

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20260427 – EIR – Data Supplied

Date: 27 April 2026 09:18:00

Reference Number: EIR

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 13 April 2026:

“I am submitting a new request for environmental information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

This request relates to the design and operation of water storage and supply infrastructure serving the Bentham area.

I am not requesting the precise locations of critical infrastructure.

Instead, I request the following information:

- 1. Confirmation of whether water supplying High Bentham is stored within open reservoirs, covered service reservoirs, or a combination of both.*
- 2. General design classification of service reservoirs used in the supply (e.g. above-ground covered, underground/partially buried structures).*
- 3. Information on standard safety measures in place to prevent contamination of stored drinking water (e.g. covering, treatment, monitoring processes).*

4. *Any publicly available information on how Yorkshire Water mitigates risks to drinking water safety within its storage infrastructure.*

This request is made in the context of public health and environmental safety, and does not seek sensitive details such as precise locations or vulnerabilities.”

Included with this email are the response to your questions.

1. Confirmation of whether water supplying High Bentham is stored within open reservoirs, covered service reservoirs, or a combination of both.

The water supplied to High Bentham is from Embsay Water Treatment Works. The source raw water for Embsay WTW is from a wide catchment which includes the raw water reservoirs at Embsay itself, by their nature raw water reservoirs are not covered.

Treatment methodology at each site is matched to the nature of the challenge at that raw water. Embsay WTW is designed to address the challenges of uncovered raw water reservoirs.

Once treated water is supplied to customer through a combination of water mains and service reservoirs. Water mains are pressurised, which means that any minor breach of integrity is likely to lead to egress not ingress and as such do not pose a substantial risk of contamination. Specified procedures are in place for addressing more significant mains bursts that lead to depressurisation in order that any risk of contamination is minimised and monitored. All tanks of treated water (i.e. service reservoirs) are covered, but by their nature these tanks are not pressurised. We have a formal internal inspection programme to confirm these assets remain in an acceptable state with no risk of contamination.

2. General design classification of service reservoirs used in the supply (e.g. above-ground covered, underground/partially buried structures).

The Civil Engineering Specification for the Water Industry (CESWI) 8th Edition, published in November 2023 by WRc, is the definitive standard for civil engineering contracts let by water and sewerage undertakers across the UK. YWs design classification for SREs follows guidance that can be found within this document. A link to it is shown below:

<https://www.wrcgroup.com/headlines/corporate/introducing-ceswi-8/>

3. Information on standard safety measures in place to prevent contamination of stored drinking water (e.g. covering, treatment, monitoring processes).

The quality of water as supplied to customers is monitored against the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016. Although we also carry out our own additional monitor for any risks that we perceived may impact on our supply.

As above, treatment at every site is matched to the raw water challenge at that site. We expected raw water to be contaminated, but we put in place measures to ensure water quality is excellent at the end of the treatment process. WTW sites have continuous on-line monitoring for a combination of parameters, with defined acceptable ranges to ensure treatment remains effective. Alarms are in place which flag potentially deteriorating trends, these are alarms are visible on the site itself and monitored 24 hours a day in our control room. WTW sites also have automated shutdown for key water quality risks. A risk-based sampling programme is in place,

with the frequency of sample collection dependent upon size of WTW. The majority of sites are sampled for compliance basis at least once a day.

Not all WTW sites have treated water storage on site. However, where they do they are internally inspected similarly to service reservoirs as below, which complements weekly external inspections.

Mains system are pressurised and therefore have limited risk of contamination. The status of mains is continuously monitored for pressure and flow at key locations.

Service Reservoir tanks have samples collected at least once week. During the visit the external integrity of the site is inspected during the visit. Further inspections are carried out on a monthly or quarterly basis based upon risk assessment. There is also a risk-based internal inspection programme, with intervals between 6 months and 5 years.

In addition, we also collected samples from customer properties as part of a randomised programme to ensure quality of water from source to tap.

4. Any publicly available information on how Yorkshire Water mitigates risks to drinking water safety within its storage infrastructure.

We manage risks relating to drinking water safety within the storage infrastructure through a combination of mechanisms: catchment management, asset maintenance, water quality treatment and water quality monitoring. In discussing this with the business, we do not have a single document in the public domain which thoroughly describes these processes

However, there is information in relation to some of these processes in readily available via publications such as:

- [Yorkshire Water – Drinking water standards](#)
- [yky53_business-resilience-appendix.pdf](#)
- [Yorkshire Water – Catchment Management](#)
- [Yorkshire Water – The water cycle](#)

In addition to this, the outcomes of our sampling programmes are published on our website, and on Stream

- [Yorkshire Water – Check your water hardness](#): you are able to enter your postcode and download the report
- [Stream – Portal](#): sample result data available for water quality by individual sample

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