

## A CIWEM – CMS Conference

# Regulation for a Sustainable Water Industry *Seizing the Opportunity for Effective Reform* December 9<sup>th</sup>, SOAS, London

*The UK Coalition Government has committed to preparing a Water White Paper in 2011 'on reform of the water industry and to ensure more efficient use of water and to protect poorer households' and at the same time Ofwat are engaging very positively in an open review of the way the industry is regulated. This coincidence of initiatives represents a generational opportunity to reform the industry in light of future challenges, and aim of this conference is to discuss how a sustainable and resource efficient water industry might be structured and operate.*

**Sponsors:** MWH RPS Water RSK Group Plc WRc



**Sponsorship:** If you are interested in sponsoring this event please contact Lauren Goozee [lauren@ciwem.org](mailto:lauren@ciwem.org) or on 0207 831 3110

**Please circulate to colleagues who may be interested**

**A conference organised by CMS - Communications and Management for Sustainability in partnership with  
CIWEM**

## Regulation for a Sustainable Water Industry - Seizing the Opportunity for Effective Reform

December 9<sup>th</sup>, SOAS, London

The UK Coalition Government has committed to preparing a Water White Paper in 2011 'on reform of the water industry to ensure more efficient use of water and to protect poorer households'. At the same time Ofwat are engaging very positively in an open review of the way the industry is regulated. This coincidence of initiatives represents a generational opportunity to influence the nature and direction of reforms to the industry.

**Aim** The aim of this conference is to provide a forum for debate on the wide range of views that exists as to how a sustainable and resource efficient water industry might be structured and operate. The central theme of the conference will be *meeting the needs of people and the environment as effectively and efficiently as possible in the face of population growth, climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability pressures*.

**Objectives** The particular objectives of the conference are:

- To consider governance models for a sustainable water sector, going forward.
- To discuss 'fit for the future' forms of economic, social and environmental regulation of the water sector
- To consider the role of competition and market mechanisms in improving resource efficiency
- To examine the potential for water rights reform and flexible licensing
- To provide a platform for a wide range of stakeholders to share their views and knowledge
- To support future policy development in the sector
- To highlight and share examples of best practice from other sectors and other countries
- To enable stakeholders involved in the water sector to hear a wide range of contrasting views in order to help develop their position in relation to the Water White Paper.
- To highlight CIWEM's report 'Regulation for a Sustainable Water Industry – A positive vision for the future water industry in England and Wales' and use this as a stimulus for debate.

**Format** The conference has been arranged into four sessions. The first provides a platform for representatives from Defra, Ofwat, the EA, the DWI, WaterUK to set out their views on the reform agenda. The second addresses governance and competition models for the water sector, going forward. The third deals with the key questions of charging and paying for water. The fourth addresses water trading, water transfers and water efficiency. In all cases, speakers have been asked to talk to a particular topic or issue, and have been allocated a 10 minute slot to state their position and/or case. Maximum possible time has been provided for questions and answers relating to the issues raised in each of the four sessions, and a closing review and debate will seek to identify areas of common ground, and of contention.

### PROGRAMME

#### **Bold is confirmed**

**9.30 Welcome and Introduction** to the Conference and to CIWEM's report on Regulation for a Sustainable Water Industry.

**Chris Binnie**, CIWEM's Water Resources Panel

#### **Session 1: Future challenges, future options**

*This session provides a platform for representatives from Defra, Ofwat, the EA, the DWI, Water UK and an Environmental NGO to set out their own particular views on the reform agenda.*

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|-----------------|---|--|
| 9.40            | <b>The scope and purpose of the Water White Paper</b>                       | <b>Gabrielle Edwards</b><br>Head of Water Legislation, Competition and Charging, Defra |
| 9.50            | <b>The scope and direction of Ofwat's 'root and branch' review</b>          | <b>Mark Hann</b> Ofwat   |
| 10.00           | <b>The Environment Agency's view on regulatory flex and reform</b>          | <b>Ian Barker</b><br>Head of Water, Environment Agency                                 |
| 10.10           | <b>The Drinking Water Inspectorate's view on reform of the water sector</b> | <b>Milo Purcell</b> DWI  |
| 10.20           | <b>The Water Companies' view on reform of the water sector</b>              | <b>James Bullock</b><br>Director of Economic Regulation and Market Reform Water UK     |
| 10.30           | <b>An Environmental Perspective of needs and opportunities</b>              | <b>Phil Burston</b> RSPB   |
| 10.40 to 11.10: | <b>Questions and points from the audience.</b>                              |  |

## Session 2: Shaping up for the future: Governance and Competition

Chairman: **Trevor Bishop** Environment Agency

*This session examines the various governance and competition models that might be adopted for the water sector, going forward.*

- 11.10 **Why the water sector in England & Wales needs more competition, and how it should be introduced?** **Richard Laikin** PWC
- 11.20 **Lessons from Australia - what needs to happen in the UK?** **Andrew Tucker** Water Policy, Energy Savings Trust
- 11.30 **Upstream Competition – what's to play for, and is it time to un-bundle the vertically-integrated company model for water & wastewater services delivery?** tba
- 11.40 **Is retail competition practicable, efficient and beneficial?** **James Bream** Business Stream

