

[REDACTED]

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**From:** EIR  
**Sent:** 03 September 2025 12:51  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** [REDACTED]

Dear Requester

Thank you for your request for information about Colchester, which we received on 17 July 2025. Your request has been considered under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

Thank you for your patience

You requested:

1. Is there enough capacity in Colchester

### **EIR Response: Provision of Requested Information**

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

Current forecasts for WRMP24 have been based upon the most recent Local Authority Plans available at the time of publication.

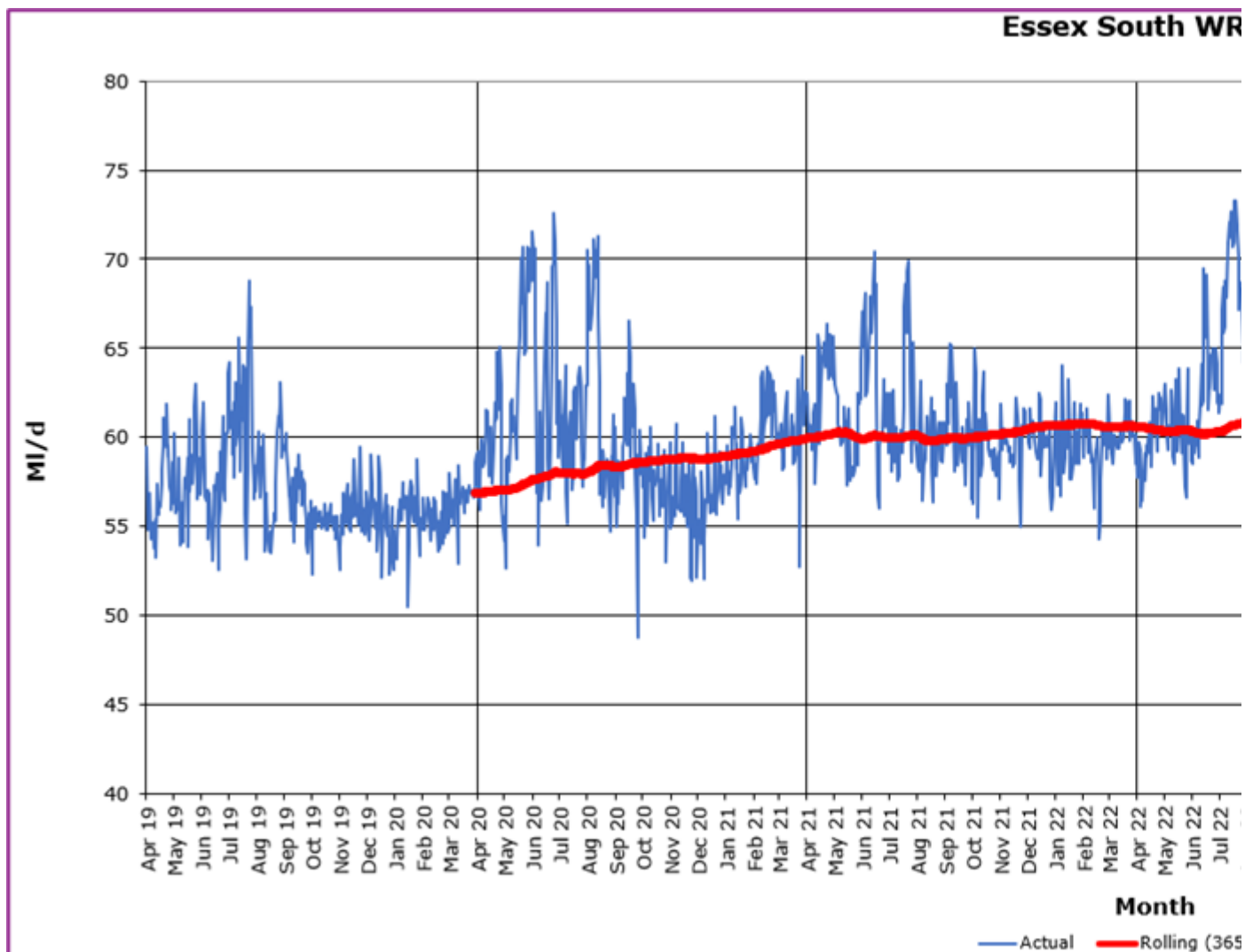
For our Colchester Planning Zone we included property growth of 26% over the plan duration of 2025 to 2050, from 66K to 83K properties served.

For the whole South Essex water resource zone we have included 27% growth in properties from 109K in 2025 to 137K in 2050. This is associated with a population increase of 22% (to 199K) based upon ONS occupancy projections.

