

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

By email

17 May 2016

Freedom of Information - Request For Information

Reference: EIR 57052016

Dear 

Thank you for your email in which you request information regarding Long Reach Sewage Treatment Works.

Ofwat does not hold any information on the contractual arrangements between Thames Water and its contractors carrying out civil engineering / infrastructure works at Long Reach or indeed any of the other sites you have identified.

It is not absolutely clear to us what you mean by the term 'regulatory driver' though this may correspond to what we used to term 'capital expenditure purpose categories'. There were four such categories: quality enhancement, supply demand, enhanced service levels and capital maintenance. Each of these could be said to be "regulatory drivers" though, apart from quality enhancement, seldom do we require companies to deliver schemes by a specified date.

If you are interested in information concerning the AMP5 period (2010-2015) at Long Reach there was a quality enhancement scheme with the objective of meeting new environmental quality objectives for the Thames Tideway set by the Environment Agency (EA).

With regard to AMP6 (2015-20) there is a scheme to monitor discharges and measure flows from the storm tanks at Long Reach. These obligations derive from Defra / EA policy rather than any particular legislation.

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The required delivery date for each project is set down in the National Environment Programme (NEP) and it is up to the EA to take whatever enforcement action it considers appropriate in the event that completion dates are not met. In instances where late completion results in non-compliance with a new or varied discharge permit the EA may prosecute the company.

Ofwat does not impose penalties as such for non- or late delivery but may “shortfall” the company at the next price review. This mechanism is intended to be a cost-neutral solution to ensure that the company does not benefit financially from the delay at the expense of its bill-paying customers.

If you have any queries or concerns with regard to the content of this email please do contact me, quoting the reference number.

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 and Project Management Office
Ofwat
Centre City Tower
7 Hill Street
Birmingham B5 4UA
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

The Information Commissioner’s Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane

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Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UA
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Wilmslow

Yours sincerely,

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