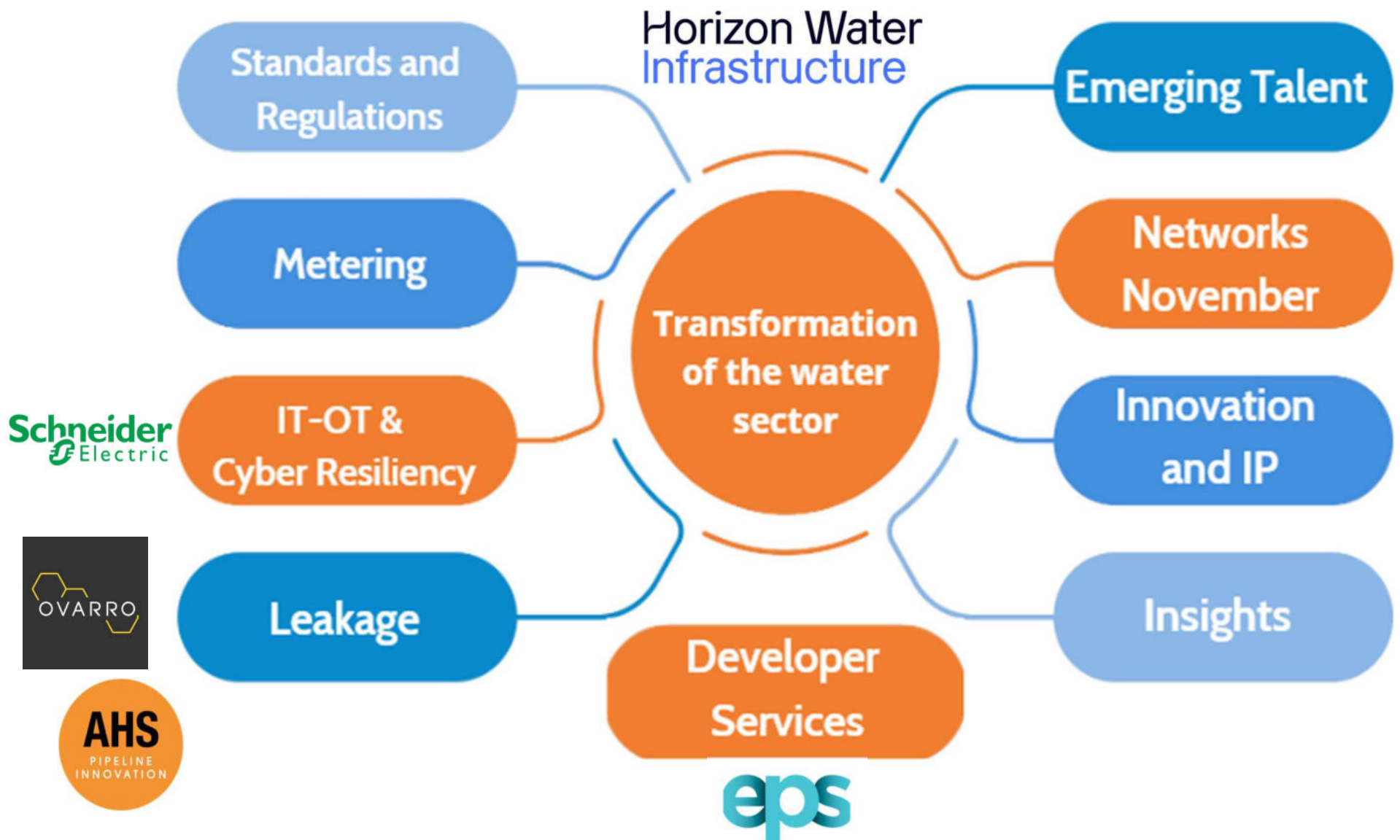




# Call for Evidence – Water Commission: Shaping the Future of Regulation

5<sup>th</sup> March 2025



# Purpose of the Session



Future Water  
Association

Informing, Innovating, Influencing

Horizon Water  
Infrastructure


- Understanding the Call for Evidence & contributing insights
- Shaping a collective industry response



# Who is the Independent Water Commission?

- Independent body assessing water sector regulation
- Chaired by Sir Jon Cunliffe
- Making recommendations by June 2025

## What is the Call for Evidence?

- Seeking input on regulatory reforms and sector improvements
  - Addressing key challenges in the water industry
  - Open to companies, regulators, and stakeholders
- 



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# Water Commission Call for Evidence

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# Why Should Companies Engage?



