

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for environmental information. We appreciate your interest, and we want to let you know that your request has been carefully considered in accordance with the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR). As your request contained a number of specific questions, this response, restates each part of the request (in bold) and then follows this with our response.

This request concerns Knowsley Village, Merseyside (postcode district L34), and in particular Home Farm Road, Knowsley Lane and the land east of Knowsley Lane which is the subject of outline planning application 25/00486/OUT before Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council for up to 700 dwellings. Unless stated otherwise, please treat the date range as 1 January 2015 to the date of this request.

Please provide:

- **The number of properties in Knowsley Village recorded on the DG5 register as being at risk of internal or external sewer flooding, and the number of recorded sewer flooding incidents, broken down by year and by postcode sector. I do not require any information identifying individual properties or persons, and am content for the data to be aggregated to whatever level avoids the disclosure of personal data.**

For awareness, United Utilities no longer maintain a DG5 register, and we are therefore not able to provide you with information from this in line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR as this is no longer held. The register was previously a mandatory list maintained by water companies of properties and areas experiencing sewer flooding due to hydraulic overload. Hydraulic overload means that the sewers did not have sufficient capacity to deal with the peak flows that they could receive. At the time, the DG5 register was used to track performance and prioritize investment in improvements.

Whilst we no longer maintain a DG5 register, I have provided you with details of flooding events in Appendix 1 which I hope you will find useful.

- **Records of any sewer flooding, surcharging, or hydraulic overload incident recorded at or affecting Home Farm Road or Knowsley Lane, Knowsley Village.**

Details of flooding events in the area have been included in Appendix 1.

- **Any hydraulic modelling, network capacity assessment, drainage area study or drainage and wastewater management plan output held in respect of the foul, surface water or combined network serving Knowsley Village, including model outputs and accompanying technical commentary.**

Site specific assessments - We have forwarded the details of this site to our wastewater modelling

team for an assessment of whether flows from the development have an impact on the level of service of the public sewerage system. Once we receive the assessment, we will consider any areas where reinforcement is required and prioritise any required interventions as part of our Network Reinforcement programme. Therefore, at present, we are unable to share any further details of this with you as the assessment is still within the course of completion. This approach is in line with Regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIR.

Catchment assessments - United Utilities are now managing and prioritising investment on the sewer networks using more advanced, data driven [Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans \(DWMPs\)](#). These plans cover the wastewater treatment works as well as the sewer networks and use agreed national guidance to assess all the current and potential future risks to those assets, including those associated with sewer flooding. When reviewing this, please refer to the Alt Crossens dataset: [spa_01-alt-crossens-dwmp.pdf](#). Please note that this information relates to the whole catchment, not just the Knowsley Village area.

This approach allows these DWMPs to be developed in a way which more effectively aligns with the requirements of other regulators, such as the Environment Agency and directly meets the Ofwat requirements in terms of developing and supporting long-term planning.

- **Any pre-development enquiry, capacity assessment, point-of-connection response, or requisition correspondence provided to Hallam Land Management, Hyperion Ventures, or any agent or consultant acting on their behalf, in relation to the land east of Knowsley Lane, Knowsley Village — including any statement made by United Utilities as to the capacity of the existing network to accommodate flows from the proposed development.**

Please see enclosed copies of the pre-development enquiries we have received, and our response in Appendix 2a and 2b. Please note that some redactions have been made in line with Regulation 13 of the EIR to remove any personal information such as names and contact information, or information which could make a specific property owner identifiable.

- **Any consultation response, comment or objection submitted by United Utilities to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to planning application 25/00486/OUT.**

Whilst United Utilities is not a statutory consultee in the planning application process, we work closely with local authorities to provide comments on applications for planning permission, where we think it is necessary to manage the impact on our assets and on customers. Where risk is identified, planning applications are reviewed by the relevant UU expert to assess the risk to UU's assets and/or services and to provide advice on how to mitigate the risk through the planning application process.

Our comments must, however, reflect our statutory obligations as a regulated water company, one of which is that we must allow new connections to our network. Whilst we cannot stop development from occurring, we do review applications for planning permission and provide comments where necessary. These comments include recommending planning conditions to control the approach to drainage and seeking to secure foul only connections to the public sewer wherever possible. Foul only

connections are important as they help to keep the impact on our wastewater network assets to a minimum, as surface water (rainwater) flows can be much larger than foul flows.

Copies of our response to Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council in relation to planning application ref: 25/00486/OUT, and a previous Screening Opinion Request for the same site (Knowsley Council ref: 25/00233/SO), can be found in Appendix 3a and 3b.

- **Records of spill events and duration monitoring returns for any combined sewer overflow or storm overflow discharging within or downstream of Knowsley Village.**

Storm overflow data is publicly available and can be found on via [Storm overflow performance | United Utilities](#). For awareness, there is one overflow point within the area you are interested in, this is Fazakerley Wastewater Treatment Works Storm Tank Overflow (UUP00724). Event Duration Monitoring began on this asset during 2019, however we do not hold data prior to 2020, and as such are unable to provide this in line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR. For ease, I have collated and attached a copy of the 2020 and 2022-2026 data in Appendix 4. Please note there were no spills in 2021 from this asset.

- **Any assessment held as to whether the existing network serving Knowsley Village is at, near, or over capacity, and any planned or programmed reinforcement of that network.**

As referenced in the response to point 3 above, we have forwarded the details of the site to our wastewater modelling team for an assessment of whether flows from the development have an impact on the level of service of the public sewerage system. Once we receive the report, we will consider any areas where reinforcement is required and prioritise any required interventions as part of our Network Reinforcement programme. Therefore, at present, we are unable to share any further details of this with you as the assessment is still within the course of completion. This approach is in line with Regulation 12(4)(d) of the EIR.

We hope that this response answers your request. However, if you're not satisfied with how we've handled it, you can request an internal review. To do this, please write to us at Environmental Information Office, Haweswater House, Lingley Mere, Warrington, WA5 3LP or email us at EIRRequests@uuplc.co.uk, addressing your request to [REDACTED], and explaining why you're unhappy with our response. We'll be very happy to review your request and ensure we've done everything we can to assist you.

Any request for an internal review should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this response, and we will reply within 40 working days from receipt of the request for internal review.

Many thanks
[REDACTED]

We'd love to hear your feedback on how we handled your request! If you have a moment, please complete our short survey [here](#) – your input helps us improve our service.