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Dear Richard,

CONSULTATION ON OFWAT'S COMPETITION LAW GUIDANCE

South West Water welcomes the opportunity to respond to Ofwat on its draft guidance for its application of Competition Law.

We are clear that it is our responsibility to assure ourselves that we have taken, and continue to take, the necessary steps to ensure South West Water's ongoing compliance with competition law.

Ofwat has provided a clear explanation of its approach to application and enforcement of competition law in this consultation. We welcome this document which will provide valuable guidance and reference as the water industry progresses towards 2020 and greater market opportunities. In carrying out its duties we encourage Ofwat to be transparent about when it is considering further action under CA98 so that the wider industry can learn and grow within this space.

We understand that compliance with regulatory guidance does not ensure compliance with competition law. As more of the water industry is de-regulated, we suggest that it is important for Ofwat to consider how it will continue to balance transparency and accountability in the regulated sector with level playing field requirements of the commercial interests of the statutory companies in new and emerging markets. This will promote engagement by both traditional and new industry participants.

We trust you find these comments useful. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss these points further.

Yours sincerely,

Iain Vosper
Regulatory Director