WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WATER CONSERVATORS

BRIEFING NOTE ON THE DECEMBER 2025 ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

DECEMBER 2025

The Government updated the EIP on the 1st December 2025. There are 10 goals and 91 Commitments. All are of interest and relevance to members of the Company. But in view of the immediate focus on water conservation and the flow of Consultations to which the Company responds, the Water Goals are included for immediate attention.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environmental-improvement-plan-2025/environmental-improvement-plan-eip-2025

Goal 3: Water

We will ensure English waters are clean, resilient and plentiful.

As part of a decade of national renewal, we will restore our rivers, lakes and seas to good health. We want a climate resilient and secure water system that continues to provide affordable world-leading clean drinking water, supports development and economic growth around the country, supports public health and recreation, improves the natural environment, and enables us to reach net zero and have food security.

Achieving this requires all of us – the public, water companies and investors, government, regulators and environmental groups – to work together to secure the investment to clean up our water.

We have begun to reset the water sector, putting consumers and the environment first and ensuring water companies are held accountable. The Water (Special Measures) Act 2025 gives regulators new powers to take tougher and faster action against water companies who are damaging the environment and failing their customers.

This includes measures to block water company executive bonuses, severe and automatic penalties, jail sentences for the most serious offences, and independent monitoring of sewage outlets.

We are rebuilding the water network from the ground up through one of the largest infrastructure projects ever seen in Britain. In the 2024 price review (PR24) final determinations, we secured £104 billion of private investment in the water sector over the next 5 years. We have been updating the water National Policy Statement to reflect these new priorities and challenges.

Together, this will guarantee our water security for households across the country, cutting leakage by around 17% over the next 5 years and building 9 new reservoirs. We have also ringfenced infrastructure investment so it must now only be spent on new sewage pipes and treatment works – not spent on shareholder payments or bonuses.

Building on this, the Independent Water Commission (IWC) launched in October 2024 to make sure we have a robust and stable regulatory framework to attract the future investment to clean up our waterways and restore public confidence.

The IWC published its final report, review of the water sector on 21 July 2025. On the same day, the Defra Secretary of State outlined that government would take forward 5 key recommendations:

- New single water regulator: there are currently 4 separate regulators responsible for the water industry. The government will abolish Ofwat and merge its functions with water functions across the Environment Agency, Natural England and the Drinking Water Inspectorate to form a single new regulator.
- New statutory water ombudsman: a single, free service to help customers resolve complaints such as incorrect bills, leaking pipes or water supply failures.
- Ending operator self-monitoring: we will end the era of water companies marking their own homework by ending operator self-monitoring and transition to open monitoring to increase transparency and help restore public trust.
- Greater local involvement: we commit to including a regional element to the new regulator to ensure greater local involvement in water planning and allow all sources of pollution to be addressed across the river catchment.
- Improved strategic direction: until the single water regulator is fully established, the existing regulators will continue to carry out their functions and enforcement responsibilities in full. The government will clarify its expectations to the existing regulators through a strategic policy statement and ministerial direction, expected to be published later this year.

Our root and branch reform will restore trust and accountability – building an industry that works for the British people.

Working in partnership with water companies, investors and communities, the government aims to introduce reforms through primary legislation when parliamentary time allows. A white paper setting out further detail will be published and consulted on this year.

The reforms will secure better outcomes for customers, investors and the environment, making the water sector one of growth and opportunity in line with our Plan for Change.

They will provide the clarity and direction required for a strong partnership between government, the sector and investors to attract billions of pounds of new investment.

This follows the Secretary of State’s commitment to cut sewage pollution from water companies in half by the end of this decade, making our rivers the cleanest since records began.

There is growing concern about the potential public health risks associated with exposure to a range of contaminants being released into natural waterways. Alongside the work of the IWC, we are exploring opportunities for minimising this risk and increasing health protections within the water sector regulatory framework.

We know that we need to rationalise the number of regulatory plans and merry-go-round of regulators to create a more efficient system. A systematic approach to improving drainage and wastewater systems means looking at the bigger picture – how these systems affect the environment, local communities, and other priorities like flood prevention and urban development.

We continue to work towards our obligation to restore 75% of water bodies to good ecological status (GES) and remain committed to securing continuous improvement for the water environment. We are considering recommendations made in the IWC on the future of GES.

We are also taking a leading role in tackling brake and tyre wear emissions which can have a detrimental impact on our air and soil and contaminate our waters.

We are supporting the agricultural sector to reduce pollution. Farmers are important partners in protecting our rivers, lakes and seas, and we are putting in place changes needed to deliver our ambitious target to reduced water pollution from agriculture. We have already made progress by revising Enforcing the Farming Rules for Water guidance and begun co-designed reform of agriculture water regulations to make them clearer and more effective. We will consult on extending environmental permitting for dairy and intensive beef farms.

We will double funding to increase Environment Agency farm inspections by 2029 and improve the advice farmers receive to invest in new technologies. This will support farmers to comply with regulations and protect our rivers and wildlife.

We will also expand the EA's advisory and regulatory work with farmers and bring in new technology such as remote sensing to strengthen enforcement. These are administered proportionately and range from warnings and notices through to civil sanctions and prosecution where serious environmental harm has or may occur.

These regulatory changes together with targeted use of Environmental Land Management schemes and infrastructure grants will help farmers to reduce impacts and support them to increasingly adopt choices which protect water from 2026.

Enabling nature to flourish in healthy water catchments
We are taking a catchment-based systematic approach to developing and delivering commitments to improve our water environment.

Commitment 23:

Support catchment partnerships as a framework for coordinating action between the public, private and third sectors.

Actions for commitment 23:

- Include a regional element within the new water regulator to ensure greater local involvement in water planning, as announced following the IWC. **Responsible:** Defra
- Support the catchment-based approach to facilitate wider public participation in local water systems in preparation for engagement with reforms suggested by the IWC. **Responsible:** Defra, Environment Agency (EA)
- Provide up to £1 million funding for comprehensive cross-border research to understand pollution and other pressures in the Wye catchment and develop plans to tackle these issues. **Responsible:** Defra, Welsh Government

Commitment 24:

Require standardised sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in all new developments with drainage impacts and ensure sustainable maintenance arrangements are in place by 2029.

Actions for commitment 24:

- Consult on a set of national policies to support decisions including those relating to SuDS. **Responsible:** MHCLG
- Consult on legislative and policy options to reduce the prevalence of unadopted amenities on residential estates. The consultation will consider long-term maintenance and adoption options for SuDS. **Responsible:** MHCLG

Commitment 25:

Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 55% by December 2030 against a 2020 baseline.

(This an Environment Act interim target).

Action for commitment 25:

- Require water companies to upgrade 440 wastewater treatment works by 2030 to meet stricter phosphorus permit limits. **Responsible:** water companies, Defra, Ofwat, EA

Commitment 26:

Reduce total nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment:

a. By at least 12% by December 2030, compared to 2018 levels.

b. By at least 18% in catchments containing protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution by December 2030 .

(These are Environment Act interim targets)

Actions for commitment 26:

- Double the funding for EA advice-led farm inspections over the 3 years to 2029 to ensure farmers are compliant with water quality regulation.**Responsible:** Defra, EA
- Provide advice, guidance and training to encourage voluntary farmer action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture, in addition to meeting regulatory requirements, for example through Catchment Sensitive Farming. **Responsible:** Defra, EA, Natural England
- Streamline and improve regulations controlling agricultural water pollution. To support this, we have reviewed and published updated statutory guidance for the Farming Rules for Water. **Responsible:** Defra
- Provide grants to improve slurry management, with impact shown by progress towards the interim target. **Responsible:** Defra
- Provide funding to encourage farmers and land managers to protect and enhance watercourses, such as through agroforestry, riparian and wider catchment woodland creation, boundary features and buffer strips. **Responsible:** Defra, Forestry Commission, local authorities, private sector
- Provide grants to spark innovation and use technology to develop solutions which address challenges related to farming pollution. **Responsible:** Defra
- Launch a free-to-use nutrient management planning tool to help farmers and land managers plan and manage the use of nutrients on their land in winter 2025.**Responsible:** Defra
- Develop a programme to boost delivery and monitoring of the agricultural water quality targets, including EA's National Agricultural Programme for monitoring water quality improvements, so farmers adopt choices which reduce pollution. **Responsible:** Defra, EA

