

Codes for Adoption

Deviations Annual Report
July 2026



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Third parties such as developers or self-lay providers (SLPs) can build water and wastewater infrastructure and agree for its adoption by the relevant water company provided it meets suitable standards. The Codes for Adoption (CFA) was introduced in 2018 as required by the Water Industry Act 1991. One of the key benefits of the CFA is that it provides SLPs and developers with a consistent set of construction standards and adoption processes across the industry. This can help to reduce administrative burdens and promote competition.

Water companies have a requirement to produce an annual report, listing their use of deviations under the Codes for Adoption.

Deviations are where a company and their customer mutually agree to a change to the terms of the sector documents for the purpose of an adoption. The basis on which deviations are permitted is set out in the CFA and the sector guidance. Such deviations allow for flexibility in the adoption process. The relevant water company and their customer both need to agree to a deviation for it to be implemented.

Yorkshire Water can confirm that there are no deviations to report in the year 2025-26.

An alternative to agreeing individual deviations is for a company to publish a set of local practices, reflecting their own company-specific standards. These differ from those in the sector documents but only apply to adoptions by that company. Water companies need to publish the local practices on their website, but they do not need to report these as deviations in their annual report.

For completeness, Yorkshire Water can confirm that we do have local practices, which are published on our website:

- [Yorkshire Water – Adoption of new pumping stations](#)
- [Yorkshire Water Local Practice – Water Asset Adoption Procedures](#)

We remain committed to supporting developers and self-lay providers through clear processes and consistent application of the Codes for Adoption.