



casemanagementoffice@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date:

20 January 2017

Contact Tel:

01903 272554

Dear Sir / Madam

Guidance on Ofwat's approach to competition law in the water and wastewater sector in England and Wales: a consultation

Southern Water is clear that it has the responsibility to assure that it has taken the necessary steps to ensure compliance with competition law and welcomes the draft guidance in helping companies, not only understand their obligations, but also understand how Ofwat will apply its powers.

Southern Water recognises the need to ensure, and finds it helpful that the guidance stresses the need for, it to view its approach to the new business retail market (and existing markets) through both a regulatory lens, and a competition law lens.

In outlining its procedural approach and providing a summary of its concurrent competition powers and the primacy obligation, Ofwat is clear on what companies can expect in the event of an investigation.

Southern Water welcomes the use of case studies and sector examples to illustrate the legal concepts as a helpful way for companies to get more engaged with the issues.

In summary, Southern Water is confident that the clarity provided in the guidance will provide an important resource to companies in ensuring they meet their competition law obligations at a time of change for the sector, including the requirement to protect the level playing field.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Statton".

Joanne Statton
Company Secretary