



Storm overflows

Purpose: This performance commitment is designed to incentivise a progressive reduction in the adverse impacts of discharges from the company's storm overflows.

Benefits: This performance commitment ~~helps to ensure that storm overflows are used by exception, rather than as a norm~~ it encourages ~~the water~~ company to ~~operate and~~ maintain ~~its their~~ network and equipment in such a way as to ~~reduce the adverse~~ ~~minimise any~~ impacts of storm overflows ~~use. Fewer and less frequent discharges will help to improve on public health and the quality of~~ the environment.

Version control

Version	Date of issue	Performance commitment changes
0.1	22 December 2022	Published at final methodology
1.0		
2.0		

Performance commitment definition and parameters

1.1 Detailed definition of performance measure

The average number of spills per storm overflow will be calculated to two decimal places as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{Total no. spills per calendar year}}{\text{Total no. storm overflows}}$$

1.2 Additional detail on measurement units

Counting spills

Spills shall be counted using the 12/24 counting method, as follows:

- Start counting when the first discharge occurs.
- Any discharge (or discharges) in the first 12-hour block are counted as one spill.
- Any discharge (or discharges) in the next and subsequent 24-hour blocks are each counted as one additional spill per block.
- Continue counting until there is a 24-hour block with no discharge.

For the next discharge after the 24-hour block with no discharge, begin again with the 12-hour and 24-hour block spill counting sequence.¹

1.3 Specific exclusions

None.

¹ Note - the 12/24 counting method corresponds with the Environment Agency's approach to counting spills set out in September 2018. We expect to use the version which is in effect at the date of our PR24 final determinations, subject to the outcome of the PR24 determinations process.

1.4 Reporting and assurance

The company must keep the spill records required for the 12/24 spill counting method set out above for at least 6 years from the date the company made the records.

The company will provide external third-party assurance that the company implements appropriate processes to identify EDMs that do not accurately report spills. The company will also provide a reconciliation of the performance reported under the performance commitment with any publicly available information.

The company shall ensure that its outcome delivery incentive payments only relate to real performance changes and not definitional, methodological or data changes in performance commitments.

The company shall not benefit either because it has not installed event duration monitors (EDM) or because monitors are not working.

Table 1 Definition parameters

Parameters	
Measurement unit and decimal places	Average number of spills per overflow, reported to two decimal places
Measurement timing	Calendar year
Incentive form	Revenue
Incentive type	Outperformance and underperformance payments
Timing of underperformance and outperformance payments	In-period
Price control allocation	100% wastewater network plus
Frequency of reporting	Annual, on a calendar year basis. For example, performance assessment for 2025-26 will be based on the calendar year 2025, and whereas 2029-30 assessment will be based on the calendar year 2029.
Any other relevant information	N/A
Links to relevant external documents	N/A