

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20250428 - EIR - Data Supplied

Date: 28 April 2025 16:59:00

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 31 March 2025:

"The Barlby Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTWs), operated by Yorkshire Water (YW), could please provide us with a labelled site layout plan, a complaints history for the works and any previous odour assessments that have been undertaken in support of the works, that would be most appreciated."

We wrote to you on the 2 April to request clarification for the timeframe on your request, you provided a revised request for information below:

- *A labelled site layout plan of the WwTWs, including dimensions of the odour sources, if available;*
- *Any existing emissions data for the WwTWs;*
- *Complaints history in relation to odour from the WwTWs; and,*
- *Any existing Odour Assessments which have been undertaken in relation to the WwTWs.*

We further requested clarification for the specific timeframe that you required the information. You clarified on the 7 April that you required the odour complaint history for the last 5 years and the most recent version of the other information requested.

Included with this email is our response to your request:

1. A labelled site layout plan of the WwTWs, including dimensions of the odour sources, if available;

We are writing to inform you that your request for environmental information has been refused in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004. After careful consideration, we have determined that the information you have requested for this question is exempt from disclosure. 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, 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.

2. Any existing emissions data for the WwTWs;

We have no odour emission data for this site. 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. Complaints history in relation to odour from the WwTWs; and,

We have no complaints for this site. 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.

4. Any existing Odour Assessments which have been undertaken in relation to the WwTWs.

We do not routinely undertake odour assessments at our Waste Water Treatment Works unless there are persistence complaints or issues with a site. 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.

I 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