

FOI Reference Number: FOI/051/2425

Date: 30 May 2024

Thank you for your information request received by the Policy team at Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEABC) on 29th April 2024 which has been processed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your request:

'Dear Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, further to the provisions of the Access to the Countryside (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 (Part III), I am writing to request information on any 'open country' within your district to which the Council (or its precursors Ballymena, Larne, or Carrickfergus Councils) has secured public access.

The above Order defines three mechanisms by which public access to open country may be secured, namely: access agreements (Article 28), access orders (Article 29) and compulsory acquisition (Article 39).

Please could you provide a list within your district of any such: (1) access agreements entered into, (2) access orders made and (3) compulsory acquisitions of land.

For any of the above that exist, please could you provide:

(a) the date enacted, (b) the size of the land in hectares, (c) a map of the land in question, and (d) a copy of the respective access agreement, access order or folio deeds as applicable. Please feel free to redact any personal data of individuals appearing in these records.

For the avoidance of doubt, my request only relates to land within your district that is considered to be 'open country' as per Article 25 of the above Order, not to general amenity land or public parks, or to public footpaths.'

Our response:

This information is regarded as *not held* for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

No records are held relating to the acquisition of lands to secure public access to open spaces.

Please quote the reference number FOI/051/2425 on any related communications.

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of part of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within forty working days of the date of receipt of the response to your original

email/letter, and should be sent by email to FOI@midandeantrim.gov.uk or by post to:

Policy Team,
The Braid,
1-29 Bridge Street,
Ballymena,
BT43 5EJ.

If you are not content with the outcome of an internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. You must make your complaint to the ICO within 40 working days of you receiving your response or the date of your last contact with the Council.

The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

Alternatively, a complaint may be made via the ICO website at:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint>

Please be advised that Mid and East Antrim Borough Council may release the response to this information request into the public domain via our website at:

<https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/>

If we publish our response to your request, your personal data will be removed to protect your privacy.