

Freedom of Information/EIR Provide the Information

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

By email

24 April 2018

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2000 - Request For Information

Reference: FOI 20180444

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information concerning Severn Trent Water Assets.

Ofwat does not hold the information requested but I have included some information in response to your questions below:

1. At or around privatisation, or flowing from any other part of The Water Act 1989, were any land or property assets gifted to STW or transferred to them in any way that could be considered preferential terms (compared to what they would have paid had that land or property been obtained by an external party from the relevant Water Authority or via the open market)?
2. If so, how many parcels of land and properties were transferred in this way and what was the approximate value of this benefit accorded to STW?
3. Were any obligations, statutory or otherwise, placed upon STW if they disposed of this property, or were there any guidelines, formal or otherwise, issued in this regard?

Ofwat does not hold any information on land owned at the time of privatisation of the water industry. One source of information, which may help you in this regard, would be the original Severn Trent privatisation sale prospectus. Ofwat no longer holds these, but there should be copies of these held on public record and I assume The National Archives (TNA) would be a good starting point. At that time they would

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probably have been the responsibility of the former Department of the Environment.

The TNA can be found at this link <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

4. Were any obligations, statutory or otherwise, placed upon STW if they disposed of this property, or were there any guidelines, formal or otherwise, issued in this regard?
5. Was there any obligation, real or intended, for STW to handle and/or manage this property responsibly and/or to dispose of this property at best price?
6. Please supply details of the main obligations and/or guidelines applicable in respect of the above, or direct me to a document that contains these?

License condition K at the following [link](#) (page 106) governs land disposals. When companies dispose of land and buildings, customers benefit from 50% of the proceeds by reducing the regulatory capital value which in turn reduces customer bills.

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Further information concerning your rights is available from the Information Commissioner's Office at:

<https://ico.org.uk/>

or

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow

Yours sincerely,

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