## Influence

Influence  
future  
regulations  
and  
investment  
frameworks



## Ensure

Ensure  
supply  
chain  
voices are  
heard



## Identify

Identify  
opportunities  
for  
innovation  
and  
collaboration



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# Strategic Challenges in the Water Sector



**Lack of Coordination** –  
fragmented regulation &  
decision-making



**Regulatory Complexity** –  
overlapping  
responsibilities



**Consumer Distrust** –  
increasing concerns over  
billing & performance



**Infrastructure &  
Investment Gaps** – aging  
assets vs. future needs



## How can Future Water Contribute?

- Highlight the supply chain's role in delivering solutions
- Advocating for collaborative regulatory reforms



# Overview of the 5 Key Focus Areas

1. Strategic Coordination in Water Management
2. Regulatory Effectiveness
3. Economic Regulation & Pricing
4. Public Policy & Environmental Goals
5. Ownership Models



# Regulatory Reform – A Need for Change?

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Is the current system fit for purpose?

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Are regulators sufficiently resourced and empowered?

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How can the regulatory framework foster investment?

# Infrastructure Investment & Long-Term Planning



OFWAT'S FIVE-YEAR  
REGULATORY CYCLES – TOO  
SHORT FOR RESILIENCE  
PLANNING?



NEED FOR A 20-YEAR  
STRATEGIC PLAN FOR  
INFRASTRUCTURE  
INVESTMENT



REGULATORY BARRIERS  
LIMITING SUPPLY CHAIN  
PARTICIPATION



# Innovation, Technology & Cybersecurity



Slow technology adoption due to regulatory bottlenecks



Cybersecurity threats to water infrastructure



How can data-sharing improve network efficiency?

# Leakage & Smart Metering



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How should leakage  
reduction be  
prioritised?



Regulatory and  
investment barriers  
preventing smart  
leakage  
management



Should smart  
metering be  
mandated for  
demand efficiency?



# Standards & Regulatory Simplification



Are regulations too fragmented?



Need for a national standardisation framework



How can regulations encourage adoption of new technologies?

# Infrastructure Resilience & Networks



How should long-term network investment be funded?



Can smart networks and digital twins improve resilience?



The role of collaborative data-sharing

# Data, Cybersecurity & Transparency



Should there be a sector-wide cybersecurity framework?



How can data-sharing improve operations?



The importance of public transparency & trust



# Innovation & Intellectual Property

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Regulatory roadblocks to new technology adoption

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How can regulators support commercialisation of innovations?

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Should there be innovation sandboxes in the sector?

# Workforce & Future Skills



What skills gaps exist in the sector?



Role of regulation in supporting apprenticeships & reskilling



Importance of diversity and inclusion in the water workforce



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## Discussion

- How should regulatory frameworks evolve?
- What are the biggest investment challenges?
- How can the supply chain contribute to sector-wide improvements?

# What happens next?

Submit any further  
views you have to us  
by the **28<sup>th</sup> March**

[admin@futurewaterassociation.com](mailto:admin@futurewaterassociation.com)

We will submit  
the Future  
Water response

The Call for  
Evidence closes  
on the **23<sup>rd</sup>  
April**

# Where we will we see you next?



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## FINAL

6TH MARCH 2025 @ 3PM - 5PM



**Development Services Meeting  
and Site Visit**

11 March 2025 @ Canterbury



## CYBER RESILIENCY CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Prof. Chris Hankin**  
Professor, Imperial College



**Robin Oldham**  
Founder and CEO, Cydea



**Gordon Robinson**  
Director, Sernal Brookhouse

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**25TH MARCH 2025**  
**ARUP, LONDON**



# Where we will we see you next?



## Busting Myths and Challenging Perceptions: The Truth About the Water Sector

The copper logo is a dark blue square with the word 'copper' in white lowercase letters.

WEBINAR - 27 MARCH 2025  
@1PM - 2PM

The logo for Northumbrian Water features the words 'NORTHUMBRIAN' and 'WATER' in bold green capital letters, with 'living water' in a blue script font below them.

## Liaison Meeting

3 APRIL 2025  
Northumbrian Water, Pityme

## Building Consumer Trust: Current Landscape and Future Directions

The copper logo is a dark blue square with the word 'copper' in white lowercase letters.

WEBINAR - 15 MAY 2025  
@1PM - 2PM

# Where we will we see you next?



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## + MANY MORE!





# Thank you