



National Audit Office

The UK's independent public spending
watchdog

Switchboard +44 (0)207 798 7000

Direct Line +44 (0)207 798 7264

Email FOI@nao.org.uk

Reference EIR-1885

Date 8 December 2025

WHITBURN SEWERAGE SYSTEM

Thank you for your request on 8 November 2025 in relation to Whitburn Sewerage System. Your request has been handled under the terms of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Having considered your request, we have found it to be similar to another request which you submitted to us 9 months prior to this one (ref: EIR-1800, which we received on 18 February 2025). We are, therefore, refusing this request under Section 14(2) of the FOIA (repeat requests).

The Information Commissioner's [Guidance on Section 14\(2\) Repeat Requests](#) says that a public authority does not have to comply with a request which is identical, or substantially similar to a previous request submitted by the same individual, unless a reasonable period has elapsed between those requests. In that request you asked for **"all correspondence relating to and answering the questions 1 to 7"** from our 8 April 2020 email to the Environment Agency (EA). We searched our relevant folders thoroughly and interpreted the request in the broad terms in which it was made, and we supplied you with all of the relevant correspondence. We also explained that we do not have any further correspondence or notes of any further meetings on our files relating to these queries.

Your new request is substantially similar because you have again asked for the answers to the questions from our 8 April 2020 email to EA, when we provided you with this information in March. Additionally, you have asked about our approach to matters discussed in correspondence you had with EA and Ofwat in 2023 and 2025. We have not engaged with them on this matter and, as we explained in March, we do not have any further correspondence or notes of any further meetings relating to the enquiries we had made. Furthermore, we are unable to answer your question about the NAO agreeing to EA's spending, as this is not something we have done or have any remit to do.

Our policy is to respond to requests as helpfully and promptly as possible. Therefore, I hope this information is helpful and you are happy with the way we have handled your request. If you are not happy with this response, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days by writing to the NAO FOI Team at FOI@nao.org.uk.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The primary way of escalating your concerns to the Information Commissioner is at: <https://ico.org.uk/foicomplaints>.

Yours sincerely,

NAO FOI Team