

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20250507 - EIR - Data Supplied

Date: 07 May 2025 13:31:00

Attachments: EIR Request - April 25 - Generic Locations.xlsx

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 8 April 2025:

"Environmental Information Request PFAS Data

PFAS measurements from surface water abstraction sites from 2000-2025 in the form of concentrations (e.g. ng/L).

In order to make full use of the data, I would also require the following information in a table alongside the PFAS data:

- *Sampling date and time*
- *Sampling location (i.e. name of abstraction point)*
- *Qualifiers associated with the datapoint (e.g. less-thans or error flags)*

After careful consideration, we are writing to inform you that your request for environmental information has been partially 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 for your research, 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. The potential risks associated with releasing the information are too significant to justify its disclosure.

We have liaised with our colleagues to understand for the sample data if there is any information that can be provided to you. In regards to the location of the samples, we have maintained the exemption 12(5)(a) as it is our belief that releasing the exact location data could potentially pose a risk to public safety and have therefore taken the decision to provide you the generalised area for the location to reduce the level of detail or precision available where the granularity of the data increases the security risk.

Please find attached the data which you have requested. Included with this email is the raw water PFAS data, we only have PFAS data from 2021. As such for the purpose of your EIR for the 2020 data 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.

We want to inform you that these results are from untreated raw water samples, which are subject to blending and treatment processes. The water supplied to customers is below the Tier 3 DWI guidance.

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