

Ref: EIR / 6336

30th April 2026

Environmental Information Regulations - Request Council Staff Working on Climate Action

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

I would like information about your council's staff positions in relation to climate action for the Council Climate Action Scorecards. This information is most likely to be held by a HR department or similar.

In particular, please supply me with information relating to the following questions:

1a. How many staff does the Council directly employ (excluding contractors or subcontractors, and excluding teachers), that work directly for the Council as opposed to a school, leisure centres or other venture.

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1b. How many directly employed staff spend 3 or more days per week (0.6 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects? Please provide a list of all the roles. Please exclude waste management staff unless they are specifically working 3 or more days per week on implementing the Climate Action Plan or other climate change projects.

If you have answered yes to have a biodiversity planning officer and/or a retrofit staff member below, both these staff members can be included in this question even if they are contracted. This is likely to include all staff in your climate/sustainability team, such as Climate Change Officers or similar.

Derry

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98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

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47 Derry Road
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BT82 8DY

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This may include full time staff who spend 60% of their time on climate change projects and 40% of their time on other work.

You might include other staff in other departments, such as a procurement officer if they are spending 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE) on writing and implementing a sustainable procurement policy or a planner that is working primarily on low carbon policies for new buildings.

4 Staff

- Green Infrastructure Lead – Climate & Biodiversity x 1
- Climate Action Officer x 1
- Biodiversity Officer x 1
- Energy Manager x 1
- Energy Officer x 1

- 2. Does the council have one or more staff members who work on home energy efficiency retrofitting, such as retrofit officers or project managers across the council area, for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE)? This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). The work of this officer may include working on any retrofit projects, including council buildings, council homes or private rented or owned households.**

Please list any roles that work in this area, including the full time equivalent (FTE) if they work part time. Please include staff members that are shared with other councils and note if they are shared across other areas.

- Energy Manager x 1
- Energy Officer x 1
- Please note NI Council's do not have responsibility for Homes – This is the responsibility of the Department for Community and Housing Executive

3. How many planning ecologists or equivalent working for 3 or more days per week (0.6+ FTE) does the council employ to scrutinise planning reports and/or applications for improvements to biodiversity and/or Biodiversity Net Gain?

This can include both directly employed and contracted staff, provided they work 3 or more days per week (0.6 FTE). Planning ecologists are ecologists that scrutinise planning applications on biodiversity measures. They often sit within the planning department, but they can sit within other departments in the council. If the planning ecologist does sit outside the planning department it must be made clear that the planning ecologist spends 3 days or more per week (0.6 FTE) scrutinising planning applications.

Please include staff members that are shared with other councils and note if they are shared across other areas.

- Biodiversity Officer x 1
- Members of the Planning team consult with Northern Environment Agency where required.

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 reconsider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Colin Kennedy
Natural Environment Regeneration Manager