



Our reference: **DAERA/24-111**

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Regulation Unit
Klondyke Building
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BT7 2JA

Tel: 02890569742

Email:

waterregulationcorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk

April 09 2024

Dear [REDACTED]

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 08/03/24 that sought information on a pumping station located adjacent to the Killough Bay SPA, the Departments statutory obligations of safeguarding the bay's natural history and its oyster farming operations and the most up-to-date sewage capacity calculations for Killough's waste water treatment regime.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested which is below. Under Regulation 12(4)(a) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose some of the information on the grounds that the information sought is not held.

Northern Ireland Water Ltd (NIWL) own, operate and maintain Killough Wastewater Treatment works and all network assets within the Killough Drainage Area. The Department is not aware of any work being carried out at the Wastewater Pumping Station you refer to. Northern Ireland Water can be contacted via imu@niwater.com.

I can advise that there is currently one active oyster bed in Killough Harbour which the Department has licenced, and the Food Standards Agency has designated as Class B. The FSA is responsible for the implementation of classification and monitoring programmes for shellfish for the protection of public health, and the relevant information can be found on their website (<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/shellfish-classification>).

The oyster bed is located within a Shellfish Water Protected Area (SWPA) that under the Water Framework Directive must be managed to ensure that they meet their ***Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.***

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ecological and chemical objectives and also meet at least Class B status under the EU Hygiene Regulations. SWPAs must also make progress towards the WFD microbiological guideline standard that $\geq 75\%$ of samples contain ≤ 230 *E.coli* per 100ml of shellfish flesh and intervalvular liquid.

Programmes have been established in order to reduce pollution in designated shellfish waters and the Killough Harbour Shellfish Water Action Plan (2019) can be found online at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/shellfish-action-plans-2019>. The Department will review and update all Shellfish Water Action Plans on a priority basis by 2025.

Killough Wastewater Treatment Works serves a population equivalent of 1238 and the Department is not aware of any capacity issues. NIEA have required NI Water to carry out extensive Drainage Area Studies to model the performance of the collection systems serving society across Northern Ireland including Killough. Critically this work will inform the development of the bespoke Statement of Environmental Need, which will then become an improvement plan for each collection system and result in an update of the Discharges Register (maintained by NIWL). This work is not yet complete for Killough.

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Ballykelly House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

Water Regulation

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