

Ref: EIR / 6323

28th April 2026

Environmental Information Regulations Request - Procurement

I refer to your EIR request and respond as follows:

General Information

1. How many sites are part of this organisation?

136

2. Are utilities (gas, electricity, water) procured collectively on behalf of all schools, or by individual academies?

Council do not procure utilities on behalf of schools.

3. Who is responsible for procurement decisions relating to utilities? (Please state job title)

Procurement and Payments Manager.

4. How does the organisation ensure compliance with DfE / ESFA and public procurement regulations when procuring energy?

- Councils use eTendersNI to publish and manage tenders.
- Contracts are awarded based on value for money, public benefit, and integrity, in line with NI procurement policy.

Derry

C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

+44 (0) 2871 253 253
info@derrystrabane.com
www.derrystrabane.com

f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcscouncil

- The Department of Finance and CPD provide guidance and collaborative frameworks for these large-scale procurements

5. Does the organisation use a DfE-approved framework for energy procurement? If yes, which one?

No

6. Does the organisation have any sustainability or Net Zero objectives that influence procurement decisions? If yes, please summarise.

Sustainability objectives are included in Northern Ireland councils' electricity and gas tenders, as public-sector procurement rules require it. Supply must be 100% renewable or offer a renewable option.

Energy Procurement & Pricing

1. How are your electricity and gas contracts procured? (e.g. direct with supplier, via broker/TPI, via framework)

Northern Ireland councils collectively procured electricity and gas through a large collaborative tender.

2. Which framework, DPS, or third-party broker/TPI is or was used? Please state the name.

No framework DPS or third -party broker /TPI used.

3. When was your current electricity contract signed or agreed?

1 May 2025

4. When was your current gas contract signed or agreed?

1 May 2025

5. What is the current contract end date for your electricity supply?

30 April 2027 (option to extend until 2028)

6. What is the current contract end date for your gas supply?

30 April 2027(option to extend until 2028)

7. Who is your current electricity supplier?

Go Power

8. Who is your current gas supplier?

Go Power

9. If your electricity contract is fixed price, what is the current unit rate (p/kWh)?

Council confirm that it holds the information requested. However, Council is unable to disclose it, as an exception applies under Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR Act.

Public Interest Test And Commercial Sensitivity

Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR Act permits the Council to withhold information if its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the commercial interests of any person, including the public authority holding it.

The Council considers that to disclose the information you have requested, at this stage, would prejudice the commercial interests of the parties concerned and this information is therefore exempt from disclosure under Regulation 12(5)(e) of the act. This information is commercially sensitive to prospective tenderers, and it is important to their competitiveness that they are able to remain as a participant in the market.

With regards to the Council's commercial interest, if the Council disclosed this type of information, it would adversely affect our ability to source suppliers in a competitive environment.

Where the Council decides that the information requested is exempt from disclosure under Regulation 12(5)(e) of the act., it must then apply what is known as a "public interest test". This requires the Council to decide whether, in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing information.

In applying the public interest test the Council gave careful consideration to the arguments for and against disclosure.

When considering factors which would favour disclosing the information, the Council had to assess whether disclosure of the information would:

- Allow for more informed debate on the issue;
- Promote accountability and transparency for our decisions and in our spending of public money; and
- Assist the public to understand and challenge our decisions.

Against these considerations the Council had to balance the likelihood of disclosure having an adverse effect on the commercial interest of the tenderers concerned and the Council itself.

Having taken into account the arguments for and against disclosure, the Council decided that the public interest in this case is best served by maintaining the exemption and by not disclosing the information requested, at this stage. The Council considers that the possible benefits of disclosure are outweighed by the real risk of causing prejudice to the commercial interests of the tenderers concerned and the Council itself. In this case there is an overriding public interest in ensuring that companies are able to compete fairly and in ensuring there is competition for public sector contracts.

10.If your contract is flexible, half-hourly traded, or index-linked, please just confirm the contract type and we will not ask for a specific rate.

Index-linked contract

11.If your gas contract is fixed price, what is the current unit rate (p/kWh)?

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12.If your contract is flexible, half-hourly traded, or index-linked, please just confirm the contract type and we will not ask for a specific rate.

Index-linked contract

13.What is the current standing charge (p/day) for electricity and gas?

Council confirm that the requested information is held. However, Council is unable to disclose it, as an exception applies under Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR Act.

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14. Was a broker or Third-Party Intermediary (TPI) involved in arranging your current contracts? If yes, please state their name.

Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

15. What commission, broker fee, or TPI payment was paid in connection with your current gas and/or electricity contracts?

None

16. Please state the amount per meter, per contract, or as a p/kWh uplift. If the organisation does not hold this information, please confirm whether it has been requested from the broker or supplier.

Not Applicable

17. How many suppliers submitted quotations for your most recent electricity and gas procurement?

- Two submitted quotations for electricity.
- Two submitted quotations for gas

Metering, MOP, DA & DC Arrangements

(MOP = Meter Operator | DA = Data Aggregator | DC = Data Collector- these are contracted services that determine how your energy data is captured and settled)

1. Are any of your electricity meters Half-Hourly (HH) settled (Profile Class 00)?

If yes, how many HH meters does the organisation have, and across which sites?

