

Reference Number: DAERA/26-759

**Water Regulation
Northern Ireland Environment Agency**



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

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21 October 2026

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

Thank you for your information request, which was received by the Department on 29 September 2026, seeking the following information:

- Information regarding the water abstraction and impoundment licences applied for to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) during the last 10 years.

The information you have requested is publicly available and accessible in another form or format and I believe Regulation 6(1)(b) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 is appropriate to your request.

The Water Information Request Viewer can be accessed, along with associated user guidance, via the following link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/information-requests>

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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The viewer includes abstraction licensing information and allows users to interrogate records and export the results into tabular format. The exported table can then be used to derive much of the information requested. The abstraction licensing dataset available through the viewer is current to 21 April 2026 and is updated approximately twice a year.

For context, all licensed impoundments are associated with an abstraction activity; however, only abstractions from surface waters would generally require an impoundment structure such as a weir or dam. Groundwater abstractions would not normally require an impoundment. The information available through the viewer should therefore enable you to distinguish between abstractions and those activities involving impoundment works.

Information relating to fees and charges is publicly available in the published Water Regulation - AIL Fees and Charges Schemes - 1 April 2026 document, available via the following link:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/fees-and-charges-recover-costs-processing-licence-applications-under-water-abstraction-and-impoundment-licensing-regulations-ni-2006>

The charging scheme explains how annual subsistence charges are calculated using a range of factors but is mainly determined on the licensed volume of abstraction.

By combining the licensed daily abstraction volume available through the map viewer with the charging methodology set out in the scheme, the applicable annual charge can be determined.

Worked example

Volume Factor	= 10 (e.g. 1500 m ³ /day obtained from the viewer)
Source Type Factor	= 1.0 (Inland Water)
Seasonality Factor	= 1.0 (All year)
Consumptiveness Factor	= 1.0 (Consumptive)
Financial Factor	= 494
2026 Charge	= 10 x 1 x 1 x 1 x 494
	= £4,940

Note: most licences are consumptive and permit abstraction all year.

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.

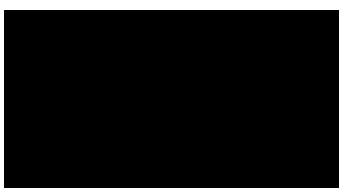
If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled, or with the decision taken in response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section by email at daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk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

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
NIEA Water Regulation Unit**

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