

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

By email

31 May 2016

Environmental Information Regulations- Request For Information

Reference: EIR 74052016

Dear 

Thank you for your email in which you request the following information :

1. A map with the location of all sewage treatment works – does a map exist?
2. Do you have any data on the amounts of coarse screenings produced at sewage treatment works? Are they recorded in the site waste returns?
3. How does the level of waste generation affect the cost of sewage undertakings?

Responding to your questions in turn:

1. I am sorry but there isn't a map showing the location of all sewage treatment works. There are approximately 6,400 in England and Wales in the ownership of the regulated water and sewerage companies in addition to a small number in private ownership, which if shown on a map would be very confused
That said, we do have the grid references of the largest works which equates to approximately 1,600 (these are all those serving an equivalent population of at least 2,000) –this information is published on the WISE (Water Information System Europe) website: <http://water.europa.eu/data-and-themes>. I attach a spreadsheet for your information.
In addition, the Environment Agency's website hosts an interactive map which shows the location of the discharge points from significant sewage treatment works – please see the link below:

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<http://maps.environment-agency.gov.uk/wiyby/wiybyController?x=357683&y=355134&scale=1&layerGroups=default&ep=map&textonly=off&lang=en&topic=pollution>

2. We do not hold this information as Ofwat does not collection this information. For your information water companies are also subject to the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) and you may wish to contact individual water and sewerage companies directly to see if the information is held. However, unless it is needed for some regulatory or operational purpose there's no guarantee that even the companies would have this information.

3. The cost of sewage undertakings is dependent upon various other factors. The standards to which the wastewater has to be treated has a bearing on costs as do the type of treatment processes employed at the treatment plant. Other considerations such as temperature and the extent to which the organic load is diluted on its way through the drainage network by infiltration and inflow of surface water will also impact on costs. It may be useful for you to look at the Regulatory Accounts that the companies' publish each year, particularly the table entitled 'Operating cost analysis' (or similar) which may help with your analysis. These can be found on Ofwat's website at the following link:
<http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/regulated-companies/comparing-companies/performance/companies-performance-2014-15/>. As an example, the relevant tables for Anglian Water may be found on pages 197 and 198 at http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/assets/media/AW_Annual_Report_and_Accounts_2015.pdf

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

Freedom of Information/EIR Provide the Information

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7 Hill Street
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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
Wilmslow

Yours sincerely,

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