

By email only to: [www.whatdotheyknow.com](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com)

4 March 2021

Dear Ms Wallace

**Request for environmental information**

Thank you for your request for information which we received on 16 February. You can see our answers to your questions below.

**1) the nature of Northumbrian Water's use of the Newcastle-based PR firm NKA-PA, run by Newcastle city cabinet member Nick Kemp between 2018-present**

Please note that we are not subject to the Freedom of Information Act and so have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. You can find out more information about how we work under the Regulations on our website at [www.nwl.co.uk/yourhome/environment/EIR.aspx](http://www.nwl.co.uk/yourhome/environment/EIR.aspx).

After carefully considering your request under the Regulations, we have determined that, on this occasion, we are not able to supply the information which you seek. The information which you requested does not fall within the definition of environmental information set out in Regulation 2(1) and accordingly there is no obligation on Northumbrian Water to disclose it.

**2) the amount paid to NKA-PA in the last three years, including invoices (with bank account information, of course, partially redacted) between 2018-present**

Our answer provided above in response to your question (1) applies equally here.

**3) correspondence (of an environmental nature) with Newcastle City Council regarding the plastic free initiative between 2018-June 2020. This is an environmental request.**

To allow us to respond to your request fully please can you clarify what you mean by "the plastic-free initiative"? We would assume that you are referring to the Refill campaign

(more information about this may be seen at <https://www.nwl.co.uk/campaigns/refill/>), but please could you confirm this?

Without this clarification, we will be unable to proceed with your request and will consider the request closed. So that we may help you further, please send your response to the Information Access Team [eir@nwl.co.uk](mailto:eir@nwl.co.uk) or via [www.whatdotheyknow.com](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com). We have applied regulation 12(4)(c) to your request, that is, “a public authority may refuse to disclose information to the extent that the request for information is formulated in too general a manner and the public authority has complied with regulation 9.”

In applying this exception, Northumbrian Water has assessed the public interest in maintaining the exception, and balanced this against the public interest in disclosing the information. We have determined that the former outweighs the latter in this instance, which is why your request is being declined.

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request or with this decision, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within 40 working days of the date of this response, so by 4 May, and should be addressed to the Information Access Team at [eir@nwl.co.uk](mailto:eir@nwl.co.uk) or submitted via [www.whatdotheyknow.com](http://www.whatdotheyknow.com).

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the internal review, you can apply, without charge, to the Information Commissioner, who will consider whether we have complied with our obligations under the Regulations, and can require Northumbrian Water to remedy any problems. You can find out more about how to do this, and 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.

If you have any queries about your request or our response, or any other queries about environmental information, please contact us using the details above.

Yours sincerely

Information Access Team