

Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UA  
21 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3HF

By email

08 February 2016

Environmental Information Regulations –Request For Information

Reference: EIR 14022016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information concerning:

*the number of houses using septic system of sound construction: either a septic tank, or a cesspit or pool within the UK.*

I write to confirm the information you have requested is not held by Ofwat. Ofwat does not hold information on the numbers or locations of households served by septic tanks, cesspits or cesspools.

Infrastructures such as these are required to have a permit and it is possible that the Environment Agency may hold the information you have requested.

Enquiries can be emailed to them at:

[enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk)

Ofwat has only ever collected information on the number of billed properties for the sewerage service and the total connected population.

In the 1990's there was some information indicating that the percentage of households (or population) not connected to mains sewerage in England and Wales is around 4%. While populations have grown, at a national level the proportion connected to mains sewerage seems not to have varied much through the 1990's and in all probability has not changed much since.

Freedom of Information/EIR Information Not Held

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Below are two sets of figures that have been taken from reports (as identified) which shows some figures that you may find useful. You may wish to check with the Environment Agency have more up to date data held or search their website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency>

<b>Company</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Population not connected</b>	<b>% of population not connected</b>
Anglian	5,296,800	439,600	8.30
Welsh	3,118,300	218,300	7.00
North West (now UU)	6,842,600	212,100	3.10
Northumbrian	2,612,600	41,800	1.60
Severn Trent	8,320,700	199,700	2.40
South west	1,482,800	222,400	15.00
Southern	4,005,700	196,300	4.90
Thames	11,629,500	255,800	2.20
Wessex	2,425,300	169,800	7.00
Yorkshire	4,545,600	168,200	3.70
<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>50,279,900</b>	<b>2,124,000</b>	<b>4.22</b>

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Source: Review of Rural Water Supply and Sewerage, DoE, 1994

(Attributes table to an "internal study by Ofwat in 1991")

### Sewerage and Sewage treatment by population 1997/98

#### Population connected to sewer

	000's	%
<b>Total UK</b>	<b>56,730</b>	<b>94</b>
Anglian	5,418	93
Welsh	2,954	93
Northumbrian	2,586	98
North West	6,799	98
Severn Trent	8,225	98
Southern	3,991	95
South West	1,396	89
Thames	11,937	98
Wessex	2,420	94
Yorkshire	4,737	99

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<b>England and Wales</b>	<b>50,463</b>	<b>96</b>
East Scotland	1,461	97
North Scotland	1,039	86
West Scotland	2,367	97
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>4,867</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>Northern Ireland</b>	<b>1,400</b>	<b>83</b>

Source: Waterfacts 2000, Water UK

(Data credited to water companies, Scottish Office, DoE (NI) Water Service)

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request a review of the decision, please contact:

Programme Office  
Ofwat  
Centre City Tower  
7 Hill Street  
Birmingham B5 4UA  
[mailbox@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:mailbox@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk)

If you are not happy with the outcome of that review you can ask the Information Commissioner's Office to consider your complaint. Generally, the ICO will not make a decision unless you have exhausted Ofwat's complaints procedure. The ICO can be contacted at:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

or

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The Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow

Yours sincerely,

Christine Manise  
Senior Associate, Freedom of Information  
Operations  
Ofwat  
Centre City Tower  
7 Hill Street  
Birmingham B5 4UA