

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

By email

20 April 2017

Freedom of Information Act - Request For Information

Reference: FOI 21042017

Dear 

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

provision of geographical data, in a suitable GIS format, that define the precise boundaries of the sewerage service areas of the sewerage undertakers in England and Wales.

Ofwat confirms it does not hold the information requested.

Currently Ofwat does not hold water and sewerage undertaker boundary data in digital mapping format. We do have hopes to instigate a project for a digital mapping project, but currently funds and resources prohibit this.

For your information, the original boundaries of water supply areas and sewerage services areas were specified in 1989 in the form of large (approximately A1) paper maps and (where relevant) lists of premises that were either physically inside an area, but deemed to be outside it or physically outside an area but deemed to be inside it.

As anyone is entitled to a certified copy of one or more of the maps held on our official register on payment of the cost (section 195(4) of the Water Industry Act 1991 and <http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/foi/#register>) they are therefore exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act because they are reasonably accessible by other means (Section 21 FOIA)

Freedom of Information/EIR Provide the Information

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

As Ofwat does not have the copying facility we would have to obtain a quote to copy because of their size (hence why our notice on access to the register includes the cost of transport). They are also not loose, but bound together with hard back covers (in at least one set per appointment – so Severn Trent Water, for example, would have at least two – one for its appointment as a water undertaker and one for its appointment as a sewerage undertaker, the area boundaries of which are different). You would need to specify which companies you would need as since the original maps were created there has been subsequent mergers / takeovers, but you may find you would probably need almost all of them.

For your information there are some additional postcodes at the beginning of each water company licence, which are specific sites added since the boundary map was produced in 1989 (in some instances not in the same area). All the water company licences can be found on our [website](#) for further information.

If you have any queries or concerns with regard to the content of this email please contact me at Foi@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

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. We will hold the information in accordance with Ofwat's [retention and disposal schedule](#) which can be found in our Publication Scheme on our website.

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

Freedom of Information/EIR Provide the Information

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

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,

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