20 Sites

Addresses

- The Alley Theatre 1a Railway Street Strabane BT82 8EF
- City Swimming Baths William Street Derry
- Derg Valley Leisure Centre, 6 Strabane Road, Castlederg BT81 7HZ
- Council Offices, 47 Derry Road, Strabane
- Galliagh CC Fairview Rd BT48 8NU - NEW SUPPLY

- Riversdale Leisure Centre, Lisnafin Park, Strabane
- Pennyburn Civic Amenity Site, Pennyburn Ind Estate
- Brandywell Football Stadium, Bandywell Road
- Waterside Shared Village, Irish Street, Derry, BT47 2HJ
- Templemore Sports Complex Collon Lane, Derry BT48 8LQ
- St Columbs Park, Limavady Road
- Water Feature, Magazine Street, Derry
- 98 Strand Road, Derry
- CM2 Melvin Hall, Bridge Street, Strabane
- Unit 1 Sports Centre, Foyle Road, Derry BT48 6LG
- Guildhall, Shipquay Place, Derry
- Tower Museum, Magazine Street, Derry
- Strahan Road, Strabane, BT82 9SF
- Events Pillar, Magazine Street, derry
- St Columbs Road, Derry, BT47 JY

2. Who is the current Meter Operator (MOP) for your electricity meters?

NIE Networks

3. When was the current MOP contract signed, and what is its end date?

NIE Networks owns and operates 100% of the electricity distribution network in N. Ireland.

4. Who is the current Data Collector (DC) and Data Aggregator (DA) for your electricity meters?

NIE Networks acts as both the Data Collector and Data Aggregator for all electricity meters in N Ireland

5. What charges are applied for MOP, DA, and DC services? Are these shown as a separate line item on bills, or embedded within the unit rate?

- NIE Networks recovers metering, data collection and aggregation costs indirectly
- Costs are bundled into regulated network charges
- These are paid by suppliers via DUoS and then passed through to customers

There are no commercial or competitive rates for DC/DA services in NI.

6. Were MOP, DA, and DC contracts competitively tendered, or were they assigned by the supplier or framework?

See above

Energy Monitoring & Management

1. Does the organisation currently have any form of energy monitoring in place? (e.g. AMR, smart meter portal, half-hourly data access, real-time dashboards)

Derry City and Strabane District Council does have energy monitoring in place, but it is:

- Layered
- Evolved over time
- Strongest in key assets and pilot areas
- Not yet fully unified across the entire estate

2. If yes, which sites have monitoring, and what type is in place at each? Please distinguish between real-time I live data I half-hourly/ Day+1 data I monthly smart read only I manual reads only

Derry City and Strabane District Council operate a tiered energy-monitoring estate: real-time and live data at flagship leisure and community sites, daily and monthly smart data at larger civic buildings, and monthly or manual reads across the wider estate.

Currently Council can:

- Track overall energy use and cost, produce accurate DEC's and carbon reports, Optimise a small number of high-energy sites
- We cannot however see energy spikes as they happen, actively control most buildings benchmark buildings in real time or link energy use directly to occupancy or weather,

3. Which platform, portal or software is used to view or analyse energy consumption data?

Wattics- Energy monitoring and targeting platform, Building Management Systems, Solar PV & battery manufacturer portals, Supplier billing portal and DEC energy advisory reporting.

4. Is gas consumption monitored separately to electricity? If yes, how?

Gas is monitored separately from electricity, primarily using monthly smart reads and manual reads, with real-time or live gas data only at a small number of high-energy sites (e.g. leisure facilities with CHP or major plant).

5. Does the organisation receive automated alerts for unusual or excessive energy consumption (e.g. overnight or weekend usage)?

No

6. Does the organisation receive any bill validation or bill checking service, from a broker, consultant, or software platform?

No- bills are checked by council officers

7. Has the organisation undertaken any energy audits, Display Energy Certificate (DEC) assessments, or ESOS compliance reporting in the last three years?

Yes, Display Energy Certificates are carried out each year for facilities with public access

8. Has the organisation ever used energy data to identify and evidence savings? If yes, please give a brief summary.

The Council has used energy data to:

- Understand where energy is being consumed
- Identify the most cost-effective interventions
- Support policy decisions on energy efficiency and carbon reduction
- Guide investment in low-carbon technologies- Invest to save projects

Water Procurement & Monitoring

1. How are your water and wastewater contracts procured?

Water is *not* a competitive utility in Northern Ireland.

All public water and sewerage services are supplied exclusively by Northern Ireland Water (NI Water), and customers cannot procure an alternative supplier. NI Water remains the sole provider of water and sewerage services.

2. Which framework, DPS, or third-party was used? Please state the name.

Not applicable.

3. When was your current water contract signed or agreed?

Not applicable.

4. What is the current contract end date for your water supply?

Not applicable.

5. Who is your current water supplier?

NI Water

6. What unit rate (p/m³) are you currently paying for water and wastewater, if known?

Variable rate depending on site

7. How many suppliers submitted quotations for your most recent water procurement?

Not applicable.

8. Was a broker or TPI used in procuring your water contract? If yes, please state their name and any fee or commission paid.

Not applicable.

9. Are there any additional services included such as leak detection, water efficiency, or bill validation? If yes, please describe.

NI Water does *not* provide routine leak detection, water efficiency audits, or bill validation as bundled services.

Only basic allowances, meter services, and billing corrections are included.

10. Does the organisation have any water monitoring or sub-metering in place to detect leaks or track consumption at site level?

Water consumption at all Council sites is monitored using:

- Main NI Water meters
- Periodic billing data (measured charges)
- Manual or supplier reads

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you have rights of review and appeal; these rights consist of two review processes.

Firstly, our internal review procedure is available by contacting:

John Kelpie
Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council
98 Strand Road
Derry BT48 7NN
Tel: 028 71253253 or email: john.kelpie@derrystrabane.com

Secondly, you can appeal directly by contacting the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner

Wycliffe House

Water Lane

Wilmslow

CHESHIRE SK9 5AF

Tel: 0303 123 1113 (local rate) or email: casework@ico.org.uk

I would however advise that the Information Commissioner has indicated that a review will not be undertaken unless the Council has first had an opportunity to re-consider its decision.

Yours sincerely

Conor Canning

Head of Environment & Building Control