

26 February 2025

Rt Hon Mr Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

By email

Dear Mr Carmichael,

EFRA Committee - Reforming the water sector: Oral evidence

Thank you for the opportunity to appear at your EFRA Select Committee hearing this morning. I was pleased to be able to provide evidence to the committee which I hope will be helpful in progressing its inquiry.

During the hearing I was asked a question by Helena Dollimore MP regarding how much United Utilities had incurred in legal fees in relation to our appeal to the Information Commissioner's Office regarding EIR requests on Lake Windermere. I replied to the best of my knowledge, which was that no external legal support had been sought and that the work conducted was undertaken by our in-house legal team.

Subsequent to the hearing, I have now come to understand that the United Utilities legal team did, in fact, procure external legal support in relation to this matter. The cost of this support was £10,810+VAT.

I apologise to the Committee that I was not aware of this at the time of the hearing as it was my understanding that this had been dealt with internally. I therefore wanted to correct my evidence in relation to this matter at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



Louise Beardmore
Chief Executive Officer