

Reference Number: DAERA/26-438

**Water Regulation
Northern Ireland Environment Agency**



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

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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via

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22 July 2026

Dear

Environmental Information Regulation 2004

Thank you for your request for information relating to water abstraction licensing and data centre developments in Northern Ireland for the period January 2024 to present. Please find the Department's response below.

1. Number of water abstraction licence applications received in connection with proposed data centre developments

The Department has not received any water abstraction licence applications, either simple or complex, in connection with proposed data centre developments during the period January 2024 to the date of this response.

Accordingly:

- Number of applications received: **0**
- Water source: **N/A**
- Volume applied for (m³/day): **N/A**
- Location (council area or catchment): **N/A**
- Status: **N/A**

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2. Total volume of water currently licensed for abstraction by data centres under the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

There are currently no licensed water abstractions attributed to data centre developments under the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006.

Accordingly:

- Total volume licensed for abstraction by data centres: **0 m³/day**
- Breakdown by water source: **N/A**
- Breakdown by council area: **N/A**

3. Number of statutory planning consultations responded to by NIEA relating to proposed data centre developments

The NIEA identified one statutory planning consultation response relating to a proposed data centre development during the period January 2024 to present. Details of the planning application and associated consultation responses are publicly available on the Northern Ireland Planning Portal under reference:

LA11/2023/1729/RM

Any water resource or water quality considerations raised by consultees can be viewed through the Planning Portal records associated with this application.

4. Internal NIEA or DAERA assessment of cumulative water demand from data centres

The Department does not hold any internal assessment of the cumulative water demand arising from data centres currently operating or proposed in Northern Ireland.

5. Sector or industry classification within the abstraction licensing database

The abstraction licensing database does not currently include a sector or industry classification that identifies data centres as a distinct customer category.

As a result:

Number of licensed abstractors classified as data centres: **Not held**

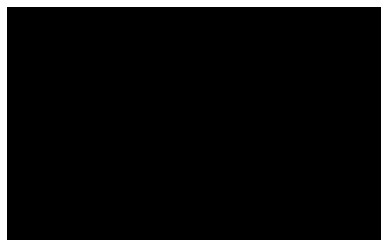
At present there has been no operational requirement to establish a separate data centre classification within the database. However, this matter may be kept under review should abstraction demand from this sector emerge in the future.

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,



**Abstraction and Impoundment Licensing Team
Water Regulation Unit
Northern Ireland Environment Agency**

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