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

Ref: FOI / 6513

15th July 2026

Freedom of Information Act 2000 Request - Unauthorised Encampments / Co-operation Policy for Irish Travellers

I refer to your FOI request and respond as follows:

Request

For the period 1 January 2020 to the date of this request, I request the following information in relation to unauthorised encampments by members of the Traveller community on land owned or managed by the Council.

Please provide:

1. The total number of incidents of unauthorised Traveller encampments on Council owned or managed land.

   For each encampment:

   a. the date on which the encampment commenced (or was first reported);
   b. the date on which it ended;
   c. the total duration of the encampment; and
   d. the location of the encampment.

2. The number of requests received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive asking the Council to permit an unauthorised encampment to remain in place in accordance with the Co-operation Policy.

   Of those requests:

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

Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcsdcouncil

a. how many were agreed; and
b. how many were refused.

3. The number of occasions on which the Council initiated legal proceedings to obtain possession of land or otherwise secure the eviction of an unauthorised Traveller encampment.

4. The total cost incurred by the Council in responding to unauthorised Traveller encampments, broken down, where recorded, into:

   - legal costs;
   - security costs;
   - site clearance and waste removal;
   - staff costs (if separately recorded); and
   - any other associated expenditure.

   For each unauthorised encampment, please state:

   a. whether the Northern Ireland Housing Executive was consulted prior to any enforcement action being taken;
   b. whether the Co-operation Policy was considered or applied;
   c. if the Co-operation Policy was not applied, the reason why; and
   d. whether any equality or human rights assessment was undertaken before a decision was made to pursue enforcement action.

Response

Please note that Council don't have any recorded instances of unauthorised encampments.

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

Colin Kennedy
Natural Environment Regeneration Manager