



request-989913-089a2f97@whatdotheyknow.com

Date

21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

Contact

Tel 0330 303 0368

Dear Mr Stone

**The Environmental Information Regulations 2004  
Request for Information  
EIR reference 1930**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 7<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023. We have dealt with your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. This letter provides the response to your request, as follows: a complete copy of your original request is provided in Appendix A.

*Northeye (Bexhill)*

We can confirm that Southern Water does hold information of the type you have requested as follows:

*1. How will foul water be treated at the former Northeye prison site in Bexhill?*

The wastewater from the above site will be treated in accordance the treatment processes defined in the permit. Via a mains sewerage pipe, wastewater will be either pumped to (via a wastewater pumping station (WPS)) or gravitationally fed to a wastewater treatment works (WTW). Here, the wastewater will undergo various treatment processes to ensure it meets environmental regulations before being returned to the environment.

*2. What foul water treatment processes are available at this site (pumping station or something else)?*

Treatment will commence at the WTW, which for this site is Bexhill and Hasting WTW. Treatment at this site will include screening, grit and grease removal, aeration and settlement processes.

*3. Where is this treatment centre sited?*

As advised above the treatment centre for this site is Bexhill & Hasting WTW which is located in Hastings.

4. *Will the existing treatment centre need to be upgraded as a result of the site being used for a possible asylum centre for up to 1200 people in the near future and what form will this upgrade take?*

Southern Water have not been consulted on the plans to house 1200 people at the Northeye Prison site and the issue was not raised at a recent meeting with the Bexhill Environment Group. As we are now aware of the plans, Southern Water will include the plans in our Risk and Value (R & V) process for the area.

Where there is concern in an area of development these issues are assessed by our Planning and Resilience department as a whole, and alongside any existing issues, to better understand the impact on our network. This is known as the R & V process which is designed to enable Southern Water to deliver the most efficient programme at the best cost to our customers.

Overview of Risk and Value process.

- . This is Southern Water's new investment planning process
- . The Risk and Value team is made up of Southern Water staff from all stakeholder functions and Southern Water partners which will all be part of the decision making process from the start to the finish
- . R&V checkpoints include: Risk Identification and Need Validation, Root Cause Analysis, Preferred Option Identification, Design and Cost Value and Post Investment Appraisal
- . These are underpinned by Investment Decisions to ensure governance throughout the process
- . All needs will be put through the new R&V process

This process will aim to identify if any upgrades are required in an area in order for the network to operate as efficiently as possible.

5. *Will the output from this site be pumped up to the main sewer that runs along Barnhorn Road? If not, where will it go?*

Wastewater from this site will pass through the main in Barnhorn Road.

6. *If so, will this main sewer be able to cope with this extra output?*

Please see the answer to question 4 above.

7. *If not, what plans are proposed to upgrade the main sewer?*

Please see the answer to question 4 above.

8. *Will the main sewer running along Barnhorn Road be able to cope with the possible output from the proposed new developments at Spindlewood (c 135 new properties) and at Ashridge Court (c 30 new properties) as well as the completion of the Rosewood Park site (c 70 remaining new properties) as well as the 1200 migrants at the Northeye site?*

The sewer on Barnhorn will cope in dry conditions but is liable to cause possible flooding in storm conditions. Once the R & V process has been undertaken Southern Water will have a better understanding of any issues.



Regarding the new properties in the area, as you are probably aware, water companies are not statutory consultees on planning applications, however, we encourage planning authorities to consult with us on applications which may have a significant impact or be impacted by our assets. If Southern Water is aware that there is insufficient capacity for a development and in situations such as this, we would normally rely on the council putting in place the relevant conditions for the protection of our assets on any planning approval.

When the application comes in for planning, we will do a desktop assessment to check for capacity, if there are any issues, we will let the council know and they should condition the development to occupy the site in time for us to deliver the extra capacity needed. We will then carry out further investigation and if upgrades are needed then we will design something suitable to accommodate the development within 24 months of planning being granted.

*1. What sewer/foul water facilities are provided at the former Northeye prison site?*

Please see the answer to question 2 above.

*2. Will these facilities need to be upgraded once the proposed migrant asylum centre for up to 1200 migrants is enacted in the near future?*

Please see the answer to question 4 above.

*3. Is there a pumping station at the former Northeye prison site and if so, where is this sited?*

Southern Water is not aware of a WPS on this site.

*4. If not, what other facilities are provided for the treatment of foul water at this site?*

Please see the answer to question 1 above.

*5. Where will any foul water be distributed from the former Northeye prison site?*

Please see the answer to question 3 above.

*6. If the foul water is pumped up to Barnhorn Road will the main sewer be able to cope with an additional 1200 people?*

Please see the answer to question 4 above.

We are entitled to make a reasonable charge for information provided under the Regulations. Details of our charging scheme can be found on our website: <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/water-for-life/protecting-the-environment/environmental-information>. In this case we have decided to waive our charge.

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 forty working days of the date of receipt of this response and should be addressed to Head of Legal, Southern Water Services Ltd, Southern House, Yeoman Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN13 3NX or you can email [EIR.Internal.Review@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:EIR.Internal.Review@southernwater.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 Southern Water has complied with its obligations under the Regulations, and can require Southern Water to remedy any problems. You can find out more about how to do this, and about the Regulations in general, on the Information Commissioner's website at: [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk). Complaints to the Information Commissioner can be made via the "report a concern" section of the Information Commissioner's website.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

Yours sincerely

EIR Officer