

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). As your request contained a number of specific questions, this response, restates each part of the request (in bold) and then follows this with our response.

I am writing to request information under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

Please provide any information held relating to sludge treatment, handling, and disposal at the Whitehaven wastewater treatment works operated by United Utilities.

Specifically, I request:

- **Records of sludge treatment processes in operation at the site, including any periods where key equipment (such as sludge presses) was not operational**

Whitehaven wastewater treatment works (WwTW) has a rotary thickener which thickens sludge from approximately 1-2% dry solids to 6-7% dry solids. This thickened sludge is ultimately transported to Workington WwTW or Carlisle WwTW for treatment and subsequent disposal / recycling.

- **Any notifications, reports, or correspondence regarding equipment outages or reduced treatment capacity**

All process equipment across our sites require periodic planned/reactive maintenance and/or repairs. At Whitehaven WwTW, we have completed a number of reactive repairs on the sludge thickener, and we have recently replaced the motor. Whitehaven WwTW has also experienced occasional power supply loss to the site. However, as sludge is only thickened at Whitehaven WwTW for onward transportation for treatment at other sites, any outage due to maintenance, repair or power loss would not have had any impact on the ultimate sludge treatment and disposal / recycling.

- **Records of sludge being transported (e.g. via tankers) from Whitehaven to other sites, including destinations such as Workington**

Please see enclosed a copy of sludge movements from Whitehaven WwTW in Appendix 1.

- **Any data held on volumes of sludge transported during this period**

This information is included in Appendix 1.

- **Any information held relating to the cost or financial implications of sludge transport, including:**
 - **cost estimates**
 - **internal assessments**
 - **correspondence discussing costs**

All sludge movements are planned and budgeted and each site has a service level agreement (SLA). Should a site need to export more than the SLA, this is passed to our framework contractors. This information is deemed to be commercially sensitive and therefore under Regulation 12(5)(e) we are unable to disclose this.

We publish information relating to the cost of sludge transport in our [Annual Performance Report](#). This can be found in the following tables:

- Table 4E – shows opex and capex allocated to the sludge upstream services for each year.
- Table 4K – shows a further breakdown of base expenditure.
- Table 4M – shows a further breakdown of enhancement expenditure.
- Table 8B – splits out sludge transport between a number of categories.
- **Any environmental permits, compliance assessments, or breach reports relating to sludge handling at this site**

A copy of the environmental permit for Whitehaven WwTW is available on the Environment Agency's website and can be accessed directly via this link: [View registration NW/017480351/004](#). As you will see, there have been no recorded permit non-compliances at the site.

There is no requirement for an environmental permit for the sludge treatment activities at Whitehaven WwTW. We therefore cannot provide you with a copy of this information in line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, as this information does not exist.

- **Any internal or external communications with United Utilities regarding these matters**

Please see our response to your previous question.

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], [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



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.