



Our reference: DAERA/22-212

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NIEA Water Management Unit  
17 Antrim Road  
Tonagh  
Lisburn  
BT28 3AL

Email: [WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:WMU.FOI@daera-ni.gov.uk)

8 July 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

### **Environmental Information Regulations 2004**

With regard to your request for information received by the Department on 19 June 2022 which sought the following information:

Under Freedom of Information legislation I would like to know the volume of fresh water rivers and lakes in Northern Ireland by council area.

I can advise that the Department has completed its search and can confirm that it holds the information you requested which is below.

### **Volume of Lakes in Northern Ireland by Council Area**

DAERA has previously estimated the mean annual volume of the twenty lakes (water bodies) in Northern Ireland that require statutory monitoring under the Part 4 of the *Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017*. These estimates were derived using a combination of map-based measurement, bathymetric lake survey and mathematical modelling. The mean annual lake volume in cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) and Megalitres (Ml) for each lake are shown in Table 1. Each lake has been annotated with the council area or areas in which it is located. It should be noted that some lakes are divided by local council area boundaries.

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Lake Water Body Name	Estimated Mean Annual Volume (m <sup>3</sup> )	Estimated Mean Annual Volume (MI)	Council Area
Lough Neagh	3,397,909,936	3,397,910	1) Antrim & Newtownabbey 2) Mid Ulster 3) Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon 4) Lisburn & Castlereagh
Lower Lough Erne	687,593,543	687,594	Fermanagh & Omagh
Lough Melvin	185,106,161	185,106	Fermanagh & Omagh
Upper Lough Erne	74,081,103	74,081	Fermanagh & Omagh
Upper Lough Macnean	43,388,782	43,389	Fermanagh & Omagh
Lough Island Reavey	7,905,257	7,905	Newry, Mourne & Down
Silent Valley reservoir	6,481,808	6,482	Newry, Mourne & Down
Lower Lough Macnean	6,150,622	6,151	Fermanagh & Omagh
Lough Ross	5,999,916	6,000	Newry, Mourne & Down
Beg Lough	4,820,000	4,820	Mid Ulster
Camlough	3,956,812	3,957	Newry, Mourne & Down
Spelga	3,585,465	3,585	Newry, Mourne & Down
Stoneyford Reservoir	3,102,268	3,102	Lisburn & Castlereagh
Lough Scolban	2,903,909	2,904	Fermanagh & Omagh
Lough Mourne	2,765,523	2,766	Mid & East Antrim
Castlehulme Lough	1,759,402	1,759	Fermanagh & Omagh
Lough Fea	1,509,872	1,510	Mid Ulster
Clea Lakes	1,447,171	1,447	Newry, Mourne & Down
Portmore Lough	1,252,777	1,253	1) Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon 2) Lisburn & Castlereagh
Lough Gullion	527,945	528	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon

Table 1. Lake Mean Annual Volume and Local Council Area

## Volume of Rivers in Northern Ireland by Council Area

DAERA does not hold information on the volume of rivers within Northern Ireland. However, the Department of Infrastructure (Rivers) maintains a network of permanent river flow gauges across Northern Ireland with extensive historical records. The Department of Infrastructure (Rivers) may be able to provide long-term

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average discharge (flow) rates for these monitoring sites. This information may be requested by contacting;

Department of Infrastructure (Rivers)  
Hydrometrics Section  
49 Tullywiggan Road  
Loughry  
Cookstown  
BT80 8SG

or

[hydrometrics@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:hydrometrics@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

If you require any clarification, believe that any part of your request has been overlooked, misunderstood or misinterpreted, please contact me in the first instance to see if it is a matter that can be resolved.

If you are unhappy with the manner in which your request for information has been handled or the decision to release/withhold information, you have the right to request a formal review by the Department. If you wish to do so, please contact The Review Section either by e-mailing [daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:daera.informationmanager@daera-ni.gov.uk) or by post at The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Data Protection & Information Management Branch, Floor 2, Ballykelly House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady BT49 9HP, within two months from the date of this letter.

If after such an internal review you are still unhappy with the response, you have the right to appeal to the Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, CHESHIRE, SK9 5AF, who will undertake an independent review of the Department's decision.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted name]

**Water Management Unit**

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