



## NEW AUTHORISATIONS — TRICKLE IRRIGATION LICENSING

We last issued a bulletin on trickle irrigation licensing in August 2016. The message then was “Implementation will be October 2016”.

It is now February 2017. So what is the situation?

We have resisted issuing a bulletin until we could see through the fog. The fog hasn't cleared but we need to tell you what we know and think.

### WHAT WE KNOW

- What DEFRA/EA said during the summer/autumn of 2016 has not come to pass.
- There has been no further detail published on the regulations.
- There has been no further response to consultations.
- There has been intense lobbying, not only from agriculture, but also from other industries which are affected by the changes.
- Abstractors are desensitised about the changes now that implementation has been continually delayed for nearly 15 years.
- Implementation will be “this summer”.



### BREXIT

- The message from DEFRA now is that Brexit is expected to take up considerable parliamentary time.

### WHAT WE THINK

- There still isn't ministerial sign off on the proposals and until that happens, final drafting of the regulations cannot be completed.
- BREXIT is taking up DEFRA resources and there is little, if any, left for other issues.
- There is very little, if any, chance that implementation will be “this summer”.
- We will stick our necks out and say that there is only a 50:50 chance that implementation will be this year.
- There is an increasing chance that implementation will be put to one side for now and possibly be rolled into abstraction licence reform.

### SO WHAT?

- Uncertainty is never good for any business. Investment decisions need to be made and they can't be made without certainty in the regulatory framework.
- Keep watching this space. We will keep you informed at critical times and when we feel there is some clarity.

## TAKE ACTION NOW

-  Use this summer period to continue to maximise use from your existing abstraction points (groundwater and surface water).
-  Continue (or start!) to record how much water you abstract on a daily basis to provide a sound evidence base for your applications, when they happen.
-  Give thought to what abstraction data you have covering the past and how these historic volumes compare to both your most intensive crop rotation in a dry year and your predicted future need.
-  Consider how a restriction on direct summer abstraction might affect your business and consider how storage might help. Remember, reservoirs can be “winter” filled from boreholes, not just rivers.
-  Consider whether you know what impact your abstraction is having? Don't put your head in the sand with this issue.
-  Try to stay engaged with the issue, implementation might get rushed in at the last minute, with a “but you knew it was coming” by-line!



## HOW CAN ENVIREAU WATER HELP?

We are the UK's leading independent, abstraction licensing specialists. Our experience comes from many years of managing and negotiating abstraction licences for some of the largest independent water users in the UK. Our clients include agricultural estates, major horticultural businesses, food and drink producers and processors, water bottlers, leisure companies, industrial processors and a whole host of other smaller types of private supplies.

We have unparalleled in-house experience of complex licensing scenarios and have secured abstraction licences for agricultural and horticultural clients in some of the most environmentally sensitive catchments otherwise ‘closed’ to new abstractions. We specialise in technical negotiation with the Regulators, especially when only a short timescale is available.

Prior to the start of the licensing process we can:

-  Review your abstraction points, the data you hold and your location and advise on both the scope of ongoing data collection and the local concerns of the Regulator, which will be factors in the determination of your application.
-  Calculate how often, and by how much, restrictions might affect your abstraction to allow early consideration of what actions might be required in order to meet the requirements of any licence issued.

**Envireau Water provides a full abstraction licence application service, acting as the agent throughout the determination process and designing or negotiating the best licence for you. We have a detailed knowledge and understanding of catchment hydrology, hydrogeology, environmental impact assessment and, most importantly, we know how the Regulators work and what they are looking for, which is why our submitted application packs are frequently praised by licensing officers.**



Envireau Water  
Cedars Farm Barn  
Market Street, Draycott  
Derbyshire, DE72 3NB



Call 01332 871 882  
from 9:00am to 5:30pm



info@envireauwater.co.uk  
envireauwater.co.uk



@envireauwater



Envireau Water