

Northumbrian Water Response to: Consultation on OFWATS proposal to issue a revised version of the Code for Adoption

21/09/22

We are writing in response to OFWAT's consultation on the proposal to issue a revised version of the code for adoption agreements.

We recognise the issue that panel decisions are not able to meet the current deadline within 3 months and that this introduces an element of uncertainty and difficulty in ensuring the correct stakeholders are consulted in each decision. NWL support any efforts to encourage stakeholder engagement in the Panel's activities and have no major concerns that the proposed change would have adverse impacts on our business.

At this stage, we feel that additional detail on the proposed consultation process between the 1st and 2nd Panel meetings would be valuable to help companies understand how proposals will be communicated to them and how they are expected to respond under the new process. In particular we would be interested in how the Panel will ensure that all relevant stakeholders are identified and contacted in good time, allowing them to respond ahead of the Panel's decision date.