

Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England

Baseline information for functions analysis: Environment Agency

January 2013

In January 2013, Defra published baseline information for the functions analysis of the Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England. This information was developed in partnership with the Environment Agency and Natural England, based on their 2012/13 Corporate Plans.

These documents are structured as follows:

- 'Level 1' summarises the bodies' primary functions. It shows how their corporate objectives are structured and resources allocated to deliver these. It also shows their key partners within Government and their main customer groups for each function.
- 'Level 2' details the main activities undertaken by the bodies to deliver their primary functions as set out at Level 1. It sets out the key performance indicators for these functions as agreed with Government and summarises the principal statutory and policy drivers for each area of work e.g. statutory obligations or Government commitments. It also indicates how the bodies' work in each area is changing as a result of reforms they have put (or are putting) in place in response to efficiency requirements, new policy challenges and recent external reviews.

Further points to note are:

- Grant in aid (GiA) figures refer to funding received from government.
- Full time equivalent (FTE) figures refer to staff resource allocated to deliver functions.
- Environment Agency figures cover both England and Wales.

For further information on the Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England see www.defra.gov.uk/review-ea-ne/

Line of sight – Level 1 Linking strategy, resources and outcomes

Primary functions	Climate change mitigation and adaptation *	Sustainable Places * <small>Spatial planning/housing/ environmental infrastructure/ working with local government</small>	Flood Asset Management	Flood Incident Management	Navigation <small>Management of boating on waterways</small>	Fisheries and Biodiversity <small>Fisheries management/ water habitat biodiversity</small>	Water and Land Quality	Radioactive Substance Regulation	Environmental Permitting Regulation	Waste management	Water Resources <small>Safe and secure water supplies</small>	Finance	Resources	Corporate Information Services						
	Monitoring																			
Incident management and response																				
Main activity	Environmental Regulator Environmental Advisor	Environmental Advisor Environmental Operator Environmental Regulator			Strategic Overview Role <small>Working with others to deliver the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management</small>			Environmental Regulator Environmental Advisor Environmental Operator			Environmental Regulator Environmental Advisor Environmental Operator			Support services						
Corporate Plan themes	Act to reduce climate change and its consequences	Work with people and communities to create better places			Protect and improve water, land and air			Work with businesses and other organisations to use resources wisely			Support Services									
Outcomes and Responsibilities	1.1 We play our full part in meeting global greenhouse gas emission targets in ways that minimise environmental harm	1.2 We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its adverse impacts	1.3 We put reducing and adapting to climate change at the heart of everything we do	3.2 Better local environments which enhance peoples lives and support a sustainable economy	3.3 New and existing developments have a reduced environmental impact and well-planned environmental infrastructure	3.1a We are professional partners and the public will have greater understanding of flood and coastal risk	3.1b We will work effectively with our professional partners and the public to manage risk and reduce probability of flooding and coastal erosion	3.1c We will reduce the consequences of flood and coastal erosion	3.1d Our flood and coastal risk management programme provides environmental benefit	3.4 All have opportunities to enjoy