See Goal 2: Air for more information on our consultation on extending environmental permitting for dairy and intensive beef farms to benefit air and water quality.

Commitment 27:

Construct 8 mine water treatment schemes and 20 diffuse interventions to control inputs of target substances to rivers, and complete 55 catchment studies by December 2030.

(This is an Environment Act interim target).

Actions for commitment 27:

- Identify priority sources of pollution for remediation and evaluate water quality improvements after construction of mine water treatment schemes and diffuse interventions. **Responsible:** EA
- Develop options for treatment scheme design and make recommendations on potential scheme locations. Design and plan schemes, apply for necessary planning and regulatory permissions. **Responsible:** Mining Remediation Authority (MRA)
- Construct and maintain new mine water treatment schemes and diffuse interventions. **Responsible:** MRA
- Investigate treatment and delivery options to improve treatment performance or lower lifecycle costs of re mediation measures, or both. **Responsible:** MRA

Commitment 28:

Restore chalk streams to better ecological health, ensuring protections and investment towards these habitats.

Actions for commitment 28:

- Invest in chalk stream restoration through the Water Restoration Fund and Water Environment Improvement Fund over the next 2 years. **Responsible:** Defra, EA, Rural Payments Agency (RPA)
- Support and facilitate 11 flagship chalk stream restoration projects across England, through the EA's area and national teams, and through research and funding, and holding water companies to account for delivery. **Responsible:** Defra, EA, RPA
- Drive over £2 billion investment from water companies into the restoration of chalk streams. This includes prioritising chalk streams as part of the record £11 billion of investment to improve nearly 3,000 storm overflows in England and Wales during PR24, with 75% of high priority sites needing to be improved by 2035 and the rest by 2045. **Responsible:** water companies, Ofwat, EA
- Implement the EA's National Framework for Water Resources, a plan for securing long-term, resilient water supplies whilst protecting the environment, using cross-sector regional water resources groups' work, and deliver water resources management plans.**Responsible:** EA, water companies, regional water resources groups
- Reduce water company abstraction from chalk streams by 126 million litres per day by 2030. **Responsible:** EA, water companies

Commitment 29:

Drive further investment to improve the water environment.

Actions for commitment 29:

- Support delivery of £24 billion of water company expenditure to improve the environment. This includes investment of over £10 billion to improve around 2,500 storm overflows in England, to deliver a 50% reduction in spills by 2030 from an average of 32 spills per year per overflow in 2024. **Responsible:** water companies, Defra, EA and Ofwat
- Direct funding to local catchment projects to improve the water environment and attract match funding through the Water Environment Improvement Fund. Funding allocations will run from April 2026 until 2028 or 2030, depending on spend type. **Responsible:** Defra, EA
- Deliver the Water Restoration Fund and direct £11 million of funding based on water company fines and penalties back into the water environment. The fund will be in operation until March 2028. **Responsible:** Defra, RPA
- Invest over £100 million in fines and penalties levied against water companies since October 2023, as well as future fines and penalties, into projects to clean up our waters, which could include local environmental programmes to address pollution and improve water quality. **Responsible:** Defra

Ensuring a sustainable supply of water to homes, public buildings and businesses

Based on current trajectories, by 2050 there will be a shortfall of nearly 5 billion litres of water per day in the UK (A summary of England's revised draft regional and water resources management plans, Environment Agency 2024).

Our water demand target, and associated interim targets, will enable us to reduce water usage and have more water efficient practices.

