

**Telephone:** 020 7238 5093

**Web:** [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)



**9 February 2012**

Dear Consultee

**The Water Act 2003: withdrawal of compensation on the grounds of Serious Damage. A consultation on the principles to be used in determining whether a water abstraction may cause serious damage.**

I am writing to seek your views on the principles we have developed to be used in determining whether the revocation or variation of an abstraction licence is necessary to protect waters, underground strata or flora and fauna from serious damage, for the purposes of section 27 of the Water Act 2003.

The following documents relating to this consultation may be found on Defra's website at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/02/09/water-act-1202/>

- a copy of this letter
- the consultation document
- a list of consultees

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

[waterresources.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:waterresources.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

**Responses:**

Please send responses to the consultation to:

email to: [waterresources.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:waterresources.consultation@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Or by post:

Adrian Brookes  
Water Resources Policy  
Defra  
Area 2C, Ergon House  
Horseferry Road  
London, SW1P 2AL

Respondents who operate wholly or partly in Wales should also copy their response to:

email to: [water@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:water@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Or by post:

Michelle Russ  
Water Policy Branch  
Welsh Government  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Responses should be received by 3 May 2012.

This consultation is in line with the Code of practice on Consultations. This can be found at [www.bis.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf](http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file47158.pdf)

When the consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House and the Welsh Government Publications Centre at Cathays Park. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of a response 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 will not count as a confidentiality request. Please explain why you wish your response to be treated as 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 not disclose those details if asked.

We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at [www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/default.asp](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 Defra Library:

Defra,  
Information Resource Centre,  
Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House,  
Horseferry Road,  
London,  
SW1P 2AL  
020 7238 6575  
[Defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

Or

Welsh Government  
Publications Centre  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

Telephone 029 2082 3683  
E-mail: [assembly-publications@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:assembly-publications@wales.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 Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7C Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR, or email [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk). If you have any other queries, please contact us using the details above.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Yours faithfully

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