

## **EIR Request (received 17 December 2022) - Reference: DFI/2022-0441**

Dear DfI

1. Please provide a complete list, including date and time of the reports about ice/lack of grit/lack of grit piles/traffic collisions on the Ballyvally Road, between 8th December 2022 and 19th December 2022. Please include reports to your emergency lines.
2. Please include details of report about the Ballyvally Road by PSNI on 15th December 2022.
3. Please provide details of the resulting actions from points 1 and 2 and response by DfI, including those by personnel at the relevant local division office.
4. Please detail the specific actions taken on the Ballyvally Road, in advance of the icy weather, to stock grit piles including the locations of grit piles, noting your press release on 6th December 2022, also noting your PR piece on NICS Intranet on 13th December 2022.
5. Please outline the ability of DfI to facilitate emergency services, in the event of an emergency anywhere along the Ballyvally Road that would require police, ambulance or fire response, if the location was inaccessible due to lack of grit/grit piles.

## **Response (issued 13 January 2023)**

Thank you for your email dated 17 December 2022, requesting under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI), information held by the Department about ice, grit piles and traffic collisions at Ballyvally Road.

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 environmental information held by public authorities.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/what-are-the-eir/>.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department holds information relating to your request and in relation to the issues you raise in your letter, and I can advise the following with regard to each of your questions:

1. *Please provide a complete list, including date and time of the reports about ice/lack of grit/lack of grit piles/traffic collisions on the Ballyvally Road, between 8th December 2022 and 19 December 2022. Please include reports to your emergency lines.*

A list of the reports, including the date and time, received by DfI Roads about ice/lack of grit/lack of grit piles/traffic collisions on the Ballyvally Road, between 8 December 2022 and 19 December 2022 is attached.

2. *Please include details of report about the Ballyvally Road by PSNI on 15 December 2022.*

The Department did not receive an enquiry from the PSNI on 15 December 2022. However, Public Information Portal (PIP) reference W221128024 was received from the PSNI on 17 December 2022, with the comment 'road covered in ice'.

3. *Please provide details of the resulting actions from points 1 and 2 and response by DfI, including those by personnel at the relevant local division office.*

An instruction was issued to the DfI Roads internal contractor on 12 December 2022 to renew grit piles on the Ballyvally Road. 22 no. grit piles were renewed/placed on 22 December 2022.

4. *Please detail the specific actions taken on the Ballyvally Road, in advance of the icy weather, to stock grit piles including the locations of grit piles, noting your press release on 6th December 2022, also noting your PR piece on NICS Intranet on 13th December 2022.*

The Department does not record the grit pile location on the road, simply the number of grit piles per road. I can advise that 20 no. grit piles were placed on the Ballyvally Road on 18 October 2022, in advance of the Winter Service season.

5. *Please outline the ability of DfI to facilitate emergency services, in the event of an emergency anywhere along the Ballyvally Road that would require police, ambulance or fire response, if the location was inaccessible due to lack of grit/grit piles.*

All emergency services have access to the DfI Traffic Control Centre, which is available 24 hours a day and seven days a week, including public holidays. In the event of an emergency, the Department would respond to any request made to support the emergency services.

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