

Public Interest Test – FOI / EIR

Reference Number – DAERA/24-126

Requested Information

1. Does NIE inform NI Water when it is Sewage Plants are being sampled? If not, what proportion of tests on an annual basis is from random unannounced samples?
2. Does the samples carried out by NI Water include flow sampling? If so what percentage of Sewage Plant sampling include flow samples?
3. Please provide a copy of the Waste Water Reform Programme, a scope of what the Programme covers and any progress reports against target over the last 5 years.
4. Please supply any reports from the NI Audit Office held by NIEA in relation to the Waste Water Reform programme in the last 5 years and any direct correspondence with NIAO in last three months relating to the programme

Redactions have been made in the NIW Wastewater Regulatory Principles document which will be released in response to question 3.

Exemption / Exception under consideration

Regulation 12(4)(d): The request relates to information that is still being completed, unfinished documents including drafts.

Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:

- Transparency and accountability
- Greater public awareness and understanding of environmental matters.

Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:

- Redactions relates to relates to material, which is still in the course of completion, and to incomplete data.
- The release of this information would distract public debate away from the substantive environmental issues that the information relates to. Instead, debate could focus on secondary issues such as any deficiencies in the information.

Conclusion

Following consideration of the Public Interest Test the Department to redact parts of the NIW Regulatory Principles. On the basis that the information relates to incomplete studies and trials on the new assessment techniques and therefore would not be in the interests of the public to release.

Water Regulation
Regulation Unit

