

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).

### Your request

This is a Weaver “dry-spill risk map” using duration + frequency as proxies for likely dry-weather abuse, based on 2025 EDM totals.

Can you advise the proposals for those sites at risk?

Risk bands and logic

- Very high dry-spill risk: Long duration (>~600 h) AND high frequency (>~60 spills) — suggests chronic overload/asset failure, not just storms.
- High risk: Either long duration (>~200 h) or high frequency (>~40 spills).
- Moderate risk: Noticeable spills but lower duration/frequency.
- Low risk: Very short duration and/or very few spills.

Site-by-site Weaver risk map (2025 EDM proxies)

Site (River Weaver)	Spills	Hours	Proxy dry-spill risk
Beam Bridge Pumping Station	78	959	Very high
Crewe WwTW	63	664	Very high
Meadowbank/Bradford Rd PS	69	656	Very high
Northwich WwTW	39	291	High
Newtown Pumping Station	33	197	High
Winsford WwTW	44	196	High
Bulkeley STW	18	139	High
Greenbank Lane CSO, Northwich	40	117	High (storm-led)
Weir Street CSO	24	98	Moderate-high
Winsford Hill Street	16	63	Moderate
Weaverham STW	32	43	Moderate
Wrenbury WwTW	12	28	Moderate
Winnington Street CSO	12	27	Moderate
Waterside Drive CSO	23	23	Moderate
Owley Wood Road CSO	15	11	Low-moderate



Water for the North West

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Keeper's Lane CSO	10	6	Low-moderate
Dock Road SPS	3	2	Low
School Lane/Lodge Lane CSO	2	1	Low
Bridge Lane Quayside CSO	7	1	Low
Broomhall SPS	1	0	Low
London Road Nantwich CSO	0	0	Low
Church St	0	0	Low

### Our response

Firstly, as you are requesting information relating to dry day spills, we believe it will be helpful to provide some background information on what a dry day spill is before providing the direct response to your specific points.

The Environment Agency (EA) has established a nationally consistent methodology for identifying dry day spills. A dry day is defined by the EA as having no rainfall above 0.25mm on the day and the 24 hours beforehand.

A storm overflow is only allowed, under the terms of an EA storm overflow discharge permit, to operate as a result of rainfall or snow-melt. So, if it spills on a dry day, that is an indicator that something unusual or unplanned may have happened in our sewer network or the wider drainage catchment it sits within.

Common causes of dry day spills include:

- a blockage in the sewer, often from wipes, fats or debris, which restricts flow and causes levels to rise;
- equipment failure, such as a pump or screen not working as it should;
- groundwater infiltration, where water enters the system from saturated ground even when it isn't raining;
- incorrect flows entering the system, for example from private drains connected incorrectly; or
- river flows entering a storm overflow creating a false spill.

Alternatively, the spill may be fully permitted. For example, in a large catchment rainfall may fall in one place and take more than a day to drain down to another area where the spill occurs.

A dry day spill is not usually permitted under normal operating conditions, so when it happens, we treat it very seriously.

We use the EA dry day spill methodology to retrospectively review all storm overflow discharges. Where a suspected dry day spill is identified, this is reported to and investigated by the EA. In parallel, through our Environmental Improvement Programme we are putting in place action plans to take steps to prevent dry day spills from occurring.

For awareness, of the 22 sites listed in your table above, only one of these has had a dry day spill throughout 2026, this being Meadowbank/ Bradford Rd PS. In the table below, I have provided details of the number of dry day spills at each of these sites since 2024.

Site (River Weaver)	DDS 2024	DDS 2025	DDS 2026
Beam Bridge Pumping Station	6	4	0
Crewe WwTW	5	1	0
Meadowbank/Bradford Rd PS	0	2	1
Northwich WwTW	0	0	0
Newtown Pumping Station	0	1	0
Winsford WwTW	0	0	0
Bulkeley STW	0	0	0
Greenbank Lane CSO, Northwich	0	1	0
Weir Street CSO	0	0	0
Winsford Hill Street	0	0	0
Weaverham STW	0	0	0
Wrenbury WwTW	0	0	0
Winnington Street CSO	0	0	0
Waterside Drive CSO	0	1	0
Owley Wood Road CSO	0	0	0
Keeper's Lane CSO	0	0	0
Dock Road SPS	1	0	0
School Lane/Lodge Lane CSO	0	0	0
Bridge Lane Quayside CSO	0	0	0
Broomhall SPS	0	0	0
London Road Nantwich CSO	0	0	0
Church St	0	0	0

The table that you have set out to us contains details of all spills which have occurred at these assets during 2025, including but not limited to dry day spills. Work is planned, or has been completed, at a number of these sites during the 2025 to 2030 period (sometimes known as AMP8), details of which can be found in the table below. This work will help to reduce the number of spills from each of these assets.

Site name	*Details	Regulatory date	Completion / estimated completion date
School Lane / Lodge Lane CSO	Project planned to reduce spills	31/03/2030	31/08/2026
Wrenbury WwTW	Project planned to reduce spills	31/03/2030	30/04/2028



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Owley Wood Road CSO	Project planned to reduce spills	31/03/2030	30/11/2029
Dock Road PS	Drainage area health check	-	TBC
Beam Bridge PS	Drainage area health check	-	22/07/2026
Crewe WwTW	Drainage area health check	-	20/03/2026
Meadowbank / Bradford Rd PS	Drainage area health check	-	04/11/2025
Northwich WwTW	Operational work	-	25/06/2024
Greenbank Lane CSO	Drainage area health check	-	11/08/2025
Winsford Hill Street	Drainage area health check	-	21/02/2025
Weaverham WwTW	Drainage area health check	-	30/03/2026
Bridge Lane / Quayside CSO	Drainage area health check	-	15/10/2025
Broomhall PS	Drainage area health check	-	05/11/2025
Church St	Drainage area health check	-	12/11/2025

**\*Drainage area health checks include, but are not limited to, CCTV surveys, cleaning and silt removal, and the removal of any blockages and remedial repairs to maximise available capacity.**

We hope that this response answers your request. However, if you're not satisfied with how we've handled it, 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](mailto: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.