

Summary of decision-making

STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR THE DECISION MADE ON REQUEST FOR ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON THE ENVIRONMENT UNDER REGULATIONS 2007- 2011 (S.I. No. 133 of 2007 & S.I. No. 662 of 2011 & S.I. No. 615 of 2014)

AIE REQUEST NUMBER: AIE-087-2026

REQUESTER NAME: Right to Know CLG

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

“AIE: National Hydromorphology Working Group

List of members, copies of agendas/minutes of meetings, and any presentations/reports made to the Working Group, or mentioned in the agendas/minutes

For the purposes of this request please consider the period 2024 to 2026

In particular RTK would like to request a copy of a report on Hydromorphology, believed to have been presented to the working group in or around Sept 2024, together with any amendments, updates or comments on the report from members of the Working Group. Title of report unknown, but author is be Ken Irvine and/or the eNGO SWAN.”

SUMMARY OF DECISION:

NUMBER OF RECORDS COVERED BY THE REQUEST	6
NUMBER OF RECORDS WHICH WILL BE RELEASED IN FULL (R)	5
NUMBER OF RECORDS FOR WHICH RELEASE IS BEING DEFERRED (DR)	0
NUMBER OF RECORDS WHICH WILL BE RELEASED WITH IN PART/WITH DELETIONS (RWD)	0
NUMBER OF RECORDS WHICH WILL NOT BE RELEASED (NR)	1

Details of the records covered by this request are set out in the attached schedule. Opposite each record the letters R, DR, RWD or NR appear, depending on whether they are being released in full, release is being deferred, released in part or not released (see summary above).

Full access has not been given to all the records requested as the Department considers it appropriate to apply some of the exemption provisions of regulations governing AIE. The schedule attached indicates the relevant provision of the AIE regulations (S.I. 133 of 2007) which covers this exemption. The schedule gives brief reasons why the exemption is being applied and copies of the relevant regulations are attached for your information.

Further information on the main factors taken into account in reaching this decision is outlined in the summary of the findings. If you have any further queries on this matter please contact the undersigned:

Name of decision maker: Wayne Trodd

Date of Decision: 3/7/2026

Email: wayne.trodd@housing.gov.ie

Summary of Findings

1. Findings on material issues taken into account in reaching this decision

- Records 1-5 are available for release
- Record 6 is not available for release as this concerns draft meeting minutes which have not yet been accepted by the Hydromorphology Expert Group.

2. Public Interest factors taken into account in this decision.

Record 6: DRAFT_Hymo EG Minutes 02042025

- Argument to disclose: increase transparency for an Expert Group working in the interest of the environment, specifically pressures on the physical condition of water bodies.
- Argument to refuse: the minutes have not yet been adopted by the Expert Group, therefore any potential inaccuracies may lead to misrepresentation of member contributions. Once adopted at a future meeting, the minutes can be made available to any interested party.

In weighing the arguments both for and against disclosure of the draft minutes, and in consideration of whether their disclosure would be in the public interest, I have concluded that they should not be disclosed until they are formally adopted by the Expert Group.

3. Right of Appeal

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, of the same or higher rank than the original decision-maker, who may affirm, vary or annul the original decision.

In the event that you wish to make such an appeal, you can do so by writing to the Information Officer, Strategic and Business Support Unit, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90, referring to this decision, quoting your AIE reference number (AIE-012-2025). You must make your appeal within one month of the date of this notification, (the making of a late appeal may be permitted in certain circumstances). The decision of a review will be communicated to you within one month.