

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your request for environmental information. We appreciate your interest, and we want to let you know that your request has been carefully considered in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR).

Please can you confirm following under and EIR request please-

- 1. Please can you confirm how much money has been spent on taking over private sewers since the introduction of the government legislation for water companies to take over these waste treatment plants? Please can you confirm the number of treatment plants as well?**

[The Private Sewers Transfer Regulations](#) 2011 covered sewers and pumping stations which were either shared or which lie beyond the boundary of the property they serve – you can read more about this here [Private Sewer Transfer Water UK](#).

From 2011 to date, Ofwat provided the Company with an explicit allowance of circa £242m. From 2011 to date, United Utilities have invested approximately £266m in transferred assets i.e. private sewers and wastewater pumping stations.

No private wastewater treatment plants were transferred under the 2011 legislation as the legislation did not cover these assets (they remained private).

- 2. Please can you confirm how much money was given to you by the government for taking on this responsibility?**

The government does not give us money. Ofwat sets a revenue control at each price review, based upon its view of efficient investment and financing costs. This sets a maximum amount of revenue we can recover from our customers within that regulatory period to deliver our services. We then recover revenue from our customers via bills.

The approach Ofwat took to reflect private sewers expenditure within our price controls at each price review is set out below.

- PR09 (AMP5):** Ofwat included a notified item within our Final Determination. This provides an opportunity to adjust revenue controls mid-period, subject to Ofwat's approval. However, we did not seek an adjustment to revenue controls during AMP5, although Ofwat did reflect an ex-post uplift of circa £102m at PR14.
- PR14 (AMP6):** Ofwat provided an explicit allowance for private sewers of circa £140m (post-

- efficiency challenge) within our price control.
- **PR19 (AMP7):** Private sewers related costs were reflected within the generality of day-to-day costs within Ofwat's price control. This means Ofwat did not provide an explicit allowance for private sewer related expenditure – companies are expected to fund maintenance via their overall day-to-day cost allowance.
 - **PR24 (AMP8):** Ofwat took the same approach as PR19.
3. **Please can you confirm has this money been separated from your general other accounts for the sole purpose for taking over treatment plants?**

Please see response to question 2.

4. **Since taking over the sewage systems, how many new waste treatment plants have been brought into production to help get rural areas off their own treatment plants and septic tanks?**

It should be noted that The Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011 is a different and separate mechanism to the provision of a public sewer under section 101A of the Water Industry Act 1991. Section 101A is an application process for first time sewerage and more commonly, when a duty is evidenced, properties have been connected to the public network where there is capacity, rather than constructing a wastewater treatment works.

5. **Has the government given any money to help rural areas to become connected to the main sewers and how much has been given in the last ten years?**

The government has not provided us with any money to assist with this.

We hope that this response answers your request. However, if you're not satisfied with how we've handled it, you can request an internal review. To do this, please write to us at Environmental Information Office, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere, Warrington, WA5 3LP or email us at EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk, addressing your request to [REDACTED], and explaining why you're unhappy with our response. We'll be very happy to review your request and ensure we've done everything we can to assist you.

Any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this response, and we will reply within 40 working days from receipt of the request for internal review.

Many thanks
EIR Team

We'd love to hear your feedback on how we handled your request! If you have a moment, please complete our short survey [here](#) – your input helps us improve our service.