Annual performance report 2025/26 – open data

Our annual performance report (APR) contains a significant volume of data which is of interest to both within and outside the water industry. We want this data to be open and accessible to all.

What is open data

Open data is data that is made available for anyone to access, use, and share. It is made freely available and in a common form, typically machine-readable.

Open data characteristics and benefits

We consider that there are key characteristics of data that enable stakeholders to get a better understanding of the information contained within both our APR and allow comparison across the industry. These are:

- **structured data** – the data should be in a machine-readable format which allows computers to understand it;
- **standard format** – the data should use established formats, for example CSV or XML to ensure consistency and compatibility across different systems. It should also be consistent over time to allow trend analysis;
- **automated processing** – the format should enable computers to automatically read and process the data without manual intervention; and
- **accessibility** – the data should be easily accessible and downloadable.

There are many benefits from publishing open data with the above characteristic. These are:

- **increased readability** – the data can be readily used in different applications and systems without extensive manual manipulation;
- **enhanced data integration** - machine-readable formats allow data to be combined from multiple sources;
- **improved data analysis** – automated processing allows for faster and more efficient analysis of large datasets; and
- **Greater transparency and accountability** – open and machine-readable data promotes transparency by making information readily available for public scrutiny.

Open data and our 2026 annual performance report

We are part of Stream, a collaboration between UK water companies with a vision to unlock the potential of water data to benefit customers, society, and the environment.

Stream brings data and people together to address key water sector challenges. It contains an open data platform to enable users to find, understand and access the data they need to develop insights and create value from it. The website can be found here.

Our APR for 2026 data can be found on the site along with the previous three years. The data is accompanied by relevant metadata aligned to the characteristics outlined above. It also references the Ofwat Regulatory Accounting Guidelines (RAGs) which sets out all the definitions for each item of data. The latest RAGs can be found on Ofwat's website here.

Although the RAGs are generally prescriptive, there are some areas where the guidance is more open to interpretation. An example is the tables where costs are allocated between different parts of the value chain. In order to aid users in comparing across the industry, we publish a methodology statement on our website alongside our APR.

Within our methodology we set out other important information including where there have been changes to the approach compared to the previous year and an explanation of any significant movement in values from the previous year. This will help users to understand the consistency of information between years and whether there are any exceptional movements to take into account when looking at data trends.

We have also published our machine-readable version of the 2026 APR on our website at the following link.

Our open data road map

SSC continue to fully support the principles of Open Data, with active involvement via the Stream Open Data programme, originally supported by the Ofwat Innovation Fund.

Operational updates published at the end of the financial year (02 Apr 26) ranked Sout Staffs Water 7th out of the 15 participating English & Welsh Water Companies for datasets published via the Stream Open Data portal. At this point we have published several datasets including:

- APR data for 2023 to 2026;
- Domestic Consumption;
- Geographic Supply Area;
- Raw Water Storage Levels; and
- Water Quality data.

We continue to work on the following datasets for forthcoming publication.

- Nightflow
- Domestic Consumption 24/25
- Lead Collaboration
- Monthly Reservoir Levels

In addition to legacy publication channels, and consistent with previous activity, SSC will also be publishing their APR 25 dataset via Stream Open Data by 01 Aug 26.

We recognise the value of Open Data and look forward to further involvement via the additional streams of Climate Resilience and Water Resources.

Feedback and suggestions on our open data

Open data is continually evolving and there will be new and better ways of making our data more accessible. We therefore welcome any comments on our approach and suggestions of how we could improve. In particular:

- What do you use the current open data for? Are there particular areas of data that you are particularly interested in or where more detail would be of use?
- Is there a better way to present our data in an open data format?
- Should any data be made available on a more regular basis than annually?
- Is the metadata helpful? Are there any further explanations that would make things clearer?

We also want to use the learnings of opening up our data to drive other open data releases. As a water company, we publish many other key datasets including Business Plans, Water Resource Management Plans and charges. There is also data that we use internally but may also be of interest to a wider audience. We would welcome views on what other data, not currently on our roadmap, could have value in being published in an open data format.

Please send any comments to regulation@south-staffs-water.co.uk