

Ref: EIR / 6230

27th February 2026

Environmental Information Regulations Request - NIE Networks "Big Network Rebuild"

Thank you for your request for information received on 30th January 2026, regarding NIE Networks "Big Network Rebuild" engagement and correspondence (from 1 January 2024). Please find our response below:

I request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and/or the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 relating to NIE Networks' engagement with Derry City & Strabane District Council concerning the "Big Network Rebuild", and related matters including strategic grid reinforcement, major demand connections, and references to large energy users (including data centres). For the purposes of this response, it is assumed that the term "North West" refers to the north-western region of Northern Ireland.

Please provide the following recorded information:

- 1. All emails, correspondence, and meeting arrangements between DCSDC (members and officers) and NIE Networks (and/or named representatives) relating to any presentation(s), briefing(s), or engagement on the "Big Network Rebuild", including follow-up actions.**

The Environmental Health Service does not hold any emails, correspondence, meeting arrangements, or follow-up actions between DCSDC and NIE Networks relating to any presentations, briefings, or engagement on the "Big Network Rebuild".

- 2. Any internal DCSDC briefings, notes, summaries, or preparatory papers produced in advance of, during, or after NIE Networks engagement on the "Big Network Rebuild", including any references to grid capacity,**

Derry

C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

+44 (0) 2871 253 253
info@derrystrabane.com
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcscouncil

constraints, reinforcement timelines, costs, and the implications of large electricity users.

The Environmental Health Service does not hold any internal briefings, summaries, notes, preparatory papers, or other records relating to NIE Networks' engagement on the "Big Network Rebuild", nor any material relating to grid capacity, constraints, reinforcement timelines, costs, or implications for large electricity users.

3. Any meeting agendas, minutes, attendee lists, notes, or records of decisions/actions for meetings where NIE Networks' "Big Network Rebuild" or related grid reinforcement matters were discussed.

The Environmental Health Service does not hold any agendas, minutes, attendee lists, notes, or records of decisions or actions for meetings where the NIE Networks "Big Network Rebuild" or any related grid reinforcement matters were discussed.

4. Any correspondence or internal records referring to NIE Networks comments or advice to DCSDC about encouraging or accommodating large electricity demand in the North West, including data centres or similar large energy users.

The Environmental Health Service does not hold any correspondence or internal records referring to NIE Networks' comments, guidance, or advice about large electricity demand in the North West, including in relation to potential data centres or similar large-scale energy users.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive

Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
CHESHIRE SK9 5AF
Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Seamus Donaghy
Head of Health & Community Wellbeing