

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

By email

10 April 2017

Freedom of Information Act - Request For Information

Reference: FOI 18042017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email in which you request information concerning Ofwat staff and holding of water company shares.

Ofwat confirms it does hold the information requested.

As a non-ministerial Government department Ofwat, as an organisation, is not permitted to purchase or hold shares in any of the companies it regulates. Equally Ofwat employees are not permitted to hold shares whilst in employment.

As a condition of employment offer, prospective employees holding shares at the time of an offer of employment is made, will be required to sell those shares before taking up permanent status. Ofwat's Code of Conduct also refers to this issue and can be found on our website at the following link http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/gud_pro201203ofw_conflictinterest.pdf

At the time of request Ofwat has one member of staff who has been appointed on a temporary fixed term contract who does hold shares. The individual concerned is complying with the requirements and is currently in the process of selling those shares held. This employee does not hold a position within Ofwat where they act in a decision making capacity, neither are they working on any programmes that handle company data and as such does not have access to this information. The approval of the Chief Executive was sought and received before making the appointment. Only

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upon satisfactory conclusion of the sale can the option of a permanent contract be considered.

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

Once an FOI request is answered, it is considered to be in the public domain. To promote transparency, Ofwat may publish the response and any material released on our website in the [FOI disclosure section](#). Any personal information in the letter will be removed before publishing.

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

Yours sincerely,

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