



**Iascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Mr Ashley Glover

requests@righttoknow.ie

BY EMAIL ONLY

30 August 2024

Our Ref: AIE-024-038-IFI | Decision

Dear Mr Glover

I refer to the request which 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. No. 615 of 2014 and S.I. No. 309 of 2018) (hereafter referred to as the AIE Regulations) for access to environmental information held by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). Your request is seeking:

“Under the AIEs Regs to request any records related to the construction, reopening, upgrade or maintenance of forest roads, recreation trails or other temporary/permanent roads/trails and their related drainage operations, and surfacing, to and adjacent to sea trout spawning pools on the Vartry River in Devils Glen, Wicklow.

Please consider all communications between IFI and the following:

Coillte, Coillte Nature, NPWS, LAWPRO, DAFM Forest Service, Wicklow CoCo, Any community groups, angling clubs or others in relation to any public consultations related road/trail development.

Please include any AAs, screenings or other related records that specifically cover road/trail development to and adjacent to sea trout pools.

Please consider records for the year 2022-2024, as any pre-screening reports obviously pre-date the current works on the river bank.”

Your request was submitted via the IFI website on Thursday 1 August 2024.

I further spoke with you on the phone on the 9 August 2024, where you clarified the narrowing of the scope of your request to the following:

- **Any correspondence with Colillte / Coillte Nature in relation to construction works for forest road/ trail/ recreational trail , not the gravel project**
- **Appropriate assessment or other paperwork for the construction works for forest road/ trail/ recreational trail , not the gravel project**
- **How to report habitat destruction works to IFI and what is the process thereafter.**

- **What paperwork is the process for work to be undertaken on or adjacent to rivers.**

Summary of Decision

I have made a decision to part-grant your AIE request.

Search Effort

I contacted the local Fisheries Environmental Officers, the fishery area Assistant Inspector and the Eastern River Basin Director for information in relation to your request. I contacted IFIs external hotline company for reports in relation to the forest trail reports. I reviewed the customer query ticket register for webforms received in relation to the forest trail at Devil Glen. I requested that a Hotline check be undertaken for the 26 to 30 July for reports into the hotline in relation to Devils Glen/Vartry River.

Exemptions Provisions and reasons for Decisions to Deny Access to Records

For ease of reference, set out hereunder are those articles of the AIE Regulations based on which I have had to deny access to records or parts of records.

Article 7- Action on request – No Records

7(5) Where a request is made to a public authority and the information requested is not held by or for the authority concerned, that authority shall inform the applicant as soon as possible that the information is not held by or for it.

Having conducted extensive searches for records relevant to your request (Appropriate Assessment and paperwork in relation to the Coillte forest trail – not related to the gravel works and hotline reports using Devil's Glen and Vartry river with timeframe 26-30 July 2024 as search terms) as detailed in the search effort, it has not been possible to identify information within the scope of your request.

Supplementary Information

As the works in question (forest trail) are in relation to a Coillte Cheery-Laurel removal projects outside of the river and not IFI related I advise that you contact Coillte for the paperwork and any appropriate assessments they need to undertake for this work as part of their own policies and procedures.

To report habitat destruction the public are encouraged to contact IFI confidential hot-line number **0818 34 74 24** to report fish kills and environmental incidents (this includes habitat destruction). Record 22 details what occurs when a call is made to the hotline in relation to the ERBD area.

Article 7- Action on request – Public Domain

7(3)(a) Where a request has been made to a public authority for access to environmental information in a particular form or manner, access shall be given in that form or manner unless-

- (i) **the information is already available to the public in another form or manner that is easily accessible,**

Please find below Inland Fisheries Ireland funding call guide which details to stakeholders what is required of them when submitting proposed habitats works to IFI.

https://www.fisheriesireland.ie/sites/default/files/2023-11/funding-call-guide-2024_0.pdf

Schedule of Records

None applied.

Right of Review

Under Article 11 of the AIE Regulations you have the right to request an internal review of this decision. An internal review involves a complete reconsideration of the matter by a member of staff of IFI, unconnected with the original decision maker, 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, Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin D24 CK66 or by e-mail to aie@fisheriesireland.ie , referring to this decision and quoting the AIE reference number **[AIE-024-038-IFI]**. 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.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the above, please do not hesitate in contacting the AIE unit at aie@fisheriesireland.ie .

Yours sincerely,



Sarah Healy
AIE Officer