

REFERENCE

2627224

RELEASE DATE

17 August 2026

SUBJECT

Requesting information about the amount of drinking water and non-drinking water used by data centres in Northern Ireland, broken down by financial year since 2019.

RESPONSE

The information held by NI Water is provided at Annex A. This sets out the recorded mains water consumption, in cubic metres, for the metered sites identified by NI Water as data centres for the purposes of responding to your request.

NI Water does not maintain a single comprehensive classification of data centres within its customer records. To identify the information relevant to this request, NI Water used publicly available information to identify sites understood to operate as data centres and then reviewed the recorded mains water consumption associated with those sites.

The figures provided at Annex A represent the recorded mains water consumption allocated to the financial years from 2019/20 to 2025/26 for the relevant metered sites identified through the process described above.

Meter reading and billing periods do not necessarily correspond with the beginning and end of each financial year. The figures have therefore been allocated to financial years using the dates and consumption periods recorded in NI Water's billing records. They represent the closest financial year breakdown that can be produced from the recorded information held and should not be interpreted as exact measurements of consumption between 1 April and 31 March.

They should also not be interpreted as a complete record of the amount of water used by every data centre in Northern Ireland. NI Water does not maintain a definitive data centre category within its customer records and cannot confirm that every data centre has been identified through the process used.

NI Water's records show the volume of mains water supplied through the relevant meters. They do not record or categorise how that water was used at each site, including whether it was used for drinking or non-drinking purposes. NI Water therefore does not hold the requested annual consumption figures broken down between those categories. One of the sites identified is unmetered. NI Water does not hold recorded consumption figures for that site and any water used at that site is therefore not included within the figures provided at Annex A.