

Variation of Independent Water Networks Limited's appointment to include Wimborne Minster, Dorset

On 7 December 2022, Ofwat began a [consultation](#) on a proposal to vary Independent Water Networks Limited's ("Independent Water Networks") appointment to become the water services provider for a development in South West Water Limited's¹ ("South West Water") water supply area called Wimborne Minster, Dorset ("the Site"). Details of the application and our assessment of it were set out in the consultation document.

The consultation ended on 13 January 2023. During the consultation period, we received a representation from one organisation, which is summarised in Section 1 of this document.

We will only make an appointment or variation if our assessment concludes that the application meets the criterion it has been made under; that customers or future customers on the Site will be no worse off than if the Site had been served by the existing appointee; and if the applicant will be able to finance the proper carrying out of its functions as a water and sewerage company. As set out in our consultation we are satisfied this is the case. The response we have received to the consultation has not changed that view.

Having assessed Independent Water Networks' application and having taken account of the response we received to our consultation, we decided to grant a variation to Independent Water Networks' area of appointment to allow it to serve the Site for water services. This appointment became effective on 24 January 2023.

The Site Map for the variation can be found in Section 2 of this document.

The Variation Notice legally making the variation can be found in Section 3 of this document.

¹ From 1 April 2016, the trade and assets of Bournemouth Water were merged into South West Water Limited. Bournemouth Water's licence as a water only undertaker under the Water Act 1991 was terminated and South West Water's licence was modified to cover the Bournemouth Water area. South West Water Limited is therefore responsible for delivering services in both the original South West Water area of operation and the Bournemouth Water area of operation.

1. Response received to the consultation

We received one response to our consultation from South West Water.

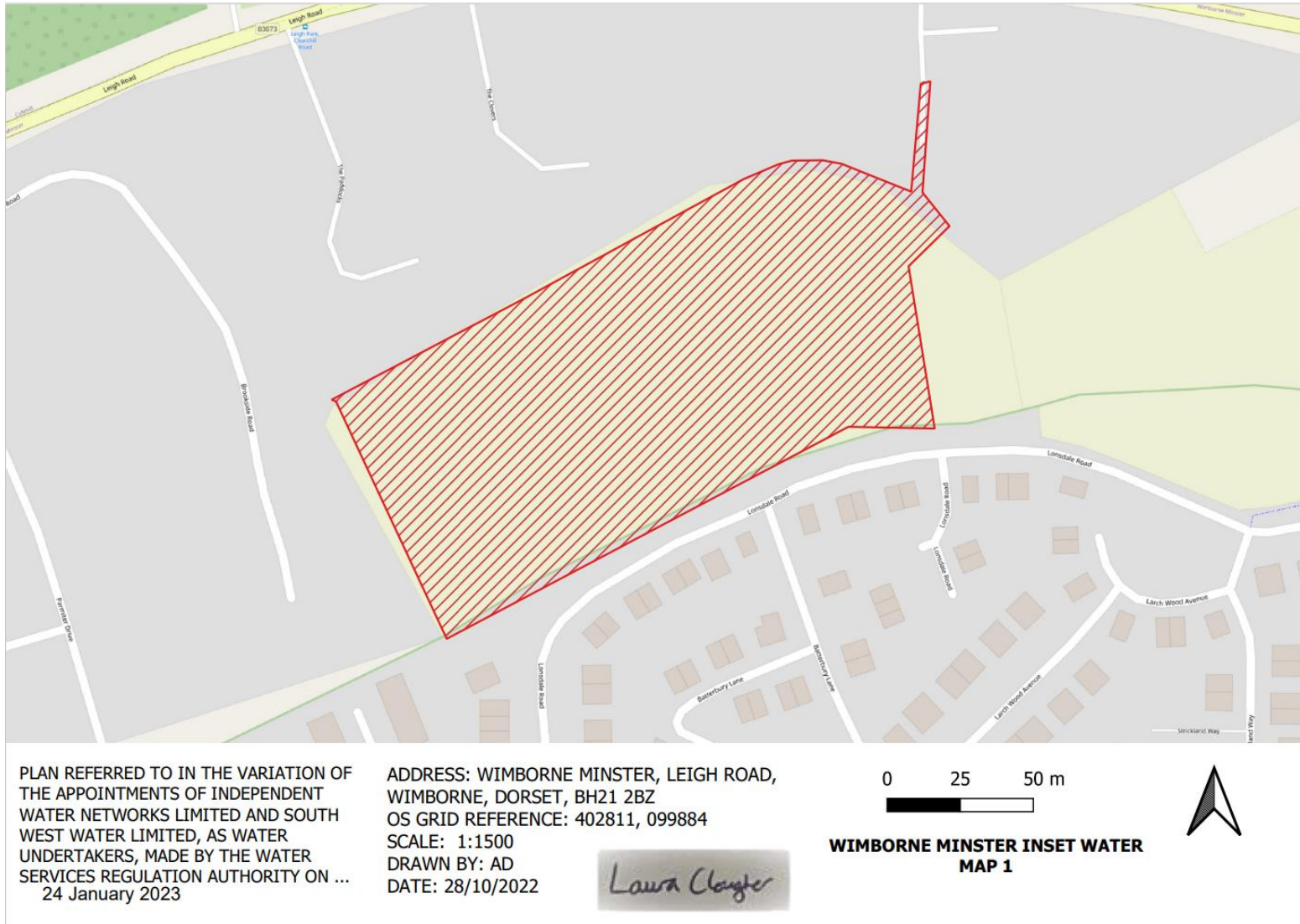
We considered this response before making the decision to vary Independent Water Networks' appointment.

