

EIR Request (received 30 June 2025) - Reference: DFI/2025-0295

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act. In order to assist you with this request, I am outlining my query as specifically as possible.

My request is as follows. Please provide:

- 1) *Details of every breach of the planning conditions governing sand and gravel extraction at Lough Neagh since January 2023.*

Response (issued 27 August 2025)

Thank you for your email dated 30 June 2025 requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act (FOI), the following information held by the Department:

Details of every breach of the planning conditions governing sand and gravel extraction at Lough Neagh since January 2023.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, as opposed to the FOI Act 2000. 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 to environmental information held by public authorities.

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

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department does hold information relating to your request and being suitable for disclosure, I attach the information held by DfI. This information was previously supplied to you as per your request dated 28 September 2023. The Department is also currently investigating several further potential breaches which may have occurred during this period. Details of any confirmed breaches, if found, will be provided to you as soon as possible.

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