

Dear WFD Stakeholder

**STAKEHOLDER REVIEW (SR1-2006)**  
**UKTAG Report: UK Environmental Standards and Conditions (Jan 2006)**

The UK Technical Advisory Group (UKTAG) is responsible for developing UK approaches to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (the Directive). On behalf of the UK administrations, we are developing the environmental standards and conditions to support delivery of the Directive.

Since 2004, UK environment and conservation agencies under the guidance of the UKTAG, have collaborated on a review of existing environmental standards for water quality, water flow and levels, as well as developing systems for assessing the physical structure and condition of rivers, lakes, estuaries and coasts.

This review has involved many of the UK's leading experts in ecology, hydrology, geomorphology and chemistry. Monitoring results from across the UK and scientific literature from around the world has informed the process.

In addition, the UKTAG is involved in a European initiative known as Intercalibration. The aim of Intercalibration is to ensure that the boundaries for Good Ecological Status given by each Member State's methods can be compared and that they are consistent with the Directive's descriptions of Good Ecological Status. We have taken account of the results of this work.

**Invitation to comment**

This is an important time for setting out how the identified competent authorities' in the UK propose to manage the water environment. We invite your comments on our proposals under Phase 1.

Our report can be found at: [http://www.wfduk.org/stakeholder\\_reviews/Standards\\_Jan\\_2006](http://www.wfduk.org/stakeholder_reviews/Standards_Jan_2006)

In particular, we seek your comments on the following:

1. Is the report clear in explaining how we have reviewed and developed the proposed environmental standards and conditions?
2. Do you think that the approach we have taken, as identified in the report and supporting technical documents:
  - a) Uses the best science currently available? If not, please tell us about any information or scientific methods that could improve the approach.
  - b) Identifies the environmental standards and conditions required to achieve the Directive's objectives to achieve Good Ecological Status? (Recognising that the standards under other EC Directives will also apply.)
3. What further research and development is required to strengthen the approach over the first cycle of river basin planning?

Your input will enable us to provide better advice to the UK administrations and Ministers.

### **Submitting your comments**

We invite your written responses by **5.00pm, 18 April 2006**. These can be submitted on-line at: [http://www.wfduk.org/stakeholder\\_reviews/consultation\\_submissions/sr1-2006](http://www.wfduk.org/stakeholder_reviews/consultation_submissions/sr1-2006)

Alternatively, you can down-load the form and email to: [wfduktag@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:wfduktag@sniffer.org.uk).

Anyone unable to respond electronically should post their response to:

Stakeholder Review SR1-2006  
UKTAG on WFD  
PO Box 23760  
Edinburgh EH1 3WS

### **Next steps by UKTAG**

- Where permission has been given to make submissions public, submissions will be made available on the UKTAG web-site. (This enables you to see that your submission has been received by UKTAG)
- UKTAG will consider the submissions, and collate a document identifying key issues and responses. We will brief our members and the UK administrations on the technical issues and seek their advice.
- UKTAG will then place a summary on the comments onto the UKTAG's web-site by Summer 2006. Unfortunately we cannot to respond to individual submissions.

### **Consideration by UK administrations and Ministers:**

The UK administrations have set out the Government's intended process for the introduction of environmental standards and conditions in its paper: ***Water Framework Directive (WFD): Note from the UK administrations on the development of environmental standards and conditions***. This outlines future proposals for public consultation on the implications of the standards and conditions recommended by UKTAG and the supporting Regulatory Impact Assessment. Links to this document can be found on our web-site.

We look forward to your comments. If you have any queries, please contact us by emailing: [wfduktag@sniffer.org.uk](mailto:wfduktag@sniffer.org.uk). We will try to respond within 48 hours, although if your query is complex, this may take a little longer.

Yours faithfully

**UKTAG**  
**Water Framework Directive**