

[REDACTED]

Information Management Unit  
IT Suite  
Westland House  
40 Old Westland Road  
Belfast  
BT14 6TE

Tel: 03457 440088

Email: imu@niwater.com

Your reference:

Our reference: NIW 2425503

Date: 12 February 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

*Environmental Information Regulations 2004*

Thank you for your email of 23 January 2025 in which you requested information pertaining to PFOS AND PFAS testing, management and strategies.

As your queries fall under the definition of requests for environmental information, NI Water is replying under the disclosure provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

NI Water replies to each of your queries in turn as follows.

- ***Has NI Water to date received any funding for PFAS / PFOA management?***

No specific funding for PFAS PFOA has been requested or received by NI Water.

- ***If NI Water has not received funding for the above, is NI Water actively requesting funding for PFAS / PFOA management?***

No; NI Water does not request funding for PFAS/PFOA management.

- ***Has the NI Water developed a PFAS / PFOA strategy including management, testing and monitoring for these parameters within water and sludge?***

There is currently no regulatory standard for PFAS in the drinking water regulations in Northern Ireland [Water Quality (Water Supply) Regulations (NI) 2017]. However, we have undertaken annual surveys for PFAS compounds since 2020. We have undertaken PFAS analysis as this is included in the EU Drinking Water Directive Recast.

The Recast Directive has not been transposed into new drinking water regulations in Northern Ireland. Our analysis for PFAS compounds has been aligned to the requirement for PFAS analysis within the Recast Directive in preparation for the potential for new drinking water regulations which either transpose the Recast Directive or align to the Recast Directive to build up a data set of results and understand the potential for compliance with new regulatory standards.

There is no regulatory standard for PFAS in the drinking water regulations in Northern Ireland, however the EU Drinking Water Directive Recast sets standards for PFAS in drinking water. The recast Drinking Water Directive (rDWD) introduced standards for PFAS in January 2021 for member states, and includes 'PFAS Total' standard of 0.5 µg/l and the 'Sum of PFAS' standard of 0.1µg/l. Our PFAS analysis has not breached the regulatory limits set within the EU Drinking Water Directive Recast.

- ***Has NI Water to date undertaken any testing of water and sludge to date? If so, can the sampling methodology and test results be provided?***

I can confirm that NI Water has not, and does not, conduct any PFAS/PFOA analysis on wastewater sludges.

Please find attached as Annex A a copy of the monitoring results for PFAS in water for 2024.

- ***Has NI Water undertaken any engagement or communication exercise with commercial farmers with regards to sludge and the potential for PFAS / PFOA?***

This would fall within the remit of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), rather than NI Water. You can find contact details for DAERA at the link below.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/contact>

You have the right to request that NI Water formally review this response within forty working days of the date of this letter. If you wish to do so, please email [imu@niwater.com](mailto:imu@niwater.com) or write to NI Water Information Management Unit, IT Suite, Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE.

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.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Management Unit  
Northern Ireland Water