water and wetlands through angling, navigation, sport and other recreation	2.3 Biodiversity is enhanced and fish stocks are managed sustainably for the benefit of wildlife and people	2.1 The quality of surface, ground and coastal waters and wetlands continue to improve for the benefit of people, the economy and wildlife	2.2 Land is managed sustainably; protecting soils, water and biodiversity, contributing positively to reducing & adapting to climate change	2.4 Businesses and other organisations reduce the impact of their activities on air, land and water, using resources efficiently and minimising waste disposal	2.5 We improve how we work as regulators to maximise environmental outcomes while minimising cost to business	4.1 Businesses and other organisations know what the best environmental options are for managing waste and using resources wisely	4.2 The right waste and resource management infrastructure is in place	4.3 Businesses and other organisations are resource efficient, minimise pollution and manage their waste responsibly	4.4 Safe, secure water supplies that are used efficiently to meet the needs of the public, business and the environment	Enables delivery
Business areas	Climate Change and Communities	Sustainable Places	Flood and Coastal Risk Management (FCRM)		Land and Water	Land and Water		Regulated Business	Regulated Business	Land and Water	Finance	Resources	Corporate Information Services							
Funding streams	Charges	Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) £2m EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) £3m	Internal Drainage Board £8m General Drainage Charge £4m Local Levy £35m		Navigation £6m	Fisheries £19m	Water Quality £50m	Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) Waste £25m Integrated Regulation £24m Radioactive Substance Regulation (RSR) £11m	Carriers & Brokers, Hazardous Waste, Producer responsibility £26m	Water Resources £110m	Finance £10m	Resources £33m	Corporate Information Services £34m							
	GIA Revenue and other	Environment & Business (E&B) GIA £8m	E&B GIA £12m FCRM GIA £6m	FCRM GIA £218m	E&B GIA £2m	E&B GIA £19m	E&B GIA £42m	E&B GIA £35m	E&B GIA £10m FCRM GIA £7m	E&B GIA £12m FCRM GIA £23m	E&B GIA £10m FCRM GIA £24m	E&B GIA £10m FCRM GIA £24m								
	GIA Capital and other	E&B GIA £2m	FCRM GIA £265m FCRM Partnership Funding £5m	E&B GIA £8m	E&B GIA £3m	E&B GIA £3m	E&B GIA £1m	FCRM GIA £1m E&B GIA £4m												
FTE	94 FTE	215 FTE	4453 FTE		131 FTE	479 FTE	1600 FTE	2318 FTE		1226 FTE	364 FTE	502 FTE	216 FTE							
Lead Government body	Defra Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	Communities and Local Government (CLG)	Defra		Defra	Defra	Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS)	Defra	BIS	Defra	Defra DECC HM Treasury Cabinet Office									
Welsh Government																				
Key ALB Partners	Natural England Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) Forestry Commission Committee on Climate Change Met Office Climate UK	Internal Drainage Boards Met Office Natural England Canal and River Trust Ordnance Survey			Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Natural England CCW Forestry Commission Marine Management Organisation (MMO)			Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) Drinking Water Inspectorate			Defra and Wales Government network National Audit Office All partners, businesses and communities									
Customers	Regulated businesses Local Authorities General Public	Developers Local Authorities General Public	Farmers/other land managers Developers Local Authorities General Public		Farmers/other land managers Local Authorities General Public	Farmers/other land managers General Public	Regulated businesses Farmers/other land managers Local Authorities General Public	Regulated businesses Local Authorities General Public	Regulated businesses Local Authorities General Public	Regulated businesses Local Authorities General Public	Regulated businesses Farmers/other land managers Developers Local Authorities General Public	Internal systems Government All partners, businesses and communities								

