

REFERENCE

2627199

RELEASE DATE

4 September 2026

SUBJECT

Costs incurred and anticipated in addressing blue-green algae, pondweed and aquatic plant growth at drinking water treatment works.

RESPONSE

NI Water responded under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and consulted the relevant operational, water strategy and finance business areas. NI Water uses inlet screening and other treatment processes to address a range of raw water quality matters. These assets, processes and associated maintenance activities serve several purposes and are not used exclusively to address blue green algae, pondweed or aquatic plants. NI Water does not hold separately identifiable capital or operating costs, whether incurred since 2019 or forecast for the period from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2033, that are attributable specifically to blue green algae, pondweed or aquatic plants at the four named works or at other drinking water treatment works in Northern Ireland.

Regulation 12(4)(a) was applied because the requested financial breakdown was not held as recorded information. Producing it would require NI Water to create a new apportionment of expenditure without a reliable, recorded basis. Having considered the presumption in favour of disclosure and the public interest in transparency, NI Water concluded that the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighed the public interest in disclosure of information that was not held.