

Wildlife & Countryside Link
N101C Vox Studios
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Philip Duffy
2 Marsham St, London
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By email

21st January 2025

Dear Philip,

I am writing on behalf of [Blueprint for Water](#) regarding the Environment Agency's recent letter to water companies on their provisional decision not to allow further catchment nutrient balancing.

This is an issue of huge importance to the NGO community. Working at catchment scale to manage and mitigate nutrient pollution will be essential to improving the health of the water environment, and to achieving Government's targets for clean and plentiful water. We have significant concerns with the Agency's provisional decision, including that this process has not been transparent. NGOs did not receive notice of the provisional decision directly, and were instead made aware by water companies.

Furthermore, allowing only one month for responses during a period that encompasses both Christmas and the PR24 Final Determination undermines meaningful stakeholder engagement and risks a lack of scrutiny.

Further clarity is urgently needed to set out how the Agency has arrived at this decision, including the evidence base and the methods by which this has been assessed.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with Environment Agency colleagues to understand and discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Ali Morse, Water Policy Manager, The Wildlife Trusts, and Chair, Blueprint for Water
Tessa Wardley, Director for Communications and Advocacy, The Rivers Trust, and Vice Chair, Blueprint for Water
Emily Smith, Environment Manager, Angling Trust, and Vice Chair, Blueprint for Water
David Murray, Executive Director, Sustainability First