

EIR Request (received 07 May 2024) - Reference: DFI/2024-0195

Under the Freedom of Information Act and Environmental information Regulations could I request the following:

- A map of each of the 7 Greenway Strategy Primary routes respectively showing clearly what sections of the route have been completed and what sections have not.
- To outline how many km of greenway has been completed on each primary route since the Greenway Strategy was published in 2016.
- To outline how many km of greenway on each of the primary routes remain to be built.
- To outline if the Department has been in contact with Donegal County Council about connecting the Strabane North greenway to the Lifford - Carrigans greenway and what consideration the department has given to using a Compulsory Purchase Order to complete the Strabane North greenway.

Response (issued 13 June 2024)

Thank you for your email dated 7th May 2024 requesting information held by the Department, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). You requested the following:

- *A map of each of the 7 Greenway Strategy Primary routes respectively showing clearly what sections of the route have been completed and what sections have not.*
- *To outline how many km of greenway has been completed on each primary route since the Greenway Strategy was published in 2016.*
- *To outline how many km of greenway on each of the primary routes remain to be built.*
- *To outline if the Department has been in contact with Donegal County Council about connecting the Strabane North greenway to the Lifford - Carrigans greenway and what consideration the department has given to using a Compulsory Purchase Order to complete the Strabane North greenway.*

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 (EIR), as opposed to Freedom of Information Act 2000. Your request is for information

that relates to activities, policies or plans that affect the environment. Section 39 of the Freedom of Information Act specifically excludes from consideration under that Act requests for what is deemed to be environmental information.

A guide explaining the Environmental Information Regulations can be found at: <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/foi-eir-and-access-to-information/guide-to-the-environmental-information-regulations/>.

I have detailed below the response to each question:

- a) *A map of each of the 7 Greenway Strategy Primary routes respectively showing clearly what sections of the route have been completed and what sections have not.*

The Department does not currently hold this information in map format. A map of the proposed primary and secondary greenway network is contained within The Strategic Plan for Greenways document.

- b) *To outline how many km of greenway has been completed on each primary route since the Greenway Strategy was published in 2016.*

Evidence gathered through engagement with councils indicates that a total of approximately 123km of the primary network is in place as follows:

Primary Route	km
Belfast to Craigavon	35.8
Belfast to Larne	5.9
Craigavon to Newry	48.5
Craigavon to Derry-Londonderry	22
Belfast to Newtownards	10.9
Total	123.1

The Department does not hold this information in a format that differentiates the routes in place pre and post publication of Exercise - Explore - Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways.

- c) *To outline how many km of greenway on each of the primary routes remain to be built.*

The kilometre lengths quoted within the Strategic Plan for Greenways document are based on high level potential corridors between destinations. Accurate measurement of route lengths along those corridors are established through the design development process for individual projects. The Department therefore holds no records at a more granular level indicating how many kilometres of delivered greenway will be required to complete the network.

d) *To outline if the Department has been in contact with Donegal County Council about connecting the Strabane North greenway to the Lifford - Carrigans greenway and what consideration the department has given to using a Compulsory Purchase Order to complete the Strabane North greenway.*

Delivery of Greenways are generally council led with the Department funding up to 50% of the capital cost of approved projects. Departmental officials regularly liaise with councils on the development of greenways, primarily Derry and Strabane District Council in this instance. We hold no records of direct Departmental contact with Donegal County Council in relation to connections between the schemes.

The Department is aware of ongoing discussions between Derry and Strabane District Council and Donegal County Council, including their appointed consultants, on the development of this stretch of greenway.

The Department has no plans at present to use its vesting powers in connection with the Strabane North Greenway.

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](#).