

Dear [REDACTED],

Thank you for your email on 18th March 2025, requesting information. While you referred to your request under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), as a water company, we are not subject to FOIA. However, we have carefully considered your request under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR), which do apply to us. More information on our obligations under the EIR can be found on our website here: [Environmental Information | United Utilities - Corporate](#).

Your request:

I am trying find out the original cost quoted for the work carried out at Belmont Reservoir (Project No 80065030}, which began in August 2023 and was scheduled to last seven months but in fact lasted a few weeks short of two years. In addition I would like to know the final cost, including the cost of any penalty clauses and contract over-runs, including VAT.

Our response:

I am unable to disclose the contract award value, the final costs and details of any contractual penalties. This information is considered commercially sensitive and is exempt from disclosure under Regulation 12(5)(e) of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). This exception applies where the disclosure of information would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect the legitimate economic interest.

In this case, the disclosure of the contract award value, the final cost and penalty details could prejudice the commercial interests of both the contractor and United Utilities. Releasing this information into the public domain could impact the competitiveness of future tendering exercises, potentially affecting value for money and fair competition.

I have considered the public interest in transparency; however, on balance, I consider that the public interest in maintaining the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information outweighs the public interest in disclosure.

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.