

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

Decision notice

Date: 12 December 2024

Public Authority: Severn Trent Water Ltd

Address: 2 St John's Street
Coventry
CV1 2LZ

1. Request:

The complainant requested the following information from Severn Trent Water (STW) on 12 August 2024:

"...specifically, I am requesting the following information:

- 1) Any claims or breaches against yourself for water contamination or under polluting reporting in the last 20 years.
- 2) What law are you relying on to deprive me of my right to information about the water I consume concerning added toxins?
- 3) Confirm whether you believe or not that adding chemicals is classed as "adding an ingredient" 1 or not.
- 4) Confirm whether or not you are one of the 17 or 18 water companies in this article?

<https://www.google.co.uk/amp/s/amp.theguardian.com/environment/2023/nov/28/forever-chemicals-found-in-drinking-water-sources-across-england>

5. In addition please provide in writing a risk assessment for the water meter you have installed on my property without my knowledge or my consent

<https://www.iarc.who.int/pressrelease/iarc-classifies-radiofrequency-electromagnetic-fields-as-possibly-carcinogenic-to-humans/>

6. Does the local Health Authority have made an application to you to increase the levels of contamination?"

On 12 November 2024, after receiving correspondence from the Commissioner, STW explained that it had not received the above request as it had been sent to the CEO, and the email address was incorrect. Therefore, the Commissioner gave STW 20 workings to respond.

2. Commissioner's Decision:

A public authority will breach regulation 5(2) of the EIR if it fails to respond to a request within 20 working days. Based on evidence available to the Commissioner, by the date of this notice the public authority has not issued a substantive response to this request. Therefore, the Commissioner finds a breach of regulation 5(2).

3. Steps:

The public authority must provide a substantive response to the request in accordance with its obligations under the EIR.

The public authority must take this step within 30 calendar days of the date of this decision notice. Failure to comply may result in the Commissioner making written certification of this fact to the High Court pursuant to section 54 of FOIA and may be dealt with as a contempt of court.

4. Right of Appeal:

Either party has the right to appeal against this decision notice to the First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights). Information about the appeals process may be obtained from:

First-tier Tribunal (Information Rights)
GRC & GRP Tribunals,
PO Box 9300,
LEICESTER,
LE1 8DJ

Tel: 0203 936 8963

Fax: 0870 739 5836

Email: grc@justice.gov.uk

Website: www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/general-regulatory-chamber

Any Notice of Appeal should be served on the Tribunal within 28 (calendar) days of the date on which this decision notice is sent.

**Information Commissioner
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF**