

## PFAS challenge – responses to questions – November 2024

ID	Question	Response
01	Where does the PFAS Marketplace challenge fit with the current <a href="#">Spring Accelerator 4 programme</a> that is looking for innovation around emerging contaminants?	<p>Spring is a sector-wide innovation initiative. The Spring Accelerator 4 programme is inviting 'solutions to help us better understand, monitor and manage emerging contaminants in all areas of wastewater treatment'.</p> <p>In contrast, the Marketplace challenge is about water supply rather than wastewater, and is being run by Wessex Water. Furthermore the Marketplace challenge is focussing specifically on PFAS rather than emerging contaminants more widely.</p>
02	If the sample taken is deemed as contaminated or unusable, what action do you take? For example, do you leave a blank data point, resample or use the data with a caveat, etc.?	Generally, we would not use the sample data and instead take a resample.
03	Do you hold other data prior to 2021 where even though PFAS weren't measured, may have correlational benefits for inclusion in analysis?	We have data for standard water quality parameters such as basic chemistry - pH, conductivity etc.; nutrients; pesticides etc. These could potentially be used as backward-looking surrogates if a relationship were established.

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04	Should PFAS be found in the sample, what are your next steps/actions required depending on the different levels of PFAS found?	<p>The action we take would be in line with Drinking Water Inspectorate PFAS <a href="#">guidance</a>. In general, the actions required would be as follows:</p> <p>Tier 1 detections (&lt;0.01µg/l) would generally lead to a continuation of planned monitoring.</p> <p>Tier 2 detections (0.01-0.1µg/l) would lead to consultation with local health authorities and the local authority. It would also require consideration of increased sampling and review of blending or treatment options.</p> <p>Tier 3 detections (&gt;0.1µg/l) will lead to immediate escalation as above, along with more extensive sampling, and consideration of removal from supply or implementation of treatment where possible.</p>
05	Please can you provide further details on preferred formats for submissions, and size limitations.	<p>We are flexible in terms of format, as long as it allows you to cover off the points in the 'How to get involved' section of the <a href="#">challenge webpage</a>. Typically companies submit proposals as Word, PowerPoint or PDF documents.</p> <p>We'll need enough detail to understand at a high level the principles the solution uses and the scale of the benefits it could provide, as well as indicative costs. Please keep submissions concise so that we can easily pick out these key points and determine if we would like to explore your solution further. There is not a specific page limit.</p> <p>For any solutions that we'd like to consider taking forward, we would expect to hold a Teams or face to face meeting to hear more about the solution and ask any questions.</p>