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-1045
Date: October 2026
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, and our response to your individual questions, are shown below:

Question 1 - I am formally requesting an update on the progress of the commissioned review by Charles Cowan on allowing land to be leased for gamebird shooting. Please give details of the month and year that it is expected to be published.

United Utilities originally anticipated that the independent review being undertaken by Charles Cowap would be completed by the end of 2025. Unfortunately, due to circumstances affecting Mr Cowap's availability, progress has been significantly delayed and the review remains incomplete.

We are currently seeking confirmation from Mr Cowap as to whether he is able to complete the review. Should this not be possible, United Utilities will need to consider whether to commission a further independent assessment or make a decision based on the best available evidence and information so far collated. Therefore, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to confirm the anticipated date for publication of the review, as it is not yet known.

Question 2 - Please share all information including supporting documents which led to the decision to commission an independent review from internal parties and stakeholders (with personal information redacted as needed).

No separate formal decision paper or supporting report was produced as part of this process. The Request for Proposals document and the context for bidders, which sets out the scope of the independent review, is attached (see Appendix A). Elements of this document have been redacted in line with EIR Regulation 13 and UK GDPR. The decision to commission the review followed verbal discussions and meetings with relevant stakeholders, including those potentially affected by United Utilities' approach to sporting leases for gamebird shooting.

Following these discussions, United Utilities' executive team determined that an independent assessment was the most appropriate way to establish a credible and objective evidence base. The review was commissioned to collate and assess the potential economic, social and environmental implications of ceasing to renew sporting leases for gamebird shooting. It was considered important that this evidence was independently and credibly assessed before any

final decision was made on the future approach.

Question 3 - Can you also disclose whether gamebird shooting will be permitted on UU land from 2027 onwards.

United Utilities has not yet reached a final decision on whether gamebird shooting will continue to be permitted on its land from 2027 onwards due to the review not being completed. The decision will be informed by the available evidence, including the outcome of the independent review if available, alongside the relevant economic, social and environmental considerations. Therefore, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we are unable to confirm the position, as it is not yet determined.

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

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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.