

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20260407 – EIR – Data Supplied

Date: 07 April 2026 17:01:00

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 9 March 2026 which is set out below.

"I am doing some research on the role of the DWI in relation to prevention of cryptosporidium outbreaks and the risk posed by air valves on water mains.

I am requesting the information described in detail below. I believe that the information I am requesting is environmental information and, as such, this request is made pursuant to the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

The information I am requesting is:

- 1. In May 2024, approximately how many air valves did you have on water mains on your network?*
- 2. Prior to the cryptosporidium outbreak in May 2024 in Brixham in Devon, did your company have in place a programme to proactively inspect those air valves to ensure these did not pose a water quality contamination risk? (For the purpose of this question, I would not*

count reactive inspections for suspected leakage, customer complaints or replacement/upgrades of water mains as proactive inspections to avoid water quality contamination)

3. *If you did have such a proactive programme, when was it put in place and how often were you inspecting air valves under the proactive programme?*
4. *Was your company ever contacted by the DWI prior to May 2024 with a recommendation, instruction or requirement to put such a proactive programme in place?*
5. *Have you changed your practices in relation to the inspection of air valves to avoid water quality contamination risks since the May 2024 cryptosporidium outbreak? If so, what changes have you made? Were these changes made a result of DWI intervention?"*

Please find below the data that you have requested. We have adopted the numbers in your request to directly answer your questions above.

1. In May 2024, approximately how many air valves did you have on water mains on your network?

We had approximately 14,000 air valves on our water mains network.

2. Prior to the cryptosporidium outbreak in May 2024 in Brixham in Devon, did your company have in place a programme to proactively inspect those air valves to ensure these did not pose a water quality contamination risk? (For the purpose of this question, I would not count reactive inspections for suspected leakage, customer complaints or replacement/upgrades of water mains as proactive inspections to avoid water quality contamination)

Yes, we had a targeted programme of biennial inspection of AVs at risk of ingress based on hydraulic considerations which commenced in 2023. AVs

not at risk of experiencing negative pressure, cannot cause ingress into the network and were not part of our inspection programme at that time.

3. If you did have such a proactive programme, when was it put in place and how often were you inspecting air valves under the proactive programme?

Our critical AV programme commenced in 2023, critical AVs were inspected every 24 months.

4. Was your company ever contacted by the DWI prior to May 2024 with a recommendation, instruction or requirement to put such a proactive programme in place?

We had discussed the nature of our AV inspection programme as part of routine liaison, but we had not received formal recommendations.

5. Have you changed your practices in relation to the inspection of air valves to avoid water quality contamination risks since the May 2024 cryptosporidium outbreak? If so, what changes have you made? Were these changes made a result of DWI intervention?

Yes, we now include all lower risk AVs a rolling 5 year programme. This additional commitment was made by Yorkshire Water in early 2025 as part of on-going discussion with DWI. This additional programme for hydraulically low risk AVs is in now in delivery.

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