Public copy · recipient name and email redacted

NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY

Committee for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs

Email:

11 September 2026

[redacted]

Clarification Regarding Committee Visit to Blakiston-Houston Estates and the Sustainable Utilisation of Livestock Slurry (SULS) Project

At its meeting on 10 September 2026, the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs considered your correspondence, dated 2 September 2026, regarding local residents' concerns in connection with a planning application submitted by Blakiston-Houston Estates for a Class B3 general industrial building for anaerobic digestate management at Carrowreagh Road, Dundonald.

The Committee noted your request for clarification regarding the purpose of its visit to Blakiston-Houston Estates on 26 June 2025 and the perception that the visit may have indicated Committee support for the planning application.

The Committee wishes to clarify that the visit was undertaken as a fact-finding exercise to enable Members to observe and better understand the Sustainable Utilisation of Livestock Slurry (SULS) Project and the work being conducted as part of that initiative. The visit was not related to any planning application, nor was it intended to indicate support for, or opposition to, any planning proposal. The Committee did not make

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representations in support of, or in objection to, the planning application and has not taken a position on the proposal.

The purpose of the visit was solely to assist Members in understanding the SULS Project and its potential implications for agriculture and the environment as part of the Committee's scrutiny and evidence-gathering role.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]
Clerk to the Committee for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

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