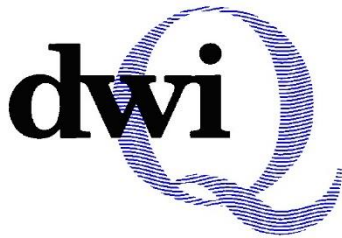


# **Agreement on the transfer of raw water abstraction monitoring data from the Drinking Water Inspectorate to the Environment Agency**



## **Transfer of raw water data from the Drinking Water Inspectorate to the Environment Agency**

### **Introduction**

In line with the requirements of the [Water Industry \(Suppliers' Information\) Direction 2024](#), water suppliers submit raw water monitoring data taken under the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended) to the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI). This dataset contains information on concentrations of various drinking water parameters and other substances collected by water companies, and is gathered primarily for the purpose of understanding, monitoring and controlling risks to the quality of drinking water abstractions. Some of these data are also relevant to the monitoring requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) implemented by the Environment Agency (EA).

These data are provided by DWI to the EA in order to remove the burden on water suppliers of submitting the same data separately to two different regulators. The disclosure of this information is in line with section 206(3)(a) of the Water Industry Act 1991.

This document describes the agreed process for the transfer of raw water monitoring data from the DWI to the EA and the associated information security arrangements. The agreement will be reviewed by the signatories every three years or more frequently as required and updated / amended by agreement.

Note, the data held by DWI represents a targeted risk-based approach that water companies take to assess risks to drinking-water quality and therefore absence of data does not indicate absence of risk.

### **How the data will be used**

The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations 2017 (WFD Regulations) require the EA to identify Drinking Water Protected Areas where water is abstracted for human consumption. The EA is required to undertake a risk assessment of water quality in these areas and coordinate measures to avoid deterioration. In addition, under these Regulations the EA is required to use water quality information to report on trends and status as well as monitor the effectiveness of measures. In order to ensure that the EA has sufficient information to undertake all of these tasks, the EA would greatly benefit from access to the raw water monitoring data reported to the DWI.

In addition, the EA may use the data when undertaking statutory duties. These statutory duties are:

- assessing risk, status, trends and effectiveness of programmes of measures for all elements of River Basin Management Planning, including where appropriate the Drinking Water Protected Area, surface water, general chemical, groundwater dependent terrestrial ecosystem and saline intrusion status tests under WFD Regulations.

- delineation and assessment of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones as part of the Nitrates Pollution Prevention Regulations 2015.
- delineation and assessment of Sensitive Areas under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 1994.
- assessing compliance with the objectives in Defra plans, such as the Environmental Improvement Plan 2023.
- investigations into pollution incidents.

### **Local data sharing agreements**

Water Companies have various reciprocal data sharing arrangements in place with EA Area teams. However, as water companies only report raw water data to the DWI, the national transfer of these data from the DWI to the EA is not expected to completely replace such local arrangements. Therefore, local data transfer arrangements between Water Companies and the EA are expected to remain in place.

### **Details of relevant data**

The DWI uses a secure site to store all the water quality data submitted by water companies. Access is restricted based upon user and role. All data is held at official sensitive level. There is no time limit set for data removal due to the requirements for historical trending and analysis.

### **Agreed transfer arrangements**

DWI will provide the requested data annually after routine processing via a secure method of transfer.

### **Agreed security arrangements**

All EA staff are required to undertake mandatory data security training and will be required to remain up to date with the requirements of the Government Security Classifications.

After transfer, the EA will treat the information and data supplied securely to ensure information relating to water treatment works is not in the public domain. Where 'Secure Details' and 'WTW Secure Details' are combined, the EA must treat this information as OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE.

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE information must be stored on a secure national EA drive with access only made available to nominated individuals. This need is reviewed annually by the EA custodian. OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE information could be stored in a database, spreadsheet or GIS files, but it must be password protected.

The data supplied to the EA under this agreement will not be placed on the EA's WIMS database. The data will instead be held in a restricted access folder located

on the EA central computer system in full compliance with Defra procedural guidance 'Defra Group Security Classification Policy'. Only nominated staff who have undertaken the required level of security training will be granted folder access and provided with the appropriate passwords. A list of those staff granted password access will be maintained by the EA. When individual staff members no longer have a business need to access the data, they will have their access revoked. This need is reviewed annually by the custodian.

### **Requirements for the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR) requests**

The EA and the DWI are subject to the FoIA and the EIR and will process requests for information in accordance with the applicable legislation.

When an external request for the raw monitoring data that was originally provided by the DWI, is received by the EA, the EA shall:

- Notify DWI of the request and seek advice from the DWI on disclosure. As part of their advice the DWI will consider the requirements of Section 206 of the Water Industry Act. In respect of a request which includes the locations of assets used for drinking water abstraction or water treatment works the DWI will take into consideration national security and public safety concerns as the disclosure of location details increases the risk of harm to the asset.
- Respect the views of DWI and if there is a disagreement, we should discuss until both sides are content with the way forward in a timeline that allows us to meet our statutory obligations in respect of responding.

### **Data quality control / quality assurance reporting**

If the EA become aware of anomalous data, this will be reported back to the DWI. The EA will also use expert judgement to review any obvious data anomalies and resolve on a case-by-case basis. If the DWI become aware of anomalous data, they will report it to the EA and will send corrected data to replace the anomalous data as soon as practicable.

Agreed on behalf of the Drinking Water Inspectorate:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Adjei', with a horizontal line underneath.

Nicholas Adjei – Deputy Chief Inspector

Date 11 July 2025

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Agreed on behalf of the Environment Agency:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsten Johnstone', with a horizontal line underneath.

Kirsten Johnstone (WQ&I DD delegated powers 8/08/25) on behalf of  
Leonore Frear, Deputy Director of Water Quality  
and Investment

Date 08/08/25

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