

**DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE**

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[Redacted]
By email: [Redacted]

Our ref: EIR2025/25661
11 December 2025

Dear [Redacted]

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Tier 3 PFOA pollution sites

Thank you for your request for information of 29 November 2025 about Tier 3 PFOA pollution sites. We have handled your request under 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.

I believe there are 7 public water sources across England and Wales where levels of PFOA have reached Tier 3 (potential danger to human health).

Could you please list those sites for me, and show for each site the Programme of Measures instigated to address the issues.

I can confirm that in 2024 the 7 samples of PFOA levels which reached Tier 3 were all from the same site - Beck Row boresite in the Anglian Water area. This is a raw water borehole where the samples were taken before the water is then treated.

In March 2024, the DWI issued to Anglian Water a Regulation 28 notice regarding AMP8 PFAS GAC replacement as follows:

<https://www.dwi.gov.uk/water-companies/improvement-programmes/anglian-water-improvement-programmes/anh-2023-00017/>

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.

Regulation 28 notices are the most common notice issued and are used to require water companies to take preventative actions where potential risks are identified. These notices enable early intervention, risk reduction and forward planning to ensure protection of public health. Please note that there have been no Tier 3 levels reached from any of the monitored PFAS chemicals in treated water.

Drinking water in England and Wales continues to be among the best in the world and the regulatory system is specifically designed to enhance long term resilience and consumer protection.

Information disclosed in response to this EIRs request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](#), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B 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

Annex A

Copyright

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Annex B

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 Damian Lynch, Head of Information Rights via email at 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/>