### 11.50 to 12.30: Refreshment break

Questions and points from the audience will be collected during the break

12.30 to 13.00 **Questions and open discussion on the issues arising from Session 2**

## Session 3: Charging and Paying for Water: better regulation for the environment and customers

*This session deals with the key questions of charging and paying for water.*

Chairman: **Trevor Bishop** Environment Agency

- 13.00 **Why and how we should seek to make abstractors and users bear the marginal cost of water?** **Simon Less** Policy Exchange
- 13.10 **Should abstractors pay by volume taken rather than by licensed quantity, and would that lead to better outcomes for customers and the environment?** **Meyrick Gough**, Southern Water
- 13.20 **How 'smart licensing' could deliver better outcomes for the environment and for people** **Rose Timlett** WWF-UK
- 13.30 **Are the benefits of reduced abstraction justifiable and affordable?** **Mike Pocock** Veolia Water
- 13.40 **How we should deal with affordability, fairness and vulnerability issues under measured charging for domestic use.** **Tony Smith** CEO, CCWater

### 13.50 to 14.20 Refreshment Break

Questions and points from the audience will be collected during the break

14.20 to 14.50 **Questions and open discussion on the issues arising from Session 3**

## Session 4: Trading, Transfers & Water Efficiency

*This session addresses the key issues of water trading, water transfers and water efficiency.*

Chairmen **Mike Pocock** Veolia Water & **Chris Binnie** CIWEM Water Resources Panel

- 14.50 **Is licence trading a non-starter?** **Julien Harou**, UCL
- 15.00 **Are inter-basin transfers an option for the future?** **Trevor Bishop**, Environment Agency
- 15.10 **How might trading of water between companies be achieved, and would it lead to more efficient use of water resources and lower costs to customers?** **Tony Ballance** Severn Trent Water
- 15.20 **What we need to do to persuade and enable customers to use less water.** **Victoria Higgins**, Waterwise
- 15.30 **What we need to do to factor environmental services into account in supply-demand balance options appraisals** **Mark Everard** Environment Agency

15.40 to 16.10 Questions and open discussion on the issue arising from Session 4

### 16.10 to 16.30 Reflections and Next Steps

Closing debate on key issues, areas of common ground, and areas of contention.

16.30 Close

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**BOOKING FORM**

**The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)** is an independent professional body and registered charity, advancing the science and practice of water and environment management for a clean, green and sustainable world. [www.ciwem.org](http://www.ciwem.org)

**The Venue:** The venue is the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), Russell Square, London. This is a new, air conditioned lecture theatre, with all the modern AV aids and professional projectionists; there will be ample space to accommodate the anticipated delegate numbers.

**Accommodation:** There is a wide range of accommodation available in the area and delegates will receive a hotel list when they book.

**The Organisers:** The conference is being organised by Bob Earll of Communications & Management for Sustainability (CMS), in partnership with CIWEM.

**Conference fee:** [VAT at 17.5%]

Conference fee	£160	VAT £28.00	£188.00
Concession rate*	£130	VAT £22.75	£152.75
Group Rate [3 or more paying together]	£140/person	VAT £24.50	£164.50 each
Full time Post Graduate student/ Retired CIWEM members	£45	VAT £7.87	£ 52.87

\*Our aim is to make the conferences as inclusive as possible. The concession rate applies to individuals and organisations that clearly work from limited budgets in the academic or voluntary sector. We will review this on a case by case basis and place individuals and organisations on a register for future reference. Please contact us first by email to [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk) **before booking** if you think you qualify.

- The fee includes food and refreshments and the conference papers
- Delegates with special needs should make this clear on booking

**Conditions:**

- Payment may be by cheque, BACS, credit card or online at [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk)
  - Cheques (made payable to 'CMS') should be sent to: **CMS, Candle Cottage, Kempley, Glos GL18 2BU**
  - For BACS payments please **return the booking form first** for an invoice to be raised
  - Invoices will be issued as the standard response
  - Confirmation of registration will be acknowledged on receipt of booking form
  - Receipts will be issued on payment
  - Payment should be completed **BEFORE** the event; otherwise entry may be refused
  - Payment is due for all cancellations within ten days of the meeting. Refunds (less £20 administration charge) will only be issued for cancellation more than ten working days before the meeting; substitutes are permitted
- Further details from Bob Earll: Phone/Fax 01531 890415 Joining details – maps, directions and hotels – programme are on the CMS website: [www.coastms.co.uk](http://www.coastms.co.uk) or Email: [bob.earll@coastms.co.uk](mailto:bob.earll@coastms.co.uk)

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**It is essential for both pre and post conference communication that we have your email address:**

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I am happy for my Email address to be included on the CMS Emailing System Y / N

I am happy to receive CIWEM email updates Y / N

Please register \_\_\_\_\_ place / s Total amount \_\_\_\_\_ Your ref. /order number \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay by BACS/Credit Card/Cheque (please delete) Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

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**Cheques should be made payable to 'CMS'** Tel/fax 01531 890415 VAT No: 742 4367 34