Egyptian Arch.

1. 18 August 2023 DfI Roads, Newry, Mourne & Down West Section Office sent an email to Councillor A Mathers.
2. 5 November 2025, DfI Roads Newry Mourne & Down West Section Office sent an email to Councillor Mathers, enclosing a letter addressed to the Sinn Féin Constituency Office in Newry.
3. 25 November 2025, Newry Mourne & Down West Section Office sent an email to Councillor A. Mathers and D. Hughes, MP, enclosing a letter addressed to the Sinn Féin Constituency Office in Newry requesting the removal of all illegal advertisements throughout areas of Newry City, and within the boundaries of the public road

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