

EIR Request (received 09 August 2022) - Reference: DFI/2022-0253

Could I request some information under the Environmental Information Regulations?

There is a pedestrian footpath connecting Jubilee Road, Newtownards to the A20 Messines Road adjacent to Sketrick House and which leads to the pedestrian crossing on the A20.

This was constructed by the private developer of Sketrick House to replace an earlier longstanding footpath. The path was also partly rebuilt by DRD contractors during the construction of the A20 in 2009. Can I ask?

1. Whether this footpath is adopted by DFI.
2. Regardless of (1), whether DFI has carried out any maintenance to this footpath since 2009.
3. If (1) is no, are DFI able to advise who is responsible for the maintenance of the footpath?

Response (issued 23 August 2022)

Thank you for your email dated 9 August 2022 requesting information about a pedestrian footpath connecting Jubilee Road, Newtownards to the A20 Messines Road adjacent to Sketrick House and which leads to the pedestrian crossing on the A20.

In considering your request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the aegis of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at:

<https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/what-are-the-eir/>.

As EIR relates to public rights of access to information, I must consider whether information is suitable for release to the world at large, and not solely to the applicant. I have examined the information you requested and carried out a public interest test to determine whether this information is suitable for release to the public. Following consideration of the public interest in this case, I can advise this information can be released.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department does hold some Information.

I have addressed each question the order set out in your email.

1. The footpath does not currently form part of the public road network although consideration is being given to having it 'adopted'.
2. No maintenance has been carried out by the Department on this footpath since 2009.
3. As the footpath is on land owned by the Department, it is the Department's responsibility to maintain it. The footpath does not however currently form part of the adopted road network that is formally inspected and maintained; this anomaly is currently being addressed.

Copyright notice

The supply of information under the Freedom of Information Act or the Environmental Information Regulations does not give the recipient or organisation that receives it the automatic right to reuse it in any way that would infringe copyright. Information supplied continues to be protected by copyright. You are free to use it for your own purposes, including for private study and non-commercial research, and for any other purpose authorised by an exception in current copyright law. Documents (except photographs) can also be used in the UK without requiring permission for the purposes of news reporting. Any other re-use, for example commercial publication, would require the permission of the copyright holder.

Most documents provided by a government department or agency will be protected by Crown Copyright. Most Crown Copyright information can be re-used under the [Open Government Licence](#). For information about the OGL and about re-using Crown Copyright information, please see [The National Archives website](#).

Copyright in other documents may rest with a third party. For information about obtaining permission from a third party please see the [Intellectual Property Office's website](#).