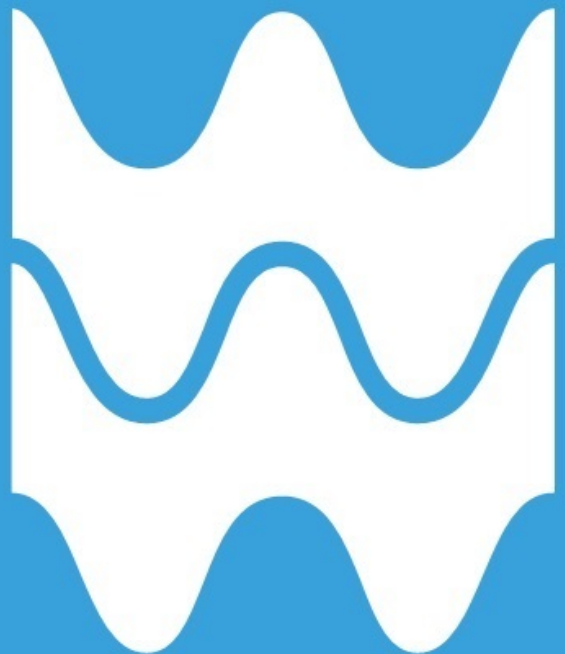


# Open Data Rationale

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APR 2023/24



Dŵr Cymru  
Welsh Water

July 2024

# 1. Open Data Rationale

## Background

As part of [Ofwat Information Notice 23/03](#), Ofwat has required companies to further develop how they publish the Annual Performance Report (APR) taking into account the characteristics of open data in the presentation of their data (including in their data tables).

This document sets out our rationale for the approach we have taken including:

- which open data characteristics were adopted,
- how these were chosen,
- reasoning for the decision,
- what considerations influenced their approach, and
- plans for the future.

## What have we implemented?

Following the feedback from Ofwat as part of the annual service delivery report and as part of our continuous improvement, we have made the following changes:

- Added open data licence to our Annual Performance Reporting webpage.
- Added an email address to our Annual Performance Reporting webpage so we have a feedback mechanism for data users in place.
- Built upon the consolidated Performance Commitment data by publishing an excel file that has all the APR data from AMP7 so far.

Details of all the actions we've implemented are set out in the table in Appendix 1.

## What are we doing now?

We are exploring how to expand on our work with the aggregated data files. This includes presenting this via a business intelligence or other graphical interface, making access to key trends and information easier and more intuitive.

## Working with industry

As one of the 16 Stream member companies, we are working collaboratively to progress the publication of supporting datasets associated with the APR tables. Current use cases include domestic water quality data, leakage nightline data, raw water storage levels, and water consumption data. Stream's Use Case and Market Needs advisory group will continue to consider the APR performance tables (and their supporting datasets) as part of their ongoing assessment to create a roadmap of datasets to publish.

## Our long-term strategy

In April we published our [open data strategy](#), co-created with Open Data Institute (ODI). The strategy is primarily motivated by our commitment to publishing open data, to provide our customers and the public with insights into our internal and public facing operations, and the impacts that these activities might have on people across the areas we serve. The delivery of this strategy will include the identification of processes to identify future open data candidates including options as part of the APR.

## 2. Appendix 1 - application of open data principles in the Annual Performance Report

Action	Open Data Characteristics	How & why we chose	Considerations influencing approach
APR tables are published on website in Excel	Access Consolidation File format compatibility	Excel is widely used for data analysis. This facilitates access and analysis without the need for specialist software or experience. There are also ca.90 tabs of information and using Excel enables them to all be accessed in one place.	We needed to maximise the usability of the data. Using the widely used Excel software enables us to achieve this.
Consolidated APR and Performance Commitment Data published in Excel and CSV	Consolidation Access File format compatibility	Consolidating data from multiple reporting years into a single data file was chosen as an open data characteristic to simplify data review for data consumers. This can be found <a href="#">here</a> . By providing single data files that captures all APR and Performance Commitment data across multiple APR reporting years, you make it easier for data consumers to analyse annual trends in performance. This saves them the effort of reviewing and combining multiple individual files	Here we considered our data usability, convenience, and user experience. By reducing the burden of accessing and processing data, you enhance its accessibility and encourage greater data exploration and analysis. We've focussed on the Performance Commitments as these are the areas of greatest interest.
Meta Data in our Consolidated APR and Performance Commitment Data files	Metadata inclusion	By including metadata such as a data dictionary, we provide data consumers with a better understanding of the data's structure and meaning. This helps them interpret the data accurately.	We needed to enhance transparency and facilitate data usability for external stakeholders.
Open data licences to our APR webpage	Licensing	Open data licenses were chosen to ensure clarity regarding the conditions under which data consumers can use the data. By attaching open data licenses to our data files, we clearly define the permissions, restrictions, and obligations associated with the use and redistribution of the data. This promotes legal and ethical data usage.	Encourages consumers of the data to use it responsibly while fostering innovation and collaboration
Email address on our APR webpage to receive feedback	Feedback mechanism for data users	Enables us to adopt a learn-by-doing approach, by using feedback on releases of open data to inform and accelerate the development of capabilities to support future releases;	We need to ensure that our data releases are fit for purpose and keep in line with data user expectations.

