



Future Water
Association

Horton hears...

**“Water’s future is not digital,
it’s human.”**

Cyber resilience in water: beyond compliance



Cyber resilience is no longer just a compliance issue

The real test is operational readiness in practice

Digital exposure is rising across water operations

Legacy systems and uneven maturity increase risk

Water must balance resilience, safety and continuity

IT vs OT

“If your email went down at 16:55 on a Friday would you be bothered?

How about if someone locked your building so you couldn't get home for the weekend? Would you be bothered then?

**That's the difference between IT and OT” - Alastair Fergus,
Honeywell**

Why water is different: threat, legacy risk and IT/OT reality

**Threat levels
remain high**

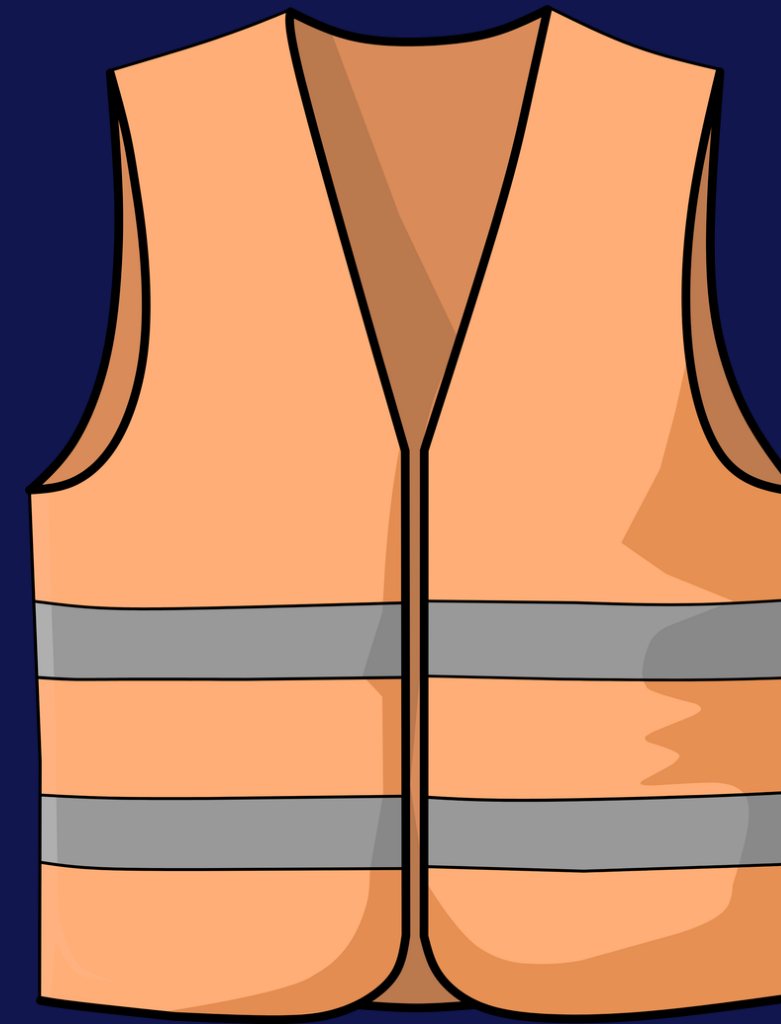
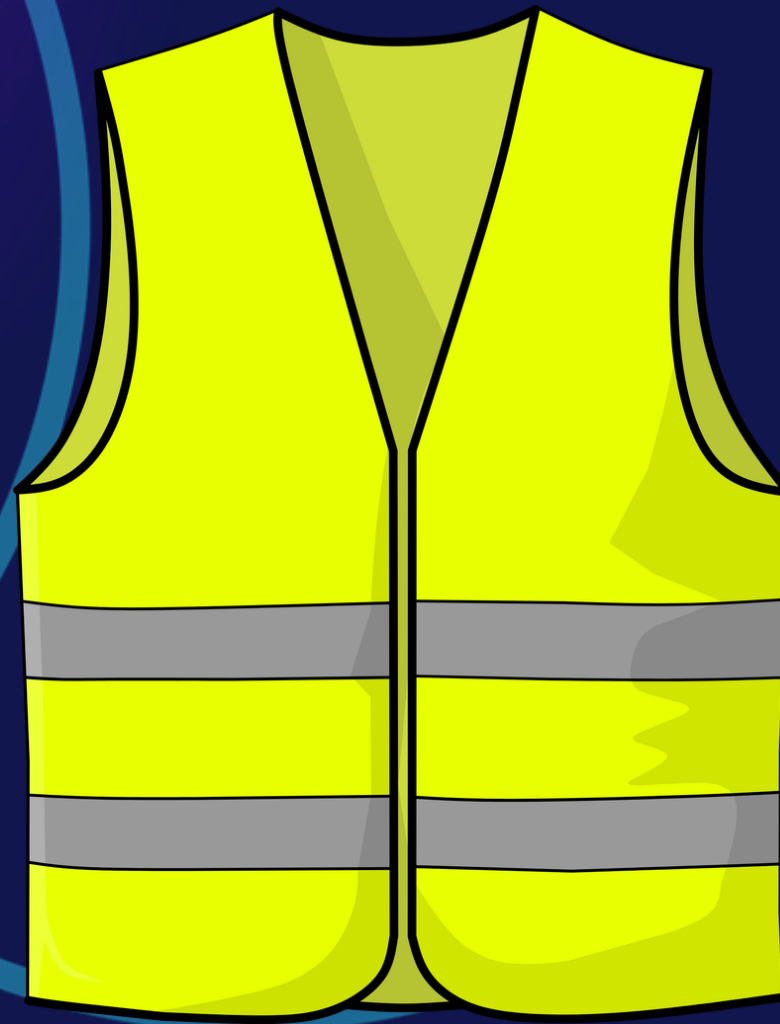
**Ransomware, supply
chain compromise and
zero-days remain key
risks**

**AI is lowering
barriers for
attackers**

**IT/OT convergence
expands the attack
surface**

**In water,
availability and
safety come first**

Q: Why orange high vis outside and yellow high vis inside?



How can we embed a culture similar to that of health and safety in the sector?

Culture, data and leadership

**Culture is part of
cyber resilience,
not separate from it**

**Data should
be treated as
a strategic
asset**

**Board ownership is
essential**

**Reporting
behaviours matter**

**Supply chain
consistency is
a growing
governance
challenge**



From compliance to operational readiness



Current funding and planning cycles move too slowly for cyber

Fixed five-year cycles do not match threat evolution

Collective procurement and shared frameworks may help

Regulation is shifting toward broader operational resilience

The goal is readiness, not just assurance

Upcoming Events



Future Water
Association

www.futurewaterassociation.com/events

Future Water Awards
& 40th Anniversary



Thu 24th September
One Great George St, London

Members
meet with

YorkshireWater

Thu 8th October
Head Office, Bradford

OT and Cyber
Resilience
Forum

Tues 20th October
Horiba Mira, Nuneaton

Networks November

**Year in Water
Review**

& drinks reception

Tues 3rd November
Sec Newgate, London