

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). Please see our comments, as follows.

Please could you provide me with the following data in a spreadsheet for 2023 and 2024? If you only have the data for 2023 then please share that. If you don't have data for either year, please explain why and provide data for the most recent year that you have it. If you only have a proportion of the information requested, please provide the elements that you do have.

- 1. Volume or mass of sludge produced (e.g., tonnes per year)**
- 2. Source of sludge (e.g., specific wastewater treatment works)**
- 3. Characteristics of the sludge (e.g., dry solids content, organic matter, pathogens, metals)**
- 4. Type of treatment applied (e.g., anaerobic digestion)**
- 5. Treatment location (specific treatment works or third-party facility)**
- 6. Locations where sludge is temporarily stored**
- 7. Duration times for storage**
- 8. Disposal methods (e.g., land spreading, incineration, landfill, or energy recovery)**
- 9. Specific agricultural land or forestry sites where sludge is applied, with latitudes and longitudes or other specific location data**
- 10. Max heavy metal concentrations in sludge**
- 11. Max pathogen and contaminant levels**

With reference to points 1 to 5, this information is publicly available on our website. Please follow the [link to our "Bioresources"](#) page and download the Bioresources market information report.

As per the [Sludge in Agriculture Code of Practice](#), storage of untreated liquid sludge, or sludge that has been conditioned with lime or other coagulants must be stored for a minimum of 3 months. If sludge has been subject to primary mesophilic anaerobic digestion however, storage must be for a minimum of 14 days.

The vast majority of our Biosolids (treated sludge) are recycled in agriculture following the industry standard Biosolids Assurance Scheme (BAS). We also recycle raw sludge or non-compliant Biosolids in Land reclamation. We do not use landfill, incineration or energy recovery as a disposal method. Please note that this information has been supplied to Ofwat as part of our performance review, which you can view here [UUW58 Bioresources business plan](#).

Temporary storage of biosolids can be found in the public S3 exemption register on the DEFRA website, [Waste Exemptions](#). S3 exemptions are a requirement of Sludge Use in Agriculture Regulations and allow biosolids to be stored for a period of 12 months in the place of use, and an application means that the place of storage can be used within 3 years of the application. As required by regulations we register S3 waste exemptions before delivery of biosolids in any location, so the public register shows all the registered waste exemptions but does not show what has been spread to land at any point in time.

With regards to the location of agricultural or forestry land, we engage Regulation 12(5)(e) of the EIR as this information is about our farming customers, and disclosing this information would adversely affect the confidentiality of commercial information where such confidentiality is provided by law. In compliance with s206 Water Industry Act 1991, as a statutory undertaker, UU should not disclose information with respect to any particular businesses which has been obtained by virtue of any of the provisions of the Water Industry Act and related to the affairs of any individual or any particular business, without the consent of that individual.

The maximum heavy metal concentrations, as well as allowable pathogen and contaminant levels in sludge are available in the [Sludge in Agriculture Code of Practice](#), and [Biosolids Assurance Scheme \(BAS\) Code of Practice](#). These links also detail further information about the tests UU are required to conduct.

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
EIR Team

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.