



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 335577
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www.gov.uk/defra

22 July 2021

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on a new strategic policy statement for Ofwat

1. We are writing to invite your views on a new strategic policy statement (SPS), which sets out the government's strategic priorities for Ofwat's regulation of the water sector in England.
2. In accordance with Section 2A of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended), Ofwat must carry out its functions in accordance with the priorities and objectives in the SPS. The new SPS has been drafted to have regard to Ofwat's statutory duties, social and environmental matters and other matters that are a priority for government. Once published, it will replace the previous SPS that was issued to Ofwat in 2017.
3. We welcome your views on the draft SPS, including your responses to the key consultation questions set out below. The consultation documents can be found on Defra's website: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water-services/government-new-sps-consultation>
4. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact: waterservices@defra.gov.uk

Consultation Questions

5. We would welcome your responses to the following consultation questions:
 - i. Has the government identified the most relevant strategic priorities for Ofwat? If not, please provide details of the priorities that should be included.
 - ii. Does the strategic policy statement effectively set out government's expectations of Ofwat in supporting delivery of our priorities? If not, please identify where these expectations could be made clearer.
 - iii. Do you consider that this statement to Ofwat is clear and easy to understand? If not, please identify any areas that could be clarified.

How to respond

6. To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation survey provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water-services/government-new-sps-consultation>
7. Alternatively, you can respond by email at: waterservices@defra.gov.uk or by post to:
Strategic policy statement for Ofwat consultation
Consultation Coordinator
2nd floor Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX
8. When responding, please include the following:
 - Your name
 - Whether you are responding as an individual or organisation
 - If responding on behalf of an organisation, please include the name of your organisation
 - If you would like your response to be treated as confidential, please explain why
9. Defra's Privacy Notice can be found at the following link:
<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water-services/government-new-sps-consultation>
10. Responses should be received by **27 September 2021**.

Consultation Criteria

11. This consultation is in line with the Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

Confidentiality and data protection

Please find the Consultations Privacy Notice uploaded alongside this consultation.

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes these are

primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA).

We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.

If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Consultation Coordinator
2nd floor Foss House
Kings Pool
1-2 Peasholme Green
York
YO1 7PX

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours Faithfully

Water Services Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs