

REFERENCE

2425609

RELEASE DATE

April 2025

REQUESTS & RESPONSES

- 1. Details regarding any investment(s) NI Water has had to make at its Derg Water Treatment Works (WTW) to protect customers from agricultural discharges, specifically?**

Capital investment was undertaken at Derg WTW in relation to the risk for elevated levels of the pesticide MCPA. A Regulation 31¹ Notice was issued by the Drinking Water Inspectorate for MCPA contraventions in the treated drinking water due to the very elevated levels of MCPA in the raw water.

In line with the requirements of the Regulation 31 Notice issued by the Drinking Water Inspectorate to *'Install and have operational, a treatment system at Derg WTW, that is effective in the removal or reduction of MCPA to achieve a final water result that meets the maximum regulatory limit of MCPA of 0.10µg/l,'* a new clarifier treatment process with PAC dosing, for removal and reduction of MCPA in the treated drinking water to below the regulatory limit, was constructed at Derg WTW. Details of these upgrades are available at the links provided below.

<https://waterprojectsonline.com/case-studies/derg-wtw-2023/>

<https://www.niwater.com/news-detail/12067/12-million-upgrade-at-derg-water-treatment-works/>

- 2. Details regarding any investment(s) NI Water has had to make at its Derg Water Treatment Works (WTW) to protect customers from other pressures locally (e.g. new urban development)?**

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2017/212/regulation/31>

The current Derg WTW was originally built in 2002 to replace an older site nearby, and was upgraded as detailed at Question 1, and in the links provided, between 2022 and 2023. This plant has volumetric capacity for production volumes that exceed the needs for the supply zone. Whilst the WTW has capacity to produce volume, each development has to be considered by capacity assessment to verify that local pipe capacity exists to service that development.

3. *How many times in the last 5 years and when exactly has NI Water had to close raw water intake/turn off intake pumps at the River Derg? Please explain what the cause for this action was on each occasion.*

The raw water is monitored for a number of parameters, one of which is ammonia, and I can confirm that the raw water pumps which supply water to the Derg WTW from the abstraction point in the Derg River were stopped on 54 occasions over the last five years due to the ammonia level alarm being triggered. The alarm is set at such a level as to protect the treatment process and ensure that the water quality leaving the works is not compromised.