

waterwise

Waterwise
344-354 Gray's Inn Road
London
WC1X 8BP
2nd July 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on setting licence fees for 412 MHz

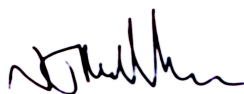
Many thanks for the opportunity to respond to the above consultation.

Whilst we recognise the case for an annual licence fee we do feel it is crucial that it is set at a level that does not slow down or restrict the roll-out of smart meter technology in the water sector or disadvantage the users of the 412 MHz spectrum relative to alternative technologies.

The water sector is at a relatively early stage in moving to the use of smart metering. Early evidence from the transition to date suggests the technology could be a game changer delivering significant benefits in terms of reduced leakage and water consumption. These savings will help secure future water supplies, reduce carbon emissions and protect the environment. We would not want these positive outcomes to be put at risk.

As take up of smart metering by the water sector is gradual one option that could be considered is to phase in the charge and gradually increase it in addition to ensuring that the overall level is set at a sensible level avoiding the risks I highlight above.

Regards



Dr Nathan Richardson
Head of Policy and Strategy
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Who is Waterwise

[Waterwise](#) was founded in 2005 and is the leading authority on water efficiency in the UK. We are an independent, not-for-profit organisation, receiving funding from supporters across and beyond the water sector and wider sponsorship and research projects. We like to be at the front, leading and supporting innovative efforts to realise our mission; that water will be used wisely, every day, everywhere.