

External environment

The water industry structure in Northern Ireland is shown below:



Role of Government

The Northern Ireland Assembly is the devolved legislature for Northern Ireland. It is responsible for making laws on transferred matters in Northern Ireland and for scrutinising the work of Ministers and Government Departments. NI Water is wholly owned by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), which operates under the direction and control of the Minister for Infrastructure. Water and Drainage Policy Division in the DfI is responsible for setting water policy, for our funding through customer subsidies and lending the funds to support our investment programme. The Committee for Infrastructure undertakes a scrutiny, policy development and consultation role with respect to the DfI and plays a key role in the consideration and development of legislation.

Utility Regulator

The majority of NI Water's activities are not undertaken in competitive markets and are therefore subject to economic regulation by the Utility Regulator. NI Water Limited provides water and sewerage services in Northern Ireland under the conditions in its Licence granted by the Utility Regulator. Our revenue requirements, the amounts charged to our customers and our performance outputs are set by the Utility Regulator through a Price Control process.

Local Councils

We liaise closely with the 11 Local Councils in a range of areas including their Local Development Plans.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) aims to protect, conserve and promote the natural environment and built heritage for the benefit of present and future generations. The NIEA has regulatory powers and responsibilities to ensure environmental compliance by NI Water.

Drinking Water Inspectorate

The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) is an expert unit within the NIEA. DWI is responsible for monitoring and regulating the quality of drinking water, in consultation with health and environmental authorities.

Consumer Council for Northern Ireland

The Consumer Council for Northern Ireland is a statutory body which represents the interests of water consumers. Its functions include providing our customers with advice and information; investigating complaints and undertaking research such as surveys of consumers' views.

Supply Chain

We cooperate with our wider supply chain, water industry research bodies and other utilities to implement new technologies that will help us to continue to deliver more for less.

Customers

We provide water services to around 900,000 households and businesses and wastewater services to around 736,000 households and businesses.