

Information notice

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2014 price review timetable – deadline for business plan submission

This information notice confirms our decision to set the companies the deadline of **2 December 2013** to submit their business plans for the 2014 price review to us. This follows consultation and workshops with the companies.

We are publishing this information now, before the publication of our final methodology for the price review, in order to give the companies and other stakeholders earlier confirmation of this decision.

There are a number of other timetabling decisions for the price review that we do not deal with in this document. These will be set out in our final methodology and business plan expectations statements, which we will publish soon.

Background

In 2014-15 we will decide the price and service package (the 'price controls') that each of the monopoly water and sewerage and water only companies in England and Wales must deliver in each of the five years between 2015 and 2020.

In '[Setting price controls for 2015-20 – framework and approach: A consultation](#)', which we published in January 2013, we consulted on the price review timetable. We explained that implementing effective menu regulation for wholesale price controls puts some constraints on the timetable for the price review.

We discussed our proposal for a December date for business plan submission at a workshop with companies in March 2013. We also consulted on our proposal in '[Setting price controls for 2015-20 – business planning expectations: A consultation](#)', which we published in April 2013.

The majority of the companies that commented on our proposals said they were willing to accept a business plan submission deadline of 2 December. Some considered this deadline challenging and said that it increased process risk to companies. But most considered it achievable.

At workshops between March and May 2013, we also discussed other options for resolving constraints on the price review

timetable, such as publishing final determinations in January 2015. We will deal with these other options in our final methodology and business plan expectations statements.

Deadline for business plan submission – our decision

Having considered carefully the responses made to our consultation proposals, and the benefits of easing the timetable for the price review, we confirm that the deadline for submission of business plans is **2 December 2013**.

As we set out in our business planning expectations consultation, this also means asking [customer challenge groups \(CCGs\)](#) to provide their reports to us on 2 December 2013 alongside companies' business plans. This is important because our plans for a risk-based review include an assessment of a company's customer engagement process.

We recognise that CCGs need time to assess companies' proposals in draft business plans. So we expect individual

This is a formal document that alerts our stakeholders to a change in the way that we regulate the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales.

companies to ensure that their CCG has sufficient sight of their final plans – including any late material changes – in time to achieve our submission deadline. We discussed this with the Chairs of the CCGs at a workshop on 13 May.

The earlier submission deadline will give us more time to review plans. It will also give the companies and CCGs more time to respond to our review. So, we consider that earlier submission will lead to a better overall outcome for the price review – benefiting customers, companies and other stakeholders.

Enquiries

For further information please contact Giles Stevens on 0121 644 7521 or by email at price.review@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk.

More information

[‘Setting price controls for 2015-20 – framework and approach: A consultation’](#), January 2013

[‘Setting price controls for 2015-20 – business planning expectations: A consultation’](#), April 2013

[2014 price review web pages](#)

[Customer challenge group web pages](#)



Ofwat (The Water Services Regulation Authority) is a non-ministerial government department. We are responsible for making sure that the water and sewerage sectors in England and Wales provide consumers with a good quality and efficient service at a fair price.



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July 2013

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