



**Environment, Food
and Rural Affairs
Committee**

16 July 2025

Louise Beardmore
CEO, United Utilities
By email

Subject: Reforming the water sector inquiry

Dear Louise,

I am writing to follow up on your letter dated 3 June 2025.

The information provided so far has been helpful. We note, however, that our question regarding legal fees was interpreted as fees incurred when initiating legal action. The Committee would also like to know how much has been spent on external legal fees in connection with regulatory actions taken by Ofwat, the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate over the past 5 years and in relation to any complaints or legal actions initiated by individuals, campaign groups or NGOs in relation to United Utilities' regulated activities. We are collecting this information from all those companies who made a similar interpretation of our original question.

The Committee would also like to know, over the same timeframe, how many regulatory actions by Ofwat, the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate United Utilities has been subject to and of those, how many the company has i) complied with, ii) sought to reframe, or iii) contested.

The Committee would like to know how many people work in United Utilities' legal team and how many of the team focus on regulatory matters of the type overseen by Ofwat, the Environment Agency and the Drinking Water Inspectorate.

I would appreciate a response to these questions by 1 August 2025

I also acknowledge the letter you sent us on 8 July regarding recent news coverage by Channel 4 News, as well as emails that preceded this, pertaining to reported data transparency issues. The Committee will consider this further and will be in contact should we need further information.

Yours sincerely,

Alistair Carmichael MP
Chair, Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee