



Our reference: **DAERA/22-107**

██████████ Via email:  
██████████

Water Management Unit  
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BT28 3AL

Email: [WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Date: 26 April 2022

Dear ██████████

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

I refer to your request for information regarding slurry incidents received by the Department on 31 March 2022, which sought:

“Throughout Northern Ireland - Can you advise the number of pollution incidents involving slurry and oil storage in the last five years?”

1. Slurry Storage failure
2. Slurry Spreading
3. Oil Storage failure”

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it does not hold all the information you requested.

### **Slurry Storage Failure and Slurry Spreading**

In the last 5 years, 2017 to 2021, there have been 841 pollution incidents involving agricultural slurries. Agricultural slurry categories for this search include cattle waste, effluent mixture and pig waste.

It has not been possible to extract the number of pollution incidents as a result of slurry storage failure only. Of the 841 pollution incidents involving slurry, 102 of them have been categorised as being caused by inadequate equipment or equipment failure.

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## Oil Storage Failure

It has not been possible to extract the number of pollution incidents as a result of oil storage failure only. However in the last 5 years there have been 695 pollution incidents involving oil. Of these pollution incidents 101 of them have been categorised as being caused by inadequate equipment or equipment failure. Please see Table 1 below for further breakdown of oil incidents caused by inadequate equipment/equipment failure.

Oil Pollution Incidents	Domestic	Farm	Industry	NIW	Other	Transport	Total per Annum
2017	12	0	6	0	0	2	20
2018	12	0	4	0	1	0	17
2019	13	1	6	0	1	1	22
2020	15	0	2	0	1	2	20
2021	15	0	6	0	1	0	22
Total 17-21	67	1	24	0	4	5	

**Table 1.** Breakdown of oil incidents caused by inadequate equipment/equipment failure 2017 to 2021

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk) or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Ballykelly House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name]

**Scientific Officer**

**North and West Regional Operations**

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If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

