

Environmental Farming Branch
Room 651, Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SB

Our Ref: DAERA/2019-0191

Email: <mailto:tommy.mcnamara@daera-ni.gov.uk>

26 June 2019

Dear Sir/Madam,

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I refer to your request for information, received on 2 June 2019, which asked for:

The annual usage, in metric litres, of all products containing Glyphosate, administered/sprayed/applied onto agricultural land by licensed/certified agents throughout Northern Ireland for the years:

- *A 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016;*
- *B 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017;*
- *C 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018;*
- *D 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019;*
- *E 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020 (projected application).*

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it does not hold all of the information requested. The available information is set out in the table below.

Annual usage of products containing the active ingredient Glyphosate		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Spray hectares*</i>	<i>Weight applied (kg)</i>
<i>2014</i>	<i>24,149</i>	<i>18,071</i>
<i>2016</i>	<i>23,021</i>	<i>16,476</i>

**Spray hectares refers to the total hectares sprayed in a year. This includes areas of land that have had more than one application.*

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Pesticide usage monitoring forms an integral part of the government's pesticide safety control arrangements, in providing quantitative and qualitative data on the usage of pesticides in agriculture and horticulture. In Northern Ireland this monitoring is carried out by the Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI) on behalf of the Department. Pesticide usage reports are produced bi-annually and as such there is no data available for 2015 or 2017. The data for 2018 is currently being verified and will be published on the AFBI website in October 2018. There is no data for "projected application" for 2019 or 2020.

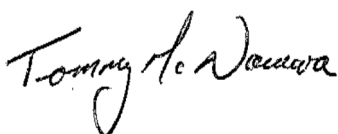
All pesticide approvals are subject to periodic review and the approval of glyphosate has recently gone through this process. On 28 November 2017, the EU re-approved the continuing use of glyphosate. Reviews of the scientific data by the European Food Safety Authority and the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment found no safety concerns that would prevent continuing approval, and UK scientists agree with this assessment. The UK government supported the continued approval because glyphosate meets our high standards for the protection of health and the environment. The current EU approval lasts until 15 December 2022; use beyond that date would be subject to a further decision

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please write to The Review Section, The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection and Information Management Branch, Room 507, Dundonald House, Upper Newtownards Road, Ballymiscaw, BELFAST, BT4 3SB, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours faithfully,



Tommy McNamara

On behalf of the Department

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