2025 EDM Annual Return Supplementary Information

Our commitment

At Thames Water we recognise that all discharges of untreated sewage are unacceptable. We are committed to meeting Government targets for storm overflow improvements, prioritising overflows in the most sensitive catchments.

Transparency is really important to us at Thames Water. That is why at the end of 2022 we launched our Storm Overflow Discharge map which shows near real-time data of where a storm discharge has occurred. This map can be found on the River Health pages of our website (EDM Map | Storm discharge data | River health | Thames Water).

Storm overflows take place at our sewage treatment works and sewer network. They allow us to deal with excess flow due to rainfall and prevent sewer flooding in our homes, gardens and streets. These discharges are regulated by the Environment Agency through the issuing of Environmental Permits which set out the circumstances when storm discharges can occur. Further information on storm discharges and overflows can be found on the River Health pages of our website (Storm discharge and event duration monitoring | Thames Water).

We are committed to responding to all requests for information through the Environmental Information Regulations (Requesting environmental information | Regulation | About Us | Thames Water), and working in a collaborative and transparent manner with our regulators.

We have also invested nearly £4.5 billion into the 'Super Sewer', Thames Tideway Tunnel. The tunnel will capture all of the ‘first flush’ from the big London sewers after heavy rain. The project started on site in 2016 and was finished during 2025.

Further details of our plans and investment priorities related to storm discharges can be found on our website by following the below links.

- Drainage and wastewater plan | Regulation | About us | Thames Water
- Drainage Plans | Regulation | About us | Thames Water
- Pollution incident reduction | Regulation | About us | Thames Water

2025 EDM Summary

In 2025 we experienced prolonged periods of dry weather. Storm overflow discharges are closely correlated with rainfall and groundwater conditions, and we therefore experienced a significant reduction in the frequency and duration of storm discharge events in comparison to 2024.

Although the reduction in storm discharges are largely driven by the lower rainfall the region has experienced in 2025, we are confident that we are beginning to see early signs of progress from the operational and capital investment we’ve made so far.

We are committed to reducing discharge frequency and duration and we know our infrastructure requires significant investment to achieve this. That is why over the next five years we are delivering

the most significant upgrade to our wastewater network in 150 years, including increased treatment capacity, reduced storm discharges and introducing new nutrient reduction schemes.

Previous investment includes the newly completed Tideway Tunnel that will capture 95% of the untreated sewage that previously entered the tidal Thames in a typical year, and as our investment over the coming years gathers pace, the positive benefits of this new investment will continue to feed through.

Differences between our 2025 and previously reported Event Duration Monitoring (EDM) Annual returns

On the 27th of February 2026 we submitted our EDM Annual Return data for the calendar year 2025 to the Environment Agency. This return includes information on the frequency and duration of storm discharges from locations across the Thames Water region.

As a result of implementation of the London Tideway Tunnel, the total number of locations listed in our 2025 submission differs from our 2024 submission. The number of overflows listed in 2025 has decreased as several storm overflows which were previously on prior returns have been consolidated and replaced by 3 new Tideway Tunnel overflows

In our 2024 submission we listed 590 Storm Overflows. In 2025 we listed 581, of which 579 were considered active storm overflows. The reduction in locations between 2022 and 2023 is due to a combination of the aforementioned London Tideway Tunnel consolidation, as well as surrendering permits where required.