

## **EIR Request (received 12 & 27 September 2022) - Reference: DFI/2022-0326**

I would like to request under the Freedom of Information Act, <https://www.gov.uk/make-a-freedom-of-information-request>, the rules, guidelines, procedures and policies related to submitting and releasing an official report from your engineering section of the River Agency.

What I'm looking for is to understand - what the process is for approving and releasing the report and ensuring that the data inside this official report has subsequent evidence to support all of the information in the report.

## **Response (issued 11 October 2022)**

Thank you for your emails of 12<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 requesting a copy of the rules, guidelines, procedures and policies related to submitting and releasing an official report from the engineering section of DfI Rivers (formally Rivers Agency).

In considering the request on behalf of the Department I have determined that the information requested falls under the Environment Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as opposed to FOI. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information. EIR gives rights of public access to environmental information held by public authorities.

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/>.

In response to your request, I can confirm that the Department does hold information relating to your request and, being suitable for disclosure, I attach the Technical Guidance Note (TGN) 14 Revision of "Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 - Guidelines to Area Staff - Schedule 5 & 6". The relevant legislation is contained within the Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 which is available at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1973/69>.

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