

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20250513 - EIR - Data Supplied

Date: 13 May 2025 13:21:00

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 15 April 2025:

1. *Can you confirm how many (in Kms) of old asbestos water pipes have been replaced since privatisation?*
2. *Please can you confirm how many (in Kms) of these old decommissioned asbestos water pipes have been left in the ground since privatisation?*
3. *Please can you confirm if the location of these old asbestos decommissioned pipes is being stored on your systems?*
4. *How can members of the public and developers find out if the land they are buying has these old decommissioned asbestos pipes left in the ground?*
5. *Have old decommissioned asbestos water pipes been left in our public roads? If so, can you tell me how many Km have been left in the roads?*
6. *If old asbestos decommissioned water pipes have been left in our roads, how is risk of exposure to road contractors/utility firms being managed? Is there a list that contractors can inspect to assess risk of exposure to these old pipes?*

Please find included within this email our response to your questions.

To clarify, when an old main is left in the ground but abandoned, we record this information in our corporate system. We may lay a new main alongside the old main but still class this as a 'replacement' for recording purposes.

If the old main has been taken out of the ground and replaced with a new plastic main, we do not hold this information. We hope this provides some clarity for our response below.

1. Can you confirm how many (in Kms) of old asbestos water pipes have been replaced since privatisation?

According to our Clean Water Network Asset Records since 01/01/1990, 205.12km of YW owned asbestos cement pipes have been abandoned.

2. Please can you confirm how many (in Kms) of these old decommissioned asbestos water pipes have been left in the ground since privatisation?

According to our Clean Water Network Asset Records since 01/01/1990, 205.12km of YW owned asbestos cement pipes have been abandoned.

As explained above, if the old main has been taken out of the ground and replaced with a new plastic main, we do not hold this information. As such for the purpose of EIR we applied exemption 12(4)(a), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that it does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received.

3. Please can you confirm if the location of these old asbestos decommissioned pipes is being stored on your systems?

Yes, they are all recorded on our Corporate Record.

4. How can members of the public and developers find out if the land they are buying has these old decommissioned asbestos pipes left in the ground?

Most mains are laid in public highways or pavements, it will be rare that there are abandoned asbestos mains in land being purchased by individuals. Mains that cross peoples land usually come up during surveys as part of investigations when purchasing land. There are also central records held which enables people to investigate the location of utilities in the UK, for example there is a National Underground Asset Register – [National Underground Asset Register \(NUAR\) – GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/national-underground-asset-register)

5. Have old decommissioned asbestos water pipes been left in our public roads? If so, can you tell me how many Km have been left in the roads?

We can confirm in response to question 1 and 2, according to our Clean Water Network Asset Records since 01/01/1990, 205.12km of YW owned asbestos cement pipes have been abandoned.

6. If old asbestos decommissioned water pipes have been left in our roads, how is risk of exposure to road contractors/utility firms being managed? Is there a list that contractors can inspect to assess risk of exposure to these old pipes?

Yorkshire Water Contractors/Partners are given access to our Corporate Records which holds the information required of YW owned asbestos cement pipes that have been abandoned. Regarding other contractors and utility firms, if required this information can be disclosed via our existing business processes. For example they will see the information held on our records when they apply for/obtain via the safe dig process, if required.

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