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

Ref: EIR / 6466

07th July 2026

Environmental Information Regulations Request - Rodent Control Impact on Non-Target Species

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

Request

I am writing under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) and, to the extent applicable, the Freedom of Information Act 2000, to request the following information.

I request all records you hold relating to the known injury or death of animals that are not rats or mice that have occurred or are suspected to have occurred as a result of rodent control operations. This means operations that were commissioned, administered, or delivered by the council, whether through in-house pest control staff or by external contractors engaged by the council.

My request includes casualties resulting from any lethal or live-capture rodent control method where non-target mortality occurred, including but not limited to:

- Anticoagulant or acute rodenticide use (such as suspected secondary poisoning of raptors, hedgehogs, mustelids, or other wildlife)
- Spring or kill traps (Fenn traps, tunnel traps, or similar)
- Glue boards or adhesive traps
- Any other method

I am requesting all records held as far back as they are available in a readily accessible format. If full compliance would exceed the cost limit, please prioritise the most recent records available and advise me of the earliest year that falls within the limit. This request covers both confirmed casualties and cases where a causal link to rodent control was suspected but not formally established, for example where an animal was found dead in or near bait stations, traps or treatment areas.

For the avoidance of doubt, the council is requested to consider whether any relevant information is held by contractors or agents on its behalf and is therefore subject to disclosure under Regulation 3(2) of the EIR.

For each recorded incident or casualty, can you provide where held:

1. Species, or best identification available (e.g. "unidentified raptor")
2. Number of animals affected
3. Outcome (killed/injured/released alive)
4. Date or approximate date
5. Control method responsible
6. General location or site type (e.g. housing estate, council depot, public park)
7. Whether the operation was in-house or contracted out, and if the latter, the contractor's name

I also request where available:

- Any summary or aggregate reports relating to non-target casualties in the council's rodent control programme
- Any contractual provisions, standing instructions, or service specifications requiring pest control contractors to report non-target casualties to the council

Where information is held in a structured or tabular format, I would be grateful to receive it as a spreadsheet or CSV file. Narrative reports, contractor correspondence, and other documents are equally welcome.

If any information is considered exempt from disclosure, please specify the exemption(s) relied upon, apply the public interest test where applicable under EIR, and provide all non-exempt information.

Response

Please be advised that each premises within Council is responsible for its own pest control arrangements, with services provided by external contractors. However, the external pest control contractors are required to comply with relevant legislation,

Council health and safety policies, and recognised industry codes of practice, including the use of trained operatives and humane, approved methods.

All areas are monitored for evidence of rodents. In the event of any rodent activity traps are used are closely monitored and placed in areas where other animals (including birds) cannot come into contact with them.

Please also note that compliance is assured through procurement requirements, contract conditions, service reporting and oversight by Premises Manager, with any issues addressed through contract management and corrective action.

Please note that we do not retain data on animals, other than rats and mice, that have been injured or killed. If the correct procedures are followed, there should be no such cases recorded. However, any known instances and species were provided in a previous response to yourself on the 04th April 2026 via FOI / 6030.

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