United Utilities Water Limited
Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR/ID598
Date: 09/12/2025
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(s):
Specifically, I seek the following details:
Population and demand forecasts used in the design and capacity planning for the Macclesfield WwTW upgrade, including:
The population figure(s) and forecast horizon years (e.g., to 2030, 2035, 2040) used in your modelling.
The data source(s) for these forecasts — e.g., Office for National Statistics (ONS) census data, Local Plan housing allocations, planning permissions, or local authority population projections.
Whether any specific housing developments or planning allocations (e.g. those in the Cheshire East Local Plan or subsequent planning applications) were factored into the demand projections.
The basis for the statement (as referenced by Friends of the River Bollin and in any UU communications) that the WwTW was "upgraded to accommodate forecast population growth".
Please provide the document(s), correspondence, or internal briefing in which this justification appears.

Our response:

1. **Population and demand forecasts used in the design of the Macclesfield WwTW upgrade**.

The population and demand forecasts used in the design and capacity planning for the Macclesfield Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) upgrade were established by the project team at the commencement of the project in 2020.
At that time, the Total Connected Population was recorded as 71,101. The project had a specified a design horizon of 2035, and the design of the project incorporated provision for an additional 11,578 people, ensuring sufficient capacity through to the 2035 horizon.
To support this work, we utilised a plan based forecast prepared by Edge Analytics, recognised external specialists in demographic forecasting and analytics. Their projections were underpinned by the best available planning information at the time, which included consideration of relevant housing developments and planning allocations. This approach ensured that the forecasts reflected both current population data and anticipated growth, providing a robust basis for the design of the upgraded treatment works.

2. **Communications with Friends of the River Bollin**

United Utilities has actively sought to engage with various committed local interest groups relating to the recent Macclesfield WwTW upgrade scheme. This work has included coordinated updates

through groups such as the Upper Mersey Catchment Partnership and BEACON (Bollin Environmental Action and Conservation) subgroup.
We have also discussed the scheme with local angling groups and the Friends of the Bowdon Bollin as well as the similarly named Friends of the Bollin and have hosted multiple site visits to provide project delivery updates as well as river health and catchment context to our impacts on the environment.
These updates have been in various formats and were often verbal two way discussions. During these updates we typically will have referenced that the new plant and processes being incorporated into the AMP7 design would account for growth across a future design horizon, rather than providing the specific growth figures that are set out above.
With specific reference to the Friends of the Bollin Group, they have tended to take an engineering focussed interest in Uinited Utilities plans for the Bollin and provide a lot of useful information on their website, River Bollin Information. This information includes a link to a UU produced YouTube video Improving water quality in the River Bollin. This video refers to the Macclesfield WwTW upgrade scheme accounting for future population growth in its design, which may be where the quote you reference comes from.

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