*The totality of the work and the significant resource we are allocating to address climate change and its consequences and sustainable places, are embedded in many other sections of this overview.

Business areas	<h1>Climate Change</h1>
Primary functions	Climate change mitigation and adaptation
	Incident Management and response
Drivers	Statutory duties Policy driven (eg Climate Change Act, Renewable energy targets)
Description of function	<p>Regulator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We implement some of the main regulatory schemes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, including the European Union Emissions Trading System, the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme (both as the UK wide administrator) and Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC). We regulate important low-carbon technologies, including: some renewable technologies (notably biomass, hydropower, ground source heating and cooling and tidal power); energy from waste including anaerobic digestion; nuclear power (including nuclear waste management); and carbon capture and storage.
	<p>Advisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work with waste managers to reduce methane emissions from landfill sites. We work with others to influence farmers and land managers, helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon storage in soils and plants. We provide advice to other organisations on how to adapt through our new Climate Ready support service. In Wales, we work closely with the Welsh Government to deliver its Climate Change Strategy and adaptation.
	<p>Operator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adapting to climate change is core to our work especially on flood and coastal risk management, water resources, quality and ecology.
	<p>The totality of the work and the significant resource we are allocating to address climate change and its consequences are embedded in many other sections of this overview.</p>
Corporate Scorecard measures	<p>1.3a We reduce our carbon dioxide footprint</p> <p>Other corporate scorecard measures reflect our commitment to achieving climate change adaptation (eg 2.1a, 2.1d, 2.3b, 3.1.2a, 3.1.2c, 3.1.3a, 3.2a)</p>
Direction of travel	<p>The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) completed a review of their delivery landscape in May 2011. It concluded the Environment Agency should continue to oversee the operation of EU ETS and CRC on behalf of DECC given both schemes are delivered effectively and provide value for money. The report also acknowledged that the economies of scale found within the Environment Agency are unlikely to be replicated within DECC.</p> <p>We are working with DECC towards taking on the administration of Climate Change Agreements. Over time we will streamline the three emissions and energy efficiency schemes we administer and reduce compliance costs for participants.</p> <p>We continue to develop our new climate change adaptation role, to support delivery of the Government's forthcoming National Adaptation Programme.</p>
Customers	<p>Regulated businesses including permitted and licensed businesses</p> <p>Local Authorities and related public body decision-makers</p> <p>General Public</p>
Lead Government body	Defra/ Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)
	Welsh Government

