

Our reference: DAERA/23-141

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Northern Ireland Environment Agency
Water Management Unit
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Email: EMFG.InformationRequests@daera-ni.gov.uk

24/05/2023

Dear ██████████

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 22 April 2023 which sought the following information:

The breakdown of agricultural river pollution incidents per river catchment area for each of the last five calendar years. The breakdown should include severity, whether the polluter has been identified, associated fines and ongoing prosecutions.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is attached as Annex A.

A summary of the breakdown is included in the table below. There were 1,371no. agricultural river pollution incidents for 2018-2022. The total value of enforcement related penalties has been £481,786.14 (correct as of 25 April 2023, with seven prosecution cases ongoing).

Year	Number of agricultural river pollution incidents			Enforcement Penalties applied
	High Severity	Medium Severity	Low Severity	
2018	12	46	226	£ 60,007.56
2019	10	68	265	£103,580.84
2020	12	63	221	£121,808.77
2021	9	52	192	£129,501.42
2022	4	44	147	£ 66,887.55*

*Seven cases ongoing.

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Please note that the enforcement penalties applied include both cross compliance penalties for failing to meet verifiable standards under SMR1 ([2023 Cross-Compliance Verifiable Standards - Summary Version.pdf \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)) and fines imposed by the court.

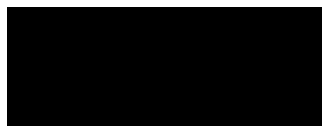
If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

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 or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Jubilee 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,



**Principal Scientific Officer South & East River Basin District
Water Management Unit**

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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.

