

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20260513 – EIR – Data Supplied

Date: 13 May 2026 14:54:00

Reference Number: EIR

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 27 April 2026:

“I would like to submit a follow-up request for clarification in relation to water safety and environmental risk.

Given that raw water sources are derived from open catchments and reservoirs, I would be grateful for further information on:

- 1. How risks from environmental contaminants entering open raw water sources are assessed and managed over time.*
- 2. Whether monitoring programmes include emerging contaminants (such as PFAS or similar persistent substances), either at raw water stage or post-treatment.*
- 3. How Yorkshire Water ensures that treatment processes remain effective where source water quality may change due to environmental factors.*

This request is made in the context of public health and environmental safety, and focuses on system-level assurance rather than specific infrastructure details.”

Included with this email are the response to your questions:

1. How risks from environmental contaminants entering open raw water sources are assessed and managed over time.

This is fundamental element of our risk assessment approach. We have a dedicated Raw and Catchment Team within our Water Quality department. Their role is to identify, update and (if possible) address in catchment risks from raw water sources. The team does this by maintaining records of each catchment, i.e. the type of raw water, local geographical influences, or the business and domestic usage in the area. This information indicates that type of risks that may occur in an individual catchment. Our assessment is informed by advance mapping capability, but we also we also have a programme of proactive visits to all catchments in order to identify whether conditions on the ground have changed. All of this is backed by a raw water sample monitoring programme targeting the type of risks we might expect to see in a particular catchment.

Given the extensive area from which our water is drawn we cannot do everything on our own, we also engage with other key stakeholders like the Environment Agency and local landowners. We regularly attend agricultural events in order to share messages of good practice and to get feedback from those working on the land.

All of these activities become incorporated into an element of our Drinking Water Safety Planning approach a risk assessment system for water quality risks. Evidently, by identifying the severity and probability of hazards in the catchment, we can ensure that the treatment processes downstream are matched to the challenge in the raw water. If we see changes in raw water risk this flows down to the next stage of the process (most likely treatment at a water production site) and these changes in risk assessment help us drive our long-term investment programmes.

2. Whether monitoring programmes include emerging contaminants (such as PFAS or similar persistent substances), either at raw water stage or post-treatment.

Yes, we monitor for a wide variety of compounds in catchment, at water treatment works raw water, water treatment works outlet and downstream at our assets and at customer properties. It is not possible to collect samples for 'everything' so our monitoring programmes are targeted at the type of risk we perceived in a catchment. As we build up a record of risks there is feedback from results of analysis into the way we understand hazards in a particular area and this in turn influences the frequency of sampling or type of compound for which we test.

The specifics of monitoring vary from compound-to-compound dependent upon the nature of the risk, much of monitoring is based upon the compounds identified in regulation. These target compounds are representative of an extensive array of potential risks and provide good evidence to support our design of treatment processes. At the catchment and raw water stage we also add additional compounds that may be present as new or developing risks.

Specifically for PFAS, monitoring is primarily targeted at raw water stage at our sites. However, for any sites where there is evidence of PFAS in Tier 2 (in a three-tier system) we supplement this with treated water sampling in order to build up an understanding of mixing or removal in treatment. There is no indication of health impact from PFAS at Tier 2. No sites in Yorkshire are at risk of entering Tier 3 (the highest tier).

3. How Yorkshire Water ensures that treatment processes remain effective where source water quality may change due to environmental factors.

As above, this is a fundamental element of our approach. We identify catchment risk, quantify it, and compare this to treatment capability, this is continuous cyclical process, where new and emerging issues are identified they enter this cycle.

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