

EIR Request (received 20 March, clarified 24 April 2023) - Reference: DFI/2023-0110

I am a postdoctoral Research Fellow at Birmingham University and working on North Ireland as a case study in my project. Actually, I need total annual sedimentation for Lough Neagh Lake, and if there are recorded sedimentation data for time series that would be very useful.

We seek to develop a conceptual framework for ecosystem evaluation in Lough Neagh Lake. Our primary aim is to co-design a learning and enabling environment to manage Lough Neagh by unpacking the ecological and environmental impact of sand mining. The total annual sedimentation data for Lough Neagh &, if recorded, any available time series data, to help unpack the ecological & environmental impact of sand mining.

Clarification received: First of all so sorry to get back late but I was quite busy a few weeks ago. Actually, we'd like to know the annual amount of sand and gravel deposition into Lough Neagh via River Lower Bann (in tonnes); and, if possible, the approximate division of this deposition into sand/gravel categories. Could you please advise me, on where can I get such information?

Response (issued 28 April 2023)

I refer to your email received by this Department on 24 April 2023 in which you request information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You requested:

The annual amount of sand and gravel deposition into Lough Neagh via River Lower Bann (in tonnes); and, if possible, the approximate division of this deposition into sand/gravel categories.

In considering your information request on behalf of the Department, I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

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

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

The Department for Infrastructure does not hold this information. Your request was also forwarded to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs who also confirmed that it did not hold your requested information.

I am sorry that I cannot be more helpful.