Business areas	Sustainable Places	Flood and Coastal Risk Management		Land and Water
Primary functions	Sustainable Places	Flood Asset Management	Flood Incident Management	Navigation
	Monitoring			
Drivers	Incident management and response			
	Statutory duties Policy driven (eg Localism Act, National Planning Policy Framework, Statutory Planning Role)	Statutory duties and powers Policy driven (eg Flood and Water Management Act, Floods Directive)		Statutory duties and powers (eg Environment Agency (Inland Waterways) Order 2010)
Description of function	Environmental Advisor	Strategic Overview role		Environmental Operator
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have a strategic overview role for flooding from rivers, the sea, surface water and groundwater in England and an enhanced oversight role in Wales. We provide guidance to support our partners in managing coastal erosion and flooding from surface water, rivers, the sea, groundwater and reservoirs. We have Regional Flood and Coastal Committees to help guide flood and coastal management activities within catchments and along the coast, advise on and approve programmes of work and raise local levies under existing arrangements to fund local priority projects. 		
		Regulator		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our work is governed by legislation giving us duties and powers to prepare for and manage the risk from flooding and coastal erosion in England and Wales. 		
		Environmental Operator		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our Sustainable Places work has three strategic goals: to deliver better local environments; to promote new and existing developments that have a reduced environmental impact and well-planned environmental infrastructure; and to ensure that spatial planning meets environmental standards and objectives and accounts for climate change. We are a statutory consultee to Local Planning Authorities for several types of planning application related to our statutory duties on flood risk, protection of land and water quality, waste regulation and fisheries. We are a 'specific consultation body' for the preparation of development plan documents. We are a statutory consultee for Strategic Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments and Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects. We take a 'yes, if' approach when responding to planning consultations, working constructively with local planning authorities and developers to provide expert advice and evidence. We have a statutory requirement to respond to planning application consultations within 21 days. Our average response time for consultations is 15 days. Alongside our planning role, we work closely with local authorities and strategic partnerships, such as Local Enterprise Partnerships and Enterprise Zones, to help facilitate sustainable development and to identify strategic opportunities for environmental protection to enhance economic growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Together with our partners, we manage over 27,000 miles of flood defences, including seawalls, flood banks, pumping stations, locks and sluices. We invest in new defences and replace or improve existing structures. Our work to reduce the flood risk to communities can help with regeneration by attracting people to live, work and invest there. In England and Wales every pound spent on protecting communities from flooding saves on average eight pounds that would be spent repairing flood damage. We reduce the consequences of flooding by detecting, forecasting and issuing flood warnings, and in cooperation with partners ensuring a rapid response to flood emergencies and faster recovery from flooding. We work with the Met Office through the national Flood Forecasting Centre and the emergency services at resilience forums to prepare for and manage major incidents. Other key partners include local authorities, Internal Drainage Authorities and operators such as water companies. We raise public awareness of flood risk, encouraging those who live or work in flood risk areas to take action to manage the risks they face. We monitor, map and model the likelihood of flooding and coastal erosion and make this information available to the public and businesses via our website and directly to key partners. Our monitoring, mapping and modelling of flood risk underpins decision making by local and central government and other sectors such as the insurance industry. It informs emergency planning, incident response and influences development decisions. We work with natural processes to manage flood and coastal risk and provide benefits to the environment through the creation of habitats and in the delivery of the Water Framework Directive and other biodiversity objectives. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are the 2nd largest navigation authority in England and Wales. We manage nearly 1,000km of rivers including the non-tidal Thames and Medway, Nene and Ouse. We maintain these waterways and neighbouring land for boaters and other users. We are the harbour authority for Rye and the conservancy authority for the Dee Estuary. We own and maintain around 1,800 assets including locks, moorings and a variety of facilities for boaters and other customers.
	The benefits from our Sustainable Places work is reflected in many of the Environment Agency's other business areas.			Regulator
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have powers to make byelaws and apply for orders to ensure the effective regulation and use of the waterways we manage
				Advisor
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work with others to promote inland waterways
Corporate Scorecard measures	3.2a Environmental outcomes are delivered through joint working with local authorities and partnerships in prioritised locations	3.1.2a We reduce the risk from flooding for more households 3.1.2c We maintain our flood and coastal risk management assets at or above the required condition 3.1.3a More households and businesses at risk of flooding can receive direct warnings		3.4c We maintain our navigation assets at or above the required condition
Direction of travel	<p>Our Improvement Plan sets out how we are seeking to continuously improve the planning service we offer to Local Authorities and Developers.</p> <p>As a statutory advisor on Local Plans there may be a peak in workloads over the next 12 months during the National Planning Policy Framework transition period.</p> <p>The Localism Act introduced a new 'duty to co-operate' which places a statutory obligation on local authorities and public bodies to work together on planning for sustainable development across administrative boundaries.</p>	<p>We have responded to the Pitt review and are working with government to implement the Flood and Water Management Act. We are implementing European legislation and have a programme of work to meet the requirements of the Floods Directive and the Water Framework Directive. We are advising and supporting partners to deliver the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management for England to protect more people and property from flood and coastal risk.</p> <p>We have developed new structures and ways of working to reflect the need to engage more actively with partners and the communities in which we work.</p> <p>We are developing and embedding the new partnership approach to funding schemes.</p> <p>In 2011, we tested our readiness to respond to severe, wide-spread flooding through Exercise Watermark. We are taking forward a number of recommendations to ensure ongoing improvement to our incident response.</p>		<p>The Government's intention is for our navigation function to be transferred to the Canal and Rivers Trust subject to review in 2014 on the grounds of affordability, and whether the trustees of the new charity agree to the transfer</p>
Customers	Developers Local Authorities and related public body decision-makers General Public	Farmers and other land managers Developers Local Authorities and related public body decision-makers General Public		Farmers and other land managers Local Authorities General Public
Lead Government body	Communities and Local Government (CLG)	Defra		Welsh Government

