

**From:** EIR Compliance

**To:**

**Subject:** 20250805 - EIR - Data Supplied

**Date:** 06 August 2025 09:05:39

Reference Number: EIR

Dear

I refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 9th July 2025.

*"Why, specifically, did you sluice untreated water into a tributary of the river Derwent this morning 9.7.25 at Kexby. I'd like a copy of any incident report and any documents detailing the decision making process and the outcome. This is from your own CSO map today. Please don't answer with a generic we promise to do better etc."*

We wrote to request the following clarification on the 11 July:

*"We have discussed your initial request with the business, the last time Kexby STW spilled according to the map was 03/07/2025. Please can you confirm if this is the correct asset for which you require the information? Once we receive this clarification we can progress your request."*

You provided a response on the 7 July providing a screenshot of the incident on 9.7.25, which you advised has *"since mysteriously disappeared from the YW CSO map. In the absence of 9.7 you can certainly provide information of 3.7. Or indeed both?"*

In relation to the incident on the 3 and 9 July 2025, in consulting with the business this spill was investigated and data excluded due to an instrument error. The

maps show all spills that occur in our region, these are considered to be “unvalidated” at the time they are displayed on the map. Analysis of the incidents is through an automatic process for regulatory reporting, the automatic process is designed to show where these overflows were recorded as a result of a recording instrument failure.

The data protection team have conversed with the business and have established we do not hold data in relation to any incident reports or documents detailing the decision making process in relation to the overflow event. As such for the purposes of paragraph 12(4)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that (a) it does not hold that information when an applicant’s request is received.

We have three types of sewers in our network: foul sewers, surface water sewers and combined sewers.

- Foul sewers carry waste from things like toilets, sinks, showers and washing machines
- Surface water sewers contain rainwater which runs off impermeable areas such as paving, roofs and highways
- Combined sewers have a mixture of foul and surface water.

Foul and combined sewers transport wastewater to the nearest wastewater treatment works where it is cleaned and safely returned to the environment. Surface water sewers usually drain into a local watercourse.

We all know rainfall in Yorkshire can be unpredictable, so when our network was designed, storm overflows were installed to act as a relief valve when the network is full. Overflows reduce the pressure on combined sewers and stop the system from backing up and flooding homes and gardens by allowing heavily diluted wastewater to discharge into watercourses after the capacity of our storage has

been used up. Most of our storm overflows have preliminary treatment such as screens or storm settlement before they operate.

We know our storm overflows operate more often than we or our customers would like, and reducing discharges is a priority for us. However, replumbing the whole of Yorkshire is not a quick thing to do as well as being significantly disruptive and costly to customers. Alongside our plans to improve Yorkshire's rivers, we want to move faster than the government targets. That's why we've announced that we're investing £180m before April 2025 to improve the performance of our storm overflows: [Yorkshire Water – Storm overflow investment](#)

We trust that the provision of this data satisfies your request. In accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, if you are not satisfied with this reply to your request, you can ask for an internal review. A request for an internal review must be submitted within 40 working days by contacting the Data Protection Team.

Thank you for contacting Yorkshire Water.

Yours sincerely,

Data Protection Team

Email: [EIR@Yorkshirewater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@Yorkshirewater.co.uk)