

October 2016

Trust in water

Revised application process for Water Supply and Sewerage Licences: a consultation

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About this document

This document provides an opportunity for all stakeholders to comment on our revised application form and guidance document for applications for future retail and wholesale water supply and sewerage licences (collectively and individually referred to as WSSLs).

Drafts of the application form and guidance are published as supporting documents to this consultation on our website www.ofwat.gov.uk.

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[Draft revised WSSL application form](#)

[Draft revised WSSL application guidance](#)

Responding to this consultation

We would welcome responses to this consultation by no later than Friday 21 October 2016. We would particularly welcome responses to the following questions.

- Do you have any comments or suggestions about the draft application form?
- Does the draft application guidance provide sufficient detail for applicants to apply for a water supply and/or sewerage licence with retail, restricted retail, wholesale and/or supplementary authorisations?
- Have you any suggestions for elements of guidance that are missing, or alternatively that are not required, in the draft application guidance?

Please send email responses to casemanagementoffice@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk, or by post to:

Case Management Office
Ofwat
7 Hill Street
Birmingham
B5 4UA

If you wish to discuss any aspect of this document, please contact Emma Hart on 0121 644 7665 or by email at Emma.Hart@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk.

We will publish responses to this consultation on our website at www.ofwat.gov.uk, unless you indicate that you would like your response to remain unpublished.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be published or disclosed in accordance with access to information legislation – primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FoIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you would like the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FoIA, there is a statutory ‘Code of Practice’ which deals, among other things, with obligations of confidence. In view of this, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that we can maintain confidentiality in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on Ofwat.

1. The application process consultation

This consultation provides all stakeholders with the opportunity to comment on our revised application form and guidance document for applications for future retail and wholesale water supply and sewerage licences.

The application form and guidance document has been updated to include information in relation to the following.

- Information about self-supply applications.
- An option for applicants to apply for a wholesale or supplementary authorisation(s) to allow them to introduce water into an appointed water company's network (subject to the Drinking Water Inspectorates requirements).
- Further guidance on the three requirements we assess against – managerial competency, financial stability and technical competency.

1. Application form

This sets out:

- the specific questions that applicants must answer; and
- the additional enclosures that they must include with their application. This includes the necessary business plan and payment of the application fee(s).

The guidance may be used to help applicants complete the form.

2. Application guidance

This provides potential applicants with information and guidance to assist them in making their application. The supporting narrative also provides information on our assessment process and the indicative timescales involved.

2. Next steps

This consultation is designed to provide us with feedback on our intended process for applicants for the future retail market.

We plan to formally publish the final application form and guidance by 31 October 2016.

Potential applicants will be able to apply for a licence using the new application form and guidance document from 1 November 2016.