Business areas	Land and Water		Regulated Business		
Primary functions	Fisheries and Biodiversity	Land and Water Quality		Radioactive Substances Regulation	Environmental Permitting Regulation
	Monitoring		Incident Management and response		
Drivers	Statutory duties and powers Policy driven (eg Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act, Eel Regulations, Habitats Directive)	Statutory duties Policy driven (eg Water Framework Directive, Bathing Waters Directive, Contaminated Land Regulations)		Statutory duties Policy driven (eg Environmental Permitting Regulations, IPPC Directive, Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations)	
Description of function	Environmental Regulator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have legal duties to help protect and improve nationally and internationally important wildlife sites, habitats and species. In freshwater, wetland and coastal areas, we help to protect wildlife habitats by controlling pollution and regulating the amount of water taken from rivers, lakes and groundwater. We have a specific duty to maintain, improve and develop fisheries for salmon, trout, eels, lampreys, smelt and freshwater fish. We have powers to make national and local fisheries byelaws to protect fish stocks and fisheries in England and Wales. 	Regulator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We operate a number of regulatory regimes to protect the quality of surface, transitional and ground waters. 	Environmental Regulator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Environmental Permitting Regulations provide a framework for permitting industrial installations covered by the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Directive, waste management sites, groundwater abstractions and discharges to controlled waters. We directly regulate around 2,900 industrial activities in England ranging from nuclear sites to chemicals, food and drink manufacture to intensive pig and poultry farming. We also regulate around 7,300 waste management activities from landfills and incinerators to waste transfer stations, 2,000 users of radioactive substances and a small number of contaminated land sites. We permit 40,000 discharges to surface and groundwater, 22,000 abstractions, and around 8,000 land drainage consents. We register around 80,000 waste carriers and brokers and 340,000 low-risk activities including metals recycling and composting across England and Wales. Other lower-risk sites and activities are regulated by local authorities. 		
	Environmental Operator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We monitor the numbers and health of fish in rivers and the number of salmon, sea-trout and eels returning from the sea. In addition to protecting communities, our work on flood risk management protects vulnerable habitats and creates new places for biodiversity. 	Environmental Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work with the water industry to manage water quality impacts from their operations. This includes helping to target needed investment in infrastructure improvements through the periodic review of price limits. We work with land managers to promote the environmental benefits of good land management particularly to address diffuse water pollution. We work with a wider range of stakeholders including local authorities to address the diverse array of non-agricultural diffuse pollution pressures particularly relevant to urban environments. We work with Defra and Welsh Government on how best to manage water in the future. This includes estimating the impacts of future pressures (eg population growth, changing lifestyles, increasing urbanisation, climate change) on water quality. 	Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jointly with the Health and Safety Executive we regulate 850 major accident hazard sites. We work with the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and restriction of Chemicals (REACH) competent authority to assess environmental hazards and risks from the manufacture, use and disposal of industrial and consumer chemicals, and enforce compliance with REACH. 		
	Advisor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work with partners in England and Wales to support the delivery of our biodiversity and fisheries duties. 	Environmental Operator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Our monitoring work covers the collection of chemical, ecological and hydrological information to identify whether environmental standards are being met and whether the ecology in rivers, lakes and estuaries is in good condition. If not, we can pinpoint, investigate and tackle local pollution problems. Further monitoring provides evidence on whether specific actions were successful in protecting and enhancing the environment. 	Operator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many more activities are not directly regulated although we have powers to intervene in the event of, for instance, a pollution incident. 		
Corporate Scorecard measures	2.3b We create new areas of habitat 2.3c We improve the status of salmon fisheries	2.1a We work with others to improve the quality of surface waters, ground waters, coastal waters and wetlands 2.1b The quality of bathing waters is getting better 2.1d We improve and protect rivers and wetlands damaged by unsustainable abstractions		2.4a We improve business compliance through supporting legitimate business to comply and tackling the deliberately non-compliant 2.4b We reduce serious and significant pollution incidents 2.5b We make it less burdensome for business to comply	
Direction of travel	We are working closely with others in the Defra network, particularly Natural England and the Forestry Commission, to ensure we deliver our contribution to the Natural Environment White Paper and the new Biodiversity Strategy for England. We are working with others to deliver the actions arising from the Habitats Directive Implementation Review. We are working with the Angling Trust to explore ways in which they can support us in delivering our duties, including a rod licence checking pilot and development of a National Angling Participation Plan.	The Water White Paper outlines Government's vision for securing sustainable water supplies in England. We will continue to support Defra in the delivery of the commitments made in the white paper that are relevant to us. A significant policy development is the Government's 'catchment based approach' to delivery of Water Framework Directive objectives through strong local engagement. We play a central part in helping to target action by providing the evidence base through our monitoring work and, where problems exist, identifying the cause of failures through local investigations. The strategic policy statement on water sets out the Welsh Government's position. We will support the Welsh Government in this work.		We are participating fully in the government's regulatory reform programme including the Red Tape Challenge, Heseltine Review and Focus on Enforcement We are working with Defra on implementation of the Penfold review recommendations, including piloting the introduction of environmental account managers with Natural England and the Forestry Commission for complex applications. Since December 2011, we have been required to determine the majority of all new permit applications within 13 weeks. We are supporting Defra in their work to add water resources, fish pass approval and flood defence consenting to the Environmental Permitting Regulations. We are working with Defra and industry representatives on implementing the new Industrial Emissions Directive in a timely and effective manner.	
Customers	Farmers and other land managers General Public	Regulated businesses Farmers and other land managers Local Authorities and related public body decision-makers General Public		Regulated businesses Local Authorities and related public body decision-makers General Public	
Lead Government body	Defra		Defra		
Welsh Government					

