

## **REFERENCE**

2526553

## **RELEASE DATE**

24 February 2026

## **SUBJECT**

Request for Data on Sewer and Pumping Station Blockages and Causes in Northern Ireland

## **RESPONSE**

- **The frequency of lateral drain blockages and of sewer blockages and of pumping station clogs in the catchment area for Northern Ireland water.**

Please see Annex A attached.

- **If there is a suggested causation provided for the lateral drain blockages, Sewer blockages and pumping station clogs. E.g. roots, FOG, Un-flushable etc**

The main causation of sewer mains and lateral drain blockages as follows:

1. Fats, Oil and Grease
2. Inappropriate materials, i.e. rags, wet wipes.
3. Pipe intrusions, i.e. tree roots

- **How many pumping stations are in the Northern Ireland water catchment area?**

There are approximately 1,346 Wastewater Pumping Stations (WwPSs) across Northern Ireland operated by NI Water.

- **How many pumps are present at the pumping stations within the Northern Ireland catchment area?**

The WwPSs range in the number of pumps present, depending on the size of the relevant catchment area, but typically, there would be two or three pumps in each WwPS.