

[News story: Petrol station merger raises competition concerns in local areas](#)

Both companies run petrol stations across the UK, supplying fuel, food and convenience services.

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) found that competition provided by other major petrol retailers and supermarkets will ensure that the merger would not result in higher prices for motorists across the country as a whole.

However, after conducting an initial (Phase 1) investigation into the takeover, the CMA has identified concerns at 29 locations in the UK where MFG and MRH are close competitors, and where the takeover could result in prices rising for local motorists.

MFG now has until 7 September to address the CMA's competition concerns. If it is unable to do so, the merger will be referred for an in-depth (Phase 2) investigation.

More information can be found on the [MFG / MRH case page](#).

[Press release: Drought planning continues after hot summer puts pressure on environment](#)

The National Drought Group has urged people to use water wisely following a meeting to discuss pressure on water resources and the environment following this summer's heat wave.

The environment has suffered due to the driest May to July across England since 1921. The Environment Agency (EA) responded to a 330% increase in significant drought-related incidents as teams acted to protect wildlife and rescue fish struggling due to low river flows.

Numerous species, habitats, birds, trees and aquatic life have been affected by the hot, dry summer and high demand for water. EA hydrologists recorded 'exceptionally low' river flows for 5 weeks in a row, reservoir stocks for England as a whole were at historic lows for the end of July and soils were the driest on record in the North West.

The EA's Chief Executive, Sir James Bevan, chaired the National Drought Group meeting and received updates from water companies, discussed ways to protect the environment and sustain support for farmers and businesses. Water companies were asked to outline progress against agreed action plans to maintain water supplies while protecting the environment. They reported that there are no current plans to bring in Temporary Use Bans (hosepipe bans) although water restrictions remain a possibility if rainfall in September is low.

The EA has taken a range of actions to respond to the impacts of dry weather including:

- Supporting farmers by allowing more flexibility with water abstraction in order to safeguard food production and animal welfare.
- Operating water transfers to help maintain river flows.
- Increased monitoring and inspection of businesses abstracting water to ensure they are not taking more water than they need.
- Issuing 4 drought permits to United Utilities at locations in Cumbria, should they be needed later in the year.
- Not cleaning EA fleet vehicles and office windows to avoid unnecessary water usage.

Although August has seen dry periods interrupted by bouts of wet weather, the Met Office 3 month outlook for September to November forecasts that above average temperatures and slightly lower than average rainfall are likely.

Sir James Bevan, Chief Executive of the Environment Agency said:

Over the last few months of prolonged dry weather the Environment Agency, the water companies and many others have been working hard together to reduce the risk of water restrictions and balance the needs of the public, businesses and the environment.

Despite the recent rain, we will need to continue to collaborate closely as we move into autumn. All of us have a role to play in helping to protect the environment and maintain supplies. We encourage everyone to use water wisely.

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pressure on environment

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Notice: EX16 8EU, LJ Heywood Limited: environmental permit issued

The Environment Agency publish permits that they issue under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED).

This decision includes the permit and the decision document for:

- Operator name: LJ Heywood Limited
 - Installation name: Hollyfield Farm
 - Permit number: EPR/KP3733JQ
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Guidance: Land contamination pilot trials and small scale remediation schemes: RPS 215

If you comply with the conditions in this regulatory position statement (RPS) you do not need to apply for an environmental permit for a waste operation for:

- site-specific pilot trials
- small scale remediation schemes