



Water for the North West

United Utilities Water Limited

Haweswater House
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Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR-444

Date: 14/07/2025

Email: EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for reaching out with 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:

Routine Cryptosporidium measurements from surface and groundwater abstraction sites from 2000-2025. (This will probably constitute several thousand measurements.)

The data is likely to take the form of the following two determinands:

- *Cryptosporidium concentration (unit: oocysts/L)*
- *Cryptosporidium counts (unit: oocysts)*

Although Cryptosporidium concentration is my main concern, it is useful to also have the Cryptosporidium count data because this allows me to calculate the sample volume used in the analysis (which can in turn be used to calculate limits of detection).

In order to make full use of the data, I would also require the following information in a table alongside the Cryptosporidium data:

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

Our response:

I have enclosed a copy of the Cryptosporidium data that we hold for surface and groundwater abstraction sites, which covers the period from 4th January 2000 to 19th June 2025. The data contains:

- The date the sample was taken
- Determinand name
- Value and unit
- Site reference

You have requested sample locations as part of your initial request, please note that in the accompanying dataset we have provided a site reference as opposed to the name or address of the site, 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 name or address of the site 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.

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 response, 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.