

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Water Targets Expert Advisory Group: Abandoned Metal Mines Target

Meeting notes, Tuesday 6 July 2021, 10:05-12:00 on MS Teams

Defra and Environment Agency (EA) attendees

Expert Attendees: Kevin Hiscock, Paul Withers, Paul Whitehead, Penny Johnes (Chair), Joseph Holden, Nicci Russell, Rob Lawson, Charlotte Braungardt (guest expert), Karen Hudson-Edwards (guest expert).

1) Defra Presentation

Defra presented evidence to support the proposed metric for the metal mines target.

2) Discussion

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

- The exploration of different methods for measuring metals in water bodies and the variables which could be measured.
- The feasibility of the metrics being considered for the abandoned metal mines target, their effectiveness and confidence in the existing baseline.
- The need for further investigations to take the appropriate action in local catchments to address the source of metal mine pollution.

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.