

Ref: EIR / 6307

10th April 2026

Environmental Information Regulations Request - Regulation of Road Racing Under the General Development Permitted Regulations

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

Request

Please state under the Freedom of Information Regulations/Environmental Information Regulations the number of road racing vehicles that need to participate in a road racing event, or in speeds of trials for such, for these to come under permitting regulations that allow for the regulation of such up to 14 events in any calendar year.

For your information these are taking place on private lanes to the rear of our property mostly involving youths with even younger children watching on from the side of the lanes. An ambulance attending the scene lately to stretcher away a no of casualties following a serious crash.

I am, likewise, much concerned that the landowner is allowed to operate a site for such business use, unfettered, unlimited, unrestrained and outside of any planning restraints, conditions and constraints that seek to the limit the frequency of these in order to protect people and place if not those participating in them. On the latter point, I am concerned that no licensing or third-party public liability insurances are in place nor any registering of it with regulatory authorities e.g. the local Council or the Police or HMRC, to, if only, monitor and safeguard those who are involved in this recklessness.

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I again point out that the landowner is operating the activity as a business, any permitting allowance should thereby balance the rights of residents to the privilege where it is allowed and be properly regulated.

Response

Based on the information contained within your correspondence, I advise that Council does hold some of this information.

The Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 Part 5 deals with Temporary Buildings and Land Use.

Part 5 Class B states that:

B. The use of any land for any purpose for not more than 28 days in total in any calendar year, of which not more than 14 days in total may for any purpose referred to in paragraph B.2, and the provision on the land of any moveable structure for the purposes of any permitted use.

B.1 Development is not permitted by Class B if –

- (a) the land in question is a building or is within the curtilage of a building;
- (b) the use of the land is for a caravan site; or
- (c) the land is within a site of archaeological interest

B.2 The purposes mentioned in Class B are –

- (a) the holding of a market;
- (b) motor car and motorcycle racing, including trials of speed and practicing for these activities.

The regulations do not specify the number of road racing vehicles that need to participate in a road racing event, or in speeds for trials as such.

The Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 is publicly available and can be accessed via the link below.

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/doe/corporate-legislation-planning-70-2015.pdf>

You have advised in your correspondence that the activity is taking place on private lanes, however, there are no details regarding the location or frequency of the events taking place.

Should you wish to provide further details, the Councils Planning Enforcement Team can open an enforcement case and investigate.

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

Andree McNee
Principal Planning Officer