

Our Reference: DAERA/26-112

Water Pollution Response &
Enforcement Team

NIEA Lisburn

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11 March 2026

Dear [REDACTED],

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

Thank you for your request for information, received by the Department on 11 February 2026, which sought the following pertaining to NIEA Water Quality Inspector (WQI) investigations:

- **When does the "Water Pollution Response & Enforcement Team (WPRET) in NI" start its investigation?**
- **Is it immediate, or is it the next morning or is there a timeline?**

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information that you requested.

Regarding your requests above, the response targets below are a direct extract from the NIEA *Operational Emergency Response Plan – Inland Water Pollution Response Procedure*:

"NIEA has set targets for responding to water pollution incidents based on their initially assessed severity and these targets are routinely monitored as a performance measure. When a report of pollution is received, NIEA aims to assess and estimate the incident severity (based on the information in the pollution report) within 30 minutes. NIEA aims to respond to incidents within the target response times set out below:

To respond to 90% of:



- High Severity Incidents within 2 hours (Reported during Standard Working Hours);
- High Severity Incidents within 4 hours (Reported outside Standard Working Hours);
- Medium Severity Incidents within 2 hours (Reported during Standard Working Hours);
- Medium Severity Incidents within 4 hours (Reported outside Standard Working Hours);

Low Severity Incidents within a maximum of 14 Days with the actual response time based on professional judgement, available resources and other competing priorities (Reported at any time)".

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, Jubilee 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,

[Redacted signature block]

Water Pollution Response & Enforcement Team

