

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, and our response to your individual questions, are outlined below:

I am requesting environmental information held by United Utilities in its capacity as a sewerage undertaker concerning PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate and the acceptance, restriction, monitoring or refusal of landfill leachate at sewage treatment works or wastewater treatment works.

Please provide the following information created, received or held between 1 January 2023 and the date of this request:

- 1. Any current policy, guidance, acceptance criteria, standard operating procedure, briefing, risk assessment or internal position concerning PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate.**

Policy - United Utilities does not currently hold a policy specifically relating to PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate.

Our wider Environmental policy outlines our role in protecting and enhancing the quality of the environment whilst delivering our services. A copy of this policy can be accessed via the link below:

[Environmental policy April 2026](#)

Guidance - United Utilities does not currently hold any guidance documents specifically relating to PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

Acceptance criteria - United Utilities does not currently hold landfill leachate-specific acceptance criteria or numerical acceptance limits relating to PFAS, PFOS or PFOA. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

Trade Effluent applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis. At this time, United Utilities does not accept or grant applications to traders declaring effluent containing PFAS.

Standard operating procedures - United Utilities does not currently hold any standard operating procedures specifically concerning PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

Briefings - As outlined above, United Utilities does not currently hold a formal policy, guidance document or approved position specifically relating to PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate. As such, United Utilities has not undertaken any dissemination briefings specifically relating to this topic. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

Risk assessments - United Utilities has not implemented any risk assessments specifically concerning PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

Internal position - As outlined above, United Utilities does not currently hold a formal policy, guidance document or approved position specifically relating to PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in landfill leachate.

We are continuing to develop our understanding and approach to PFAS and other emerging contaminants as scientific understanding, monitoring capability, regulatory requirements and industry good practice evolve. This includes participation in industry-led investigations and collaborative activities, including the Chemicals Investigation Programme and wider sector initiatives concerning PFAS.

United Utilities has established governance arrangements to coordinate activities relating to emerging contaminants across its Water, Wastewater and Bioresources business areas. This includes consideration of future approaches to trade effluent and tankered waste management, and the challenges associated with PFAS, including analytical capability, the lack of established acceptance limits for many PFAS substances, treatment capability, source control and evolving regulatory expectations. These activities continue to develop and have not resulted in a formally approved landfill leachate-specific PFAS acceptance framework, policy or position.

United Utilities publicly recognises that PFAS may enter wastewater treatment works via a several routes, including trade effluent and tankered waste such as landfill leachate. An overview of these potential routes is described on our website:

[PFAS | United Utilities - Corporate](#)

2. Any documents setting current or proposed limits, screening levels, monitoring requirements, acceptance criteria, restrictions, suspensions or refusals for landfill leachate because of PFAS, PFOS or PFOA.

As outlined in our response to question 1, United Utilities does not currently hold any documents establishing landfill leachate-specific numeric limits, screening levels, monitoring requirements or acceptance criteria based specifically on PFAS, PFOS or PFOA. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

United Utilities' current operational practice is to apply a precautionary approach where PFAS is

declared in trade effluent or tankered waste applications. This reflects the current absence of agreed limits, uncertainty regarding treatment and verification, and the potential for PFAS to persist through wastewater treatment processes. However, due to the industry challenges outlined above, this approach has not yet been formalised into a landfill leachate-specific policy or acceptance framework.

3. A list of landfill sites or landfill operators whose leachate acceptance arrangements have been restricted, suspended, refused, reduced, reviewed or proposed for change because of PFAS, PFOS or PFOA in leachate.

For each site or operator identified in response to point 3, please provide, where held:

- site name;
- operator name;
- sewage treatment works or wastewater treatment works receiving, or previously receiving, the leachate;
- whether the affected route is direct discharge to sewer, tankered leachate to a sewage/wastewater treatment works, direct discharge to a sewage/wastewater treatment works, on-site treatment, or another route;
- the date the issue was first recorded;
- the current status of the acceptance arrangement.

To date, there are no recorded instances of any landfill sites or landfill operators whose leachate acceptance arrangements have been restricted, suspended, refused, reduced, reviewed or proposed for change specifically because of PFAS, PFOS or PFOA. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

4. Any correspondence or meeting records between United Utilities and the Environment Agency concerning restrictions, suspensions, refusals, limits, monitoring requirements or acceptance criteria for landfill leachate because of PFAS, PFOS or PFOA.

To date, United Utilities has not held any meetings, or engaged in any correspondence, with the Environment Agency specifically concerning restrictions, suspensions, refusals, limits, monitoring requirements or acceptance criteria relating to landfill leachate because of PFAS, PFOS or PFOA. In line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to provide you with a copy of this information, as it is not held.

United Utilities continues to proactively engage with Regulators and relevant industry groups regarding PFAS and emerging contaminants more generally. However, these discussions have not specifically related to landfill leachate acceptance arrangements.

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



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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
United Utilities

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.