

**WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS  
RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR EVIDENCE FROM  
THE DEFRA INDEPENDENT WATER COMMISSION**

**APRIL 2025  
SUPPLEMENT TO KEY POINTS**

1 The Worshipful Company of Water Conservators ('WCWC') is a City of London Livery Company focussed on the long-term health of our water resources and the broader environment. Our members include senior professionals from water, environmental and related industries and regulators, along with others who share our concern for water and the environment. Our experience and knowledge ranges from the complexities of environmental sciences, through the application of engineering to deliver the goals identified by those sciences, and the subsequent management of the assets created. The WCWC's purpose is *promoting a diverse and sustainable environment*.

2 The WCWC has made submissions to the Commission including a summary of key points. This supplement addresses an issue which has arisen as the Call for Evidence draws to a close.

3 The WCWC is aware of the media reports on submissions to the Commission and of the Defra Consultation on enforcement levies to which it will respond. These demonstrate a lack of understanding of the distinction of liabilities and responsibilities of a Licenced water services company and the equity entity to which it belongs.

4 Whilst the WCWC referred to the issue of Licences several times in its submission to the Commission and in the body of evidence supporting it, the WCWC has revisited the Call for Evidence and now observes now that there is no clear explanation of the reason for, content and function of Licences.

5 The WCWC suggests that the Commission will provide a valuable service if it provides a simple and clear explanation of the origins, functions and roles of the Licences, which will play a key role in the way forward.