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By email: [waterPR24references@cma.gov.uk](mailto:waterPR24references@cma.gov.uk)

16th April 2025

Dear Kirstin

**Water PR24 price redeterminations - Northumbrian Water**

I am writing on behalf of Suffolk Chamber of Commerce in support of Northumbrian 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.

Suffolk businesses are facing major issues due to water scarcity and resilience. Essex & Suffolk Water (part of Northumbrian Water) has had to introduce a moratorium on new mains water supplies to businesses in the Hartismere water resources zone in Suffolk. This moratorium is constraining the growth of a number of businesses within the zone. There is also a concern that with increasing domestic demand and the increasing impact of climate change, the moratorium will be introduced across Suffolk. This means that there is a risk that growing businesses that need additional water, will be forced to relocate outside Suffolk. This will result in the loss of jobs and investment in Suffolk.

Suffolk Chamber of Commerce supports Northumbrian Water's plan to tackle water scarcity by improving infrastructure and networks. In Suffolk there must be a high degree of urgency in tackling water scarcity. Suffolk Chamber considers that tackling water scarcity in this way requires a high level of investment.

In addition to tackling water scarcity in Suffolk and improving the county's water supply infrastructure and networks, Northumbrian Water's proposed level of investment will support many jobs and create and strengthen local supply chains in Suffolk.

Suffolk Chamber also notes that Northumbrian Water aims to spend 60p in every £1 in its regions, whilst continuing to make affordability a priority.

I trust that this letter will add weight to Northumbrian Water's redetermination case.

Yours sincerely



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