

April 2011

Dear Consultee

Consultation on water affordability in response to the Walker Review of Charging for Household Water and Sewerage Services

I am writing to invite views on the Government's proposals around water affordability following the independent Walker Review of Charging for Household Water and Sewerage Services. We are consulting on issues around water affordability, including specific affordability issues in relation to South West Water. We will set out our policy proposals in our Water White Paper later this year.

The consultation covers England only. The Welsh Assembly Government has issued a separate consultation in relation to the Walker recommendations in Wales.

The following document may be found on Defra's website:

www.defra.gov.uk/consult/water-affordability-1104/

- Consultation on the Walker Review of Charging for Household Water and Sewerage Services

Accompanying reports by Ofwat on the South West and affordability can be found at:

http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/future/customers/metering/res_ofw_201101defraswt.pdf

http://www.ofwat.gov.uk/future/customers/metering/res_ofw_201101defraswtsup.pdf

We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation please contact:

Water Charging and Economic Regulation Team
Defra
Area 2C Ergon House
Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AL

Responses to this consultation should be sent by post to the above address or by e-mail to walker.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Responses should be received by 17 June 2011.

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at <http://www.berr.gov.uk/bre/>

When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp> . This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra
Information Resource Centre
Lower Ground Floor
Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020-7238-6575
Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Marjorie Addo, Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Robert Canning

**Department for Environment, Food and
Rural Affairs**