

Access to Information on the Environment (AIE)

European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations 2007 to 2011 give legal rights to those seeking to access information on the environment from public authorities.

- Under these regulations, information relating to the environment held by, or for, a public authority must be made available on request, subject to certain exceptions.
- The AIE regulations also oblige public authorities to be proactive in disseminating environmental information to the public.

AIE Regulations

The AIE Regulations:

- Provide a definition of environmental information.
- Outline the manner in which requests for information may be submitted to public authorities.
- The manner in which public authorities are required to deal with requests e.g. timeframes for response; and,
- Provide for a formal appeals procedure in the event that a person is unhappy with a decision on their request.

How does AIE work?

The AIE Regulations require public bodies to respond to an AIE request within 4 weeks of receiving it.

How can I make a AIE Request to Sport Ireland?

You should send a request either, in writing or by email, to:

Address - FOI Officer, Sport Ireland, The Courtyard, Sport Ireland Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 PN0N

Email foi@sportireland.ie

When making a request for information under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations you are required to:

- state that the application is being made under the AIE Regulations;
- your contact details;
- state, in terms that are as specific as possible, the environmental information required; and,
- specify the form and manner of access desired.

Generally, Sport Ireland is required to respond to an AIE request within one month of receipt of the request. Where, due to the complexity or volume of information required, Sport Ireland is unable to respond within the one-month timeframe, we are required to write to the applicant within the month, indicating when a response will issue. This date should not be more than two months from the receipt of the original request.

If Sport Ireland does not have the information, you have requested we can either transfer the request to another public authority or advise you of where we believe the request should be directed. In either case, we are required to notify you, the applicant.

Is there a charge?

There is no initial fee for making an application under the AIE Regulations.

However, Sport Ireland may charge a reasonable fee for supplying the information requested. This may include the costs of compiling, copying, printing or posting of information. If an applicant requires hard copies, there may be a fee of €0.04 per sheet depending on the volume of information contained in the request.

Can I get access to any information that I seek?

There are a number of grounds on which Sport Ireland can refuse information; as listed below

- The information is personal
- The information has been supplied by a third party voluntarily
- The disclosure of information would make it more likely that the environment would be damaged
- The confidentiality of the Sport Ireland could be breached

Under the AIE Regulations we may refuse access to information for reasons of:

- International relations or public security
- The course of justice
- Commercial or industrial confidentiality
- Intellectual property rights
- Material in the course of completion
- Internal communications with other public authorities
- The request being considered to be unreasonable due to the volume or range of information sought or the request being too general

What if I am not satisfied with the decision on my AIE request?

Under Article 11 of the AIE Regulations you have a right to seek an internal review of the initial decision. You may also request an internal review if you have not received a response within the appropriate timeframe.

An internal review must be requested within one month of receipt of the original decision.

An **internal review** involves a complete reconsideration of the matter by an independent member of the staff of Sport Ireland, who may affirm, vary or annul the original decision made.

What if I am not satisfied with the decision on internal review?

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can appeal to the Commissioner for Environmental Information (CEI). You must appeal within one month of receiving the decision on the internal review. However, the Commissioner may extend this time limit in individual cases.

Postal Address

Access to Information on the Environment,
AIE Unit, Department of the Environment,
Climate and Communications,
Elm House, Earlsvale Road ,
Cavan ,
H12 A8H7

Email: aie.unit@decc.gov.ie

It costs €50 to take an appeal to the Commissioner for Environmental Information, or €15 euro if you are the holder, or dependent of a holder of a medical card, or a third party appealing the decision to release certain information.

Where can I get more information on AIE?

Further general information on the European Communities (Access to Information on the Environment) Regulations including background information on the legislation, useful publications and links to other relevant bodies is available from the [Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications](#).