

The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators



Promoting a diverse and sustainable environment

THE CITY WATER DEBATE

Wednesday 19 March 2025, 5.30 for 6.00pm

Bakers' Hall, Harp Lane, London EC3R 6DP

REFRESHING WATER – PROGRESS AND PRIORITIES

The state of our rivers and the governance and finance of the UK water industry are major political issues. The water industry faces enormous challenges. Ofwat has recently issued its Final Determination of water pricing for 2025 - 2030, and an independent commission on the water sector has already started work. Meanwhile the government's commitment to growth will add to the pressures on our planning and regulatory systems, on water supply and on the infrastructure for sewage treatment. What steps is the government taking - and what steps should it take - to address these issues? What could it all mean for the water sector, the environment and housing?

To discuss the above we welcome the following speakers:

Baroness Barbara Young of Old Scone

Rebecca Pow (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, DEFRA, 2019 - 2024)

Susan Davy (CEO Pennon Group PLC and President of Institute of Water)

Anna Daroy (CEO Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management)

Ed Lockhart (CEO Future Homes Hub)

The event, which will be conducted under the Chatham House rule, is free and by invitation only. Spaces are limited to 100. After the speakers' presentations, there will be a Q&A session followed by a reception from 7.45 to 9.00pm.

To obtain a ticket please click the following [EVENTBRITE](#) Link and 'Reserve a spot':

[The City Water Debate 2025 Tickets, Wed 19 Mar 2025 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Please email our Clerk, Chris Millett (clerk@waterconservators.org) if you have any questions.



HAZEN AND SAWYER
Environmental Engineers & Scientists



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Speakers' Biographies

Barbara, Baroness Young of Old Scone is a Member of the House of Lords with special interests, among others, in the environment, agriculture, land use, planning, natural resources and climate change. Current Chair of the Labour Climate and Environment Forum. She has a range of voluntary positions including the South Georgia Heritage Trust, Chartered Institute of Environmental Management, RSPB, Bird Life International and Flora and Fauna International. She has held a variety of environmental leadership roles, including Chief Executive of RSPB and the Environment Agency, Chairman of English Nature and the Woodland Trust. She is a Commissioner of the Commission on Food Farming and the Countryside.

Rebecca Pow is a life-long environmentalist with a background in media and politics, most recently as Environment and Nature Restoration Minister (2019-2024) where she steered the Environment Act through the UK Parliament, the largest legislation in two decades. A pioneer in her earlier media career, she was the first UK TV Environment Correspondent and a presenter of the first organic gardening series.

Rebecca received a Green Heart Hero Award from the Climate Coalition and was nominated in the top 50 women who have most influenced Environmental policy by the ENDS report. A persuasive communicator with a record of influencing change, and running campaigns and projects that deliver. Success has been underpinned by knowing how to engage with the public, understanding policy, and a determination to deliver on issues which have national and organisational outcomes.

Susan Davy has been Chief Executive Officer of Pennon Group Plc, owner of South West Water, Bristol Water, Bournemouth Water, Sutton and East Surrey Water, Isles of Scilly Water and Pennon Power, since 2020 having previously served as Group Chief Financial Officer. Susan's knowledge of the industry, coupled with her financial and regulatory expertise, has underpinned the development and execution of Pennon's strategy. In her 27+ years' experience in the listed utility industry, Susan has also held a number of other senior roles in the water sector, including at Kelda Group plc. Susan's FTSE experience, alongside significant corporate, operational and financing expertise brings a diversity of experience to Pennon.

Anna Daroy, Chief Executive Officer of the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, is an experienced international CEO. She has worked in both private and public sectors for over 25 years successfully leading organisations through complex changes across multiple environments. Beginning her career in management consulting to the telcos globally with Ernst & Young and IBM, she spent the past 15 years in Board and C-suite roles for Highways England, Government of Jersey, and more recently global membership not-for-profit and charities as CEO of British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and the Institute of Directors. She is a specialist in governance and ESG.

Ed Lockhart is CEO of the Future Homes Hub, the organisation which brings together the partnerships needed to deliver on the new homes sector's climate and environmental plan. Ed is also convenor of the Broadway Initiative, the organisation of business associations working with Government and civil society to collaborate on the UK's climate and environmental goals.