

02 June 2022

Ashley Glover

By email to irishriverproject@gmail.com

Re: AIE request AIE202217

Dear Ashley Glover,

I refer to the request you made under the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2018 (S.I. No. 133 of 2007, S.I. No. 662 of 2011, S.I. 615 of 2014 and S.I. No. 309 of 2018) (hereafter referred to as the AIE Regulations) for access to information held by Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications relating to the record of

“- the chair and members of the Project Board for the Avoca Mine Site in Wicklow

- agendas/minutes of Project Board meetings for 2020 to current date

- any reports generated by the Project Board in relation to the site from 2020 to current date

- copies of any Monitoring Reports completed after "Avoca Monitoring Report Round 3 2019"

Summary of Decision

I made a decision on your request on 02 June 2022. I have identified 12 records which relate to your request. I have decided that you should be granted access in full to 1 record and I attach numbered copy 6. I am granting access to a further 11 records with some information redacted by reason of Article 8(a)(i) – personal information relating to a third party, Article 9(1)(b) the course of justice, or the information is not "environmental information" as defined by European Communities (Access To Information On The Environment) Regulations 2007 - 2018 and I attach these records, numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12.

Schedule of records

I have attached a schedule of records with this letter. This lists the records that I consider relevant to your request. It provides a brief description of each record and the decision I have made on each record. Where I have decided to refuse or partially refuse access to a record, it specifies the Article of the AIE Regulations under which this refusal has been made. For these records, it also records how I have applied the public interest test pursuant to Article 10(3) and 10(4).

Emissions

In reaching the above decision and where information has been refused under Article 8 and/or 9(1)(b), I have in accordance with Article 10(1), examined whether your request relates to information on emissions into the environment and have determined that it does not.

Public interest test

Furthermore, in accordance with Article 10(3) and 10(4) I have weighed the public interest served by disclosure against the interest served by refusal of your request. I have determined that the public interest would not be served by disclosing the information you request. The public interest was weighed against data protection for persons and found in favour of personal data protection. The public interest is also not served with the release of information on legal cases / matters, which does include personal information in certain cases.

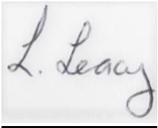
Right of review

Under Article 11 of the AIE Regulations you have a right to request an internal review of this decision. An internal review involves a complete reconsideration of the matter by a member of the staff of this Department, unconnected with the original decision, of the same or higher rank than the original decision-maker, who may affirm, vary or annul the original decision.

If you wish to request an internal review, you can do so by writing to AIE Officer CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie or Access to Information on the Environment, Corporate Support Unit, Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan, H12 A8H7, referring to this decision, quoting the AIE reference number. This request must be made within one month of the date of receipt of this decision. The decision of an internal review will be communicated to you within one month of receipt of your request for an internal review.

Please contact me at 087 1640261 or laurena.leacy@decc.gov.ie if I can assist you in any matter relating to your request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "L. Leacy". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Laurena Leacy
Senior Geologist
Geoscience Policy Division
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications