

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Water Targets Expert Advisory Group: Water Demand

Meeting notes, Thursday 24 June 2021, 10:05-12:00 on MS Teams

Defra and Environment Agency (EA) attendees

Expert Attendees: Kevin Hiscock, Paul Whitehead, Penny Johnes (Chair), Joseph Holden, Nicci Russell, Rob Lawson

1) Defra Presentation

Defra presented evidence to support the proposed metric for the water demand target.

2) Discussion

Discussion between Defra and members of the Water Expert Advisory Group included the following topics:

- The pressures on the public water supply and how they are changing.
- The suitability of the proposed metrics for the target. The reliability of population data and relevance to the metric.
- The importance of aligning with existing, widely accepted industry norms for the calculation of water demand and related policies.
- The inclusion of non-household usage (NHH) within the scope of the target.
- How population change will be accounted for within the scope of the target.

A summary of the advice and discussion from the Water Expert Advisory Group has been incorporated into the Detailed Evidence Report which accompanies our Environment Act 2021: environmental targets.