

# **Public Interest Test – EIR**

**Reference Number – DAERA/26-467**

## **Requested Information**

Northern Ireland public drinking water supply zone details including locations, populations and water quality data for 2024 and 2025.

## **Exemption / Exception under consideration**

Regulation 12(4)(d) - Material in the course of completion, unfinished documents, and incomplete data.

## **Reasons why the public interest would favour disclosure:**

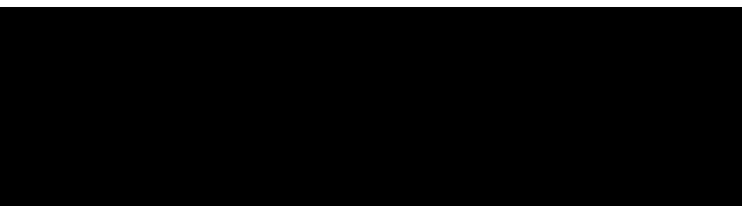
- Promoting openness and transparency in relation to drinking water quality.
- Providing timely access to environmental information.

## **Reasons why the public interest would favour withholding:**

- The Department holds the above data for the 2024 calendar year and has provided the verified dataset, as published on its website.
- Although the Department holds data for the 2025 calendar year, at the time the request was received, this information had not been fully reviewed, assessed, or verified for accuracy.
- The 2025 dataset may be incomplete and could contain errors or omissions. Disclosure of unverified information may therefore mislead the public and result in inaccurate conclusions being drawn.
- A complete and verified dataset for 2025 will be published once all quality assurance checks have been completed.

## **Conclusion**

Having considered the public interest factors for and against disclosure, the Department has concluded that the public interest is best served by releasing the verified 2024 data and withholding the unverified 2025 data under Regulation 12(4)(d). The public interest in ensuring that environmental information is accurate and reliable outweighs the public interest in disclosing incomplete and unverified data at this time.



**Drinking Water Inspectorate**