

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

By email

08 May 2017

Freedom of Information Act - Request For Information

Reference: EIR 23042017

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your information request concerning:

**Details of businesses/organisations who have breached their trade effluent consent limits or have been fined for breaching consent limits – for businesses in 2016 who this applied to and 2017 to date.**

Ofwat does not hold or compile a list of those organisations who may have breached the limits as the Environment Agency (EA) are the regulatory body that enforces consents and issues fines for breaches. It is possible that the EA (national or regions) may hold such a list as you are seeking.

Companies report their operational performance in the annual performance report that they publish on their websites. If they have been fined for any breaches this will show in the financial statements and notes to the accounts – the accounts form part of the annual performance report.

The Discover Water website hosts a wide range of information and I would recommend seeing what is available on <http://www.discoverwater.co.uk/>. This provides a range of information including links on this page <http://www.discoverwater.co.uk/water-sector#water-companies> to 2015-16 performance information published by each company.

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Other public domain information that might be of interest to you are at the links below:

- Environment Agency: water and sewerage companies in England: environmental performance report - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/water-and-sewerage-companies-in-england-environmental-performance-report>
- Defra / Environment Agency guidance: discharges to surface water and groundwater: environmental permits - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/discharges-to-surface-water-and-groundwater-environmental-permits>
- Role of Ofwat in trade effluent appeals - <http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/publications/trade-effluent-appeals/>

Ofwat also located a request for information which is also found in the public domain regarding a similar request to Welsh Water

[https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/list\\_of\\_industrial\\_trade\\_effluen\\_3](https://www.whatdotheyknow.com/request/list_of_industrial_trade_effluen_3) - The request is made under the terms and conditions of the Environmental Information Regulations asking for a list of companies issued with trade effluent discharge consents. It looks like the request was successful – if you scroll down the page there's an Excel spreadsheet ('161108 Copy of Regional TE Database v4 71 external version.xlsx') that includes names of companies.

I would recommend a similar EIR request to the EA in the first instance (as they may contain a central list) or alternatively making a repeat request to the ten Water and Sewerage Companies (WaSC) asking for details of businesses/organisations who have breached their trade effluent consent limits or have been fined for breaching consent. The EA have a useful link to previously published FOI/EIR requests and a link to their contact us page [here](#).

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

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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

Yours sincerely,

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