



Water for the North West

United Utilities Water Limited
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Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR-506

Date: 27/08/2025

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).

As your request contained a number of specific questions, this response, restates each part of the request (in bold) and then follows this with our response:

Are there any planned improvements in monitoring or filtration/treatment systems to reduce PFAS concentrations?

As stated in our previous letter, we follow the [precautionary DWI tiered guideline values](#) for PFAS, with most of our water treatment works (WTWs), including the ones that supply your area, falling within the lowest risk category, Tier 1. While none of our sites are in the highest risk Tier 3, we proactively prioritise sites with greater PFAS risk in our investment plans. Through extensive sampling and risk assessments, we've identified two sites which just fall into Tier 2, and which require additional treatment to ensure that the treated water PFAS levels are consistently within Tier 1. For transparency, I can confirm that neither of these sites supply your area with water, and that we are committed to delivering this work within the next five years.

How do you intend to ensure that your water supply complies with upcoming legal thresholds in 2026?

Although the EU are bringing in stricter PFAS limits in drinking water (a maximum of 0.1 µg/L for the sum of 20 specific PFAS and 0.5 µg/L for the total concentration of all PFAS), which will take effect from January 12, 2026, the UK is still developing its regulatory framework.

The Water Quality Advisory Panel, details of which are available on the Drinking Water Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk), have published their first report which recommends establishing a regulatory limit for the sum of the 48 PFAS at 0.1 µg/l. The Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for England and Wales has accepted their recommendations. In the recent independent Cunliffe review, it was recommended that these guidelines become regulatory standards promptly.

As we set out above, we can confirm that we have had no detections of PFAS above Tier 1 in your area, and therefore the treated water currently complies with the EU and proposed UK thresholds.

What steps are you taking to bring PFAS testing into alignment with EU regulations (e.g. detection limits ≤1 ng/L)?

As set out above, we currently follow the [precautionary DWI tiered guideline values](#), which incorporates the proposed regulatory limit of the sum of the 48 PFAS at 0.1 µg/l. We also continuously review our risk assessments, recognising that PFAS research and treatment technologies are advancing quickly. Testing methods are becoming more sensitive and covering a wider range of PFAS. As stated above all our raw and treated water currently comply with those requirements. We're committed to continuous improvement, and with the help of new technologies, we're working to enhance our method so we can detect even lower levels of PFAS.

Can you provide an updated risk assessment or independent audit of PFAS in the water you supply?

Our laboratory's PFAS testing method is fully compliant with the standards set by the Drinking Water Inspectorate and is accredited by the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). Our [accreditation schedule](#) is publicly available, and the PFAS schedule can be found on page 6.

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, 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.