



Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004 – Is your organisation compliant?

Prior to February 2015, only Local Authorities were legally obliged by the Environmental Information Directive to provide, when asked for, any environmental information that they held. The definition of which is given below:

“The definition of environmental information should be clarified so as to encompass information in any form on the state of the environment, on factors, measures or activities affecting or likely to affect the environment or designed to protect it, on cost-benefit and economic analyses used within the frame work of such measures or activities and also information on the state of human health and safety, including the contamination of the food chain, conditions of human life, cultural sites and built structures in as much as they are, or may be affected by any of those matters.”

However, following the Upper Tribunal’s judgment in the matter of Fish Legal & Emily Shirley v Information Commissioner & Others [2015] UKUT 0052 (AAC), handed down on 20 February 2015, ALL water utility companies are now subject to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, as stated below:

‘It is necessary to ensure that any natural and legal person has a right of access to environmental information held by or for public authorities without his having to state an interest.

(9) It is also necessary that public authorities make available and disseminate environmental information to the general public to the widest extent possible, in particular by using information and communication technologies.

The future development of these technologies should be taken into account in the reporting on, and reviewing of, this Directive.”



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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The Challenge

As a consequence of the amendments to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) 2004, Anglian Water needed to make publicly available free access to view certain information which they held, because it was determined to be included within the definition of environmental information.

The digdat® Solution

digdat® worked closely with **Anglian Water Services Ltd** to develop a solution that would enable it to fully comply with the amended Regulations and Directive.

Anglian Water now uses the **digdat® Utilities: Access Point Service** to enable the public to self-serve themselves with the information. The service enables anyone to access this information via Anglian Water's viewing portal situated in the reception area at Osprey House, Huntingdon, should they wish to do so.

Virgin Media and **Thames Water** are also users of the **digdat® Utilities: Access Point Service**, but for providing public access to view their asset maps.



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