

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20251125 - EIR

Date: 25 November 2025 09:55:18

Attachments: EIR Request - Oct 25 - PFAS Data 1.csv

EIR Request - Oct 25 - PFAS Data 2.csv

EIR Request - Oct 25 - PFAS Data 3.csv

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 28 October 2025:

"I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 regarding per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) within your operational area including Yorkshire, North Lincolnshire, Derbyshire.

Specifically, I am seeking access to any and all data held relating to PFAS, including but not limited to the following:

1. Monitoring Data & Environmental Presence

- Results of any PFAS sampling and monitoring undertaken by your organisation since 1 January 2018*
- Sampling locations (grid references, easting/northing, or site identifiers), sampling dates, and detected PFAS compounds and concentrations (µg/L or ng/L)."*

Please find attached the latest available PFAS monitoring data for both raw and treated water.

We do not hold PFAS monitoring data prior to 2022. Our records show that PFAS sampling began in 2022 for raw water and in 2023 for treated water as the

laboratory analysis was not developed until this point. All sampling and analysis are carried out in accordance with the latest guidance issued by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). The data protection team have conversed with the business and have established we do not hold any of the requested data FROM 2018 - 2022. As such for the purposes of paragraph 12(4) 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.

Regarding your request for sampling locations (including grid references, easting/northing, or latitude and longitude coordinates). After careful consideration, we are writing to inform you that your request for environmental information has been partially refused in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004. In accordance with section 12(5) paragraph (a) of the EIR, a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect international relations, defence, national security or public safety.

In applying this exemption, we must consider the potential harm that could result from releasing the requested information and weigh it against the public interest in disclosure. We have to treat disclosure of information under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIRs) as disclosure to the 'world at large'.

Whilst we appreciate it would be beneficial to obtain this data for your research, we have to consider the wider public interest in disclosure, based on this.

It is our belief that disclosing information could potentially pose a risk to national security. This is because safeguarding national security includes the protection of potential targets, even if there is no evidence that an attack is imminent. The information you have requested form part of the Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) of this country and could be perceived as a potential target for such an attack.

In addition to this, we also have to consider the guidance issued to us by DEFRA on what we can make available in the public domain in relation to our Critical National Infrastructure (CNI).

We recognise the importance of transparency and accountability, and we have carefully considered whether the public interest in disclosure outweighs the potential harm. However, we believe that in this case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure. The potential risks associated with releasing the information are too significant to justify its disclosure.

We have liaised with our colleagues to understand for the sample data if there is any information that can be provided to you. In regards to the location of the samples, we have maintained the exemption 12(5)(a) as it is our belief that releasing the exact location data could potentially pose a risk to public safety and have therefore taken the decision to provide you the generalised area for the location to reduce the level of detail or precision available where the granularity of the data increases the security risk.

Regarding your request for sampling locations (including grid references, easting/northing, or latitude and longitude coordinates), we are withholding this information under Regulation 12(5)(a) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR), as disclosure could adversely affect public safety. It is considered that releasing precise location data could potentially expose critical water infrastructure to risks, and therefore, the public interest in maintaining this exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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