

[REDACTED]

From: EIR
Sent: 29 November 2024 09:44
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Provision of requested information

Thank you for your request for information about Haslingfield, which we received on 19 October 2024. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. I apologise for the delay in my reply.

Please can you confirm where the new Cancer Hospital waste goes to? Is it Haslingfield? And wherever it goes, does the Hospital carry out a primary treatment for bacteria/AMR or forever chemicals or does AW do that?

The Addenbrookes campus waste water goes to Cambridge Water Recycling Centre.

Regarding our approach to 'forever chemicals' (PFAS) in the context of trade effluent control:

Background

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of synthetic organo-fluorine chemicals that have been widely used since the 1940s. Their stability and resistance to degradation results in almost indefinite environmental contamination, leading to concerns regarding the long-term continuous exposure to people and wildlife. As such they are sometimes referred to as 'forever chemicals'. At present there is no dedicated PFAS treatment on our water recycling centre sites, therefore these substances are partitioned between the solid (sludge/biosolids) and liquid phases (treated effluent). Sources include both domestic sewage and trade effluent. As such, the presence of PFAS in trade effluent discharges represents a potential pathway to both the environment and human exposure.

AW Approach

In order to identify trade effluent sources, Anglian Water has introduced a monitoring regime for specific industrial sectors, many of which have been notified to us by the Environment Agency. Initial sampling involves the analysis of six PFAS substances (Perfluorooctane sulphonate, Perfluorooctanoic acid, Perfluorobutane sulphonate, Perfluorohexanoic acid, Perfluorohexane sulphonate, 6:2 Fluorotelomer sulphonate) as a first step in a three-phase plan. This plan is currently as follows:

Phase 1: Identification of sources (2024-2028)

A monitoring program, which is an extension to our existing evaluation sampling process. This may involve the addition of new sectors and removal of others depending on analytical results and/or further information being received. In addition, the suite of PFAS substances analysed may be extended.

Phase 2: No deterioration limit-setting (2026-2035)

Limits will be set to ensure that trade effluent discharge quality is capped and cannot deteriorate. If significant levels of PFAS are found in a discharge, a staged improvement plan/reduction/elimination approach may be deployed.

Phase 3: Reduction and elimination (Timeline TBC)

It is likely that this phase will need to be aligned with a national strategy on environmental emissions and product composition relating to PFAS.

We are proactively targeting PFAS in Trade Effluent, although we are in an early stage in that process.

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Legal Director, Anglian Water Services, Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon PE29 6XU

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF

If you have any queries about this email, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

EIR Team

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