



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

T: 03459 33 55 77
helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

Date: 23rd July 2015

Dear Consultee,

Retail exits reform: draft regulations

I am writing to invite your views on a draft of the retail exit regulations and the application process for companies wishing to apply to exit the non-household retail market.

The Water Act 2014 introduced a number of reforms that will enable increased competition in the retail market for non-household customers. It also includes provisions which enable the Government to introduce regulations that allow undertakers to exit the competitive part of the non-household retail market with the consent of the Secretary of State.

We have already consulted on the policy content of the draft regulations in December 2014. Responses to this consultation demonstrated that there is a broad consensus in support of that approach. We are now seeking views on the detail of the draft regulations and application process.

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

We welcome your views and comments on the consultation. 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 in the consultation document.

Email:
RetailExitsConsultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Post:
Retail Exits Consultation,
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 15th October 2015.

This will be a 12 week consultation, reflecting the Government's commitment to consult widely on these regulations before they are laid in Parliament. The consultation builds on previous detailed engagement with the water industry, consumer groups and Ofwat which informed the development of the policy on retail exit reform.

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