



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 10th December 2014

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on Retail exits reform: how we plan to implement new regulations

I am writing to invite your views on a consultation which sets out the Government's proposed policy approach to the regulations that will enable non-household retail exits in the water and sewerage sectors in England.

The Water Act 2014 received Royal Assent on 14 May 2014. It enables the Secretary of State to introduce regulations that will allow undertakers to exit the non-household retail market with the consent of the Secretary of State. The Government is committed to ensuring that undertakers who wish to exit the market can do so when the retail market opens in April 2017 and is making preparations to enable this. This consultation sets out the policy issues arising from retail exits reform and the Government's proposed approach to implementation through the forthcoming retail exits regulations.

The consultation document can be found here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/retail-exits-reform>

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact RetailExitsConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Responses

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an on-line consultation tool).

Alternatively, you can return your responses to us by email or post using the details below. The consultation questions are listed both in the online survey and on pages 31-33 of the consultation document.

Email: RetailExitsConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Post:

Defra Water Reform Team
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs,



Area 3B, Nobel House,
17 Smith Square,
London,
SW1P 3JR

Responses should be received by Wednesday 18th February 2015.

This will be a 10 week consultation period. It builds on extensive engagement with all interested parties between May and October this year. We are working to this timeline because we want to enable undertakers to take decisions and manage risks regarding their future structure well in advance of the retail market opening in April 2017.

Consultation Criteria

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

Copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. If you do not want your response – including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at www.gov.uk/defra. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

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

Defra Consultation Co-ordinator,
Room 629
9 Millbank
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

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

Yours Faithfully,

Defra Water Reform Team

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs