

REFERENCE

2526047

RELEASE DATE

June 2025

SUBJECT

Aggregated data relating to water abstraction and associated charges for industrial and commercial users in the SES area, broken down by category and year.

RESPONSE

For the years 2019 through 2025, please provide the following information for each of the industrial and commercial categories listed below:

- Average, minimum, median, and maximum price charged per cubic metre for water.
- The total volume of water used and the total charges levied in each category per year.

The categories are:

- Aquaculture Fish
- Aquaculture Plant
- Breweries/Wine
- Business Parks
- Chemicals
- Construction
- Crown - Other
- Dairies
- Detention and Immigration Centres
- Drainage Operations
- Electricity
- Extractive
- Food & Drink
- Forestry
- General Agriculture
- Golf Courses
- Holiday Sites, Camp Sites & Tourist Attractions

- Horticulture and Nurseries
- Hospitals
- Hotels, Public Houses and Conference Centres
- Industrial/Commercial/Energy/Public Services
- Laundry
- Machinery and Electronics
- Mechanical Non-Electrical
- Metal
- Mineral Products
- MoD (Ministry of Defence)
- Municipal Grounds
- Navigation
- Non-Remedial River/Wetland Support
- Orchards
- Other Environmental Improvements
- Other Industrial/Commercial/Public Services
- Paper and Printing
- Petrochemicals
- Private Non-Industrial
- Private Water Supply
- Private Water Undertaking
- Public Administration
- Public Water Supply
- Pump & Treat
- Racecourses
- Refuse and Recycling
- Remedial River/Wetland Support
- Research Non-University/College
- Retail
- Rubber
- Schools and Colleges
- Slaughtering
- Sports Grounds/Facilities
- Textiles & Leather

- Transport
- Water Supply Related
- Zoos/Kennels/Stables

The categories you list above are specific to wholesale and retail water customers in GB and not applicable to Northern Ireland Water, which operates differently than water companies on the mainland.

NI Water is a Government Owned Company (GoCo), set up in April 2007 to provide public water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland. The Company's Billing and Customer Contact System (RapidXtra) has two fields that specify the general type of business occupying a property; however, neither of these fields differentiate by manufacturing type.

VAT is based on the actual nature of the customers' business and the other Rapid classification is based on Standard Industry Codes (SIC), set by the former UK Government Department, the Central Statistical Office (a predecessor of the Office for National Statistics).

Please find attached as Annex A the relevant Standard Industrial Classifications (revised 1980), which is freely available on the wider public domain, listing the Standard Industry Codes (used by NI Water, below) and the sub codes (not used by NI Water).

STANDARD INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION REVISED 1980

Division

- 0 Agriculture, forestry and fishing
- 1 Energy and water supply industries
- 2 Extraction of minerals and ores other than fuels; manufacture of metals, mineral products and chemicals
- 3 Metal goods, engineering and vehicles industries
- 4 Other manufacturing industries
- 5 Construction
- 6 Distribution, hotels and catering; repairs
- 7 Transport and communication
- 8 Banking, finance, insurance, business services and leasing
- 9 Other services

As NI Water does not sub-categorise Manufacturing and, as such, no component data comprising this classification is held by the Company, Regulation 12(4)(a) of the Regulations therefore applies.

Regulation 12(4)(a) (Information not held) provides that “a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that it does not hold that information when an applicant’s request is received”.

All exceptions under the EIR are qualified and so, in deciding whether to disclose the requested information, NI Water must consider the public interest. However, this is not possible where the information is not held.

I am requesting the same type of aggregated data for the costs of water supplied to companies serving the non-household retail water market in your area (i.e., wholesale water supplied to non-household retailers). Please provide:

- Average, minimum, median, and maximum price per cubic metre
- Total volume and total charges per year, 2019–2025

NI Water delivers clean, safe drinking water to approximately 840,000 households and businesses. We supply customers with approximately 560 million litres of good quality drinking water every day. We collect approximately 330 million litres of wastewater per day from around 669,000 households and organisations connected to the sewerage system and transfer it to a works where it is treated and disposed of safely. As detailed above, we don’t have non-household retail water markets as one of our subsets of customers.

Regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIR states that “Where an applicant requests that the information be made available in a particular form or format, a public authority shall make it so available, unless the information is already publicly available and easily accessible in another form or format.”

I can confirm that NI Water’s Scheme of Charges provides details of all the charges for non-domestic water and sewerage customers, Trade Effluent customers,

developers, etc. Domestic water supply is not billed by NI Water but rather forms part of the domestic rates process.

Please tell me how much water you abstract each year (2019-25), from which sources (sw/gw/tw/other) and how much is brought in from other water company areas (specifying the area).

The link below to NI Water's Publications page, includes all published Annual Information Returns (AIRs) since 2007/08. Within Table 12 of each AIR, you will find abstraction information and other related data to assist you with this query. Please note however 2023/24 data is not yet published, but NI Water is hopeful to have this on our website by late Summer.

<https://www.niwater.com/publications/>