

REFERENCE

2627102

RELEASE DATE

25 June 2026

SUBJECT

Requesting information regarding leakage statistics since the 1980s for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

RESPONSE

Please find the information requested in the table below, together with a link to our website publication page.

<https://www.niwater.com/about-us/about/publications#air>

Regarding historical records and to put some context to NI Water's response above, in 1973 responsibility for providing water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland was transferred from local councils to a Water Executive within the Department of the Environment (Northern Ireland). In 1996, the Water Executive became an executive agency and was rebranded as the Northern Ireland Water Service and, in 1999, responsibility for water transferred to the Department for Regional Development.

Northern Ireland Water, which is a Government Owned Company (GoCo) and which was set up in April 2007, is now the sole provider of water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland and was not the provider of water and sewerage services pre-2007.

Reporting year	Total leakage	Unit	Source / note
2007/08	156.52	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2011, Board's Overview Table D, Water Balance, line 19 'Total leakage'.
2008/09	180.93	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2011, Board's Overview Table D, Water Balance, line 19 'Total leakage'.
2009/10	186.86	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2011, Board's Overview Table D, Water Balance, line 19 'Total leakage'.

2010/11	176.97	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2011, Board's Overview Table D, Water Balance, line 19 'Total leakage'.
2011/12	168.23	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2011, Board's Overview Table D, Water Balance, line 19 'Total leakage'.
2012/13	162	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2021, Board's Overview Table D, line 19 'Total Leakage'.
2013/14	167	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2021, Board's Overview Table A, line 11 'Total Leakage'.
2014/15	166	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2021, Board's Overview Table A, line 11 'Total Leakage'.
2015/16	162	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 12 'Total Leakage'.
2016/17	163	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 12 'Total Leakage'.
2017/18	162	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 12 'Total Leakage'.
2018/19	160	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 12 'Total Leakage'.
2019/20	161	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 12 'Total Leakage'.
2020/21	158	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 9 'Total Leakage'.
2021/22	156	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 9 'Total Leakage'.
2022/23	162	MI/d	Annual Information Return 2023 Public Domain, Board's Overview Table A, line 9 'Total Leakage'.

- Please note that Earlier figures are reported to two decimal places; later AIR Board's Overview tables report whole MI/d values.