

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.

I am a journalist with investigative newsroom SourceMaterial. Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, I am requesting the following information in Cumbria and Lancashire.

- 1. Maps, GIS data, or location descriptions identifying PVC water mains installed before 1980, including street-level or postcode-level detail where available**

This information is publicly available and can be viewed via United Utilities' [on-line viewing facility](#) free of charge. Property Searches manages the appointment diary on behalf of UU Water Ltd so please contact them on 03707 510101 to book an appointment.

- 2. The total length of pre-1980 PVC pipes currently in service in these areas, broken down by installation period (pre-1960, 1960–1970, 1970–1980) if recorded.**

We currently have approximately 192km of PVC mains in service that were installed pre 1960, and 1,833km which were installed between 1960 to 1980. We unfortunately do not hold the information at a more granular level than the one provided.

- 3. All vinyl chloride monomer (VCM) testing results from tap water, consumer premises, or distribution network endpoints since 2010, including sampling locations, dates, and concentrations detected.**

We do not routinely monitor for VCM in drinking water supplies. VCM concentrations are controlled by product specification and only where there is a significant risk are we required to analyse for the determinand. As such, we are unable to provide you with a copy of any sample results in line with Regulation 12(4)(a) of the EIR as these are not held.

- 4. Any internal risk assessments, technical reports, or correspondence with the Drinking Water Inspectorate concerning VCM leaching risk from PVC infrastructure.**

All our supply systems are subject to Drinking Water Safety Plan risk assessments in line with the World Health Organisation's water safety planning framework. Our risk assessments have not identified any supplies where there is a significant risk for VCM breaching the regulatory standard of 0.5 ug/l. All the



Water for the North West

United Utilities Water Limited
Haweswater House
Lingley Mere Business Park
Lingley Green Avenue
Great Sankey
Warrington WA5 3LP

Telephone: 01925 237000
unitedutilities.com

products that we use in contact with drinking water, including PVC pipes, are approved for use by the Drinking Water Inspectorate. The list of approved products is available on the DWI website (www.dwi.gov.uk).

5. Your current policy or methodology for assessing VCM compliance—specifically whether this is based on direct measurement or theoretical calculation.

Should we identify a risk, our laboratory has a method for detection of VCM. The analysis is carried out by Gas Chromatography–Mass Spectrometry (GCMS) with headspace sampler and has a limit of quantification of 0.085µg/l in drinking water.

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



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.