

## Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

### Next steps for tackling water pollution in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

\*\*\*Taking place online\*\*\*

Draft agenda subject to change

8.30	Registration	 WESTMINSTER ENERGY ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FORUM
9.00	<u>Chair's opening remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian	
9.05	<u>Tackling water pollution in England - priorities for policy</u> Emma Donnelly, Deputy Director, Clean Waters, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Questions and comments from the floor	
9.30	<u>Strengthening accountability and driving investment in England's water sector - next steps for regulation</u> Senior speaker confirmed from Ofwat	
9.45	<u>Implications of proposals in the Water White Paper for future regulation and water sector governance</u> <i>assessing outcomes of the Independent Water Commission and proposals in the Water White Paper   priorities for the proposed new single regulatory body and assessing the role of a new Water Ombudsman   transition to Open Monitoring and strategies to ensure efficacy of penalty regimes   addressing regulatory resource and capacity constraints   policy and legal routes for addressing health impacts of water pollution   maintaining integrity in a risk-based regulatory strategy   looking ahead to the forthcoming water Transition Plan and expected Water Reform Bill   sequencing and delivery conditions for regulatory transition, including governance and capacity   implications of planning reform and Environmental Delivery Plans for water quality outcomes</i> Dr Mike Keil, CEO, CCW Senior speaker confirmed from Wessex Water Senior representative, legal	
10.00	Questions and comments from the floor	
10.30	<u>Chair's closing remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian	
10.35	Break	
10.45	<u>Chair's opening remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian	
10.50	<u>Operational challenges and innovation in water quality management</u> Dr Robin Price, Director, Quality, Environment and Assurance, Anglian Water	
11.00	<u>Preventing pollution at source - priorities for water infrastructure management</u> <i>role of data and digital systems in monitoring and response   designing effective Pollution Incident Reduction Plans   planning for the £10bn investment in storm overflow improvements   the role of local infrastructure solutions, including Sustainable Drainage Systems in developments   tackling pollution from urban surfaces and highways   approaches for prevention and treatment of emerging contaminants, including treatment of sewage sludge   addressing surface water runoff and flood risk, alongside pollution prevention</i> Jo Bradley, Director of Operations, Stormwater Shepherds UK Senior representative, infrastructure Senior representative, digital	
11.15	Questions and comments from the floor	
11.45	<u>Future strategy, coordination and delivery, including nature-based solutions</u> <i>coordinating national and regional strategies   role of Regional Water Authorities and lessons from existing partnerships   implications of the Upper Costa Beck case for River Basin Management Plans   cross-sector coordination for catchment restoration   priorities for agricultural and land management to reduce nutrient pollution   reviewing the regulatory framework for sewage sludge spreading   meeting targets in the updated Environmental Improvement Plan   role of wetlands, integrated pest management, and other natural approaches in pollution reduction and climate resilience   opportunities and challenges from the Nature Restoration Fund   progress towards national and international targets   implications of planning reform and Environmental Delivery Plans for catchment-scale delivery   funding, affordability and long-term investment considerations for nature-based solutions</i> Charlotte Allen, Nutrient Management Specialist, National Farmers' Union Kat Broadhead, Principal Officer, Water, Natural England Senior representative, partnerships Senior representative, nature-based solutions Questions and comments from the floor	
12.30	<u>Restoring trust in water quality and services - challenges, progress and next steps</u> Helen Wakeham, Director, Water, Environment Agency Questions and comments from the floor	
12.55	<u>Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment &amp; Transport Forum closing remarks</u> Senior Parliamentarian Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum	