

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 March 2026 10:24
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] Telemetry, EDM Data and Local Asset Performance in Colchester Area

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear Requester [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information about EDM reporting, which we received on 3 March 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested:

1. A summary of any telemetry or EDM reliability issues affecting assets in the Colchester, Mersea, Colne, or Blackwater catchments over the past three years
2. Known outages, flatlining events, or data gaps for storm overflows serving this area
3. Has Anglian Water engaged with external analysts regarding data accuracy or asset performance
4. Recent spill data for relevant storm overflows in the Colchester area, including any assets identified as requiring investigation or improvement.
5. Planned upgrades, maintenance, or monitoring enhancements for assets affecting the Colne and Blackwater estuaries.

EIR Response: Provision of Requested Information

Item 1 and 2 is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

Information on EDM telemetry for the past 3 years is available on our website [Storm overflows](#). The annual returns shows details of the reliability of the EDM monitors and reasons for a performance level of under 90%.

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

Yes, Anglian Water has sent data to external analysts.

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

Monthly reporting of EDM activations are available on our website [Monthly EDM Publication](#). These are activations of the EDM, not confirmation of a spill. The map and the monthly reporting shows raw unverified data, sent to the map as soon as Anglian Water receives it. There are a whole host of reasons for a 'live' status showing. This could be telemetry errors, false activations, wildlife triggering activations and data flow errors.

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

Output Title	Parcel	DM1 date	Approved DM4a
Colchester WRC Biogas Line	B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)	07/04/2025	31/03/2026
Colchester WRC T Cake Sludge	B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)	07/04/2025	31/03/2026

<i>Colchester WRC Centrate Tank</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC CHP</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Digesters</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Flare Stack</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Gas Holder</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC HPH Plant</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC LPG Storage Area</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC SAS Buffer Tank</i>	<i>B82296 STC DSEAR Compliance (1)</i>	<i>07/04/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Gbt 1 Belt Press 1</i>	<i>B82280 Bio WRC Thickeners (1)</i>	<i>15/05/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Gbt 2 Belt Press 1</i>	<i>B82280 Bio WRC Thickeners (1)</i>	<i>15/05/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Strainpress 1</i>	<i>B82301 STC Sludge Dewatering & Screening (1)</i>	<i>15/05/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Car Parks & Roads</i>	<i>B82283 Bio WRC Site Ancillaries (1)</i>	<i>20/05/2025</i>	<i>30/06/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Transport Compactor 2</i>	<i>B82279 Bio WRC Screens (1)</i>	<i>12/06/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Centrifuge 2</i>	<i>B82301 STC Sludge Dewatering & Screening (1)</i>	<i>12/06/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Cake Silo Roof (URGENT)</i>	<i>B82291 STC H&S (Complex) (1)</i>	<i>10/09/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC CHP2 E50</i>	<i>B82298 STC CHP Renovation (1)</i>	<i>27/11/2025</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Ammonia Monitor</i>	<i>B82271 Bio WRC General (Low Complex) (1)</i>	<i>04/12/2025</i>	<i>30/06/2026</i>
<i>Colchester WRC Office 3 Flooding (EMERGENCY)</i>	<i>B82299 STC Civils (Complex) (1)</i>	<i>16/01/2026</i>	<i>31/03/2026</i>

<i>Haven Rd Colchester Flap Valve 1</i>	<i>B83278 Sewer Rehab (Complex) (2)</i>	<i>02/03/2026</i>	<i>31/03/2027</i>
<i>Haven Rd Colchester Flap Valve 2</i>	<i>B83278 Sewer Rehab (Complex) (2)</i>	<i>02/03/2026</i>	<i>31/03/2027</i>
<i>Colchester WRC EaWR Remedials</i>	<i>B83243 Bio WRC Electrical Compliance (2)</i>	<i>01/04/2026</i>	<i>31/03/2027</i>
<i>Colchester WRC CHP1 E60</i>	<i>B83253 STC CHP Renovation (2)</i>	<i>01/04/2026</i>	<i>31/03/2027</i>

Planned investment during 2025-2030 include schemes to reduce storm overflow spills at:

- *Tollesbury Water Recycling Centre (WRC)*
- *West Mersea WRC*
- *Purleigh WRC*
- *Maldon WRC*
- *Tillingham WRC*
- *Maylandsea WRC*
- *The Folly, Wivenhoe*
- *Phillip Road, Wivenhoe*
- *Eight Ash Green WRC*
- *Colchester WRC*

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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 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.

