

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

By email

07 June 2016

Freedom of Information Act- Request For Information

Reference: FOI 59052016

Dear 

Thank you for your email in which you request:

**Any written and email correspondence taking place between January 2015 and January 2016, relating to merger between Castle Water and Portsmouth Water.**

I wrote to you on 19 May in relation to the clarification of your request, but as you have not yet responded I write again after consultation with colleagues in relation to your request.

In your original request you referred to a merger between Castle Water and Portsmouth Water. If your request relates to the agreement by Portsmouth Water to sell its non-household retail business to Castle Water, then Ofwat confirms that it does hold the information you have requested.

I can further confirm that the information you requested is being withheld under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

The exemption applied is Section 44-Prohibitions on disclosure.

FOI 10 Refusal Notice (Absolute Exemption)

Freedom of Information/EIR Refusal

---

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

This exemption applies because section 206 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (“WIA91”) prohibits the disclosure, without consent, of information with respect to any particular business that has been obtained by virtue of any of the provisions of the WIA91 and relates to affairs of any particular existing business or living individual. Information which is covered by section 206 of WIA91 is exempt from disclosure under section 44 of the FOIA (an absolute exemption that is not subject to a public interest test).

If you wish to discuss any of the above please contact me. Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

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](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

The Information Commissioner’s Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow

Freedom of Information/EIR Refusal

---

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

Yours sincerely,

Christine Manise  
Senior Associate, Freedom of Information  
Programme and Project Management  
Ofwat  
Centre City Tower  
7 Hill Street  
Birmingham B5 4UA