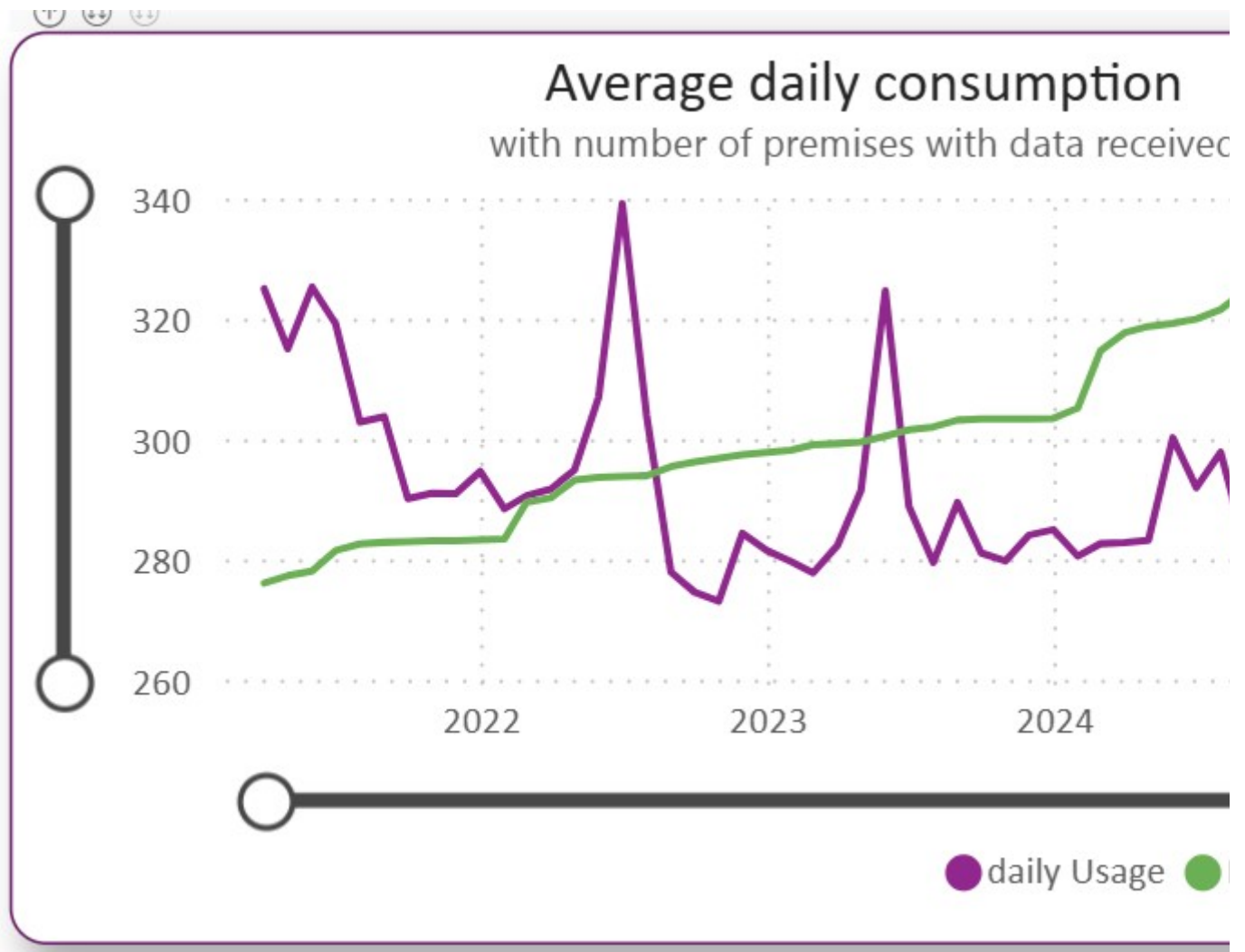
As part of our WRMP29 plan development, we are liaising with the Local Authorities and demographic consultants to develop property and population forecasts, which will account for current Local Plans and strategic/new town growth in the region.

With regard to demand, we are currently progressing our full smart meter installation programme, with Colchester already nearly fully smart metered. Smart metering has been implemented, in order to enhance the understanding of water usage by our customers (and drive water efficiency) and identify customer leakage, allowing faster 'find and fix' times. For South Essex, with over 80K smart meters, this has already led to over 1MI/d of savings.

For South Essex, Over the longer term as smart meters have been introduced and optimisation measures have been implemented, we can see how demand growth due to population increase has been mitigated causing the 365-day average values for DI to be reduced from mid-2022 (noting that population has increased from 235K to 272K)



As can be seen from the smart meter data for South Essex, we are seeing a downward trend in average per household consumption, notwithstanding summer weather impacts.



Further details can be found in our water resource management plan and Resource Zone summary pages.

[Water resources management plan](#)

[Water Resource Zone Summaries](#)

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

Yours sincerely

**EIR Team**

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