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Telephone: 01925 237000

unitedutilities.com

Our ref: EIR-986
Date: xx/09/2026
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). As your request contains several specific questions I have responded to each in turn below, highlighting your question in **bold** type.

1. **Wastewater pumping-station installed base**

    - **The total number of active operational wastewater pumping-station locations operated or maintained by your organisation at 31 December 2025, or at the most recent available reporting date.**

There is a total of 2,809 in-line wastewater pumping stations on our sewerage network as of 1 April 2026.

Drinking water, raw water, treatment work pumping stations and rental pumping stations are not included in this figure. Surface water pumping stations are included because they still form part of our sewerage network and can contribute to the overall hydraulic load of our network.

I have also separated out surface water pumping stations from the 2,809 total reported as per your request. This gives a total of 2,727 in-line wastewater pumping stations on our sewerage network exclusive of pumping stations that have a defined operational function of 'surface water'.

Some of our wastewater pumping stations do not have a recorded operational function. This means that I am unable to provide information on additional wastewater pumping stations which might operate as stormwater or surface water and I cannot definitively exclude them from the 2,727.

Accordingly, because we do not hold this information, in line with Environmental Information Regulations 12(4)(a) we cannot provide this information as it is not held.

    - **The reporting date to which this figure applies.**

The reporting date for both figures provided is 1 April 2026.

    - **Whether the figure represents physical locations, installations, assets, contracts or individual pumps.**

The two figures provided represents the number of in-line pumping stations on our sewerage network (inclusive of vacuum systems). It represents physical pumping station assets.

Please note that the 2,809 figure includes surface water pumping stations that drain directly to the receiving watercourse (e.g. a river). It also includes all terminal pumping stations. The 2,727 figure excludes all wastewater pumping stations that have an operational function classified as 'surface water'.

- **The number of inactive, mothballed or decommissioned wastewater pumping-station locations, if held separately.**

I have checked our records and there is a total of 35 pumping stations that are not recorded as 'active'. This is made up of 22 pumping stations categorised as 'disposed', 2 pumping stations defined as 'inactive', 10 pumping stations defined as 'Non-transferable' and 1 pumping station categorised as 'redundant'.

Please exclude:

- **Drinking-water or raw-water pumping stations.**
- **Pumping equipment located within treatment works, unless registered as a separate wastewater pumping-station location.**
- **Temporary or rental pumping installations.**
- **Surface-water or stormwater-only pumping stations.**

2. **Project activity, 2022–2026**

For each calendar or financial year from 2022 to 2026, please provide the number of wastewater pumping-station locations covered by:

- **New construction or first commissioning.**

Please see *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Project Activity') for a summary of this information. Each pumping station represented in this data is demonstrative of a project being completed.

- **Major renovation, replacement or capacity upgrade of an existing station.**

Please see *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Project Activity') for a summary of this information. Each pumping station represented in this data is demonstrative of a project being completed.

- **Refurbishment or overhaul of existing pumps, controls or mechanical/electrical components without substantial reconstruction of the station.**

Please see *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Project Activity') for a summary of this information. Each pumping station represented in this data is demonstrative of a project being completed.

- **Decommissioning or permanent closure.**

Please see *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Project Activity') for a summary of this information. Each pumping station represented in this data is demonstrative of a project being completed.

3. **Definitions and classification**

Please provide or refer us to:

- **The definition your organisation uses for a wastewater pumping station.**

We define a network pumping station as an individual pumping station site (not an individual pump) and include foul, combined and surface water pumping stations in this definition. Our network pumping stations can include two distinct pumping functions as follows:

- Transfer of the foul, surface or combined wastewater flow onward within the sewerage network towards a point of wastewater treatment – this is referred to as pass forward pumping.
- Intermittent transfer of excess stormwater to a point of discharge – this is referred to as storm overflow pumping.

- **The distinction, if any, between sewage, foul-water, combined-sewer, stormwater and surface-water pumping stations.**

Please refer to the previous answer for how we distinguish between sewage, foul-water, combined-sewer, stormwater and surface-water pumping stations.

- **The criteria used to classify work as new construction, capital enhancement, renovation, replacement, refurbishment, maintenance or operational expenditure.**

We classify work costs as capital or operating expenditure in line with their International Finance Reporting Standards (IFRS) statutory accounting classification (largely under Standard 16 "Property, Plant & Equipment"). The key category of expenditure on assets that is classified as "operating" is the cost of routine repairs and day to day servicing.

