

**Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:
The future for water markets in England and Wales**

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 13th October 2026

Taking place online

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Priorities for regulating the water sector - delivery, performance and long-term planning**
Senior representative, regulation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Price-setting and investment planning - considerations for fairness and network resilience**
Senior representative, regulations
- 9.40 **Market priorities for consumers - trust, transparency, affordability and engagement**
Senior representative, consumers
- 9.50 **Aligning economic regulation with performance objectives - reform, price-setting, investment and long-term delivery**
aligning economic regulation with environmental and service performance expectations | priorities for standards, rewards and penalties | implications of the Water (Special Measures) Act 2025 | PR24 and AMP8 redeterminations and delivery | strategies for attracting and deploying investment | assessing proposals in the Water White Paper | reforming the Price Review Cycle and moving towards 25-year planning horizons | maintaining asset health across the water system and enhancing infrastructure mapping | managing debt-to-equity ratios while delivering on infrastructure needs | looking ahead to the water Transition Plan and the forthcoming Clean Water Bill | managing regulatory transition | priorities for the new integrated regulator and Performance Improvement Regime | the role of a new Water Ombudsman | balancing investment and network resilience with service performance, environmental sustainability and affordability | potential options for introducing green bonds to water markets
Darren Rice, Director, Regulation, Anglian Water
Michael Barlow, Partner, Burges Salmon
Senior representative, investment
Senior representative, legal
Senior commentator
- 10.05 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Regulatory transition - priorities for continuity, stability and sector reform for the new water regulator**
Dame Julia Black, Senior Adviser to the Environment Secretary on Water Reform Transition, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.55 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.00 Break
- 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 11.15 **Market arrangements - entry, expansion, data sharing, digital infrastructure and competition**
supporting market expansion and new entrants | clarifying licensing and obligations for NAVs | NAV application processing times | strengthening the no-worse-off test | revisions to bulk charging for the water wholesale market | role of digital infrastructure in system monitoring and oversight | strategic data innovations, water efficiency and demand management | the role of data monitoring and AI analytics in the new performance regime | smart metering, tariff design and plans to phase-out falling block tariffs | market efficiency, flexibility and innovation
Keith Hutton, Group Regulation Director, BUUK Infrastructure
Senior representative, water company
Senior representative, innovation
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.55 **Competition, flexibility and fairness in the business retail market**
market arrangements in the business retail market | refinement options for deemed tariffs, price caps and the Review of Retail Exit Codes | safeguards for consumers, especially SMEs | implementing MOSL's Business Plan 2025-2028 | new Market Performance Framework | smart data and tariff modernisation | settlement speed and accuracy | charging and compliance | National Metering Strategy, Strategic Data Programme and the launch of the Smart Meter Read Hub | reducing administrative burdens for switching | exit risk and proposals to introduce Supplier of Last Resort mechanism | facilitating data exchange and bilateral trading | centralisation of access to non-household consumption data
Sarah McMath, CEO, MOSL
Senior representative, SME
Senior representative, water-intensive user
Senior representative, retailer
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Future market design - policy priorities for the water sector**
Senior representative, policy
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum



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