



Case studies for KS3 & KS4

Case study 1

A newspaper article about the use of Environmental Information Requests to challenge official sewage discharge figures.

[Illegal sewage discharge in English rivers 10 times higher than official data suggests | Rivers | The Guardian](#)

This article describes how Prof Peter Hammond used Environmental Information Requests to show that much more sewage was being discharged into rivers than had been reported by water companies.

For further detail, appropriate for older learners, there is a longer article here: [Sewage sleuths: the men who revealed the slow, dirty death of Welsh and English rivers | Rivers | The Guardian](#)

Comprehension questions:

- What did Professor Hammond uncover?
- Who did he “present” his findings to?
- Imagine you are the Environment Minister – what would you do with Professor Hammond’s findings?
- This article was published in 2021. How can you find out about recent developments in river water quality?
- If you had Peter Hammond’s findings, what would you do to publicise them further?

Case Study 2

[Environmental Information Regulations 2004 \(EIR\) Decision Notice Reference: IC-235958-Y0V9](#)

This is a formal decision notice, issued by the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO). The ICO has responsibility for handling complaints about information requests.

In this instance, the London Borough of Hackney wanted to make changes to how traffic was managed on a particular road. A member of the public asked for the responses to a survey that had been carried out (about traffic in the area).

The council refused to give them the information, saying it wasn’t complete. The ICO ordered the council to give them the information. This meant the public could better understand what information the council was basing their decisions on.

Why might someone want to know about traffic management? Think about how traffic management might affect someone’s life.

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