

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs, c/o Water Resources Policy,
Department for Environment, Food and Rural
Affairs,
Seacole 3rd Floor, 2 Marsham Street,
London, SW1P 4DF

Our ref: 2025 GMC PDW Belmont

Your ref:

Date: 15th August 2025

Dear Sir

**Notice of application by the Environment Agency for a drought order at Belmont Reservoir,
Bolton, Greater Manchester.**

The Environment Agency is applying to the Secretary of State for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to vary the conditions of impoundment licence Serial No. NW/069/0003/001 (dated 13 September 2010), which requires United Utilities Water Limited to release compensation water from Belmont Reservoir near Bolton, Greater Manchester.

The application is being made under section 73 of the Water Resources Act 1991, as amended by the Environment Act 1995, as we perceive that:

- There exists or is threatened a deficiency in the level of water in Belmont Reservoir, Bolton which poses a serious threat to flora or fauna which are dependent on those waters and;
- The reason for the deficiency is an exceptional shortage of rain.

The proposed drought order, which is intended to apply for up to 6 months, will allow the Environment Agency to instruct United Utilities Water Limited to reduce the compensation flows from Belmont Reservoir to Eagley Brook from 9 megalitres per day (Ml/day) to 4.5 Ml/day during the period of operation of the order. The reservoirs are 'compensation only' with no water used for direct water supply.

The order, if granted, would allow United Utilities Water Limited to continue to provide a compensation flow to meet the needs of the respective downstream environments whilst preserving stocks in the reservoirs to support their environmental needs.

Please find the details of the application and all the supporting documents enclosed.

Yours faithfully,



Ian Crewe
Deputy Director Environment Agency