

Reference Number: DAERA/26-521

**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**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

via

Water Regulation
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
BT28 3AL

E-mail:
WaterRegulationCorrespondence@daera-ni.gov.uk

19 August 2026

Dear

**Request for information under the Environmental Information Regulations
2004 (EIR)**

Thank you for your request for environmental information regarding water abstractions in Northern Ireland.

I have considered your request under the EIR and have determined that the information you have requested is publicly available and can be accessed via the Department's spatial datasets and Open Data NI services. Under Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIR, where information is publicly available and easily accessible to the applicant, a public authority may direct the applicant to that source.

The Northern Ireland abstraction licensing dataset is available through Open Data NI and can be downloaded in a range of GIS-compatible formats including Shapefile, GeoJSON, KML and CSV. The dataset contains licensed abstraction locations in Northern Ireland and is updated regularly.

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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Abstraction Licensing Dataset

<https://www.opendatani.gov.uk/@department-of-agriculture-environment-and-rural-affairs/abstraction-licensing1>

In addition, DAERA's Water Management Unit Spatial Datasets page provides access to this dataset and other related water management datasets used within Northern Ireland GIS applications. The page also contains information regarding the use of the datasets and applicable terms and conditions.

WMU Spatial Datasets

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/wmu-spatial-datasets>

Digital Datasets Terms and Conditions

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/digital-datasets-terms-and-conditions>

You may also find it useful to view the abstraction data through the NIEA Water Information Request Viewer, which provides access to a range of water management datasets via an interactive mapping interface.

NIEA Water Information Request Viewer

<https://gis.daera-ni.gov.uk/arcgis/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=c26ccd076fcc493e86ac20f635f3037d&page=Page>

Water abstraction and impoundment licensing in Northern Ireland is regulated under the Water Abstraction and Impoundment (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006, as amended. The publicly available abstraction licensing dataset relates to groundwater and surface water abstractions exceeding 10m³ per day, which require a licence from, or notification to, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

If you require any clarification, or believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance so that the matter may be considered further.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled, or with the decision taken in response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section by email at daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk or by post at:

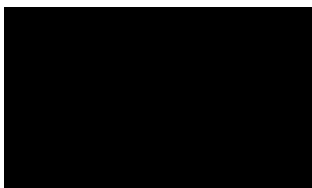
If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

The Review Section
Data Protection & Information Management Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Floor 2, Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
Ballykelly
Limavady
BT49 9HP

Any request for an internal review should be submitted within two months of the date of this letter.

Following an internal review, if you remain dissatisfied, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner, 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**

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