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unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR/ID426
Date: 30/07/2025
Email: EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk

EIR Reference: EIR/ID/426

Dear [REDACTED],

This note provides U UW's response to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) that you submitted on 04/06/2025.

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).

Your request

I wonder if I might request a list of Design Capacities for all your Sewage Treatment Works? This to be expressed in units of PE and supplied in excel or csv format. Please ensure this is the capacity of the works and not the population currently served.

Our response

UU currently operate 583 Sewage Treatment Works (WwTW) across the region. These range from small septic tanks to large complex treatment works, with multiple treatment processes, serving population equivalents of over a million people. Whilst each works has a defined population served, this is not a design capacity.

The appropriate measure of "capacity" varies for the different stage of the treatment process. Capacities are expressed in different formats, for example volume, flow, or load. Not all relate to population. Even in the case of "load" which is related to population, it is calculated from concentration multiplied by volume. In practice this means 2 identically "sized" works can have different population assessments depending on other variables.

Therefore, the effective capacity of each works will, in practice, be based upon a series of different measures for the different process stages. The combined capability of each works needs to be sufficient to treat the flow and load they receive, particularly dry weather flow, in line with their environmental permits and regulatory requirements and to meet final effluent quality parameters. As such, unfortunately we do not hold the information you have requested in the format you require.

However, we do analyse the ability of our treatment works to accommodate future population growth. This process is contained within our drainage and wastewater management plans for the region published in May 2023, the landing page for which can be found here:

<https://www.unitedutilities.com/corporate/about-us/our-future-plans/Our-long-term-plans/>

The work required for this cycle of the DWMP (cycle 1) was largely driven by a WaterUK framework, which, due to the nature of Cycle 1 of the DWMP, focussed on providing a summed view of "total

number of sites identified for investment' rather than details on specific sites and locations where current/future risks were identified.

Defra's guidance for Cycle 2 of the DWMP requires more detail in this area, although as the draft plan is not due until November 2027, we do not have this information at this stage.

A summary of the work that we undertook to support our DWMP, is set out in Section 7.6 of our main document [Microsoft Word - DP1 Main Document.docx](#). This in turn refers to the more detailed document [Microsoft Word - TA3 Demand Forecasting.docx](#).

In addition, the data tables that support the DWMP can be found

here: https://www.unitedutilities.com/globalassets/z_corporate-site/about-us-pdfs/dwmp-2023/fdwmp-data-tables_v3_redacted.xlsx

With the commentary to these tables being available here:

https://www.unitedutilities.com/globalassets/z_corporate-site/about-us-pdfs/dwmp-2023/final-dwmp_table_commentaries_redacted.pdf

The DWMP information was also used to support our PR24 business plan submission for population growth to Ofwat, which is the basis for their determination of the scope of work and assumed costs for the 2025 to 2030 (AMP8) period.

The information that we submitted to Ofwat was within [UUW65R Wastewater \(Quality - Additional Requirements\) Enhancement Case](#). This document contains several business cases setting out the need for investment to address several enhancement needs. Enhancement case 16 within this document focussed on supply-demand and proposed 12 sites for growth schemes to accommodate additional population in AMP8.

The data relating to these schemes is given in Table ADD19, within the spreadsheet that can be found here: https://www.unitedutilities.com/globalassets/z_corporate-site/pr24/august-2024/data-and-models/uuwr_91_additional_data_tables.xlsx.

It should be noted that this programme was based upon projections for future growth, it is therefore recognised by Ofwat that the actual sites where investment will be made may vary as housing developments occur at a faster or slower rate than originally expected due to global economic conditions or political incentives, although Ofwat have attached a Price control deliverables (PCD) to this programme, which ensure that if UU failed to deliver the outputs assumed by the programme, they will return the funding to customers.

Additionally, United Utilities provides information on our largest wastewater treatment works (WwTW) to the Environment Agency (EA), which allows them to assure and publish an UWWTD Article 15 report. This report provides information relating to several factors at WwTW including current and future populations. Note the column labelled in the Environment Agency's template here as "Capacity" is the population served, or that expected to be served at a point in the future. I have attached a copy of the latest version of this information, which was provided to the EA on the 8th of August 2024.

This excel spreadsheet, provides information for 147 treatment works where the EA require sampling for Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations compliance. The spreadsheet also contains several additional fields for example on treatment processes and discharge locations, which although not strictly relevant to your request, may provide you with useful related information. Although we are required to provide this information to the EA, it should not necessarily be interpreted as being an accurate representation of the headroom at any individual works or of the capability of that works to comply with its permit.

We hope that this response answers your request.

However, if you are not satisfied with how we have handled it, you can request an internal review, which is designed to confirm whether this response has fully met the requirements and expectations of the EIR. 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]
[REDACTED], and explaining why you are unhappy with our response. We will be happy to review your request and ensure we have 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.

Kind regards