

**From:** [Martyn Speight](#)  
**To:** [Ofwat governance team](#)  
**Subject:** Consultation on proposed variation to South West Water's area ,modifications to its licence and ,termination of Bristol Water's licence  
**Date:** 05 October 2022 12:37:07

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Dear Ofwat

This is a response to your consultation under sections 8 and 12A of the Water Industry Act 1991 on proposed variation to South West Water's area, modifications to its licence and termination of Bristol Water's licence.

As an association which actively supports the self-lay community we are concerned that the proposed termination of Bristol Water's licence will allow the connection charging arrangements of South West Water to be applied to connections in the Bristol Water region. This is alarming to our members as we have already submitted evidence to Ofwat which shows that South West Water's local connection charging arrangements do not comply with the Ofwat Connection Charging Rules and that this is materially holding back self-lay competition in their regions.

We therefore earnestly request that, in whatever licence amalgamation happens, that separate water connection charging arrangements apply in the Bristol Water area until such time as South West Water can demonstrate compliance to Ofwat against the Connection Charging Rules. This being necessary to ensure that developers in the Bristol Water area can continue with the level of self-lay provision they currently enjoy (and not fall back to the low, 6%, level of activity in the South West Water regions which, we believe, is being caused by them having charging arrangements which do not "promote effective competition for Contestable Work").

I hope that this short note is sufficient for our concerns about the Bristol Water licence termination to be registered.

Please contact me should you require any further information.

I would appreciate your acknowledgement of receipt of this response.

Kind regards

Martyn Speight  
Managing Coordinator  
Fair Water Connections

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