

Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs  
Water Resources Management Plan Consultation  
3rd Floor Nobel House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

10 September 2013

Dear Secretary of State

### **Cholderton & District Water – draft Water Resources Management Plan**

Cholderton & District Water published its draft Water Resources Management Plan (dWRMP) on 17 May 2013 and this letter summarises our views of that plan. These views are based on a high-level review of the processes described in the plan against the requirements of the Water Resources Planning Guideline. They are also without prejudice to any subsequent decisions that we may make in connection with the price control review process for Cholderton & District Water.

In summary, Cholderton & District Water needs to consider further the following areas in finalising its dWRMP:

- providing a more detailed explanation of how it has engaged with its customers in the development of the plan;
- providing up-to-date water resources planning tables; and
- setting out clearly the options the company is considering for dealing with the nitrates issue, clarifying what its appraisal criteria are and including an appraisal of the relative merits of the options.

### **1. Incorporation of customers' views**

The company states that a customer challenge group (CCG) has been established and had its inaugural meeting at the end of April 2013, but it is not clear how this has influenced the dWRMP. In its final plan, the company should clarify how it has engaged with customers in the development of the plan and its proposed levels of service.

### **2. Baseline supply-demand balance**

The company has not provided up-to-date water resources planning tables, instead providing data tables from 2009. The company should rectify this in its final plan.

### **3. Options appraisal**

The main issue for Cholderton & District Water's draft plan is that its two boreholes are forecast to exceed nitrate concentrations for drinking water standards unless the company takes measures. We understand that the company has obtained new results from its nitrate monitoring since the draft plan was written and these should be included in the final plan.

It would also be helpful if the final plan set out all the options that the company is considering to deal with the nitrates issues (including the deeper borehole option), clarified what its appraisal criteria are and included an appraisal of the relative merits of the options.

### **4. Final planning solution and scenario testing**

Cholderton & District Water will need to update its proposed solution in its final plan for the more up-to-date nitrates monitoring results and the additional information it is collecting on options to deal with the nitrates problem.

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Walker**  
**Director – Wholesale Price Control Review**