

[REDACTED]

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**From:** EIR  
**Sent:** 09 February 2026 15:29  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information about biosolids, which we received on 13 January 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested:

1. The average annual tonnage of sewage sludge (biosolids) supplied for agricultural use for each of the last three years (please specify whether figures relate to calendar or financial years).
2. The current price, pricing mechanism, or charging structure per tonne for sewage sludge supplied for agricultural use (summary, indicative, or banded figures are acceptable).
3. The parameters for which sewage sludge is tested prior to being supplied for agricultural use, including chemical, biological, and physical parameters.
4. The frequency at which the above-mentioned testing is undertaken.
5. A summary of any measures implemented, policies adopted, or changes made following the Environment Agency's 2017 report on sewage sludge and land application, particularly in relation to contaminants such as PFAS ("forever chemicals") and microplastics.

### **EIR Response: Provision & Partial Refusal of Requested Information**

**Item 1** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

Anglian Water Response for the tonnage of biosolids supplied for agricultural use for financial years:

2022/23: 106,500 Tonnes of Dry Solids  
2023/24: 85,400 Tonnes of Dry Solids  
2024/25: 85,900 Tonnes of Dry Solids

**Item 2** is held by Anglian Water, and is not provided as an exception to disclosure has been applied.

The exception applied is: regulation 12(5)(d) of the EIR, the request involves confidential commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest. Disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality.

As required, we have also carried out the public interest test and taken into account the presumption in favour of disclosure.

On this occasion the public interest test carried out –public interest in maintain the exception, versus inbuilt public interest in maintaining commercial confidentiality because of market position and giving competitors access to commercially valuable information. We consider the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

**Item 3** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

Sewage sludge is tested in line with the requirements of the Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations (SUiAR) 1989, schedule 1 and the Biosolids Assurance Scheme (BAS) . Standard analysis is for:

- pH
- the percentage content of dry matter, organic matter, nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, ; and
- the concentration in milligrams per kilogram of dry matter of–
  - Chromium
  - Zinc
  - Copper
  - Nickel
  - Cadmium
  - Lead
  - Mercury
  - Arsenic
  - Fluoride
  - Molybdenum
  - Selenium
  - Magnesium
  - Sulphur
- E Coli and Salmonella

**Item 4** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

The minimum frequency for testing of Biosolids as set out in the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989 is at intervals not more than 6 months however we test anything from monthly up to the max 6 months with E.coli & Salmonella targeted every 2 monthly against a BAS max of 3 monthly.

**Item 5** is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

Anglian Water is engaged in the long-running Chemical Investigations Programme (CIP) [Water Chemicals Investigation Programme](#), an industry-wide research initiative (Inclusive of UK Water & Sewerage Companies and UK Environmental Regulators) led by UK Water Industry Research (UKWIR). The primary purpose of the project is to identify, assess, and manage the risks posed by chemicals present in wastewater, sewerage sludge, and the wider aquatic environment.

Objectives include supporting regulatory compliance and providing a robust evidence base for regulators, water companies, and policymakers.

The programme focuses on priority and emerging chemicals including: metals, persistent organic pollutants, pharmaceuticals & personal care products, PFAS and other emerging contaminants. Completed investigation

reports and brief descriptions of ongoing investigations (résumés) are freely available at <https://ukwir.org/home-of-water-industry-research-projects-reports-tools>.

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If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to request an internal review, you should email [EIR@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@anglianwater.co.uk) or write to:

General Counsel, 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 us via [EIR@anglianwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR@anglianwater.co.uk) .

Yours sincerely

**EIR Team**

**Anglian Water Services Limited**

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