

Ref: EIR / 6329

13th May 2026

Email:

Dear

Environmental Information Regulations Request - Preventative Pest Control Measures and Compliance

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

I am writing to request information about preventative pest control measures and compliance oversight at sites for which the Council has responsibility. Please provide the following information:

- 1. A description of the preventative measures currently in place to reduce the risk of pest infestations at council-owned or council-managed sites.**
 - This should cover the full range of sites under the Council's control, including (but not limited to) housing stock, council offices, depots, public spaces, parks, and any other land or buildings managed by or on behalf of the Council.**
 - Please address each category of site, even if only briefly, rather than limiting the response to housing or tenant-facing services.**

Council does have preventative measures in the following sites:

- Cemeteries
- Council offices (Derry & Strabane)
- Leisure
- Recycling Centres
- Skeoge Centre

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

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcsdcouncil

Preventative approaches include bait boxes, routine inspections and monitoring to ensure compliance with internal standards and recognised best practice.

Whilst other sites do not use pest control preventative measures, Council ensure to:

- Implement good animal husbandry and housekeeping practices.
- Use visual monitoring and external contractors on a case-by-case basis.

Please be advised that social housing does not fall within council's remit.

2. Details of any policies, procedures, guidance, or standard operating procedures used to ensure that pest prevention and control activities comply with:

a. Relevant legislation (including environmental health and animal welfare requirements)

b. Any internal council standards or best-practice guidance.

Pest prevention and control is carried out in compliance with relevant health and safety, environmental health, wildlife and animal welfare legislation.

Arrangements are managed through Council health and safety procedures and contract requirements. Under Licence agreement, recycling centres must be checked every 6 months.

Where external contractors are used, they must apply approved, humane methods and demonstrate appropriate training and certification.

All pesticides used are thoroughly tested and approved for use within the UK by the regulatory authorities, CRRU, MAFF/MAPP, and the HSE. A CoSHH Assessment, Risk Assessment and an Environmental Impact Assessment have been carried out by staff prior to application unless otherwise stated.

Please see internal standards and best practice below:

- Good housekeeping – All foods are kept off the floor and emptied into plastic containers with lids. All spillages are cleaned up.
- Monitoring – all areas are monitored for evidence of rodents. In the event of any rodent activity traps are used which are closely monitored and placed in areas where other animals (including birds) cannot come into contact with them. Good hygiene practices are adhered to.
- Good hygiene - good cleaning and disinfection processes in place in compliance with COSHH. Appropriate PPE is used, including gloves, disinfectant wipes, anti-bacterial soap, safety glasses and eye wash.
- Council management conduct spot checks.

3. Information on how the Council monitors and ensures compliance with these preventative measures and guidelines, including:

- a. Any inspection, audit, or review processes, including the frequency of such processes, who is responsible for conducting them, and whether any independent or external scrutiny is applied**
- b. The role of officers, teams, or contractors in overseeing compliance**
- c. What action is taken, or what escalation process exists, where non-compliance or a failure of preventative measures is identified**

Oversight is managed individually by each premises manager through visual inspections and, where required, contract monitoring in accordance with Council health and safety procedures.

If issues are identified, corrective action is required, including additional treatments, remedial works or escalation through contract management arrangements to ensure compliance is restored.

Please also see the response to question 2.

4. Where pest control services are delivered by external contractors, please confirm:

a. What policies or codes of practice relating to prevention and control that external contractors are expected to comply with

b. How the Council assures itself that those requirements are being met

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.

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.

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

Ellen Cavanagh

Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer