

[Redacted]

From: EIR
Sent: 13 May 2026 15:20
To: [Redacted]
Subject: [Redacted]

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information about drinking water pipework, which we received on 1 May 2026. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

You requested:

1. How many metres of drinking water pipework is Anglian Water responsible for
2. How may metres do you suspect or know to contain lead
3. How many test for lead were carried out on drinking water in 2023, 2024 and 2025
4. How many of these test found a lead level equal or higher than the regulatory standard

EIR Response: Provision of Requested Information

This reply covers the Anglian Water region including Hartlepool Water

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

The total length of pipes carrying drinking water is 63,892km. this includes our water mains network and the length of ‘communication pipes’ that link the main network to the property boundary.

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

We have estimated that we have 24,287km of ‘communication pipes’ (the length of small diameter pipe between the water main network and the property boundary). Given we have 2,128,000 communication pipes, that gives an average length per pipe of 11.4m. We have estimated that we have 514,000 households that have lead in their supply, therefore we estimate around 5,800km of pipes carrying drinking water that contain lead, equating to around 9.2% of our total length of pipes carrying drinking water. Please note as above this does not include the length of lead pipes that belong to customers.

A breakdown is available on our website see table CW6 https://www.anglianwater.co.uk/siteassets/household/about-us/pr24/dd/anh_dd_004-v7-main-data-tables.xlsb

Item 3 and 4 is held by Anglian Water and has been provided below.

From 2023 to 2025 3,936 lead tests were carried out on customers drinking water as part of our regulatory monitoring programme.

See below the number of samples above the regulatory standard of 10 µg/l.

Year	Number of samples taken	Number of samples >10 µg/l
2023	1,311	3

2024	1,297	3
2025	1,328	2

Please note that in EIR responses, wherever possible we try to assist you with also including a response to wider queries.

Anglian Water has control measures in place to reduce the risk to customers

- Plumbosolvency control dosing is carried out at the treatment works to chemically prevent the lead getting into the drinking water. This is closely monitored to ensure the correct dose is added.
- Regular sampling at customers taps and reactive replacement of lead pipes with plastic when samples exceed limits
- Proactive replacement of pipes in high risk areas targeting schools and nurseries for instance. We expect to replace around 44km of lead pipes in the period 2025-2030. We have relayed a similar length in the previous 5 year period
- Trialling technologies such as relining of lead pipes to try to reduce the cost and disruption and to enable us to progress faster
- Water quality information is available to our customers on our website [Public Water Supply Zone Information..](#)

Lead pipes were used before 1970. If anyone is concerned about the risk of lead pipes in their property, they can flush their taps before using for drinking or cooking to clear any water which has been stood in lead pipes for a prolonged period. Customers can also visit our website to find advice on how to check for lead pipes and support we can offer. [Lead in drinking water](#)

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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 .

Yours sincerely

EIR Team

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