

[REDACTED]  
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Email: [imu@niwater.com](mailto:imu@niwater.com)

Your reference:

Our reference: NIW 2425532

Date: 4 March 2025

Dear [REDACTED]

*Environmental Information Regulations 2004*

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2025 regarding testing of for PFAS (Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances, also known as the 'Forever Chemicals').

As your queries fall under the definition of requests for environmental information, NI Water is replying under the disclosure provisions of the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004.

NI Water replies to each of your queries in turn as follows.

- *Does NI Water test or arrange for the testing of any water for which it is responsible (such as water supply and wastewater treatment including rivers, reservoirs and groundwater) for PFAS (Per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances, also known as the 'Forever Chemicals').*
- *If this is the case, which chemical(s) do you test for, what water do you test, when did you start testing and how often do you test?*

- *What action(s), if any, have you taken to address the issue of forever chemicals? Do you plan on taking action in the future?*

In addition to NI Water's Regulatory monitoring of drinking water supplies across Northern Ireland, we complete analysis of any parameter which is identified as a potential issue for drinking water quality. There is currently no regulatory standard for PFAS in the drinking water regulations in Northern Ireland [Water Quality (Water Supply) Regulations (NI) 2017]. However, NI Water has undertaken annual surveys for PFAS compounds since 2020. We have undertaken PFAS analysis as this is included in the EU Drinking Water Directive Recast.

The Recast Directive has not been transposed into new drinking water regulations in Northern Ireland. Our analysis for PFAS compounds has been aligned to the requirement for PFAS analysis within the Recast Directive in preparation for the potential for new drinking water regulations which either transpose the Recast Directive or align to the Recast Directive to build up a data set of results and understand the potential for compliance with new regulatory standards.

There is no regulatory standard for PFAS in the drinking water regulations in Northern Ireland, however the EU Drinking Water Directive Recast sets standards for PFAS in drinking water. The recast Drinking Water Directive (rDWD) introduced standards for PFAS in January 2021 for member states, and includes 'PFAS Total' standard of 0.5 µg/l and the 'Sum of PFAS' standard of 0.1µg/l. Our PFAS analysis has not exceeded the regulatory limits set within the EU Drinking Water Directive Recast.

The DWI (England and Wales) issued updated guidance in July 2022 and August 2024 on PFAS monitoring in drinking water supplies in England and Wales. This guidance includes a PFAS Tier system for PFAS compounds in the treated final water.

<b>Tier</b>	<b>Concentration of any PFAS in final water</b>
Tier 1	Less than 0.01 µg/l
Tier 2	Less than 0.1 µg/l
Tier 3	Greater than or equal to 0.1µ/l

The Drinking Water Inspectorate (England & Wales) [DWI (E&W)] PFAS Guidance does not apply within Northern Ireland. However, assessing our PFAS results for both raw water and treated drinking water against the DWI (E&W) guidance shows that all sample results for all PFAS compounds tested have been in Tier 1 or Tier 2, with the majority of results in Tier 1. This shows that PFAS risk is low in the raw water and in our treated drinking water supplies.

Samples for PFAS compounds are currently scheduled at a quarterly monitoring frequency. This is based on risk assessment and is in line with DWI (E&W) guidance on monitoring based on the Tier system for concentration of PFAS in the treated final water.

We will continue to monitor and assess PFAS compounds in our treated drinking water and assess the risk for these compounds in the treated drinking water supply. The results show that no additional control measures are required for drinking water treatment in respect of PFAS compounds. The risk assessment will be kept under review.

- *Please provide us with a spreadsheet of the results of any tests that have been undertaken as per the above, indicating the location (grid reference, if possible, and county), concentration, the chemicals tested for, the type of water tested (e.g. water supply), and the month and year tests were taken. Please include all the data you have over the past 5 years.*

Please find attached as Annex A a copy of all PFAS water testing PFOS / PFAS testing to date.

Wastewater is not tested for PFOS / PFAS.

You have the right to request that NI Water formally review this response within forty working days of the date of this letter. If you wish to do so, please email [imu@niwater.com](mailto:imu@niwater.com) or write to NI Water Information Management Unit, IT Suite, Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE.

If, after such an internal review, you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

Yours sincerely

Information Management Unit  
Northern Ireland Water