

2018 **2019** **2020** **2021** **2022** **2023**

Changes to Time Limited Licences – continues
Revocation of unused licences – continues
Changes to highest priority licences – continues

Trial approach to improving access to water commences in four catchments

January – Licence application process for previously exempt abstractions opens
Jan 2018 – Start testing digital abstraction licences

Water companies investigate risks from licences at catchment scale – continues

Environment Agency trial approaches at catchment scale to improve access to water in four catchments and to make environmental improvements in six

By end 2019 – Majority of licences available digitally and approach to submitting records online is improved

Environment Agency complete restoring sustainable abstraction programme

Environment Agency publish four updated abstraction licensing strategies from trial catchments
Environment Agency continue to develop environmental solutions in six initial catchments

January - Licence determinations for previously exempt abstractions begin
30 June – Applications close for previously exempt abstractions
 Tailored information on flows and levels available online for some licences

Environment Agency publish a further six updated licensing strategies – based on catchment engagement
Environment Agency shifts focus to different catchments and improves approach based on experience
Environment Agency reports to government on progress made on improving access to water and addressing environmental issues

Spring 2021 - Defra consult on move to Environmental Permitting Regulations

Environment Agency continue to publish updated abstraction licensing strategies to support 3rd cycle of river basin planning. This will start with the highest priority catchments. All strategies to be updated by 2027

By 31 December – all previously exempt abstractions will be permitted

By 31 December – abstraction and impounding moves into the Environmental Permitting Regulations and all existing abstraction & impounding licences become environmental permits.
Applications for a permit are available online

Environment

Catchment

Service