



**Future Water  
Association**

Informing, Innovating, Influencing

**Horizon Water  
Infrastructure**

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

5<sup>th</sup> March 2025



## Horizon Water Infrastructure

### Transformation of the water sector

Standards and Regulations

Metering

IT-OT & Cyber Resiliency

Leakage

Developer Services

eps

Emerging Talent

Networks November

Innovation and IP

Insights

# Purpose of the Session



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- 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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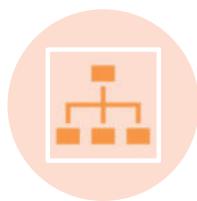
# Why Should Companies Engage?

	<b>Influence</b>	Influence future regulations and investment frameworks
	<b>Ensure</b>	Ensure supply chain voices are heard
	<b>Identify</b>	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



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## 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



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# 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?

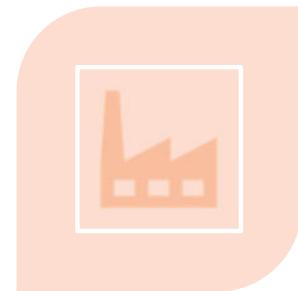
# Infrastructure Investment & Long-Term Planning



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



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# 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?



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# 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?



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# 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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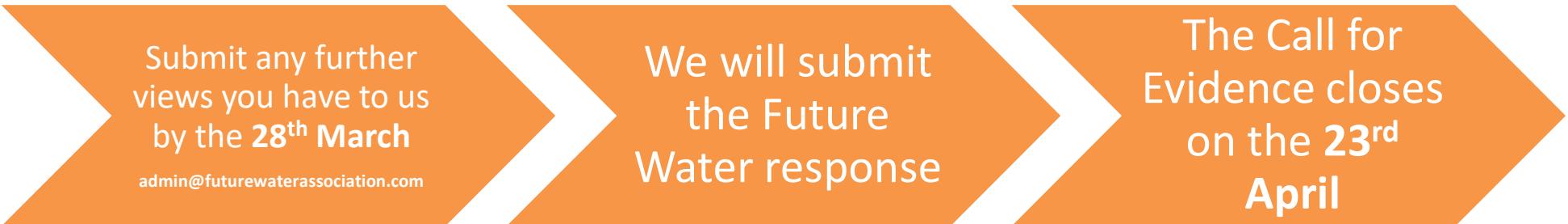
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## Discussion

- 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?



6TH MARCH 2025 @ 3PM - 5PM



## CYBER RESILIENCY CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



Horizon Water Infrastructure **25TH MARCH 2025** Schneider Electric  
ARUP, LONDON



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# Where we will we see you next?



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

copper

WEBINAR - 27 MARCH 2025  
@1PM - 2PM

**NORTHUMBRIAN**  
**WATER** *living water*

Liaison Meeting  
3 APRIL 2025  
Northumbrian Water, Pityme

Building Consumer Trust:  
Current Landscape and Future  
Directions

copper

WEBINAR - 15 MAY 2025  
@1PM - 2PM

# Where we will we see you next?



+ MANY MORE!





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Thank you