



FAO Richard Warneford

Northumbrian Water Group Ltd
Northumbria House
Abbey Road
Pity Me
Durham
DH1 5FJ

Our ref: NWL/Comms
Date: 29 Aug 2019

Dear Richard,

NWL Business Plan Draft Determination – Flood Risk Reduction proposal

As you are aware, the Environment Agency encourages water companies to work in partnership to reduce the risk of flooding, as this often delivers better outcomes for communities, water company customers and the environment.

We support investment in partnership programmes such as the Northumbria Integrated Drainage Partnership which has a record of delivering flood risk reduction, where standard approaches would not be viable.

The proposals to reduce flood risk to 7400 properties over the next investment period strongly align with the vision and ambition of the Agency's draft national Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) strategy for England. Which sets out the challenges this country faces from climate change and a growing population. Changes in weather patterns and, in particular, more torrential rainfall is likely to increase flood risk from surface water and ordinary watercourses as well as rivers.

We are strongly supportive of the outcomes to reduce flood risk and the proposed programme to achieve this and we hope that a strong case can be made to ensure it can be delivered as part of the 2019 price review.

I look forward to working with you further on this issue and if you have any queries please contact me.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Catherine Saxon".

Catherine Saxon

North East Area Deputy Director