

Kirstin Baker
Special Reference Group Chair
Competition and Markets Authority
The Cabot
25 Cabot Square
London
E14 4QZ

By email: waterPR24references@cma.gov.uk

22nd April 2025

Dear Kirstin

Water PR24 price redeterminations - Anglian Water

I am writing on behalf of Suffolk Chamber of Commerce in support of Anglian Water's referral of Ofwat's Final Determination for its 2025–30 Business Plan to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA).

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce was originally established in 1884 and is the largest independent business forum in the county. We support all Suffolk businesses and champion, represent and respond as the voice of Suffolk business. Our membership accounts for more than 100,000 employees and our reach is deep - with regular access and communication to many thousands of businesses of all sizes and sectors, across every part of Suffolk.

In our view Anglian Water's investment programme will be a key driver of local economic growth and environmental enhancement over the next five years in Suffolk. Agri-food is a key sector in Suffolk, in terms of employment and prosperity. The growth in housing and the lack of a statutory duty to supply mains water to businesses means that water scarcity is an increasing concern. There is a risk that if water scarcity issues are not addressed as planned by Anglian Water, growing agri-food businesses will not invest in Suffolk and will relocate elsewhere. Therefore, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce is concerned that Ofwat's Final Determination will not create the conditions for Anglian Water to attract the investment necessary to deliver the commitments in its plan.

Attracting inward investment is essential if we are to realise our full potential and support delivery of the national Growth Mission. PR24 is a critical building block, not just in setting investment conditions for the water sector for the next five years but for shaping investor sentiment about UK infrastructure more widely.

We understand global investors and the wider financial sector are deeply concerned by Ofwat's PR24 Final Determinations. The fact that six water companies (and in particular Anglian Water and Northumbrian Water, who both serve Suffolk), are seeking redeterminations suggests that the regulatory process is not delivering the outcomes the country needs.

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce trusts that the Competition and Markets Authority will carefully consider Anglian Water's case that underfunding will have a negative impact on infrastructure projects.

Yours sincerely



John Dugmore
Chief Executive
Suffolk Chamber of Commerce
john@suffolkchamber.co.uk