We split capital expenditure out into two components – base (maintenance) and enhancement. This is in line with RAG4.14 section 15.1 and 15.3 in the IFRS guidelines. The definitions for base and enhancement are outlined as follows:

- Base: Broadly, base (maintenance) expenditure is required to maintain the current level of service to customers. Base expenditure will include costs relating to the day-to-day running of the business and expenditure on maintaining the long-term capability of assets, as well as expenditure to improve efficiency
- Enhancement: Enhancement expenditure is generally where there is a permanent increase or step change in the current level of service to a new "base" level and/or the provision to new customers of the current service level. A newly constructed (i.e. new construction) pumping station would fall into this category.

United Utilities then further sub-divides Base (maintenance) expenditure into two components: Replacement and Refurbishment. This aligns with RAG 4.14 section 4.16 and 47 and is outlined below:

- Replacement: Capital maintenance activity to re-set asset life and/or to expand functional capability for assets that are approaching or have reached the end of their functional life. Replacement activities would typically take place at the asset class level, rather than the component level.
- Refurbishment: Significant capital activity to rebuild or replace parts or components of an asset that are worn out to restore it to a required functional condition and efficiency

and extend its life. Refurbishment might incorporate some modification. Assets requiring refurbishment may have deteriorated in condition to a point where further deterioration would make replacement the only option. Refurbishment may also expand the assets functionality.

Our business term for 'Asset renovation' is defined as:

'The refurbishment or restoration of an appointed water company's assets beyond the extent of regular maintenance. It normally extends the assets life significantly.'

This means that any reference to the 'renovation' of a pumping station would fall under the refurbishment / base expenditure category outlined above.

- **Any explanation needed to avoid double counting between projects, sites and individual pumps.**

We avoid double counting between projects, sites and individual pumps via our Asset Data Hierarchy (ADH) mechanism. ADH is set of reference data used to categorise United Utilities assets. ADH provides a logical structure for recording United Utilities assets and associated data.

It applies to all data for Non-Infrastructure assets owned by UU's regulated business. Non infrastructure assets are mainly above-ground assets, such as water and sewage treatment works, pumping stations, company laboratories, depots and workshops.

The ADH satisfies the requirements of the Asset Data Management Policy to "record and store data in such a way to conform to an agreed and consistent data structure". The ADH provides a way of consistently identifying an asset across many systems and processes. Adopting a common structure throughout the business allows us to align all of our data in a consistent way and prevent double counting. This means data can be shared and compared across different business systems and gives us the ability to:

- Meet our regulatory requirements to maintain asset records;
- Better manage our assets and future investment;
- Make more informed operational decisions;
- Support the Company's vision on performance and efficiency;
- Provide high-quality evidence to support our regulatory submissions and
- Report in a consistent way to regulators.

If readily available, please provide:

- **An aggregated asset-register extract containing a non-sensitive site or installation identifier, asset type, operational status, commissioning year and most recent major-upgrade year.**

I have provided *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register* for a detailed extract of all pumping station asset data. This dataset contains the following information across a series of tabs:

- *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Summary'): This provides a summary count of all the different wastewater pumping types as assured to Financial Year 2026.
- *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'NP & PP Stations'): This sheet provides a list of all network pumping and private pumping stations as defined in my response to

question 2. Some of the listed assets are counted as two pumping stations because they are in close proximity to each other. These assets are defined if they have a number 2 in column D or a number 2 in column F.

- *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Last in Line Stations'): This sheet provides a list of all Last in line pumping stations. Last in line stations are the last pumping station on the UU wastewater network before the sewage enters the inlet of a WW Treatment works.
- *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Terminal Stations'): This sheet provides a list of all Terminal pumping stations. Terminal pumping stations are pumping stations that are situated within a wastewater treatment site area.
- *Appendix 1 – WwPS Asset Register (*Tab: 'Project Activity'): This sheet provides a list of project activities relating to pumping stations and provides a response to question 2.

As outlined in my response to question 1 above, not all pumping stations have a recorded Operational Function. Accordingly, because we do not hold this information, in line with Environmental Information Regulations 12(4)(a) we cannot provide this information as it is not held.

- **Relevant annual reports, asset-management plans, regulatory submissions, investment-programme documents or published datasets.**

Our Business Plan 2025-2030 (PR24) provides substantial information on our investment priorities and asset management approach over the five-year period. You can access the plan and a variety of supplementary information via this link: United Utilities Group Plc - Business Plan 24

In addition to our PR24 documentation, we also have a Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan, or DWMP, which is our long-term, 25-year strategic plan. It sets out how we will maintain, improve, and expand our drainage and wastewater systems, to ensure resilient and robust infrastructure for the North West, now and for years to come. Our DWMP has plenty of useful information on our sewerage network which might be of use to you. Please see here for a link: United Utilities Drainage and wastewater management plan

- **Links to any information that is already publicly accessible.**

Please see my response to the above question for publicly accessible links.

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

[redacted]
Environmental Information Office

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.