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8<sup>th</sup> February 2022

### **Re: OEE AIE 2022 02 Acknowledgement**

Dear Mr. Glover,

I refer to your request dated and received on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, made under the EC (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018 for records held by the Environmental Protection Agency. Your request sought:

*“Under the AIE Regs to request list of membership, chairman, meetings, agendas, minutes and reports presented to and/or commissioned by the Network for Ireland’s Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (NIECE Network)”*

I have considered your request and I advise that Article 7(8) of the AIE Regulations apply (see extract below) in that the request is very general and possibly voluminous in nature.

*7(8) Where a request is made by the applicant in too general a manner, the public authority shall, as soon as possible and at the latest within one month of receipt of the request, invite the applicant to make a more specific request and offer assistance to the applicant in the preparation of such a request.*

In order to assist you further, I have detailed information below in relation to the NIECE Network.

The purpose of the Network for Ireland’s Environmental Compliance and Enforcement is to improve implementation through collaboration amongst public authorities.

The vision of the niece network is ‘The improved implementation of environmental protection legislation through enhanced promotion, engagement and collaboration amongst public authorities.’

This shall be delivered by the three objectives for NIECE viz, Linking People and their Work Areas; Sharing Expertise and Creating Learning Opportunities and Enhancing Consistency in order to deliver improvements in priority environmental area.

For more information on NIECE see the [NIECE Network Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022 Working Together to Make a Difference.](#)

The Network is structured around key thematic areas - Waste, Water and Air/Climate. Each of the thematic areas have a defined network membership which is composed of all members involved or interested in that particular work area. Each thematic area encompasses working groups and network groups associated with that specific theme.

There are currently 11 Networks and 3 Working Groups in operation under the three thematic areas as follows:

Thematic Area	Networks	Working Groups
<b>Waste</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Water</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Air/Noise/Climate</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

<b>Waste Working Groups</b>	<b>Water Working Groups</b>
Southern Region WERLA Network	WFD Catchment Management Network
Eastern and Midlands WERLA Network	National Implementation Group on Water
Connacht Ulster WERLA Network	Water Quality and Agriculture Network
EPA and WERLA Network	Septic Tank Inspectors Network
National Waste Facility Permit Network	
Historic Landfills Task Working Group	
	<b>Air/Climate Working Groups</b>
	Solid Fuels Regulations Network
	Solvent and Deco Paint Network
	AAMP Implementation Group Network
	Noise Mapping and Action Planning Steering Working Group

I would advise you to include details on the particular thematic area Working Group/Network of interest to you in your request.

I also wish to acknowledge receipt of your request and I advise that I am extending the latest time for final a decision on your request to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022. However, we may be in touch with you again following your revised request.

If you have not heard from the EPA once the allotted time has expired, you are automatically entitled to appeal this to the EPA for a review of the matter. This review proceeds on the legal basis that the initial request is considered to be refused once the specified time for responding to it has expired. The review is a full and new examination of the matter carried out by a more senior member of staff of the EPA.

In the event that you need to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to Ms. Ana Bolger, AIE Officer, EPA, P.O. Box 3000, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford or by sending an email to [aie@epa.ie](mailto:aie@epa.ie) . You should state that you are appealing because an initial decision was not sent to you within the time permitted. In that event, you would have one month (after the initial decision should have been sent to you) in which to make the appeal.

Yours sincerely,



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David Smith  
Decision Maker  
Office of Environmental Enforcement.