

REFERENCE

2627388

RELEASE DATE

7 October 2026

SUBJECT

Estimated annual spill volume from storm overflows within the Lough Neagh catchment and a ranking of overflows by predicted spill volume.

RESPONSE

NI Water considered the request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Event Duration Monitors record when storm overflows operate and the duration of events, but do not measure discharge volumes. The volume figures provided are therefore based on hydraulic modelling.

NI Water identified 726 storm overflows within the Lough Neagh catchment. The modelled results held for 271 of these overflows give a combined predicted annual spill volume of approximately 2,551,874 cubic metres. This is a subtotal for the available results, not a complete estimate for all 726 overflows or a measured volume discharged during a particular year.

The figures are based on the November 2025 dataset, the most recent dataset available when the request was received on 22 September 2026. Hydraulic models typically use 20 years of historical rainfall data to estimate average annual spill frequency and volume. These predictions may not reflect operational conditions such as blockages or silt accumulation.

Please see the accompanying Annex A for storm overflow names and predicted annual spill frequency and volume where held. Available volume results are presented from highest to lowest. A value of zero is a modelled result. Blank fields indicate that no modelled result is held and must not be interpreted as zero.

NI Water does not hold a complete predicted annual spill volume for all 726 overflows. Regulation 12(4)(a) was applied to the requested information not held when the request was received. Producing a complete estimate would require further investigation and the creation of new information.

NI Water considered the presumption in favour of disclosure and the public interest in transparency concerning storm overflows. All relevant modelled results held were provided, together with an explanation of their limitations. Information not held could not be disclosed.