

Variation of Independent Water Networks Limited's appointment to include Chestnut Street, Sittingbourne

On 19 October 2023, 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 Southern Water Services Limited's (“**Southern Water**”) water supply area called Chestnut Street, Sittingbourne in Kent (“**the Site**”). Details of the application and our assessment of it were set out in the consultation document.

The consultation ended on 15 November 2023. During the consultation period, we received no representations.

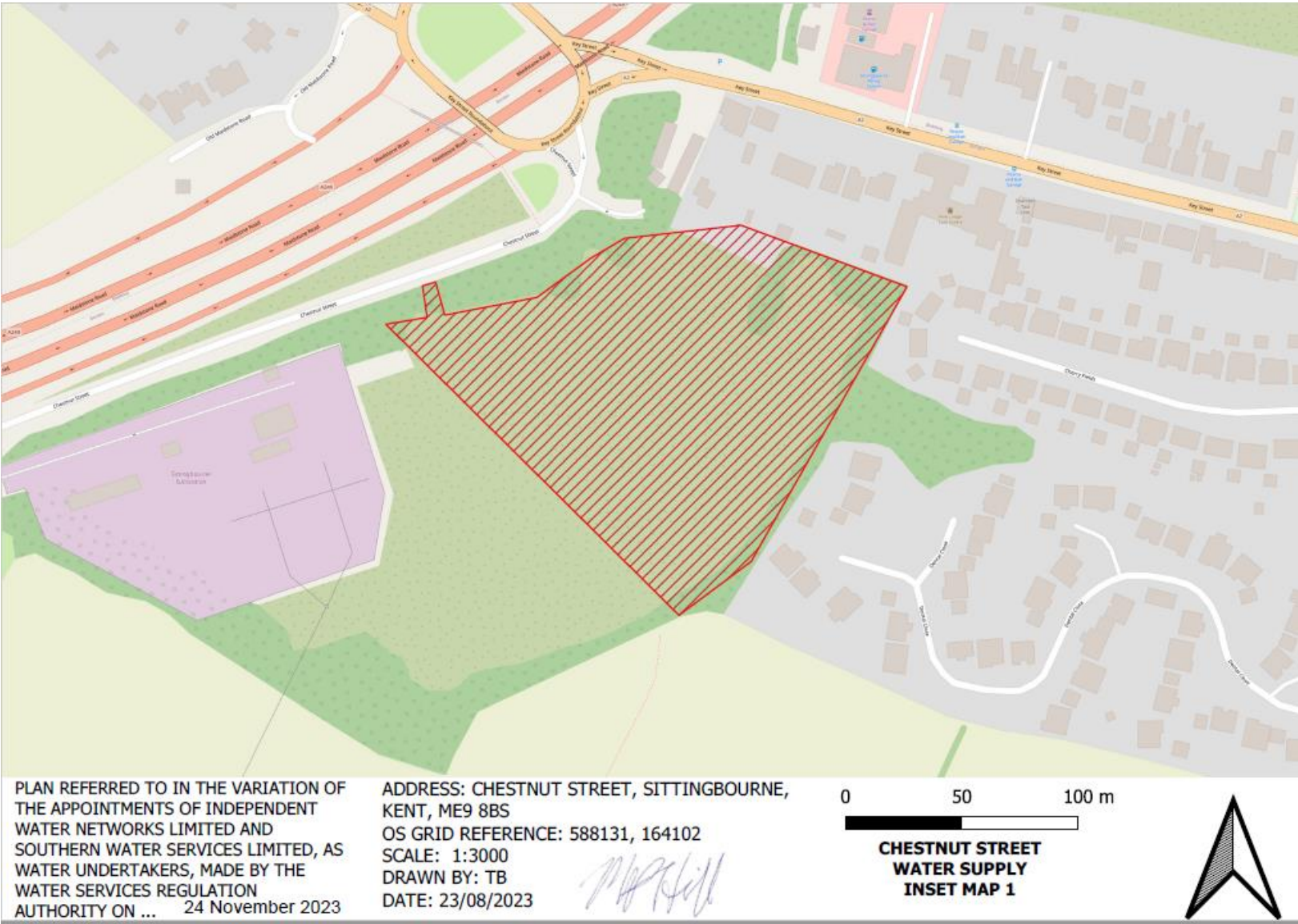
We will only make an appointment or variation if our assessment concludes that the application meets the criterion it has been made under; that customers or future customers on the Site will be no worse off than if the Site had been served by the existing appointee; and if the applicant will be able to finance the proper carrying out of its functions as a water and/or sewerage company. As set out in our consultation we are satisfied this is the case.

Having assessed Independent Water Networks' application and having received no responses 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 27 November 2023.

The Site Map for the variation can be found in Section 1 of this document.

The Variation Notice legally making the variation can be found in Section 2 of this document.

1. Site Map



2. Variation Notice

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

**Variation of the Appointments of Independent Water Networks Limited and Southern
Water Services Limited as Water Undertakers**

Made on 24 November 2023

Coming into effect on 27 November 2023

1. Independent Water Networks Limited ("Independent Water Networks") and Southern Water Services Limited ("Southern Water") hold Appointments as water undertakers for their respective areas ("the Appointments").¹ The areas to which the Appointments of Independent Water Networks and Southern Water as water undertakers relate ("Water Supply Area") is set out in their Instruments of Appointment.
2. The site called Chestnut Street, Sittingbourne in Kent, which is shown edged in red on the plan attached to this variation, ("the Site") is within Southern Water's Water Supply Area. The Site is being developed by Abbey Developments 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 Southern 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 Abbey Developments 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 Network's Water Supply Area; and
 - (b) the Appointment of Southern Water as a water undertaker, so that the Site is excluded from Southern Water's Water Supply Area.

¹ Southern 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.

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Signed for and on behalf of the Water Services Regulation Authority



Martin Hill
Principal, Casework and Enforcement