

YORKSHIRE WATER SERVICES LIMITED

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DROUGHT ORDER

River Ouse Catchment

TAKE NOTICE that due to the threat of a serious water shortage in the **Yorkshire area** caused by an exceptional shortage of rain, **YORKSHIRE WATER SERVICES LIMITED (company number 02366682)** whose registered office is at **Western House, Halifax Road, Bradford, BD6 2SZ** is applying to the Secretary of State for a drought order under Section 73 of the Water Resources Act 1991 in the River Ouse catchment.

The drought order is intended to apply for up to six months and proposes a temporary increase in the annual abstraction limit at Moor Monkton when River Ouse flows at Skelton are below 1,000,000 cubic metres per day. Yorkshire Water is authorised to abstract water from the River Ouse at Moor Monkton under terms specified in licence serial numbers NE/027/0024/065 and 02/027/0024/158. The aggregate maximum quantity of water Yorkshire Water is authorised to abstract from Moor Monkton, under the terms of both licence agreements, is limited to 12,500 cubic metres per hour; 300,000 cubic metres per day and 73,000,000 cubic metres per year.

Under the terms of licence number NE/027/0024/065, the abstraction is limited to: 300,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton monitoring station is more than 1,000,000 cubic metres per day; 150,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton monitoring station is between 650,000 and 1,000,000 cubic metres per day; 72,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton is between 400,000 and 650,000 cubic metres per day; and 10,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton is less than 400,000 cubic metres per day.

The drought order applications for the River Ouse at Moor Monkton is to temporarily alter the conditions specified in licence number NE/027/0024/065 to allow Yorkshire Water to abstract an additional 60,000 cubic metres per day except when flows are above 1,000,000 cubic metres per day. This would limit abstraction to: 300,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton monitoring station is more than 1,000,000 cubic metres per day; 210,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton monitoring station is between 650,000 and 1,000,000 cubic metres per day; 132,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton is between 400,000 and 650,000 cubic metres per day; and 70,000 cubic metres per day when flow at Skelton is less than 400,000 cubic metres per day. The aggregate volumes specified in both licence number NE/027/0024/065 and 02/027/0024/158 would not change.

The drought order will allow Yorkshire Water to abstract an additional 60,000 cubic metres per day when flows are below 1,000,000 cubic metres per day from the River Ouse at Moor Monkton for up to six months. This will mean that Yorkshire Water can continue to supply customers using river water, helping reservoir stocks to recharge, which will help maintain supply to customers in the Yorkshire area. An assessment of the potential environmental impacts of implementing the drought order has been carried out in consultation with the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Anyone may inspect the proposals at the following locations, free of charge, during normal working hours for a period of seven days from the publication of this notice;

- Yorkshire Water, Western House, Halifax Road, Bradford, BD6 2SZ.
- Nether Poppleton Post Office, 10-12 Allerton Dr, Nether Poppleton, York YO26 6HN
- Environment Agency, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds, LS11 9AT.

Copies of the proposals are also available to view on the Yorkshire Water website (www.yorkshirewater.com/your-water/drought-permits) and further information on the drought plan can be found at: <https://www.yorkshirewater.com/about-us/our-vision-and-plans/resources/drought-plan>

Objections may be made in writing to the Secretary of State quoting the name of the applicant and reference River Ouse Drought Order at:

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, c/o Water Resources Policy, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Seacole Ground Floor, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF or water.resources@defra.gov.uk

Objections should be made by close of play on Friday 1st August 2025. The response should outline if you are making a formal objection to the proposal and the grounds for the objection.

Objectors may also send a copy of their objection to:

Yorkshire Water, Western House, Halifax Road, Bradford, BD6 2SZ or publicaffairsteam@yorkshirewater.co.uk.

Dated: 25th July 2025

Signed: Dave Kaye
Director of Water and Waste water services

Perminder Kaur
General Counsel