United Utilities Water Limited
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Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR-976
Date: September 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:

SCHEDULE OF REQUESTED INFORMATION

1. Historical Estate Expenditure (Direct, Indirect, and Third-Party Disbursements) An itemised breakdown of all annual operational expenditure (OPEX) and capital expenditure (CAPEX) incurred on the Rivington estate and Lever Park for the last three financial years (FY 2023/24, FY 2024/25, and FY 2025/26).

This must encompass all funding mechanisms, whether incurred directly by United Utilities Water Limited, any subsidiary/parent entity within the United Utilities Group, or disbursed indirectly via:

- Core grants, operational subsidies, project funding, or unrestricted donations paid to the Rivington Heritage Trust (RHT);
- Service Level Agreements (SLAs), management fees, or funding contributions paid to Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside (or predecessor delivery bodies);
- Commercial contracts with third-party service providers (e.g. waste management, skip hire, grounds maintenance, security, arboriculture, or path and drainage repairs).

This breakdown should specifically distinguish between:

- Public amenity upkeep (litter picking, bin emptying, servicing public conveniences, vegetation clearance, and footpath/track maintenance);
- Tree safety surveys and arboricultural risk management;
- Statutory reservoir safety, dam maintenance, and raw water catchment works mandated under the Reservoirs Act 1975.

2. Financial Forecasts and Business Case for Car Park Infrastructure

- All internal business cases, financial models, revenue projections, and cost-benefit analyses produced by or for United Utilities regarding the proposed automated number plate recognition (ANPR) and pay-and-display car park scheme across the Rivington estate (including sites at Great House Barn, opposite Knowle House, Rivington Lane, Belmont Road, and Anglezarke).
- The projected annual gross revenue (including assessments supporting the £300,000–

£400,000 annual projection), operational running costs (including automated infrastructure servicing, data connections, and private contractor/management fees), and projected net surplus across all sites.
- Copies of the formal board or management committee meeting minutes (and associated briefing papers) where the decision to proceed with the Rivington parking scheme was officially authorised.

3. Financial Agreements, Transfers, and Multi-Agency Briefings
- A complete schedule of all financial transfers, grants, and management fees paid by United Utilities to the Rivington Heritage Trust and Groundwork CLM for each year across FY 2023/24, FY 2024/25, and FY 2025/26.
- Copies of all active contracts, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs), Service Level Agreements, leases, or revenue-sharing agreements governing the division of operational costs, visitor facilities management, or car parking fee collection between United Utilities, RHT, Groundwork, and any commercial parking contractor.
- Documentation detailing any agreed or proposed "Maintenance of Effort" (spending floor) or baseline funding commitment by United Utilities to guarantee ongoing direct estate expenditure following the introduction of parking tariffs.
- Copies of all formal presentations, briefing packs, meeting notes, and correspondence shared between United Utilities, RHT, and local town or parish councils (including Blackrod Town Council and Rivington Parish Council) concerning the parking scheme and financial forecasts.

4. Ecological, Arboricultural, and Traffic Baseline Assessments
- Copies of any draft, interim, or finalised Preliminary Ecological Appraisals (PEAs), bat emergence/activity surveys, arboricultural impact assessments (BS 5837), or traffic displacement and road safety audits commissioned in relation to the Rivington parking proposals (planning references: 26/00668/FUL, 26/00665/FUL, 26/00666/FUL).

Our response:

Question 1 – Historical Estate Expenditure

Please find enclosed Appendix A, which provides the available financial summary for the Rivington Estate for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026. The summary sets out annual capital expenditure (CAPEX), operating expenditure (OPEX) and allocated staffing costs, split between the various land and estates categories. The additional payments and contract information requested are set out under Question 3 below.

The information has been compiled using accounting records, expenditure trackers and management allocations. Staffing costs use estimated proportions of time and costs calculated against the standard wage and related terms and conditions for each role. Some catchment costs are allocated evenly across years where specific annual costs have not been identified. Water-supply income and direct expenditure on reservoirs and associated operational assets are excluded from this assessment, as they relate to the general provision of water supply rather than specific catchment and visitor management activities.

Question 2 – Financial Forecasts and Business Case for Car Park Infrastructure

The enclosed [*MOCKUP*] Appendix B includes the summary slide from the associated business case. All financial and contract information has been redacted, as it is deemed to be

commercially sensitive, and as such cannot be disclosed under the EIR. This approach is in line with Regulation 12(5)(e) which states that a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that its disclosure would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial or industrial information where such confidentiality is provided by law to protect a legitimate economic interest.

Please note that the planning applications referred to in the request have been withdrawn. The previous business case and related revenue projections now no longer represent the scheme being considered. A revised approach is now being developed, subject to public consultation, around the existing car parks. We have added a watermark to the business case document to make this point clear and avoid ambiguity.

Question 3 – Financial Agreements, Transfers and Multi-Agency Briefings

United Utilities provides annual financial support to the Rivington Heritage Trust (RHT). This is summarised in the table below:

Financial year	Financial support provided
2023/24	£80,000
2024/25	£80,000
2025/26	£160,000

United Utilities also funds a £105,000 contract covering the cleaning of public toilets, bin emptying and the opening and closing of car parks. The gardens in Rivington were never designed to be easy to maintain and are unique in their nature. It therefore takes considerable time and effort from Rivington Heritage Trust to maintain them. We therefore give RHT significant financial support to rightfully help them.

There is no active 'Memoranda of Understanding' in place between United Utilities and RHT. There is currently no car parking charging at Rivington and therefore no car parking income or associated revenue-sharing agreement. RHT occupies under a lease for which no rent is payable to United Utilities. As such, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we cannot provide this information, as it is not held.

For reference, we enclose Appendix C, which is a signed copy of the lease agreement between United Utilities and the RHT.

In terms formal presentations, the enclosed Appendix D outlines the information on the Rivington estate proposal that was consistently presented to the town councils, parish councils and RHT.

There is no separate agreed 'Maintenance of Effort' or spending-floor arrangement. As such, under Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR, we cannot provide this information, as it is not held. Our intention is that any future car parking income will be reinvested into the Rivington Estate.

Question 4 – Ecological, Arboricultural and Traffic Baseline Assessments

The following five appendix documents are enclosed:

Appendix	Document

E	P25105 Transport assessment – Draft (June 2026)
F	9514.02.025 Ecological impact assessment – Great House Barn (July 2026)
G	9514.02.044 Aboricultural impact assessment – Great House Barn (July 2026)
H	9514.02.026 Ecological impact assessment – Knowle House (June 2026)
I	9514.02.037 Aboricultural impact assessment – Knowle House (June 2026)

These documents outline the transport, ecological and aboricultural assessments undertaken by independent third-parties on behalf of United Utilities to support the planning application proposal. As described above in the response to question 2, this application has now been withdrawn.

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.