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Water Management Arrangements

Water is a scarce resource, and we are aware of the importance of water pollution prevention and sustainable use of water resources.

Preventing Pollution to Water Ways

- The University adheres to the Northern Ireland Legislative requirements on water discharge (including the Water Act NI and the Water and Sewage Services (NI) Order and the Water(NI) Order), aligning with [Northern Ireland government guidelines](#) on water discharge and standards to uphold water quality and protect ecosystems (fresh and saltwater habitats), wildlife, human health and welfare.
- Queen's University are committed to a target of zero pollution incidents for emissions and discharges.
- Storage of chemicals and oils on campus adheres to Northern Ireland Guidance for the Pollution Prevention [Guidance for Pollution Prevention \(GPP\) documents | NetRegs | Environmental guidance for your business in Northern Ireland & Scotland](#)
- University undertakes routine inspections of chemical and oil storage facilities on campus
- Emergency response procedure is in place for the management of oil and chemical spills
- Spill Kits are in place across campus
- Operational staff are routinely trained on how to deal with spillages on campus

Water Monitoring

- Water quality is monitored by NI Water with the annual sampling frequency dictated by The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.
- The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is responsible for the protection of the aquatic environment and undertake surveys to ensure good water quality is maintained, to protect both aquatic ecosystems and human health.
- Academics within the School of Biological Sciences are working with DAERA and the Agri-Food Biosciences Institute to monitor the water quality within Lough Neagh, following the algae blooms that have occurred since 2022.

Wastewater Treatment

- Contaminated wastewater is disposed of responsibly with 'consent to discharge' in place where appropriate.
- The university's wastewater is treated by the Northern Ireland Water, the water and sewage services provider in Northern Ireland.

Water Extraction

- The University has in place a number of boreholes for extraction of potable water.
- Water Abstraction Licences are in place in accordance with relevant [regulations](#), adheres to conditions set down within each abstraction licence

Design and Construction

- All construction work associated with the University are required to follow Northern Ireland government guidelines on water discharge and standards to uphold water quality and protect ecosystems, wildlife, and human health and welfare.
- Design of new builds and refurbishments include water must include a water conservation and and drainage considerations:
 - Ensuring that the design has no greater run-off from the site than pre-development following Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs guidance.
 - Investigating potential of using permeable surface and minimising impervious area.
 - Recording pre-development proportion of permeable surfaces and aim at increasing it.
 - Prioritising Sustainable Drainage solutions that support the increase of biodiversity, habitat creation and local transpirative cooling.

New Builds and Refurbishments greater than £1 million must comply with design and construction standards set out in BREEAM.