The ministerial water delivery taskforce holds water companies to account for infrastructure delivery and ensures there is enough water and wastewater capacity for new homes and businesses. Work by Defra ministers this year has already unblocked 10,000 homes in Oxford and driven innovative water saving approaches in Cambridge.

Commitment 30:

Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population from a 2019 to 2020 baseline:

a. By 9% by 31 March 2027.
b. By 14% by 31 March 2032

(These are Environment Act interim targets)

Use of public water will be reduced through the combined delivery of commitments 31 to 34.

Commitment 31:

Reduce household water use to 122 litres per person per day by 2038 from a 2019 to 2020 baseline.

Actions for commitments 31 and 32:

- Introduce a Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling scheme on water products, such as showers and toilets, in 2026.**Responsible:** Defra
- Work with the manufacturing and retail sectors to improve or remove wasteful products and enable innovative water-saving products. Following the launch of a mandatory label, we will consider introducing minimum product standards and design guidance to reduce water wastage and remove inefficient or unclear products from the market. **Responsible:** Defra
- Review planning policy and processes in new household development. Progress work to consider the role of water companies in large scale developments, following the recommendations of the Independent Water Commission for an enhanced role in this process. **Responsible:** Defra, MHCLG
- Review water efficiency, water recycling and drainage standards to tighten standards, and explore opportunities to increase water efficient housing through technological innovation, including piloting water reuse systems in Ox-Cam, to drive increased water efficiency. **Responsible:** Defra, MHCLG
- Investigate dual-pipe systems and water reuse options for new housing development and consider a labelling and record system to map dual pipes for maintenance. As part of this, we will review and amend legislation to address wasteful product issues with toilets and enable new water efficient technologies. **Responsible:** Defra, Drinking Water Inspectorate, MHCLG

Commitment 32:

Reduce non-household water use by 9% by 2038.

Actions for commitment 32:

- Review planning policy and processes and investigate water reuse options for new non-household development. Consider voluntary schemes for non-household buildings and work with MHCLG and local authorities to improve knowledge and guidance of water reuse in planning processes. **Responsible:** Defra, Drinking Water Inspectorate, MHCLG
- Work with the retail market operator MOSL, retailers, regulators and water suppliers, to identify options to reduce non-household demand. This includes through MOSL's Market Performance Framework standards, Ofwat's new non-household performance commitment for water companies to reduce business demand for water (including managing penalties and rewards) and reviewing tariff structures in the non-household market to better understand incentives for water efficiency and demand reduction. **Responsible:** Water companies, Defra

Commitment 33:

Reduce leakage from a 2017 to 2018 baseline by:

a. By 20% by 31 March 2027.
b. By 30% by 31 March 2032.

(These are Environment Act interim targets)

Actions for commitment 33:

- Work with Ofwat to hold water companies to delivery of leakage reduction targets – set at 17% for 2025 to 2030 in this period – through Ofwat's rewards and penalties. **Responsible:** Defra, Ofwat, water companies
- Implement policies or standards associated with water usage data that enable water companies to incentivise more water efficient behaviours, reduce leakage, and amplify the benefits of their smart meter rollouts. This includes considering recommendations for government from Ofwat's Baringa report and supporting its Smart Water Metering Delivery Group. **Responsible:** Defra, water companies, Ofwat

Commitment 34:

Ensure water companies deliver their water resources management plans, eliminating the water supply demand gap that grows to 5 billion litres a day by 2050.

Actions for commitment 34:

- Rapidly develop critical new water supply infrastructure, supported by a joint team called the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) and the National Framework for Water Resources. **Responsible:** Water companies, Defra, Ofwat, EA, RAPID, regional water resources groups
- Review water company delivery regularly as part of the planning for water delivery taskforce meetings. **Responsible:** Defra, EA, Ofwat

Commitment 35:

Modernise the abstraction licensing system, including moving it into the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). The government is considering the recommendations of the IWC.

