



request-333972-
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Information Management Unit
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Tel: 9035 4813 ext 20242

Email: john.collins@niwater.com

Your reference:

Our reference: NIW 1617039

Date: 16 May 2016

Dear Mr Hughes,

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 May 2016, in which you requested information about how much Infrastrata paid to lease the ground in Woodburn Forest and if any other areas are leased to any other companies with exploratory drilling intentions.

As your queries fall under the definition of environmental requests, NI Water will be replying under the disclosure provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. The leaflet attached refers. In some circumstances, a fee may be payable. If that is the case, I will let you know the likely charges before proceeding.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Collins', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Collins

NI Water Head of Corporate Information

Northern Ireland Water
Public Information Leaflet
on
The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

This is an overview of the Regulations and should not be regarded as a legal interpretation.

What do the Environmental Information Regulations do?

The Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) give certain rights of access to Environmental Information.

You can also get information under:

The Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) which, amongst other things, gives individuals access to their own personal information.

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) which gives people the right to request non-personal, non-environmental information from Public Authorities.

How do I get information from NI Water under the Environmental Regulations?

Requests for Environmental Information do not need to be in writing. They can quite legitimately be made in person, by telephone, left on voicemail or by email, fax or letter.

If you are making a request verbally, it is recommended that you keep a note of the person you speak to and the outcome of the conversation as you may wish to follow this up at a later date. Ideally a written request is most appropriate as this is written proof of your request.

How long does it take to get information?

All EIR requests must be responded to in writing within 20 working days, unless there are exceptional circumstances where the information requested has been of a complex and voluminous nature. In cases where the response period has had to be extended by a further 20 working days, notification must be sent to you informing you of this delay during the first 20 days of your initial request.

Sometimes we might need to contact you in order to clarify exactly what information you are interested in.

It will help us to process your request more quickly if you can be as specific as possible about what information it is you want. Please make sure that you provide us with your name and address and a contact telephone number.

Is there a cost for getting information?

This depends on a number of factors

NI Water have the discretion to charge a reasonable fee for providing environmental information and our starting point is £25 per hour based on staff time spent locating, retrieving and extracting the information requested.

NI Water will notify the requestor if a fee will be charged and the amount. If a fee is due and the requestor wishes to proceed, NIW will provide the information following payment of the fee. If the requestor does not wish to proceed, NIW will try to find information that can be provided without incurring charges.

No fees will be charged for existing publications, or for information that is on our website, on the public register, or can be examined at a NI Water office.

What happens if the information I want is not available?

We will contact you and tell you what information we do hold that might help to answer your query or suggest another Public Authority that may hold the information you are looking for.

If NI Water cannot respond to your request and has exhausted all its potential possibilities to obtain the information, we will simply send you a refusal notice stating that we do not hold the information.

What if I am refused information?

We will tell you if information is being withheld and why. We will also tell you who you should contact to request an internal review if you are not happy with our decision. And if you are still not happy after the internal review you can request a review by the Information Commissioner (see details below). Please contact us first if you are not happy with our response and tell us why you believe that we are wrongly withholding information from you.

Where can I get more information about the Environmental Regulations (EIR)?

You can get more information about EIR from the Office of the Information Commissioner. The Commissioner's details are:

Website: www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk

Phone: 01625 545 700

Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Post: Information Commissioner,

Wycliffe House,

Water Lane,

Wilmslow,

CHESHIRE

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