

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20251006- EIR - Data Supplied

Date: 06 October 2025 15:29:00

Reference Number: EIR

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 9 September 2025:

"1. A copy all environmental permits or licenses under which you receive, process and/or dispose of sewage;

2. A map of the mains sewerage system that serves the processing plant at Naburn, showing pumping stations and other supporting infrastructure.

3. A non-technical summary of the processes being carried out at naburn sewage works, and the guidance and/or legislation that they are regulated by; and

4. A breakdown of the proportion of waste processed over the past 3 years that is brought to the plant by road, as compared to that brought by the mains sewerage system."

Included with this email is are the responses to your questions.

- 1. A copy all environmental permits or licenses under which you receive, process and/or dispose of sewage**

All environmental permits and licences are publicly available via: [Public Registers Online](#)

2. A map of the mains sewerage system that serves the processing plant at Naburn, showing pumping stations and other supporting infrastructure.

After careful consideration, we are writing to inform you that your request for environmental information has been refused in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004. 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, providing network maps and locations of our infrastructure could pose a risk as this is not readily available in the public domain. 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 may 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 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. The potential risks associated with releasing the information are too significant to justify its disclosure, as such we will not be disclosing some information to you.

3. A non-technical summary of the processes being carried out at Naburn sewage works, and the guidance and/or legislation that they are regulated by; and

Naburn Sewage Treatment Works (STW) handles waste water from five local pumping stations, as well as tankers carrying both commercial and household waste. All incoming waste first goes through a chamber where large objects and grit are removed. The water then passes through pumps and finer screens to filter out smaller particles.

Water is then split into four treatment lanes called Activated Sludge Plants (ASPs), where air is blown in to help bacteria break down the sewage. After this, the treated water moves to Final Settlement Tanks (FSTs) where any remaining bits settle out. Clean effluent flows to the outfall and some is used in the site thickening and dewatering process.

The sludge settles in the FSTs and is recirculated. A proportion of sludge is removed from the process to maintain a level of solids within the activated sludge process. This extra sludge is mixed with a chemical to make it thicken, then passed over special belts that let water drain away, the liquid separated out is returned to be treated again. The thick sludge is then sent to centrifuges to remove even more water, creating a dense, soil-like material known as "cake".

The sludge cake is stored until it can be taken to large bioresources sites, where it is used to make energy through a process called anaerobic digestion. Naburn STW also takes in sludge imports from smaller treatment works in the surrounding areas this is held in tanks, screened, and then dewatered in a similar way before being sent off for energy generation.

The permits contain details of any licence/ legislation requirements for the site.

4. A breakdown of the proportion of waste processed over the past 3 years that is brought to the plant by road, as compared to that brought by the mains sewerage system.

	%
Proportion of Waste volume brought to site by sewer	99.68
Proportion of Waste volume brought to site by tanker	0.32

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