REFERENCE

2627469

RELEASE DATE

30 October 2026

SUBJECT

Microcystin Testing and Nitrate Results in Drinking Water

RESPONSE

NI Water confirmed that the Liquid Chromatography with Mass Spectrometry instrument used for Microcystin-LR analysis was purchased in December 2024 at a cost of £303,000. The instrument was commissioned for method development to commence in March 2025.

A total of 556 treated drinking water samples were tested for Microcystin-LR during 2025. The analysis was undertaken through a combination of testing within NI Water's laboratory at Westland House and testing by an external subcontracted laboratory.

The treated drinking water Microcystin-LR results for 2025 were disclosed at Annex A. NI Water explained that testing is carried out in line with the Recast Drinking Water Directive (EU) 2020/2184 and the World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking Water Quality concerning cyanobacterial toxins. The applicable value for Microcystin-LR is 1.0 microgram per litre for the Directive parametric value and the World Health Organization lifetime drinking water guideline value. The World Health Organization also provides a provisional short term exposure guideline value of 12 micrograms per litre.

NI Water confirmed that nitrate results have not been removed from its online water quality reports. They remain available through online postcode search. An example Water Quality Results Report, with the nitrate results highlighted, was disclosed at Annex B. The information was provided in accordance with Regulation 5(1) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.