Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
Cheantar an tSratha Báin
Derry Cittie & Stràbane
Destrick Cooncil

Ref: EIR / 6578

19th August 2026

**Environmental Information Regulations Request - Invasive Weeds Neighbour Complaints 2021-2025**

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

**Please provide information about complaints received by the council concerning invasive weeds growing on neighbouring or adjoining land.**

**For each of the five complete calendar years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025, please provide:**

1. **The total number of unique complaints received concerning invasive weeds.**

   1 in 2022

2. **A breakdown of these complaints by the following plant species:**

   - **Japanese knotweed**
   - **Bamboo**
   - **Giant hogweed**
   - **Himalayan balsam**
   - **Other invasive plant species**

   Please be advised that it was Japanese Knotweed.

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Derry City & Strabane District Council
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**For the purposes of this request:**

a. **Please include cases where the plant had spread, was alleged to have spread or was considered at risk of spreading from neighbouring or adjoining land.**

   None as it appears to relate to spreading within site.

b. **Please include complaints concerning privately owned, commercially owned and council-owned neighbouring land.**

   Please see the complaint attached.

c. **Please exclude reports made solely about an invasive plant growing on the reporting person's own land, unless the report also concerned its spread from neighbouring or adjoining land.**

   Not applicable.

d. **Please exclude routine inspections, scheduled maintenance and infestations identified internally where no corresponding report was received from a member of the public.**

   Not applicable.

e. **"Other invasive plant species" means any other plant recorded by the council as invasive, non-native, encroaching or requiring control because of its spread.**

   Not applicable.

**Please count each unique case or council reference number once, even if multiple communications were received about the same case. Please allocate the complaint to the calendar year in which it was first received.**

**If one complaint concerned more than one named plant species, please include it under each relevant species.**

**Where records confirm that no relevant complaints were received, please record the figure as "0".**

**If responding to the full request would be manifestly unreasonable, please prioritise providing the total number of unique neighbour complaints for each year, followed by the species breakdown in the order listed above.**

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

**Alan Haire**
**Principal Environmental Health Officer**

Our Ref: COM 3827

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[redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

By email: [redacted]

Date: 4th March 2022

Dear Mr [redacted]

**RE: Stage 2 Complaint – Closure of enforcement case A/2013/0034/CA**

Thank you for your correspondence received by email on 25th January 2022, which is being treated as a Stage 2 Complaint under Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) complaints policy. I have been appointed to consider and respond to issues you have raised in your formal complaint. I have investigated the matter thoroughly as part of our Feedback and Complaints Policy.

The substance of your complaint seek clarification through three questions which I have responded to individually as below:

**1:** ***On what date do you consider that the acknowledged breach of planning control became immune from enforcement action?***

Should Council have deemed it expedient to take enforcement action the date for doing so would have been on or before 7th March 2018.

**2:** ***Can you confirm that prior to closure of the case, it was the view of the competent authority that this breach of planning control constituted unauthorised EIA development***

When closing the case Council were of the view that the breach did not constitute unauthorised EIA development.

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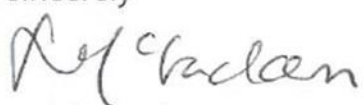
**3:** ***The when claiming on 25th November 2021 that it was not expedient to enforce due to "site having naturally restored over time through sedimentation", whether this natural restoration included the invasive species of Japanese Knotweed that colonised the lands where the unauthorised works took place <u>after</u> the breach occurred?***

When closing the case Council was aware of the presence of invasive species on the site through consultation with Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). NIEA consultation of 15th April 2013 identified the existence of invasive species in the area of the site prior to works taking place. Any alleged subsequent spread of invasive species as a result of works on the site is a matter for the Northern Ireland Environment Agency to investigate and take forward under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) order 1985, if an offence has occurred.

I do hope this response provides clarification on the issues you have raised and you are satisfied with the details provided. If you are not happy with my response, please contact us again and we will be happy to instigate the next stage of the complaints procedure which will mean referring the matter to the Chief Executive, Mr Kelpie.

In the meantime, DCSDC welcomes any future comments and suggestions on how we can improve our service.

Yours sincerely



Suzanne McCracken
Principal Planning Officer