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To whom it may concern

We are writing on behalf of Durham, Tees Valley and Northumberland Wildlife Trusts with regard to Ofwat's Final Determination against Northumbrian Water's (NW) 2025–30 Business Plans to the Competition and Markets Authority.

As Wildlife Trusts we obviously have a long-standing interest in the environmental impacts of the water sector, and welcome the focus that NW and Ofwat have placed on securing environmental improvements. We want to see nature recover across our region and a healthy water environment is an essential part of that process.

We recognise the necessary complexity of the regulatory processes for the water sector and the competing interests that need to be balanced, but we also recognise that limiting environmental investment is likely to be environmentally damaging in the longer term. To overcome the environmental issues currently faced there will inevitably need to be increased investment.

The long term environmental improvements that we all want to see must also take account of a changing climate, and as Wildlife Trusts we recognise that a healthy and ecologically functioning natural environment is more resilient to the climate extremes we are already experiencing. Future investment plans must take full account of the need to deliver greater resilience if further damage to the natural environment is to be avoided. Our view is that catchment and nature-based solutions can deliver better outcomes in the round and that these options should be enabled rather than restricted.

We recognise that the water sector has contributed to significant damage upon our waters, but it is also well-placed to contribute to their recovery. It is important that CMA decisions don't unintentionally lead to greater harm to the natural environment, which would be to the detriment of us all.

Yours faithfully,



Jim Cokill
CEO & Director
Durham Wildlife Trust



Tom Harman
Chief Executive Officer
Tees Valley Wildlife Trust



Mike Pratt
Chief Executive Officer
Northumberland Wildlife Trust