



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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

Date: 9th July 2015

Dear Consultee,

Consultation on Charging Guidance to Ofwat

I am writing to invite your views on a consultation on the Government's new Charging Guidance to Ofwat. This sets out the Government's policy objectives for charging in the water industry.

The Water Act 2014 introduced a number of reforms that will enable increased competition for some of the services provided by the water and sewerage sectors. Alongside this it sets out a revised framework for the regulation of charges. This creates powers for Ofwat to issue binding Charging Rules for the water industry. As a result, the Act also requires Ministers to develop new Charging Guidance which Ofwat must have regards to in developing their Charging Rules. The purpose of this is to ensure that Ofwat's Charging Rules reflect the Government's priorities for the water sector.

The consultation document can be found here: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/water-industry-charging-guidance-to-ofwat>

We welcome your views and comments on the guidance. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact chargingguidanceteam@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 page 34 of the consultation document.

Email: chargingguidanceteam@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 6th August 2015.

This will be a four week technical consultation. We are working to this timeline since the Charging Guidance will influence the 16/17 charging year and we want to allow water companies the maximum time possible to take decisions about their charges for the next year on the basis of this guidance and Ofwat's Charging Rules. The consultation builds on prior engagement with representatives of the water industry over the past few months. It has been accompanied by two workshops for stakeholders.

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