

EIR Request (received 26 August 2024) - Reference: DFI/2024-0336

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding flood data.

Please provide either:

1. A list of Northern Irish postcodes at risk of flooding (or a vector file of any existing maps).
2. A list of postcodes that have historically been flooded in the last 5 years (or a vector file of any existing maps).

Response (issued 23 September 2024)

Thank you for your e-mail of 26 August 2024, requesting, under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, information regarding flood data.

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, as opposed to the FOI Act 2000. 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 environmental information held by public authorities.

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/>.

The Department does not hold the data in the format requested. While the EIR established general public rights of access to environmental information held by public authorities, this does not mean that the Department must comply with every request received. Under Regulation 6 of EIR, the Department does not have to comply where the information is already readily accessible to you in another form or format.

In accordance with The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009, the Department has made flood hazard information publically available via the Flood Maps NI website (<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/topics/rivers-and-flooding/flood-maps-ni>).

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