

From: EIR Compliance

To:

Subject: 20251211 - EIR

Date: 11 December 2025 15:39:47

Reference Number: **EIR**

Dear

I refer to your request for information submitted to Yorkshire Water dated 17 October 2025 which is set out below.

"I've long been concerned about the environmental hazards of landfill sites - and the huge Welbeck site next to the River Calder in Wakefield in particular.

Recently I've been horrified to learn about leachate from landfill sites being tankered to water treatment works treatment plants that were built to deal primarily with human bodily waste.

How have you adapted this and other treatment plants to cope with landfill leachate?

Leachate is inevitably full of toxic and forever chemicals - and with new chemicals being invented all the time, how can you guarantee to remove all these toxins (from whatever source), before you release the 'treated' water into the River Calder?

In addition I understand you are selling the resulting byproduct of the

treatment of human waste - (contaminated) sludge/biosolids - to farmers, to use

as fertiliser. This inevitably results in the poisoning of fertile soils, and allows toxins to enter the human food chain. This is a disaster. This farmland will now be contaminated long term with forever chemicals, and the health of people who eat the crops grown there will be put at risk, in addition to the impact on local environments and wildlife.

This is an alarming state of affairs. Yorkshire Water needs to become part of the solution not the problem, and certainly cannot sit on the fence waiting for the government, the Environment Agency or other authorities to act to bring landfill operators under stricter controls.

I would like your reassurance that you will protect Yorkshire waterways and farmland from inadequately treated leachate. This includes challenging landfill site owners and operators, lobbying the government on stricter controls, and discussions with other water authorities around the country and further afield - in order to find solutions to better control the ever growing poisoning of our farmlands and waterways with toxic chemicals from leachate. In addition, and most importantly, it means discontinuing the sale of sludge/biosolids to farmers, until you can assure everyone concerned (which is all of us living in Yorkshire) that this is not contaminated."

EIR Response

Trade Effluent Consent and Environmental Protection

Any landfill site operator who wishes to discharge leachate (the liquid that drains or 'leaches' from a landfill) into the public sewer must first obtain what is known as a trade effluent consent. This is a legal requirement, and it applies to the Welbeck site as well.

A trade effluent consent is not just a piece of paperwork; it is a carefully considered agreement that ensures the public sewer and the sewage treatment works (STW) can safely handle the waste. When granting consent, Yorkshire Water looks at two key factors:

1. The capacity of the public sewer – whether the sewer can physically carry the volumes of liquid being requested.
2. The treatment capacity of the sewage treatment works (STW) – whether the STW has the ability to properly treat the effluent so that it does not cause harm to the environment.

These checks are essential because they help maintain compliance with both the operating standards of the STW and the Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) of the rivers, streams, or other watercourses that ultimately receive the treated water.

If either of these conditions cannot be met—for example, if the sewer cannot take the requested volumes or the STW does not have the capacity to treat the effluent—then a trade effluent consent will not be issued. For those sites that do receive consent, Yorkshire Water carries out routine monitoring to make sure operators continue to comply with the rules and that the system remains safe and effective.

Responding to Emerging Challenges

The world of waste management and effluent treatment is constantly evolving. New substances and pollutants are being identified, and some of these, such as so-called “forever chemicals” (which are extremely resistant to breaking down in the environment), are now a major focus for Yorkshire Water and other Water Undertakers across England, Wales, and Scotland.

We work closely with Water UK and our regulators to stay ahead of these challenges. Together, we are continually improving the performance of our assets, investing in new technologies, and developing strategies to reduce any potential impact on the environment.

This collaborative approach ensures that we are not only meeting today’s standards but also preparing for tomorrow’s challenges—protecting public health, safeguarding our rivers and watercourses, and supporting a cleaner, more sustainable future.

I 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