

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

By email

28th April 2020

Environmental Information Regulations 2004
Request For Information

Reference: EIR 202004046

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for the following information which was received by Ofwat on 1st April.

'Good morning, I wonder can you help me in connection with water companies preparation and presentation of Drainage Strategies. I have read with interest the jointly commissioned document prepared by Halcrow Limited for both you and the EA.

I was wondering if there are any regulations governing the submission of these strategies from the water companies. In particular the frequency of submission and revision of the strategies would be of interest to me and also to know if it is mandatory to produce a strategy for all STW's. It may be that STW's with a P/E below a certain number may be exempt.

Anything you might be able to do to help me would be much appreciated. If outside the remit of OfWAT an indication of which body might be responsible for the regulation of Drainage Strategies would suffice.'

Although Ofwat are involved in this work, it is Defra who are ultimately responsible for setting out requirements for drainage and wastewater management plans (DWMPs). Defra published a summary of consultation responses and the Government's response in July 2019. The link to the document is here:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/819372/floods-water-consult-sum-resp.pdf

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This makes it clear that the stated intent is to make DWMPs a statutory requirement – see page 25 where it states *“The government intends to proceed with the proposal to place Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans on a statutory footing, produced on a 5-year cycle.”*

The Environment Bill 2019-21, as introduced, includes the necessary amendments to the Water Industry Act 1991 to bring this about – see <https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/58-01/0009/20009.pdf>

Companies should publish their plans on their websites and you can see an example of where the information will be on WSX’s website here:

<https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/environment/drainage-and-wastewater-management-plan>

Once an EIR 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 at the following link <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/foi/policies-and-procedures/>. If you have any concerns how Ofwat processes your personal data please contact the Data Protection Officer at dpo@ofwat.gov.uk. To view Ofwat’s full Privacy Policy please go to <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/foi/policies-and-procedures/>

As Ofwat does not hold the information you requested, under EIR 2004 this means exception 12(4)(a), information not held, is engaged and your request is formally refused.

If you have any queries or concerns with regard to the content of this email please do contact me, quoting the reference number. If you are unhappy with how your request has been responded to you can request an internal review. Please contact the Programme and Project Management (PPM) department at foi@ofwat.gov.uk.

EIR Information Request

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,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the Records Management Assistant.

Records Management Assistant