



## DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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[Redacted]  
By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: EIR2025/12941  
19 June 2025

Dear [Redacted]

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Research project commissioned by the DWI to understand TFA in source waters used for drinking water**

Thank you for your request for information of 13 June 2025 about a research project commissioned by the DWI to understand TFA in source waters used for drinking water. We have handled your request the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

*Please can I obtain a copy of the research project commissioned by the DWI to understand TFA in source waters used for drinking water, and partially treated drinking water.*

Details of this research project commissioned can be found on the Government's contract finder website at: <https://www.contractsfinder.service.gov.uk/notice/d4d1f465-d440-4eaf-a556-acf4001cfb91?origin=SearchResults&p=1>

As the information you have requested is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format, regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs exempts Defra from providing a copy of the information with this response to your request.

*Please can I obtain a copy of the research and any corresponding sampling data.*

This information is not held as the research project is ongoing and the researchers have not yet reached the sampling phase. The final report is due July 2026, and once completed, it will be published on our website at <https://www.dwi.gov.uk/research/>

The information is therefore exempt under regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIRs, which relates to information which is not held at the time when an applicant's request is received. Regulation 12(4)(a) is a qualified exception, which usually means that a public authority is

required to conduct a public interest test to determine whether or not information should be disclosed or withheld. However, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which is the independent regulator for requests made under the EIRs, takes the view that a public interest test in cases where the information is not held would serve no useful purpose. Therefore, in line with the ICO's view, Defra has not conducted a public interest test in this case.

Under our duty to advise and assist applicants in pursuance of regulation 9, we can confirm that to the best of our knowledge the information is not held by another public authority.

We attach Annex giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter, please contact us.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

**DWI FOIA and EIR team**

[dwi.enquiries@defra.gov.uk](mailto:dwi.enquiries@defra.gov.uk)

## **Annex**

### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Vanessa Drury, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk) and they will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure is on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>