Actions for commitment 35:

- Work with abstractors to find voluntary local solutions to reduce unsustainable abstraction or, if required, using powers to modify these abstraction licences. **Responsible:** EA, water companies, water users

- Consider the recommendations of the IWC and respond in this year. **Responsible:** Defra

Commitment 36:

Support the agricultural sector in ensuring collaborative sustainable water use, through enabling an increase in the number of water abstractor groups from 7 to 14 by 2030.

Actions for commitment 36:

- Deliver Local Resource Options screening studies to encourage farmers to work together to identify local water resilience solutions such as reservoirs, hydrocycles or water trading. Each group of farmers will receive a report detailing the best options for their area. **Responsible:** Defra, EA, agricultural water users
- Create new Water Abstractor Groups. **Responsible:** Defra, EA, agricultural water users

Delivering clean rivers, lakes and seas for people to enjoy

Our rivers, lakes and seas should be clean for people to enjoy. Clean seas support restored marine environments, our fishing fleet and communities that depend on this.

We are reforming the Bathing Water Regulations 2013. This will modernise regulations and strengthen the designation criteria, ensuring better and more targeted investments. Our proposals would enable Defra to consider physical safety and environmental protections and review the dates of the bathing season at sites that are used outside of these seasons.

Defra has worked with the devolved governments to legislate to ban wet wipes containing plastic across the UK. The ban is expected to come into force in Spring 2027 and will reduce plastic and microplastic pollution, particularly in our waterways. The government are supportive of industry efforts to encourage the correct disposal of wet wipes, including Water UK's 'Bin the Wipe' campaign.

The Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan (SODRP) sets targets for water companies to reduce the adverse impacts of discharges from storm overflows, as well as their frequency, and outlines which sites should be prioritised for the most urgent action.

Under the SODRP, by 2050, water companies will not be permitted to discharge from any storm overflows unless they can demonstrate that there is no local adverse ecological impact and only up to a maximum of an average of 10 spills per year. Defra's target of reducing storm overflow spillages by 50% by 2030 is the first step to achieving this.

Commitment 37:

Reduce the impact of storm overflows on the environment and human health by reducing spill numbers and prioritising sensitive sites, in line with the SODRP.

Actions for commitment 37:

- Crack down on sewage pollution by holding water companies to account for delivering the targets set out in the SODRP. **Responsible:** Water companies, Ofwat, EA
- Invest over £10 billion into storm overflow improvements in England from 2025 to 2030 to improve over 2,500 overflows. **Responsible:** Water companies, Ofwat
- Publish a progress report on delivery against the SODRP by the end of 2025 and then every 5 years. **Responsible:** Defra
- Hold water companies accountable for meeting their statutory requirements, including the prevention of harm from storm overflows. **Responsible:** Defra, Ofwat, EA, water companies
- Use newly published guidance – setting out our expectations on targets, legal duties and prioritising – with water and sewerage companies, and regulators, to ensure a clear planning framework. **Responsible:** Defra

Commitment 38:

Review the regulatory framework for sewage sludge spreading to agricultural land to ensure it effectively manages the risks to the environment and health.

Action for commitment 38:

- Consider the recommendation for reform of sewage sludge regulations made by the Independent Water Commission. Outline next steps as part of Defra's wider work on water reform. **Responsible:** Defra

Commitment 39:

Better understand the health impacts associated with polluted waters.

Action for commitment 39:

- Undertake research to assess the human health risks from human faecal-oral transmission of disease relating to wastewater contamination of inland waterways, including persistence of viable human pathogens from treated sewage. This will address a key evidence gap and improve understanding of the public health risks associated with recreational water activities. **Responsible:** DHSC

Monitoring and reporting approach

We have a suite of indicators that measure progress against this goal. These include:

- Environment Agency reporting
- Water company reporting on Distribution Input
- Progress reporting on the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan
- The Environmental Indicator Framework (EIF)

The EIF indicators monitoring environmental change for Goal 3: Water are:

