

**REFERENCE**

2526652

**RELEASE DATE**

29 April 2026

**SUBJECT**

Storm overflows in and around Lough Neagh and how many are monitored.

**RESPONSE**

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

***How many storm overflows are located in the vicinity of Lough Neagh?***

106

***Of those, how many have been assessed?***

11

***What percentage have been deemed satisfactory and unsatisfactory?***

Within the vicinity of Lough Neagh, the classification status of Storm Overflows is as follows:

Assessed satisfactory: 2.8%

Assessed unsatisfactory: 7.5%

Storm overflows still to be classified: 38.7%

Due to the highly rural nature of this area of the Lough Neagh catchment, and associated modelling limitations, approx. 50% of the Storm Overflows will remain unclassified.

Within PC21 (2021-27), NI Water is in the process of installing event duration monitors (EDMs) at storm overflows across the network. EDMs measure spill occurrences and the duration of each spill.

The installation of EDMs initially focused on Northern Ireland's 33 designated Bathing Waters, on Shellfish Water Protected Areas and on other sensitive sites. The

programme has now progressed to the Lough Neagh and Lough Erne catchments. By the end of PC21 (End March 2027) NI Water will have installed ca: 1020 No. EDMs.

***At the Infrastructure Committee, you also presented figures indicating there are 76 wastewater treatment works around the inner edge of Lough Neagh and approximately 10,000 septic tanks of which NI Water is aware. How many pollution incidents have been attributed to these factors within the last five years?***

There are 66 Wastewater Treatment Works within the Lough Neagh Local Management Area Boundary.

Over the last five years, there have been three sites with a reported pollution incident. These incidents have a 'low' severity classification.

N.B. NI Water holds minimal information on domestic septic tanks such as their location, count, etc. as they are not NI Water assets. Consequently, NI Water does not hold domestic septic tank pollution incident details. You may need to redirect this query to the NI Environment Agency.

**<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/regulating-water-discharges>**