

[REDACTED]

Information Management Unit  
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40 Old Westland Road  
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BT14 6TE

Tel: 03457 440088

Email: [imu@niwater.com](mailto:imu@niwater.com)

Your reference:

Our reference: NIW 2425560

Date: 11 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

*Environmental Information Regulations 2004*

Thank you for your email of 14 February 2025, in which you requested confirmation of the purpose of the ground rent paid to the Shaftesbury Estate by NI Water.

As your query falls under the definition of a request for environmental information, NI Water is replying under the disclosure provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

The Shaftesbury Estate owns the Lough bed, but not the water in the Lough. As such, no payment is made for the water abstracted by NI Water from the Lough for treatment at its associated Water Treatment Works (WTW). The Dunore Point WTW site is NI Water freehold title, and the Lough bed around the abstraction infrastructure is likewise NI Water freehold title, so no ground rent is payable at that location.

The only rent payable by NI Water is that detailed in our reply to you on 12 January 2023; i.e., rent for use of the Lough bed for an outfall pipe associated with Antrim

Wastewater Treatment Works. The rent is £75 per annum, plus VAT, amounting to £90 per annum.

This was an agreement made in 1974 between the former Department of the Environment and the Shaftesbury Estate.

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