



Water today, water tomorrow

Adaptation Reporting Power Consultation
Climate Ready
Defra
Area 5B Ergon House
Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AL

13 February 2013

Dear Mr Rowland

Defra consultation – 'Adapting to Climate Change: Ensuring Progress in Key Sectors'

I am replying to the above on behalf of the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat), the economic regulator of the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales.

Our role in contributing to climate change adaptation is to ensure that the companies we regulate can meet their obligations efficiently and to incentivise them to ensure that they are able to continue to deliver the services that their customers require into the future. Thus whilst we do not deliver adaptation on the ground, we play a key enabling role, in line with our strategic aim of ensuring sustainable water. We were designated a Reporting Authority under the 2008 Climate Change Act and submitted our adaptation report in 2011.

We welcome the voluntary approach proposed to the second round of reporting under the Act. This will enable organisations to take a proportionate approach and encourage more useful reports.

We are likely to report toward the end of your timetable to enable us both to report on delivery of the actions set out in our 2011 report and take account of company proposals in their business plans following completion of the 2014 price review. This would allow for submission of an informed and useful report.

We will discuss with other sectoral regulators the possibility of collaborating on a joint report.

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Should you wish to discuss any aspect of this response, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "N.R. Wheatley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Noel Wheatley
Director, Environment Policy