Along with the EIR response, we thought it would also be useful to highlight some key points in relation to the draft article.

Latest storm overflow data

You may have seen that the latest storm overflow Event Duration Monitor (EDM) figures for 2025 for published last week. Full details about these are available via the following link - [Anglian Water's storm overflows](#)

The figures show that the total number of spills from Anglian Water storm overflows reduced by more than 60% and the total duration of all spills reduced by more than 80% compared to 2024.

As you may know, storm overflows were originally installed to protect homes from flooding during heavy rain. So, whilst dry years like 2025 mean storm overflows are needed less often, performance last year was better

than in 2022 when rainfall levels were similar, indicating that our investment to reduce spills is delivering improvements.

We aim to reduce discharges from storm overflows by 17% in the next five years, in line with the government approved Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan. Whilst continued long term investment is needed to meet the aim of ensuring storm overflows will no longer be required by 2050, we've already removed 340 storm overflows entirely and set out improvement plans for every storm overflow.

Through our 2020 -2025 business plan, we invested almost £100 million to build and upgrade 112 storm tanks, increasing storage during heavy rain. Alongside measures to keep rainfall out of the system, and improved monitoring and prediction technology, this has helped to drive last year's performance.

Our £11 billion 2025 to 2030 business plan builds on this, with £1 billion dedicated to tackling storm overflows and improving river water quality. Over £269 million of this will be invested during the coming year and includes nature-based solutions such as wetlands and sustainable drainage, plus traditional infrastructure like additional storage and enhanced monitoring to predict and prevent spills.

The EIR response above lists key investment in the storm overflows in the area you requested during 2025-2030 which include planned schemes to reduce storm overflow spills at:

- Tollesbury Water Recycling Centre (WRC)
- West Mersea WRC
- Purleigh WRC
- Maldon WRC
- Tillingham WRC
- Maylandsea WRC
- The Folly, Wivenhoe
- Phillip Road, Wivenhoe
- Eight Ash Green WRC
- Colchester WRC

We are also proposing investigations at a number of storm overflows to identify opportunities for future investment beyond 2030 to reduce spills so that they have no adverse ecological impact.

I should, however, stress that proposed investment is subject to change as we continually review priorities and the best way to deliver scheme requirements.

In addition, we have recently established a Coastal Waters Investment Team which works to identify ways in which we can work to improve bathing and shellfish areas.

Storm overflow spills during dry weather

We haven't been able to examine the data in the draft article in detail, but would like to highlight that should an EDM activation occur on a dry day, its verification depends on three further elements: the recent rainfall; the size, shape and geology of the catchment, and on-site data from a variety of sensors, aside from EDMs. While there is no finalised methodology laid out from the Environment Agency on how dry spills should be calculated, we've been heavily involved in suggesting how that could be ascertained, taking all of these factors into account.

The geography of that catchment is hugely important in determining whether a spill occurs on a dry day. Water flows downhill so the less hilly an area, the longer it takes to drain through the catchment. This means that in a large catchment area that is relatively flat, rain takes time to drain, so in periods following heavy rainfall, a

storm overflow could still operate some days after it has stopped raining. This doesn't mean the spill has happened on a dry day.

All spills are reported in our validated EDM annual return to the Environment Agency (EA) which is published both on our website and on Defra's website. In addition, we have always attended discharges that we suspect may be happening outside of storm conditions. If a dry day discharge is confirmed, then an impact assessment is carried out and the event is reported to the EA as a potential pollution. We are continuing to work proactively with the EA to develop an industry-wide approach to identifying potential dry day spills to ensure consistency across the industry.

I hope this is useful but do please get in touch if you have any questions or concerns.

[Redacted]

Anglian Water Services Limited

Lancaster House, Lancaster Way, Ermine Business Park, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 6XU

My working day may not be the same as your working day. Please do not feel obliged to reply to this email outside of your normal working hours.

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