

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20260515 – EIR – Data Supplied

Date: 15 May 2026 08:48:00

Reference Number: EIR

Dear

We refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 16 April 2026:

*“Can you tell me please **what immediate and long term measures Yorkshire Water has in place to address this fundamental weakness, bearing in mind that in March 2025, [Ofwat](#) announced a £40 million enforcement package following investigations into "serious failures" in wastewater management and sewage treatment, the money to be invested in local environmental projects and infrastructure with the cost borne by shareholders, not customers.***

*Further to my email earlier, I should point out that on this evening's **local BBC news** it was reported that **Yorkshire Water were instructed to pay £2.35 million to fund environmental improvement, following seven unauthorised sewage incidents between 2019 and 2023, and that the Environment Agency enforced seven undertakings requiring YW to take remedial action as matter of urgency.***

Even further proof you would think – if ever proof was needed – of the chronic deficiency in key YW infrastructure to safeguard our rivers.

Would you please include in your reply what specific action YW has taken in response to the seven enforcement orders.

Included with this email are the response to your questions:

There is a sliding scale of resource requirements that correlates with the size and complexity of sewage treatment works.

Small package plants are predominantly septic-tank-type systems. Similar to domestic plants, they do not require daily or weekly visits. Wastewater biosolids are collected in a tank for onward processing at a larger treatment works, and some tanks may not require emptying for up to six months.

The majority of our small plants require no power. Flow is gravity-based, with primary tank treatment and trickle beds providing secondary treatment. The trickle beds are hydraulically powered, and there is very little that can go wrong, which supports a lower visit frequency.

Medium sized plants have some form of power and predominately telemetered assets. These are slightly more complex than the package plants hence the frequency is increased to several visits a week for routine operational maintenance.

OFWAT bands our STW into 5 bands according to size. As the size or the complexity of the works increases, the visit frequency predominately increase and hence the wide range of visit frequency.

There are no dry-day spills associated with small plants, as they do not have storm overflows. The majority of dry-day spills arise from larger sewage treatment works, where more extensive sewer networks increase the likelihood of unwanted inflows such as land drains, surface runoff and infiltration. These are the predominant causes of dry-day spills.

Between 2023 and 2025, we invested £180m to reduce discharges from over 100 storm overflows. This has since been followed up by out £1.5bn programme to reduce the operation of storm overflows across the region between 2025 and 2030.

Information is readily available on our website in relation to the storm overflow investment: <https://www.yorkshirewater.com/environment/river-health/storm-overflow-investment/>. You can also check our [live storm overflow map](#) to see all our investment projects.

Enforcement:

Please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agencys-use-of-civil-sanctions/enforcement-undertakings-accepted-by-the-environment-agency-26-july-2024-to-12-february-2026> for the Enforcement Undertakings accepted by the EA between the period 26 July 2024 – 12 February 2026.

As set out in the BBC article, in addition to the payments, YW has undertaken remedial actions at each site to ensure that a recurrence will not happen.

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