



01st July 2026
Mr Neil Foulkes
Neilfoulkes62@gmail.com

Re: AIE Request 26 169

Dear Mr Foulkes,

I refer to the request you made on 03rd June 2026, 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

I wish to request, pursuant to the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007–2018, that the Department provide in electronic format all environmental information relating to Forestry Licence TFL01311526 that does not appear on the public file or public record.

Without limitation, this request includes:

- 1. iFORIS notes, comments, records and contacts;*
- 2. Internal correspondence, emails, memoranda and notes;*
- 3. External correspondence with the applicant, third parties, prescribed bodies or consultants;*
- 4. Records of meetings, telephone calls or communications;*
- 5. Inspector site visit details, reports, photographs, screening records, assessments and recommendations;*
- 6. Any documents, data or records relied upon in reaching decisions or recommendations regarding this licence.*

This information is required for the purposes of preparing and lodging an appeal to the Forestry Appeals Committee (FAC).

As appellants are required to submit all grounds of appeal and supporting evidence within the statutory appeal period, I request that the information be furnished on or before 8th June 2026.

Request for Decision by 08th June 2026

Please note that I have taken into consideration the date requested by you for return of this Information. Due to the current volume and complexity of AIE requests this was not possible.



Summary of Decision

I have decided on your AIE request on **01st July 2026**. My decision is to part grant your request.

The basis for my decision is that I have identified nineteen (19) records held by the Department in relation to your request, four (4) of which are granted in full and fifteen (15) of which are part granted, with redactions. Where specific records outlined in your request have not been provided, I am applying a refusal under article 7(5) of the AIE Regulations as no records were identified.

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

- 7(1) *A public authority shall, notwithstanding any other statutory provision and subject only to these Regulations, make available to the applicant any environmental information, the subject of the request, held by, or for, the public authority.*
- 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.*
- 8 *A public authority shall not make available environmental information in accordance with article 7 where disclosure of the information-*
 - (a) *would adversely affect-*
 - (i) *the confidentiality of personal information relating to a natural person who has not consented to the disclosure of the information, and where that confidentiality is otherwise protected by law.*

Both records redacted under article 7(1) of the AIE Regulations are redacted due to discussions on personal matters of staff members. The redacted information is not related to discussions about the application and therefore I have deemed the redacted information as not relevant to your request.

Searches Conducted

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

- (i) I completed a search in the Department's Felling inbox using the keyword 'TFL01311526'. I identified eleven (11) records relevant to your request that were not published on the Forestry Licence Viewer (FLV).
- (ii) I completed a search in the Department's iForis database using the keyword 'TFL01311526'. I identified eleven (11) records relevant to your request.
- (iii) I issued a searching email to the Grade 1 Forestry Inspector in Coillte Inspectorate, Subject Matter Expert (SME) for Coillte Inspectorate. The SME completed searches in their email inbox using the keyword 'TFL01311526'. The SME identified four (4) emails relevant to your request. One of the emails contained two (2) attachments totalling six (6) records identified. One duplicate was identified on review and removed.



Public Interest Test

In accordance with article 10(3) and 10(4), I have weighed the public interest served by disclosure against the interest served by part refusal of your request. I have determined that the public interest would not be served by disclosing the redacted information. The factors in favour of release of this information are the making available to the public, where practical and allowed under the law, in a transparent manner, information affecting the environment.

The factors in favour of withholding are:

- The disclosure of personal information such as staff mobile phone numbers to a third party adversely affects the confidentiality of that information. There is little to no public interest in the release of mobile numbers to the public which is similar information to that determined not to be in the public interest to release in the Commissioner's decision in OCE-161017-J5W7L2.
- The disclosure of personal information, which includes names, email addresses and mobile phone numbers, to a third party adversely affects the confidentiality of that information. Releasing an individual's personal information violates their right to privacy and confidentiality, as protected by law.

It is my decision that the confidentiality of the records in question is otherwise protected by law under Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018.

Please note that in making my decision, I have considered article 10(5), which states that,

Nothing in articles 8 or 9 shall authorise a public authority not to make available environmental information which, although held with information to which article 8 or 9 relates, may be separated from such information.

Schedule of Records

Please see schedule of records for information on records identified. 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.

Fees

In this instance the Department will not be applying a fee for this AIE because search, retrieval and compilation of records took less than the chargeable time.

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 DAFM AIE Unit at AIE@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,

Forestry AIE Unit

Forestry Division
Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine
Johnstown Castle Estate
County Wexford