

# Applying time limits to new and varied abstraction licences.

Operational instruction LIT 11617

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## What's this document about?

The Water Act 2003 made it law to include a time limit on all new, full and transfer abstraction licences.

Giving licences time limits:

- is an effective way of managing water resources
- allows us to deal with environmental uncertainty (such as climate change), the changing needs for water and efficient use
- contributes to our objective of safe, secure water supplies that are used efficiently to meet the needs of the public, business and the environment.

This Operational Instruction explains how to apply a time limit to a new or varied water abstraction licence. It covers the three types of time limit, when to apply them and when to use minimum value conditions.

## Who does this apply to?

Applies to all staff involved in renewing time limited licences including:

- Area Environment Planning teams;
- Permitting Support teams;
- National Permitting Centre teams.

## Contact for queries and feedback

- If you have any queries please contact [Helpdesk Services](#)

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**Table 3**

Special rules for applying time limits to variations.

Type of variation	Extent of time limit
Variation application made by the licence holder under s51(2) WRA 1991 not in connection with an RSA scheme.	Subject to the guidance in <a href="#">Table 4</a> , apply a time limit to the variation unless the variation <b>cuts across</b> the whole licence, in which case, time limit the <b>whole</b> licence.
Variation application made by the licence holder under s51(2) WRA 1991 to make voluntary changes to a licence to make it more environmentally sustainable in connection with an RSA scheme (includes water company PR09 funded changes).	Do not apply a time limit to the variation or the <b>base</b> licence.
Variation proposal made by the Environment Agency under s52 WRA 1991.	Apply a time limit to the <b>whole</b> licence.