EIR Request (received 30 July 2019) - Reference: DFI/2019-0279

Could I receive an update in relation to the Dernawilt Crossroads and our meeting last week?

Could I also seek all information in relation to the Conamara junction sightline scheme on the same Roslea to Donagh road? If needs be this can be a FOI request.

Response (issued 20 August 2019)

Thank you for your email of 30 July 2019, under the Freedom of Information Act requesting copies of all information in relation to Conamara junction sightline scheme.

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 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

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 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. I attach all information suitable for disclosure, however, you will note that the attached information has, following consideration of the public interest in this case, been redacted as I have determined that the redacted information is not suitable for release.

The redacted information constitutes third party personal data within the meaning of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). A public authority may only release third party personal data if to do so would be fair, lawful and would meet the conditions in Schedule 2, 3 or 4 of the DPA. The Department may not disclose personal information to the public in contravention of any of the data protection principles (Article 5(1) General Data Protection Regulation or sections 34(1) and 85(1) DPA) and must consider all consequences of disclosure in each case.

The information provided has, therefore, been redacted under the exception provided under EIR by Regulations 12(3) & 13: personal information. I am satisfied that the public interest is best served by withholding this information.

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