In our consultation document above, we set out customers on the Site will be entitled to a £50 government subsidiary payment, to match the government contribution being given to customers in South West Water's area, as part of the Clean Sweep Initiative.

However, South West Water pointed out in its consultation response that customers will not receive this payment, as the Site falls into Bournemouth Water's area. It advised that it has confirmed this with Independent Water Networks. We will notify our stakeholders of this.

South West Water also advised that the Site map presented in the above consultation notice differs from the one on its records but it stated that it does not have any objections in principle to the variation. We have checked with IWN and it has confirmed that the Site boundary on the map in the notice above and presented below section 2 is correct.

2. Site Map



3. Variation Notice

**WATER SERVICES REGULATION AUTHORITY
WATER INDUSTRY ACT 1991, SECTIONS 6 TO 9**

Variation of the Appointments of Independent Water Networks Limited and South West Water Limited as Water Undertakers

Made on 24 January 2023

Coming into effect on 25 January 2023

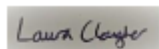
1. Independent Water Networks Limited ("Independent Water Networks") and South West Water Limited ("South West Water") hold Appointments as water undertakers for their respective areas ("the Appointments").¹ The areas to which the Appointments of Independent Water Networks and South West Water as water undertakers relate ("Water Supply Area") are set out in their Instruments of Appointment.
2. The site called Wimborne Minister, Leigh Road, in Dorset, which is shown edged in red on the plan attached to this variation, ("the Site") is within South West Water's Water Supply Area. The Site is being developed by Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Limited.
3. Independent Water Networks has applied under section 7(4)(b) of the Water Industry Act 1991 ("the Act") for a variation of its Appointment as a water undertaker to include the Site and for a consequential variation of South West Water's Appointment to exclude the Site.
4. On 27 June 1995, the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Secretary of State for Wales acting jointly and pursuant to sections 6(1) and 7(2) of the Act authorised the Director General of Water Services² to make variations such as those contained in paragraph 5 below. After public consultation, as required by section 8 of the Act, the Water Services Regulation Authority has decided that it should grant Independent Water Networks' application.
5. Therefore, as provided by sections 7(2) and 7(4)(b) of the Act, and with the agreement of Lewis Wyatt (Construction) Limited, the Water Services Regulation Authority **varies**—
 - (a) the Appointment of Independent Water Networks as a water undertaker, so that the Site is included in Independent Water Networks' Water Supply Area; and

¹ South West Water's original appointment as a water undertaker was made by the Secretary of State for the Environment under sections 11 and 14 of the Water Act 1989, now replaced by sections 6 and 11 of the Water Industry Act 1991. Independent Water Networks' original appointment as a water undertaker was made by the Water Services Regulation Authority under sections 6 and 11 of the Water Industry Act 1991.

² With effect from 1 April 2006 the functions of the Director General of Water Services were transferred to the Water Services Regulation Authority in accordance with section 36 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Water Act 2003.

- (b) the Appointment of South West Water as a water undertaker, so that the Site is excluded from South West Water's Water Supply Area.

Signed for and on behalf of the Water Services Regulation Authority

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Clougher".

Laura Clougher
Principal, Casework and Enforcement