

Subject: Response to consultation paper on the acquisition of Kelda Group Plc

As a branch having looked at the OFWAT consultation paper we feel we need to make a response.

Whilst generally the consultation paper and its proposals are acceptable to our branch we feel we need to respond as follows

Section 4

We invite views on the capacity of Saltaire Water and its investors to be the owner of a UK regulated water company.

4.4 and 4.5

The consortium has decreased from 4 members to 3 within the space of 3 and a half months. How long term is that?
Will the others in the consortium sell there share as quickly?

We invite views on the Appointment modifications proposed and whether the ring-fencing conditions as described are adequate or whether further conditions are required to ensure that the regulated business remains appropriately ring-fenced within the wider group

4.20 Bullet point 1 and bullet point 6

As an essential public service we believe all the information which was available in the public arena under Kelda control should still be available in the public arena under Saltaire Water control.

Financing.

Although no views are sought under this consultation paper 4.27 states that OFWAT will be publishing a separate consultation.

We would like to be advised as early as is possible on the notification process of this separate consultation.

We invite views on the impact of these proposals on comparative information

4.28 to 4.30

We support OFWAT's views about the provision and transparency of comparative information in as much that any water company's appointment allows access to important financial and market information. This again supports our view that as an essential public service the regulatory regime has delivered significant benefits and comparative information should remain open and transparent in the interests of the consumer.

Rosie Pickard
Unison
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Branch Secretary