Business areas	Regulated Business	Land and Water
Primary functions	Waste Management	Water Resources Monitoring
	Incident Management and response	
Drivers	Statutory duties Policy driven (eg Environmental Permitting Regulations, Waste Regulations, Waste Framework Directive)	Statutory duties Policy driven (eg Water Resources Act, Water Industry Act)
Description of function	<p>Environmental Regulator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We regulate a wide range of organisations that use resources and produce or manage waste, in order to prevent harm to people and the environment. We encourage the resource efficiency of major industrial activities in England and Wales such as the manufacture of food, drink and chemicals. As well as regulating operations at 7,000 waste management sites we also regulate certain domestic and international movements of waste, and run registration schemes for manufacturers of packaging, batteries and electrical equipment. We administer schemes controlling the landfill of biodegradable waste by local authorities. We are the designated competent authority in England and Wales for the EU Waste Framework Directive and other EU directives on waste. <p>Operator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We work with local authorities to deal with illegal waste activities, concentrating our own efforts on incidents involving large-scale and persistent illegal activity, organised crime, or hazardous waste. We also tackle waste crime by closing down illegal sites and acting against illegal exports of waste. We will work with partners in Wales to deliver the targets in the Wales Waste Strategy, 'Towards Zero Waste'. <p>Advisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We provide data and information to central and local government in England and Wales, for example, on where waste goes and how it is dealt with. We contribute to strategic waste plans and individual planning decisions. 	<p>Environmental Regulator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are responsible for ensuring that there is enough water to meet the needs of people and the environment. We allocate licences to water companies, farmers and businesses to abstract water in a sustainable way whilst safeguarding the environment. Over recent years we have overseen the improvement of water quality in rivers and biodiversity generally in England and Wales and developed over 100 Catchment Abstraction Management Systems (CAMS). We are extending these into a sustainable abstraction regime, resilient to climate change, that balances the needs of the economy and society with those of the environment. <p>Advisor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We oversee the way that water companies plan so that supplies are secure, even in droughts, and that the companies' environmental impacts are minimised. <p>Operator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We monitor the water environment so that we understand how much water there is, and how clean it is
Corporate Scorecard measures	2.4f We reduce the overall risk presented by illegal waste sites, targetting our efforts on the highest risk sites 4.2a More waste is fully recovered to the standards defined in the Quality Protocols, such that it is no longer classed as waste	2.1d We improve and protect rivers and wetlands damaged by unsustainable abstractions
Direction of travel	<p>In 2010, we streamlined our waste management permitting activities by bringing them into the Environmental Permitting Regulations framework.</p> <p>We are currently implementing the findings of Defra's waste policy review. In addition, we have created a task force to accelerate the closure or legalisation of illegal waste sites.</p> <p>We are participating fully in the government's regulatory reform programme including the Red Tape Challenge, Heseltine Review and Focus on Enforcement</p>	<p>We will be working with stakeholders in the preparations for the review of water charges in 2014 (Periodic Review 2014). Our role will be to advise ministers on environmental issues and on water companies' Water Resource Management Plans; prepare the National Environment Programme and monitor the delivery of water company schemes.</p> <p>The Water White Paper outlines government's vision for securing sustainable water supplies in England. We will continue to support Defra in the delivery of the commitments made in the white paper that are relevant to us, including: advising on the design of a reformed abstraction regime; seeking interconnection options across licensed water supplies; supporting catchment pilots to improve water quality and reduce diffuse pollution; publishing more information on our work to restore sustainable abstractions.</p>
Customers	Regulated businesses Local Authorities and related public body decision-makers General Public	Regulated businesses Farmers and other land managers Developers Local Authorities and related public body decision-makers General Public
Lead Government body	Defra, BIS	Defra
	Welsh Government	