



# Moving abstraction and impounding licensing into the Environmental Permitting Regulations

## A response to Coronavirus (Covid-19)

### External briefing: June 2020

From 2017 Defra and the Environment Agency have been working towards moving abstraction and impounding licensing into the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR). We have been engaging with stakeholders with a view to Defra launching its consultation in spring 2020. Many of you have shared your early thoughts, which has helped shape our proposed technical approaches which we are thankful for.

We have since entered challenging and unprecedented times as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19), effects of which we continue to respond to. Businesses, stakeholders and environmental bodies must be able to focus their energies on following government guidelines and providing key services as we all start working towards recovery. As a result the Minister has made the decision to delay the consultation for and implementation of abstraction and impounding licensing moving into the EPR.

We still believe that the move to the EPR is needed to modernise the regulation of abstraction and impounding and to align it with other EPR regimes to create a single regulatory framework. It is the right thing to do in order to secure sustainable water resources for the environment, business and society now and into the future.

However, Defra will consult when it is appropriate to do so and currently plan to do this in spring 2021 with a view to implementation of the EPR in 2023. In the interim we will continue to make available to you all of the necessary information and to keep you informed of any key developments.

If you require any additional information please contact us by emailing:

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