



10 April 2025  
Mr Neil Foulkes  
Neilfoulkes62@gmail.com

**Re: AIE Request 25 105**

Dear Mr Foulkes,

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 this the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM).

**Your AIE Request**

*Under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations, in electronic format;*

*I wish to receive*

*1) Assessments of the impact on carbon sequestration / emissions from forestry as a consequence of Storms Darragh and Eowyn.*

*2) An assessment of the impacts on water quality from forestry as a consequence of Storms Darragh and Eowyn.*

*3) Maps in GIS format of forest areas impacted by the two storms.*

**Summary of Decision**

I have decided on your AIE request on 10 April 2025. My decision is to refuse your request.

The basis for my decision is that I have identified no records held by the Department in relation to your request.

Where information has been refused or partially refused, the following article(s) of SI 133/2007 apply:

- 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.*

**Searches Conducted**

Following the assignment of this AIE request to me, the following searches were undertaken:

- Fergus Moore, Senior Inspector, Forest Sector Development including forestry carbon reporting, was contacted in relation to part 1 of your request. Mr Moore identified no records relevant to your request searching his email inbox, own drive, eDOCs and paper



records using the search words 'carbon sequestration', 'emissions', 'Storm Darragh' and 'Eowyn'.

- Kevin Collins, Grade 1 Forestry Inspector, Head of Environment Division and Andrew Kirwan, Grade 2 Forestry Inspector, Subject Matter Expert in hydrology were contacted in relation to part 2 of your request. Mr Collins and Mr Kirwan met to identify records in relation to your request. Mr Collins responded that he and Andrew Kirwan are both centrally involved in issues concerning water and have provided the response on that basis. There are no records relevant to this request. He further explained that DAFM assesses each licence application on its own merits, part of this assessment includes assessing the potential impact on receiving waterbodies. This was the procedure pre-storm and continues to be the procedure for all applications post-storm. All licences utilised to deal with storm damage arising from Storms Darragh and Eowyn will have undergone this assessment.
- Frank Barrett, Grade 2 Forestry Inspector, Subject Matter Expert in mapping was contacted in relation to part 3 of your request. Mr Barrett had no records in relation to your request. He stated that the assessment of forest wind damage is ongoing at this time. These spatial data should be available by the end of April 2025, however, this date for completion of the mapping exercise is indicative only as cloud free satellite imagery is required to complete the mapping work and availability of cloud free imagery is weather dependent.

### **Fees**

In this instance the Department will not be applying a fee for this AIE because no records were identified.

### **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 emailing FOI Unit at [freedomofinformation@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:freedomofinformation@agriculture.gov.ie) 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.

Yours sincerely,

AIE Unit

Forestry Division

Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine

Johnstown Castle Estate

County Wexford

