

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
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/26-27

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████████████████████

Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA)
Water Regulation Unit
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL
WURG.Admin@daera-ni.gov.uk

18 March 2026

Dear ██████████,

Environmental Information Regulations 2004

With regard to your request for information as received by the Department on 19 January 2026 which sought the following information regarding the Loup Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW), County Londonderry:

- Construction and operation of two Final Settlement Tanks
- Construction and operation of Tertiary Treatment (Reed Bed)
- Essential maintenance of Filter Bed No. 2
- Upgrade of Filter Bed No. 1 and No. 2

1. Timing Information

- *Date commenced (month/year or better)*
- *Date commissioned or first brought into operation*
- *Date of any operational handover (if held)*
- *Date on which NIEA became aware that the works had been carried out and how this occurred (inspection, correspondence, notification, or other basis)*

2. Environmental Regulatory Basis

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- *The environmental or regulatory driver for the works (e.g. consent compliance, environmental performance, capacity, enforcement, or other)*
- *Any assessment, correspondence, inspection notes or reports held by NIEA which identify the need for the works from an environmental perspective*

3. *Consent and Monitoring Interaction*

- *Whether NIEA considered amendments to the Water Order Consent in relation to any of the works listed*
- *Whether the works resulted in any change to sampling frequency, sampling methodology, monitored parameters, or compliance expectations*

4. *Documentation and Records*

- *Copies of any documents, inspection notes, photographs, reports, notifications, or correspondence held by NIEA that record, reference, confirm or discuss the works listed*

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds some of the information you requested as detailed below.

1. Timing Information

NIEA do not hold the commencement date, commissioning date or the operational handover date for the:

- Construction and operation of two final settlement tanks
- Construction and operation of tertiary treatment (Reed Bed)

NIEA became aware this work was completed through a site inspection on 3rd October 2018. Under Regulation 12(4)(a), the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information is not held. You should direct your queries to Northern Ireland Water (imu@niwater.com) who may be able to assist.

NIEA understands that the planned start date was 4th November 2020, for essential maintenance of Filter Bed No. 2. NIEA were notified via correspondence from Northern Ireland Water on 21st December 2020 that this work was completed.

With regard to the operational handover of this work, under Regulation 12(4)(a), the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information is not held. Queries in relation to this should be directed to Northern Ireland Water (imu@niwater.com).

NIEA understands that the planned start date was 22 May 2024 for the upgrade of Filter Bed No.1 and No. 2. This work was due to be completed on 30th November

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2024. With regard to the operational handover of this work, under Regulation 12(4)(a), the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information is not held. Queries in relation to this should be directed to Northern Ireland Water (imu@niwater.com). Northern Ireland Water has advised that this work was completed in July 2025 and completion of the works was verified by NIEA during its inspection on 28th August 2025.

2. Environmental Regulatory Basis

Improvement works by Northern Ireland Water to its wastewater treatment works (WwTWs) are typically undertaken to support its regulatory compliance performance and improved environmental outcomes. NIEA does not hold any records of assessments, correspondence, inspection notes, or reports relating to the environmental justification for these specific works. Under Regulation 12(4)(a) The Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the information is not held.

3. Consent and Monitoring Interaction

The NIEA received an application to review the Water Order Consent for The Loup WwTW on 3rd November 2017 which in this case was in relation to a PE (Population Equivalency) increase. The application included the following works to be carried out:

- Construction and operation of two final settlement tanks
- Construction and operation of tertiary treatment (Reed Bed)

DAERA issued a numeric Water Order Consent on 7th June 2018 with an increased PE. No further amendments were made to the Water Order Consent.

4. Documentation and Records

Under Regulation 12(5)(b) the Department is excepted from the duty to disclose the information on the grounds that the release of this information may adversely affect ongoing enforcement.

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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 to, 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,

Wastewater Utility Team
Water Regulation Unit

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