

REFERENCE

2526647

RELEASE DATE

10 March 2026

SUBJECT

Request for Annual and Historical Payments from NIW to the Earl of Shaftesbury Estate

RESPONSE

NI Water was established as a Government-owned Company in April 2007. The Company inherited all lands and other assets, including leases, etc., that were held by the former Water Service that sat within the Northern Ireland Civil Service.

Consequently, NI Water pays a yearly rental charge for "Pipe Bed of Lough Neagh yearly rental". This is ground rent for the Antrim Wastewater Treatment Works effluent outfall pipe, rather than for water abstraction. This is an agreement dating back to October 1974, a time when local Councils were responsible for public water and sewerage services. The rent is £75 per annum, plus VAT, amounting to £90 per annum.