

## Question

To the extent that this email seeks recorded information, please treat it as a request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please provide the precise recorded basis on which the Department of Health has concluded that this SEPA guidance is “equally applicable in Northern Ireland”, including:

1. Any internal note, briefing, advice, assessment, submission, or correspondence recording why SEPA’s guidance is considered applicable in Northern Ireland.
2. Any communications with PHA, NIEA, DAERA, HSENI, UKHSA, or any other body concerning that conclusion.
3. Any Northern Ireland-specific evidence, dataset, baseline study, risk assessment, or other recorded material relied upon in support of that position.
4. Any recorded information identifying who made, approved, or authorised the Department’s position that SEPA’s guidance is equally applicable in Northern Ireland.

If no such recorded basis exists, please confirm this clearly.

## Response

Your request contained multiple asks which we have answered on a point-by-point basis.

**Point 1** of your request sought:

1. *Any internal note, briefing, advice, assessment, submission, or correspondence recording why SEPA’s guidance is considered applicable in Northern Ireland.*

Pursuant to regulation 5(1) of the EIR 2004, the Department can confirm it does not hold the information requested.

**Point 2** of your request asked for:

2. *Any communications with PHA, NIEA, DAERA, HSENI, UKHSA, or any other body concerning that conclusion.*

Please see the relevant documentation provided by email with this letter. Each piece of correspondence is listed by number.

- Emails 1, 2, and 3 had two attachments which were the same in each email – these were a draft letter of response to previous correspondence which is excepted from this Environmental Information Request response due to being at that time an unfinished and internal document (as per appropriate guidance from the Information Commissioners Office), and an attached pdf file of the

Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) Radioactivity and Wind Farm Developments on Peatlands July 2025 report which can be found online at: <https://www.sepa.org.uk/media/rwnfvp5s/radioactivity-wind-farm-developments-peatlands.pdf>

- Email 5 had an attachment which was a draft letter of response and therefore excepted as per the explanation above.
- Email 7 had three attachments. One was a draft letter of response and therefore excepted as per the explanation above. The other two attachments have been included in this response and are attached to the accompanying email as 7a and 7b. Attachment 7b also had a further attachment and this is listed as 7b1.
- Emails 4, 6 and 8 had no attachments.
- Email 6 contains communication from outside our organisation. We are participating in third-party consultation to see whether that information can be released and can send this on to you as appropriate.

**Point 3** of your request sought:

3. *Any Northern Ireland-specific evidence, dataset, baseline study, risk assessment, or other recorded material relied upon in support of that position.*

Pursuant to regulation 5(1) of the EIR 2004, the Department can confirm it does not hold the information requested.

**Point 4** of your request asked for:

4. *Any recorded information identifying who made, approved, or authorised the Department's position that SEPA's guidance is equally applicable in Northern Ireland*

Pursuant to regulation 5(1) of the EIR 2004, the Department can confirm it does not hold the information requested.

Appendices (Emails and attachments) may be requested from the Information Management Branch (IMB) if required at the following address: [FOI@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:FOI@health-ni.gov.uk)

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