

Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum policy conference:

Next steps for tackling water pollution in England and Wales

Timing: Morning, Friday, 24th April 2026

Taking place online



WESTMINSTER ENERGY
ENVIRONMENT &
TRANSPORT FORUM

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 9.05 **Tackling water pollution in England - priorities for policy**
Emma Donnelly, Deputy Director, Clean Waters, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Strengthening accountability and driving investment in England's water sector - next steps for regulation**
Senior speaker confirmed from **Ofwat**
- 9.45 **Implications of proposals in the Water White Paper for future regulation and water sector governance**
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
Dr Mike Keil, CEO, CCW
Senior speaker confirmed from **Wessex Water**
Senior representative, legal
- 10.00 Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.30 **Chair's closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 Break
- 10.45 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.50 **Operational challenges and innovation in water quality management**
Dr Robin Price, Director, Quality, Environment and Assurance, Anglian Water
- 11.00 **Preventing pollution at source - priorities for water infrastructure management**
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
Jo Bradley, Director of Operations, Stormwater Shepherds UK
Senior representative, infrastructure
Senior representative, digital
- 11.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Future strategy, coordination and delivery, including nature-based solutions**
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
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 **Restoring trust in water quality and services - challenges, progress and next steps**
Helen Wakeham, Director, Water, Environment Agency
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Energy, Environment & Transport Forum