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Food & Rural Affairs

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Meyrick Gough  
Water Quality and Strategy Manager  
Southern Water

**By email only:**

[Meyrick.Gough@southernwater.co.uk](mailto:Meyrick.Gough@southernwater.co.uk)

**Date:** 17 September 2014

Dear Meyrick,

**Southern Water - Water Resources Management Plan**

The Secretary of State has now considered your draft Water Resources Management Plan (submitted 28 March 2013), the representations made in respect of that draft plan and your Statement of Response to those representations (submitted 18 November 2013), the Environment Agency's technical advice report and your further information in support of the Statement of Response (submitted 30 May and 30 June 2014).

Following the consideration of these documents, the Secretary of State is now satisfied that you should publish your final plan in accordance with regulation 6 of the Water Resources Management Plan Regulations 2007. For the avoidance of doubt, your final published plan will be the revised draft submitted on 18 November 2013 incorporating the changes identified in the Statement of Response and revised to incorporate the further information submitted on 30 May and 30 June 2014.

**Information excluded from the final plan**

In accordance with section 37B(8)(b) of the Water Industry Act 1991 (the "Act"), the final plan should be published with a statement as to whether any information has been excluded from the published plan on the grounds that it is commercially confidential or would be contrary to the interests of national security. This statement should describe the general nature of the information excluded.

The Secretary of State may determine under section 37B(2)(b) of the Act whether certain information identified by the water company to Defra is or is not commercially confidential. Your draft plan included a statement that the plan did not include commercially confidential information. Also, your e-mail dated 14 August 2014, stated that the updated Sections 9 and 10 and Appendices 3, 4 and 5, submitted on 30 May 2014, did not contain commercially sensitive information. The Secretary of State will therefore not be directing you to amend your plan on these grounds (but see below on revisions to the plan).

When the pre-consultation draft plan was sent to the Secretary of State you also included a statement of compliance, confirming the draft plan contained no security sensitive information.

If, following any further revisions of the draft plan, it now contains information that had not been identified previously in the statement of compliance as being excluded on national security grounds or which is considered to be commercially confidential, you should write to the Secretary of State, prior to publication, indicating the nature of any such information. The Secretary of State may then direct you to exclude such information from the published version of the final plan.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the publication of the final plan within a month of the date of this letter, confirm to me the date on which you will publish the plan and send Defra an electronic copy (e-mail to: [water.resources@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:water.resources@defra.gsi.gov.uk)) of your final plan for our records.

### **Steps following publication of the final plan**

Section 37A(5) of the Act requires a water company to review its plan and to send a statement to the Secretary of State of its conclusions before each anniversary of the publication date of the plan. If following conclusion of the annual review, the review indicates a material change of circumstances or if you are so directed by the Secretary of State, section 37A(6) of the Act (as amended by section 28(2) of the Water 2014) requires you to prepare a revised plan. In any event, you are required to prepare and publish a revised plan (in accordance with the procedures set out in section 37B of the Act) within five years from the date of publication of this plan.

I recommend that you continue to work with the Environment Agency as you deliver this plan and prepare for the next planning round. In particular, making prompt progress with the sustainable reduction required for the River Itchen.

I am copying this letter to Stuart Sampson at the Environment Agency and Jon Ashley at Ofwat.

Yours sincerely,



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