

**REFERENCE**

2526407

**RELEASE DATE**

November 2025

**SUBJECT**

Requesting information related to water quality including what filtering methods is NI water using and which PFAS types/polymers are being monitored in the water sampling.

**RESPONSE**

The parameters for which NI Water must perform regulatory water sampling are detailed in Schedules 1 and 2 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (NI) 2017. These do not currently include tests for cyanotoxins.

However, NI Water proactively undertakes sampling and analysis for the algal toxin Microcystin-LR as the industry standard indicator test for all species of algal toxins. We undertake this testing in the raw water abstracted into the treatment works and in the final treated drinking water. Testing for Microcystin-LR in drinking water by NI Water is in line with the EU Recast Drinking Water Directive and the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Guidelines for drinking water quality (Cyanobacterial toxins: Microcystins)

NI Water uses the Drinking Water Safety Plan (DWSP) approach to assess the risk for Microcystins in the public water supply. The DWSP approach is based on the WHO Water Safety Plan guidance and is used to systematically assess and manage drinking water quality risks from the catchment and raw water source to the customer tap. In line with the DWSP approach the risk for algae blooms and associated parameters such as Microcystins in the raw water source are assessed, along with the mitigation and control measures in place at the WTW to ensure that the risk to the public drinking water supply is low. Sampling and analysis of the raw water and the treated drinking water is undertaken to verify and validate the control measures in place.

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

- ***What filtering methods is NI water using to filter out:***

NI Water uses rapid gravity filters using either sand or activated glass media and granular activated carbon filters.

- ***Which PFAS types/polymers are being monitored in your water sampling***

N Water currently tests for the following PFAS compounds in the raw and treated drinking water:

- 3:3 FTCA
- 4:2 FTSA
- 5:3 FTCA
- 6:2 CI-PFESA
- 6:2 PTS
- 7:3 FTCA
- 8:2 CI-PFESA
- 8:2 FTSA
- DONA
- EtFOSA
- EtFOSE
- FBSA
- FHxSA
- HFPO-DA
- HFPO-TA
- MeFOSA
- MeFOSE
- NEtFOSAA
- NFDHA
- NMeFOSAA
- PFBA
- PFBS
- PFDA
- PFDoA

- PFDoS
- PFDS
- PFecHS
- PFEESA
- PFHpA
- PFHpS
- PFHxA
- PFHxDA
- PFHxS
- PFMOBA
- PFMOPrA
- PFNA
- PFNS
- PFOA
- PFODA
- PFOSA
- PFPA
- PFPeS
- PFTeA
- PFTrDA
- PFUnA
- PFUnDS
- Total PFAS
- Total PFOS

- ***I request a copy of a recent sample report for Belfast supply zone***

Please note you can find the 2024 Water Quality Report for this zone on NI Water's website by entering your postcode at the link below:

<https://www.niwater.com/about-your-water/drinking-water/water-quality-results>