

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

By email

27 October 2016

Environmental Information Regulations –Request For Information

Reference: EIR 129102016

Dear 

Thank you for your request for information. I write to confirm that the information you have requested is not held by Ofwat.

As I mentioned when we spoke, Ofwat is the economic regulator for the water industry and as such we have a statutory function to collect data specific to the undertaking and overseeing those functions.

Ofwat would not need to capture data specific on sewer blockages, although we would have some information, which companies have already published, in relation to internal sewer flooding (irrespective of the cause), in relation to their Outcome Delivery Incentives (ODI's). However, we would not necessarily have it for all companies or on a consistent basis and it is not in our remit to use this data for the type of research you refer to.

Under Section 94 of the Water Industry Act (WIA) water companies have a statutory duty to maintain their sewers and Ofwat must take enforcement under S18(1) where it is likely that a company is in breach of Section 94. This information would be held on a case by case basis and usually via a complainant, so again we would not contain detailed information in relation to each water company.

There is some useful information held on the Water UK site here <http://www.water.org.uk/search/site/sewer> which may be of use to you.

Freedom of Information/EIR Information Not Held

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For your information water companies are not subject to the terms and conditions of the FOIA, but are bound by the EIR's. Due to the nature of the subject you may wish to submit individual EIR requests to the relevant water companies who may hold specific data that is not necessarily published.

The Environment Agency also hold information in relation to sewers and may also be able to assist you further. Their contact details are enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

If you do have further information that will enable me to assist you further please contact me and I will be happy to discuss this issue with you.

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
Wilmslow

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Yours sincerely,

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