- B1: Pollution loads entering waters
- B2: Serious pollution incidents to water
- B3: State of the water environment
- B4: Condition of bathing waters
- B5: Water bodies achieving sustainable abstraction criteria
- B6: Natural functions of water and wetland ecosystems
- B7: Health of freshwaters assessed through fish populations
- E8: Sustainable use of water

The Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment (NCEA) programme is also developing and capitalising on scientific innovation and new technology including the use of remote sensing from satellites and using AI to reduce field effort. NCEA is producing a statistically robust baseline assessment of the health of England's rivers and lakes. The baseline data and outputs will be made publicly accessible, enabling the private sector, central and local governments and third sectors to use these products to understand the condition of our ecosystems and put nature at the heart of decision making.

Further detail on metrics and delivery contributions for the commitments in this goal and the goal theory of change is available in the EIP Monitoring Plan.

Illustrative plan for Goal 3

Goal 3: We will ensure English water are clean, resilient and plentiful

Core strategies and plans: Upcoming water White Paper, water National Policy Statement, Storm Overflows discharge Reduction Plan

Delivery partners: Defra, DHSC, Environment Agency, FC, Local Authorities, LNRS Responsible Authorities, MHCLG, Mining Remediation Authority, NE, Ofwat, Rural Payments Agency, Water companies

Key commitments	Key actions
23. Support catchment partnerships as a framework for coordinating action between the public, private and third sectors	• Include a regional element within the new water regulator to ensure greater local involvement in water planning, as announced following the IWC
24. Require standardised sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in all new developments with drainage impacts and ensure sustainable maintenance arrangements are in place by 2029	• Consult on a set of national policies to support decisions including those relating to SuDS
25. Reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 55% by December 2030 against a 2020 baseline (This is an Environment Act interim target)	• Require water companies to upgrade 440 wastewater treatment works by 2030 to meet strict phosphorus permit limits
26. Reduce total nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment: • by at least 12% by December 2030, compared to 2018 levels • by at least 18% in catchments containing protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution by December 2030 (These are Environment Act interim targets)	• Double the funding for EA advice-led farm inspections over the 3 years to 2029 to ensure farmers are compliant with water quality regulation • Provide grants to improve slurry management, wi impact shown by progress towards the interim targ
27. Construct 8 mine water treatment schemes and 20 diffuse interventions to control inputs of target substances to rivers, and complete 55 catchment studies by December 2030 (This is an Environment Act interim target)	• Construct and maintain new mine water treatmen schemes and diffuse interventions
28. Restore chalk streams to better ecological health, ensuring protections and investment towards these habitats	• Drive over £2 billion investment from water companies into the restoration of chalk streams. This includes prioritising chalk streams as part of th record £11 billion of investment to improve nearly 3,000 storm overflows in England and Wales durin PR24, with 75% of high priority sites needing to be improved by 2035 and the rest by 2045
29. Drive further investment to improve the water environment	• Support delivery of £24 billion of water company expenditure to improve the environment. This includes investment of over £10 billion to improve around 2,500 storm overflows in England, to delive a 50% reduction in spills by 2030 from an average of 32 spills per year per overflow in 2024
30. Reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population from a 2019 to 2020 baseline:	• Introduce a Mandatory Water Efficiency Labelling scheme on water products, such as showers and toilets, in 2026

