



Water for the North West

United Utilities Water Limited
Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR-411

Date: 23/06/2025

Email: EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for environmental information. We appreciate your interest, and we want to let you know that your request has been carefully considered in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), and we are pleased to be able to provide you with a significant amount of the requested information.

Data Request:

PFAS measurements from surface water abstraction sites from 2000-2025 in the form of concentrations (e.g. ng/L). In order to make full use of the data, I would also require the following information in a table alongside the PFAS data:

- **Sampling datetime**
- **Sampling location (i.e. name of abstraction point)**
- **Qualifiers associated with the datapoint (e.g. less-thans or error flags)**

Information format: - Excel or csv file (or equivalent tabular format)

Context/reason for request:

This Environmental Information Request is being made in support of a nationwide study of PFAS patterns in surface waters. The ultimate aim will be to compare PFAS loadings at the subcatchment level with geographical and hydrological data (e.g. livestock densities, soil types, etc). Such a comparison study could then be applied to estimate mean annual PFAS loadings in subcatchments across the UK, with a view to generating a nationwide risk map. This would be a useful tool for water companies seeking a better understanding of the sources of PFAS within their own catchments and may inform future catchment partnership/outreach programmes aimed at reducing transport of the contaminant.

As per your request, I've enclosed a copy of the PFAS data in Appendix 1, which covers the period from 11th January 2022 to 20th April 2025. The data contains:

- Site reference,
- Monitoring point ID,
- PFAS parameter code and name,
- Qualifier (whether a result is greater than or less than),
- The sample result,
- The date and time the sample was taken from our raw surface water abstraction sites.

We also hold some earlier data from before 11th January 2022. As this information is stored in a more complex format, it will take a little longer to retrieve and prepare. Rather than delay the full response, by extending the timescale to include this, we're sharing the data we have ready now and will provide the remaining information by the end of this week.

To give you some additional context, since April 2023, all PFAS analysis has been undertaken by our UKAS accredited laboratory in line with the requirements of the Drinking Water Inspectorate. This included the analysis of 47 PFAS determinands during 2023 and 2024 and extending to the 48 PFAS determinands from 01 January 2025. Prior to April 2023, PFAS analysis was outsourced to a third-party laboratory.

You have requested sample locations as part of your initial request, please note that in the accompanying dataset we have provided a monitoring point ID and a site reference as opposed to the full address, and I wanted to explain the rationale for this.

As I am sure you will appreciate, we take our obligations to water quality extremely seriously. The information that you have requested is considered sensitive and forms part of the Critical National Infrastructure, which is why in arriving at this decision, we have followed guidance from DEFRA and sought understanding from the Drinking Water Inspectorate. Unfortunately we are therefore withholding the name of the abstraction point in line with Regulation 12(5)(a) of the EIR. Whilst we understand that you do not intend to use this data in a negative way, we need to ensure the safety of our drinking water supplies.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you, along with our [REDACTED] to answer any questions you may have regarding the dataset. Hopefully, the information that we've set out helps you to complete the analysis that you would like to, whilst appreciating the limitations that we have with sharing data around Critical National Infrastructure.

We hope that this response answers your request. However, if you're not satisfied with our offer of a meeting, or the response, as per our normal process, you can request an internal review. To do this, please write to us at Environmental Information Office, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere, Warrington, WA5 3LP or email us at EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk, addressing your request to [REDACTED], and explaining why you're unhappy with our response. We'll be very happy to review your request and ensure we've done everything we can to assist you.

Any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this response, and we will reply within 40 working days from receipt of the request for internal review.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

We'd love to hear your feedback on how we handled your request! If you have a moment, please complete our short survey [here](#) – your input helps us improve our service.