



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

WSSL Consultation  
Water Services Team  
Defra  
Area 3B  
Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

T: 03459 335 577  
[helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk)  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

17 December 2015

Dear Consultee,

## **Consultation on the standard licence conditions for the water supply and sewerage licensing (WSSL) regime and the approach to secondary legislation**

I am writing to invite views on standard licence conditions which the Secretary of State is required to publish before Ofwat can start issuing new licences. Ofwat has previously conducted policy consultations on the standard licence conditions, but we are providing stakeholders with a final opportunity to provide comments before Ofwat opens the WSSL licence application process in April 2016, ahead of retail market opening in April 2017. This consultation also sets out our intention to introduce and amend relevant secondary legislation that will underpin the licensing regime.

The following documents may be found on Defra's website:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/water-supply-and-sewerage-licensing-regime>

- Consultation document - Standard licence conditions and the approach to secondary legislation
- Draft WSSL standard licence conditions

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation please contact the Water Services Team at the above address or email us on [wssl.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wssl.consultation@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).

Responses should be received **by 28 January 2016**.



## Consultation Criteria

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

## Summary of responses and confidentiality

Any responses you send us will be seen in full by Defra staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Defra staff to help them plan future consultations and by Ofwat staff to help them understand the substance of any issues that may arise in relation to the standard licence conditions.

When this consultation ends, we will summarise all responses and place this summary online on our website at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk). 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 require a hard copy of the summary, or have any other enquiries, please contact us by email at [wssl.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:wssl.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

We will store a copy of the responses received for at least six months from the date the consultation responses document has been published. This is so that the public can see them and copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

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.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Room 629, 9 Millbank, c/o 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR; or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation. We welcome your views and comments. If you have any queries please feel free to contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

**David Jones**

**Water Services**

**Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**