

Ofwat  
Retail Licensing  
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20<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Licensing and policy issues in relation to the opening of the non-household retail market – a consultation**

The Water Regulations Advisory Scheme Limited (WRAS) represents UK water suppliers on all matters relating to Water Supply (Water Fitting) Regulations and Byelaws in Scotland. Our purpose is to help to protect public health and encourage water efficiency by promoting compliance with these regulations.

We welcome the opportunity to comment on this consultation, in particular on the requirements of integrated undertakers to be bound by the provision of the codes and the expectation that the DWI will provide advice on the technical competency of WSSL applicants.

Q14. Requirements of integrated undertakers to be bound by the provision of the codes

Our members are concerned that they remain in compliance with s206 of the Water Industry Act when the codes require them to provide confidential information to retailers. For example commercially sensitive information contained in water fittings enforcement notices. Open Water has reassured WRAS that the codes are intended to be statutory and therefore the provision of data for non-households, excluding sole traders, will be an allowable exception under s206. We request that Ofwat clarifies whether the proposed change to the licence condition of integrated undertakers under B3 of the appendix, will ensure that the requirement to provide enforcement notices under the codes is considered statutory for integrated undertakers.

DWI will provide advice on the technical competency of WSSL applicants

We welcome the proposal to include the DWI as an advisor in the assessment of technical competency. In particular we consider that the scope of 'circumstances in which it is required to notify the water companies' to include those which relate to potential contraventions of the water fittings regulations. We have already expressed to Open Water our willingness to develop information, guidance and training for retailers to support the development of knowledge and understanding of the water fittings regulations, so that they can support their customers.

We will write separately to Vikki Williams with requests for further clarification about the impact of opening of the non-household retail market in Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Spinks  
Managing Director