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28 April 2022

Our Ref: EIR-21-22-773

## Environmental Information Regulation (EIR) Request

Dear Mr Hughes

This letter and its attachments provides our response to the e-mail from Councillor Norman MacRae, dated 1 March 2022. In view of the impending Council elections, I have been advised that it would be appropriate to address this reply to you, rather than to Councillor MacRae or another elected member.

Please see our response below to the request as set out in the e-mail.

### Your Request

This Council believes that historical underinvestment in the sewerage infrastructure in West Oxfordshire and further up the catchments of the rivers Windrush, Evenlode and other Thames's tributaries in West Oxfordshire has led to a marked deterioration in water quality in these rivers and in the Thames due to excessive spills of untreated or partially treated sewage in both storm and normal conditions. The Council would like to receive the following details: -

- Capital improvements by station over the last ten years (description and cost), to include details of storm overflows at both sewage pumping stations and at sewage treatment works.
- Operating capacity analysed by station over each of the last ten years.
- Capital Plans by station over the next five years (description and estimated cost);
- Number of spills by station over each of the last ten years together with reason for spill, and to include overflows.
- Details, including logs, of failures at pumping stations, and to include downtimes and the use of tankers, and to include hydraulic incapacity or equipment malfunction.
- The level of any fines levied by the regulator or courts for spills over each of the last ten years.

### Our Response

Please see the document attached (*WODC - Sites\_Investments\_Capacities - Final.xlsx*) detailing data pertaining to your request:

- Listed are all sites within the WODC area, as well as any additional sites that discharge to the Evenlode and Windrush catchments further upstream. Note, this does not include sites such as pumping stations that are not able to discharge to the environment;
- The type of discharge, receiving watercourses and catchments of each site are provided;
- Past and future investments are listed against each site, with a key to acronyms of investment schemes found at the top of the document;
- In columns I and J, we have provided expenditures for AMP6 (2015-2020) and AMP7 (expenditure to date; this does not include forecast expenditure for the remainder of AMP7) against each site. The spend is reflective of Operations Directly Managed Spend, and excludes spend on Health and Safety. This includes both reactive and planned expenditure, but does not necessarily provide the exact costs spent per site as expenditure may be split between sites.
- To also include major Capital Engineering costs, columns F and G detail past investment under AMP5 (2010-2015), where column G refers to the corresponding project detailed in column F. Should you wish to view a further breakdown of costs at any particular sites, please let us know;
- The current minimum permitted flow to full treatment capacity (prior to storm discharge) for each site is provided.
- We will not be providing estimates of the projected cost of planned capital works as this could prejudice our ability to achieve the most efficient bids during the tendering process. Once contractors for individual schemes have been appointed, this information can be made available.

Also attached is EDM (Event Duration Monitor) data for each site from 2019 (or when data became available) to the date of your request (*EIR-21-22-773 EDM Data.xlsx*).

All convictions and fines against Thames Water in the WODC area and vicinity, which relate to spills since 2011, have also been listed in a document attached: (*Extract\_TWUL\_EA\_convictions\_re\_spills\_2011-2021.xlsx*).

As discussed with Councillor Norman MacRae, it is not practical for us to respond to the request for 'Details, including logs, of failures at pumping stations, and to include downtimes and the use of tankers, and to include hydraulic incapacity or equipment malfunction'. The volume of information requested in this part of the request is immense and would require a disproportionate amount of time to assemble. We will of course, provide the information we hold about activities at specific sites on specific dates, on request.

## Disclaimer

The information provided with this letter is taken from the information we hold on our records as at the date indicated. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of this information and it should not be relied on for any purpose.

## Retention

Please note that we will also retain a record of your request to allow us to evidence our compliance with the law relating to EIR.

## Charging

Although in accordance with our published charging regime, we are able to charge fees/costs for dealing with requests under EIR, on this occasion, we have chosen not to do so. We reserve the right to charge in accordance with the fees published on our website for any requests, now or in the future.

For more information about our interim charges scheme please click [here](#) (please note that you will need to use an up to date web browser and that the web pages will not support access by an older browser, such as Internet Explorer).

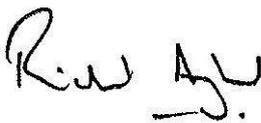
Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

## Internal Review

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of this response and should be addressed to the Environmental Information Requests Manager and emailed to [EIR.Requests@thameswater.co.uk](mailto:EIR.Requests@thameswater.co.uk)

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply, without charge, to the Information Commissioner, who will consider whether Thames Water has complied with its obligations under the EIR, and can require Thames Water to remedy any problems. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the EIR in general, on the Information Commissioner's website at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

Yours sincerely



Richard Aylard CVO  
Sustainability Director

Attachment(s):

1. EIR-21-22-773 EDM Data.xlsx
2. Extract\_TWUL\_EA\_convictions\_re\_spills\_2011-2021.xlsx
3. WODC - Sites\_Investments\_Capacities.xlsx