United Utilities Water Limited
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Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR-536
Date: 07/10/2025
Email: EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk

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).

Your request:

I am making a request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 for the following information:

1. Your company has in the past made available data on the incoming organic load and capacity (in population equivalent) of sewage treatment works under the EU's Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. The most current information, published in 2024, covers 2022. We are looking for a more up-to-date version of this data which reflects subsequent investments or changes in catchment area. Please could you provide a dataset which includes incoming load and capacity for sewage treatment works you manage covering the most recent year available after 2022. Please provide this as a machine-readable delimited file (eg Excel worksheet, CSV, or similar).
2. Could you please provide the geospatial extent of wastewater catchment areas served by sewage treatment works managed by your company, with catchments that connect to different works distinguishable from one another. We request this data be provided in a high-resolution and machine-readable vector file (eg, shapefile, GeoJSON, or other commonly used format).

Our response:

Please see attached a copy of the incoming load data for each of our wastewater treatment works (WwTW) in Appendix 1.

Regarding the capacity aspect of your request, it is important to note that the appropriate measure of “capacity” varies for the different stages of each 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 two 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 must be sufficient

to treat the flow and load they receive, particularly dry weather flow, in line with their environmental permits and regulatory requirements to meet final effluent quality parameters.

As such, we do not routinely update "capacity" data for our WwTW's and do not hold the information you have requested in relation to capacity in the format you require, therefore in line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR we are unable to supply it.

Whilst we do not routinely update capacity data in this format, we do, analyse the ability of our WwTWs to accommodate future population growth. This process is contained within our Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) for the region, which is a 25-year, holistic plan that covers all elements across drainage and wastewater. The latest version of the DWMP was published in May 2023 (Drainage and wastewater management plan) and the outputs can be viewed on the DWMP customer portal (DWMP Customer Portal Environment).

The portal holds information across different aspects of drainage and wastewater, for example flooding, pollution and WwTW capacity.

For WwTW capacity, we assess the risk that our WwTW will not have the capacity to meet our permitted volumes as a result of forecast population and business use growth in the area. Within the portal, you can navigate across the North West and click areas of interest. For each drainage area, the data presents risk/opportunities at the following design horizons:

- Current view for the drainage area (2020)
- Developing view for the drainage area
- Future view for the drainage area (2050)

For each design horizon, the drainage area is considered to be;

- No concern
- Minimal risk
- Potential area of focus

Note: this data is from 2020 to support the publication of the DWMP in May 2023. It is not a present day (2025) forecast. We are currently developing the next DWMP which is due to be published in November 2027. These assessments inform our future business plan submissions for growth related expenditure which must then be approved by Ofwat.

Please also see six documents and a "read me" file, which show the geospatial extent of all wastewater catchments across our operating region, as well as each of the WwTW that each of said catchments drain to. Please be aware that within some of the catchments, we have included New Appointment Variation (NAV) sites where present. A NAV is an independent company who has taken over responsibility for a geographical area or patch which once was served by United Utilities (UU).

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

[redacted]

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.