

Storm Overflows Taskforce – 12/01/22 Minutes

Date & Time	Wednesday 12 January 2022 11:00-12:00	Chair	[REDACTED]
Attendees	[REDACTED] (CCWater), [REDACTED] (Wessex Water), [REDACTED] (Ofwat), [REDACTED] (Environment Agency), [REDACTED] (Water UK) Defra: [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED]		
Apologies	[REDACTED] (The Rivers Trust)		
Supporting documents	SO Taskforce 2022 Priorities	Venue	Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

Actions from 12/01

- **Defra** to produce a summary of Taskforce priorities for 2022 for publication externally.
- **Defra** to connect [REDACTED] with Defra Bathing Water Quality policy team and clarify Defra policy leads for priority and non-priority areas.
- **Defra** to share meeting forward look with members, including planned timelines for engagement on the draft government plan Storm Overflows.

Outstanding actions from 15/12

- [REDACTED] to contact with Water UK to see if they can further support the Taskforce on comms in 2022.

Item	Time	Agenda item	Introduce
1.	11:00 (5')	Welcome and introductions	[REDACTED]
2.	11:05 (10')	Legislation report sign-off The Legislation sub-group has now completed its review of legislative options to support the Taskforce's long term aim to deliver a reduction in the frequency and adverse impact from storm overflows. Members agreed to sign off the report. Defra welcomed the report and confirmed the recommendations would be considered alongside the outcomes of its review of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.	[REDACTED]
3.	11:15 (10')	Taskforce 2022 priorities - sign-off The Taskforce agreed the following priority areas for 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informing the Government plan on storm overflows by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ defining the progressive reduction of harm duty in the Environment Act 2021 (EA21); and ○ defining the continuous monitoring and reporting requirements in the EA21. • Modifying processes and systems to best deliver new ambitions on storm overflows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SOAF ○ Accelerating improvements so they can take place 	[REDACTED]

		<p>faster and within one cycle (from investigation to improvements)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Economic regulation to promote better environmental approaches ● Contributing towards a stakeholder engagement strategy on storm overflows. <p>Members also agreed to make Taskforce priorities publicly available.</p> <p><i>Action: Defra to produce a summary of Taskforce priorities for 2022 for publication externally.</i></p> <p><i>Action: Defra to connect [REDACTED] with Defra Bathing Water Quality policy team and clarify Defra policy leads for priority and non-priority areas.</i></p>	
4.	11:25 (10')	<p>Future programme for the Taskforce and ways of working</p> <p>Members agreed to change the Taskforce meeting frequency from fortnightly to monthly with ad hoc meetings as required to allow sufficient time to implement actions between meetings. Members discussed the forward look for future meetings and emphasised the need to ensure clear alignment with Taskforce priorities.</p> <p><i>Action: Defra to share meeting forward look with members, including planned timelines for engagement on the draft government plan Storm Overflows.</i></p>	[REDACTED]
4.	11:35 (10')	<p>Update on the SO target and AOB</p> <p>Defra confirmed Ministers are currently considering a number of options for the storm overflows target. Members discussed the importance of public engagement and education on this issue and recommended that this also needs to be prioritised going forward.</p>	[REDACTED]
6.	11:45	Wrap up	[REDACTED]