

About this document

Boots UK Limited (**“Boots”**), a registered company with company number 00928555, whose contact address is at Thane Road, Nottingham, NG2 3AA, has applied for a Water licence and Sewerage Licence with a retail authorisation limited to self-supply (**“WSSL limited to self-supply”**).

This document provides notice of the application.

Notice that Boots UK Limited has applied for a retail Water and Sewerage License with retail authorisation limited to self-supply

1. The application

On 23 September 2022, Boots applied for a WSSL limited to self-supply..If granted, this will enable Boots to provide retail services to itself and associated persons.

1.1 Synopsis of the business plan

Boots is a pharmacy-led health and beauty retailer with around 2000 stores and manufacturing facilities, including optician services. Boots recognises that energy management is a crucial part of everyday life, including water and has invested £20 million in technology to reduce consumption in stores such as replacing inefficient lighting.

A WSSL limited to self-supply will enable further opportunities to build on works already undertaken with energy management and will deliver Boots with visibility, data as well as a direct platform within the market. This will form an integral part of continuing to manage energy resources efficiently and effectively.

The opening up of the UK's water retail market in April 2017 gave business customers more choice over where and how they source their water, and most importantly for Boots the ability for non-household customers to supply themselves. Boots considers having a self-supply service will enable it with the opportunity to take more control over its water usage and effluent discharge as it will be dealing directly with wholesalers to build on the success of its water programs.

Boots has entered a partnership agreement with Waterscan Limited ("**Waterscan**") who will be responsible for the retail functions including meter reading, Central Market Operating System ("**CMOS**") transactions, wholesaler management and finding further water efficiency savings. As such, Waterscan will act as the managing agent for Boots and provide technical support and services while the business will build on its key relationships with wholesalers and pay water and sewerage charges through the settlement process. This partnership will take the form of a contractual agreement between the parties and has been submitted as part of the WSSL limited to self-supply application process.

As a WSSL limited to self-supply, Boots will pay wholesale prices that retailers pay to the water companies. It will not pay retail margin added by suppliers in the open water market and become a market participant.

2. How to respond

Any person who wishes to make representations or objections with respect to the application and our proposal to modify the standard licence conditions should do so in writing (which includes by email) to Ofwat at Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA or by email to licensing@ofwat.gov.uk.

Representations must be received by Ofwat no later than 17.00 hours on 9 November 2022. Further information about how to make representations or objections, including information on the treatment of confidential information, can be obtained from Ofwat at the above address or at <http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/foi/>.