Key commitments	Key actions
• by 9% by 31 March 2027 • by 14% by 31 March 2032 (These are Environment Act interim targets) 31. Reduce household water use to 122 litres per person per day by 2038 from a 2019 to 2020 baseline 32. Reduce non-household water use by 9% by 2038 33. Reduce leakage from a 2017 to 2018 baseline: a. by 20% by 31 March 2027. b. by 30% by 31 March 2032. (These are Environment Act interim targets) 34. Ensure water companies deliver their water resources management plans, eliminating the water supply demand gap that grows to 5 billion litres a day by 2050 35. Modernise the abstraction licensing system, including moving it into the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). The government is considering the recommendations of the IWC 36. Support the agricultural sector in ensuring collaborative sustainable water use, through enabling an increase in the number of Water Abstractor Groups from 7 to 14 by 2030	• Review water efficiency, water recycling and drainage standards to tighten standards, and explore opportunities to increase water efficient housing through technological innovation, including piloting water reuse systems in Ox-Cam, to drive increased water efficiency • Review planning policy and processes and investigate water reuse options for new non-household development. Consider voluntary schemes for non-household buildings and work wit MHCLG and local authorities to improve knowledg and guidance of water reuse in planning processes • Work with Ofwat to hold water companies to delivery of leakage reduction targets – set at 17% for 2025 to 2030 in this period – through Ofwat's rewards and penalties • Rapidly develop critical new water supply infrastructure, supported by a joint team called the Regulators' Alliance for Progressing Infrastructure Development (RAPID) and the National Framewor for Water Resources • Working with abstractors to find voluntary local solutions to reduce unsustainable abstraction or, if required, using powers to modify these abstraction licences • Deliver Local Resource Options screening studie to encourage farmers to work together to identify local water resilience solutions such as reservoirs, hydrocycles or water trading. Each group of farmer will receive a report detailing the best options for their area
37. Reduce the impact of storm overflows on the environment and human health by reducing spill numbers and prioritising sensitive sites, in line with SODRP 38. Review the regulatory framework for	• Invest over £10 billion into storm overflow improvements in England from 2025 to 2030 to improve over 2,500 overflows • Hold water companies accountable for meeting their statutory requirements, including the

Key commitments	Key actions
sewage sludge spreading to agricultural land to ensure it effectively manages the risks to environment and health 39. Better understand the health impacts associated with polluted waters	prevention of harm from storm overflows • Undertake research to assess the human health risks from human faecal-oral transmission of disease relating to wastewater contamination of inland waterways, including persistence of viable human pathogens from treated sewage. This will address a key evidence gap and improve understanding of the public health risks associated with recreational water activities

Annex 2: Is a full list of revised EIP interim targets but focusses here on water

Goal 3: Water
The statutory Environment Act 2021 targets for water are:

- halve the length of rivers polluted by harmful metals from abandoned metal mines by 2038, against a baseline of 1,491 km
- Reduce total nitrogen, total phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture into the water environment by at least 40% by 2038, compared to a 2018 baseline
- reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 80% by 2038 against a 2020 baseline
- reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population by 20% by 2038 from a 2019 to 2020 baseline

We have set the following updated interim targets for water:

- construct 8 mine water treatment schemes and 20 diffuse interventions commitments to control inputs of target substances to rivers, and complete 55 catchment studies by December 2030
- reduce total nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment by at least 12% by December 2030 compared to a 2018 baseline
- reduce total nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment pollution from agriculture to the water environment by at least 18% in catchments containing protected sites in unfavourable condition due to nutrient pollution by December 2030
- reduce phosphorus loadings from treated wastewater by 55% by December 2030 against a 2020 baseline

- reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population from a 2019 to 2020 baseline by 9% by 31 March 2027 -reduce the use of public water supply in England per head of population from a 2019 to 2020 baseline by 14% by 31 March 2032
- reduce leakage by 20% from a 2017 to 2018 baseline by 31 March 2027
- reduce leakage from a 2017 to 2018 baseline by 30% by 31 March 2032

We have completed 55 catchment studies in addition to delivery of 8 mine water treatment schemes and 20 diffuse schemes by 2030. Our target for reducing agricultural pollution remains ambitious and challenging following a path from the previous target towards the long- term statutory target.

The interim target to reduce phosphorus in freshwater bodies which leads to poor ecosystem health and reduced biodiversity is an ambitious part of an unprecedented programme of water industry infrastructure investment. The interim target has been revised from 50% by 2028 to 55% by 2030, maintaining the level of ambition.

The interim targets for water demand remain ambitious and will set us on a glide path to achieve the long-term target