

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20260624 - EIR - Data Supplied

Date: 24 June 2026 10:45:00

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

I refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 27 May for information regarding:

"Information on pollution events YW attended, what level they were, grading & downgrading of each 1 & why.

The geographic area is the whole of Yorkshire My request relates to all Yorkshire Water assets The timeframe is 2016 to 2026"

Please find attached the data which you have requested.

All incidents rated as Category 1-3 are available in the public domain via the below web address:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report-2024/yorkshire-water-epa-data-report-2024>

CICS Cat 4 incidents do not get published by the Environment Agency (EA) as part of their annual Environmental Performance Assessment (EPA),

which as such means the data attached is not available within the public domain.

Below is the number of incidents that the EA have specifically downgraded an incident against YWS to a Cat 4 standard, meaning under the Common Incident Classification System (CICS) it has little to no impact on the environment and/or human health.

Year	Number of Category 4 incidents
2016	82
2017	58
2018	113
2019	148
2020	263
2021	230
2022	205
2023	256
2024	242
2025	371

We do not hold data as to the EA's justification towards how/why they have awarded a particular level of impact against YW. However you may wish to fully review the threshold criteria, will offer a means of explanation towards the EA's decision making:

<https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/20171129-Incidents-and-their-classification-the-Common-Incident-Classification-Scheme-CICS-23.09.16.pdf>

The CICS system is employed by the Environment Agency to review any incident or potential incident which might impact the environmental and/or human health. CICS covers or accounts for releases/discharges to land, water and air. With regards impacts to water, it reviews a release/discharge against key thresholds of varying severity between categories 1-4.

- Category 1 incident being a 'Major' or 'Severe' incident.
- Category 2 being 'Significant'.
- Category 3 being 'Limited and Localised'.
- Category 4 being 'No Impact'.

Within the water specific segments of CICS, there is the opportunity for the EA to award a Category of between 1 and 4 for multiple specialist segments, these being; impacts to conservation/ecology, impacts to water quality and human health and impacts upon amenity/enjoyment. Each of these segments will be awarded a category within CICS when the EA assesses an incident/potential incident, and whichever section receives the highest award with regards severity, will dictate the overall classification of the incident in general.

If you require greater detail beyond the thresholds for award within CICS, you would need to go directly to the EA for their decision making processes for determining their final judgment/outcome towards a specific incident. The EA's duty as the regulator is to categorise and record incidents.

Yorkshire Water does not set the incident category or have the remit to downgrade any incident category.

With regard to the information requested for the data for 2026, for the purposes of paragraph 12(4)(d), a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request relates to material, which is still in the course of completion, to unfinished documents or to incomplete data. We can confirm that the 2026 data is incomplete, as it is validated by the EA during January and February 2027 before being finalised and confirmed as a pollution incident.

Whilst we understand that it would be beneficial to obtain the 2026 data, we have also considered whether it would be in the wider public interest to disclose the information. When weighed against the presumption in favour of disclosure, for the purposes of transparency and accountability, there may be some public interest in providing the data.

However, we also have to take into consideration arguments for preventing disclosure. Information in relation to the 2026 data is incomplete and is not relied upon until it has been validated. To provide this would be misleading and could provide an inaccurate impression of our performance in 2026. To correct the impression created by the data or provided context to the data at present, would be difficult as we do not hold the final confirmation of an incident.

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