

Freshwater Monitoring & Assessment
Water Regulation and Enforcement
Division



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Department o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Our reference: DAERA/26-168

██████████

By e-mail: ██████████@gmail.com

Freshwater Monitoring & Assessment
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

Email: WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk

26 March 2026

Dear ██████████,

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 6 March 2026 which sought the following information:

1. Would it be possible to get a list of all the sites (with codes) that are used in relation to the Water Framework Directive please.
2. Can you also tell me how many stations in total you tested at around the edge of Lough Neagh in 2022, 2023 and 2024 - can you give me the codes for these stations please?
3. Did the former DAERA Minister make the decision to stop testing at stations 10395, 10399, 10401, 10402, 11024 around the edge of Lough Neagh in 2022?
4. If not, can you tell me who did - their position in the department will suffice.
5. Can you send me a copy of the correspondence outlining this directive?

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

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

The list of the sites used in WFD monitoring and codes are provided in Annex A.

The sites, codes and parameters tested in stations Lough Neagh in 2022, 2023 and 2024 and 2025 are attached as Annex B, C, D and E respectively.

The decision to stop testing at stations 10395, 10399, 10401, 10402, 11024 was made by the Principal Scientific Officer of the Freshwater Monitoring and Assessment Group in NIEA. This decision was not documented in correspondence. Only physicochemical monitoring was stopped, as this data was not included in WFD assessments. The site at Lower Bann at Toome is considered most representative of the lake chemistry as it is located at the outflow of the lake. WFD biological monitoring continued at 15 sites around the lake on a rolling 3-year period. This monitoring last took place in 2023, and these sites will be surveyed again in 2026. In addition, nine further investigative sites were opened around the lake in 2025 and are analysed for both biological and physicochemical parameters, but this data is not included in WFD assessments.

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]

[Redacted signature]

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