



12<sup>th</sup> September 2017

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**Re: AIE Request Acknowledgement [IE\_AIE\_010]**

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your request dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017 which was received by this office on that date, which you have made under the EC (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2014. Your request sought:

**Request –**

- The monetary amount Irish Rail has spent on herbicides
- A list of all herbicide transactions and dates of purchase
- The name of the specific herbicide per transaction
- A breakdown of how the herbicides were used, whether co-formulations or mixes
- The locations where herbicides were used, such as railway tracks, footpaths, etc.
- The qualifications or training of the people working with the herbicides
- The training provided by or organized by Irish Rail for the people using the herbicides
- Documents related to any health screening of staff working with pesticides, or who have worked with pesticides in the past

**Response –**

- Total spend: Jan 16 to July 2017: €304,905

Date of PO	DESCRIPTION	Area of use
25/01/16	Glyphos	Mainly Track - spraytrain
25/01/16	Dicophar	Mainly Track - spraytrain
04/03/16	Pistol	Yards, fencelines etc - Knapsack
25/05/16	Grazon 90	Trackside, fencelines etc - Knapsack
03/06/16	Grazon 90	Trackside, fencelines etc - Knapsack
23/02/17	Kyleo	Track
09/02/17	Pistol	Yards, fencelines etc - Knapsack
09/01/17	Grazon 90	Trackside, fencelines etc - Knapsack
27/02/17	Pistol Rail	Track
10/05/17	Kyleo	Track

11/05/17	Grazon 90	Trackside, fencelines etc - Knapsack
23/05/17	Pistol	Yards, fencelines etc - Knapsack
16/06/17	Grazon 90	Trackside, fencelines etc - Knapsack
12/07/17	Kyleo	Track

- All herbicides are used according to the information provided on the products label relating to “Directions for use”, “application timing” “Dilution rates” etc.
- Herbicide is applied on CIE Property for controlling vegetation and weeds at the following locations track corridor, railway yards, access points, level crossings, Station Carparks and within the curtilage of CIE Buildings.
- Staff who have accountability for Herbicide Management hold a third level qualification in Engineering.  
Environmental Staff who manage Invasive Plant treatment contracts have a third level qualification in environmental science.
- Internal Permanent Way Staff who are professional users of herbicides are trained by Kearney Training and Consultancy at an approved City and Guilds NTPC Training centres in PA1 “Safe Handling and Application of Pesticides” and “PA6A Handheld Applicator” modules. Other modules may apply to staff who are using different equipment, for example some environmental staff are trained in PA1 and PA6INJ “Stem Injector Applicator”.
- All third party contractor staff are required to provide evidence of pesticide training by an approved training provider which is suitable for the type of applicator equipment which is being deployed. The contractor is specified to use approved herbicides which are listed in the “Plant Protection Products Database” which is managed by the Pesticides Registration and Control Division, Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine. All staff who use herbicides on behalf of Iarnród Éireann whether external or internal must be registered as a “professional user”. This documentation must be provided by the contractor to Irish Rail through the “Permit to Access” procedure.
- All staff working with pesticides are subject to a safety risk assessment briefing for the type of herbicide they are using.
- Staff are currently not “Health screened” specifically for working with herbicides.

In the event that you are not happy with this decision you can make an appeal in relation to this matter, you can do so by writing to the FOI Unit, Corporate Communications, Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, Connolly Station, Amiens St, Dublin 1 or by e-mail to [foi@irishrail.ie](mailto:foi@irishrail.ie).

Should you wish to discuss the above, please contact me by telephone at 01-7034293.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Lynette O’Toole**  
**Freedom of Information / Data Protection Officer,**  
**Corporate Communications**  
**Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail,**  
**Connolly Station,**  
**Amiens Street,**  
**Dublin 1**