Jon Rathjen

Team Leader
Water Industry Team
Scottish Government

The Scottish Government

Global Context

The world is waking up to the critical importance of water and to its scarcity in some locations. One in eight of the world's population do not have access to clean water and 2.5 billion live without basic sanitation.

Climate change and population pressures will lead to an estimated 30 per cent increase in demand for fresh water, in just 20 years, as the world's food demand grows even more quickly, water availability becomes even more critical.

The Scottish Government

Global responsibility

The Scottish Government

Vision

Our vision for Scotland as a Hydro Nation is to be a country that regards water as part of its national and international identity, recognises that the sustainable management of its water resource is crucial to its future success and a key component of a growing low carbon economy with flourishing international trade.

The Scottish Government

Water Management

- We see new technology as crucial to find better ways of managing water and waste water in Scotland and overseas and as such we need to bring together the academic, utility, business and community sectors to work closely together.
- One idea being a technology innovation park that could help provide the proof of concept capacity to support our innovative business sector.
- Alongside this the creation of a research centre of excellence building on our existing research capacity and a Hydro Nation knowledge exchange forum to share our transformation experience and forge global partnerships.

The Scottish Government

Duty of the Scottish Ministers

The Scottish Ministers must take such reasonable steps as they consider appropriate for the purpose of ensuring the development of the value of Scotland's water resources.

The Scottish Government

Duty on others

- May give designated bodies directions to secure their participation in that development. (development of the value of Scotland's water resources)
- Duty on Scottish Water to develop value of water resources – renewable energy and new markets
- Report to Parliament

The Scottish Government

Scottish Water

- Clarify that SW has the general power to do anything to assist in the development of the value of Scotland's water resources;
- Require SW to take all reasonable steps that it considers necessary to develop the value of its assets;
- Require SW to promote and facilitate the use of its assets for renewable energy generation;
- Distinguish between SW's core functions, these being the provision of water and sewerage service, and its other functions; and
- Enable Ministers to lend directly to a SW subsidiary and to enable Business Stream to borrow from sources other than the Scottish Government and Scottish Water, the only sources permitted under current legislation.

The Scottish Government

TWMO

- The proposed provisions are now that Scottish Water should be able to request all customers to undertake ‘temporary water saving measures’ at any point in time. The enforcement powers for these measures could then be sought from Scottish Ministers in a temporary water management order – i.e. there would be is no requirement for ‘temporary water saving measures’ by non-domestic customers to be subsequent to ‘temporary water saving measures’ on domestic customers.
- Emergency water management orders would only be required for situations where access to land or further enforcement of temporary water saving measures is required immediately, (rather than after a 14 day notice period that is part of a temporary water management order), or where it may be necessary to authorise SW to supply water by means other than through pipes, such as by stand-pipes or water tanks.

The Scottish Government

Protecting Drinking Water Sources

- The consultation proposal was for Scottish Water to have powers to access land that forms part of the water catchment and to test the raw water.
- We are now proposing to widen the power so that Scottish Water can access non-domestic premises (i.e. buildings as well as land), and to inspect and monitor anything that Scottish Water considers may be affecting the quality of raw water. It is further proposed that at least 24 hours notice must be given, that Scottish Water must leave the premises as effectually secured against unauthorised entry as they found them and must pay compensation for any damage caused.
- It is also proposed to introduce a power to allow Scottish Water to enter into agreements with land owners for the execution of any works that Scottish Water considers will protect or improve the quality of raw water in a drinking water catchment area.

The Scottish Government

Non-domestic retail market

- The consultation proposal was to clarify that retail providers (called Licensed Providers) have the ability to demand and recover charges from customers who were in receipt of water and sewerage services but who did not have a signed contract with that Licensed Providers.
- The proposed mechanism to deliver this clarity is to import the concept of deemed contracts that is utilised in the electricity and gas markets.
- It is therefore proposed to introduce a provision that requires landlords of non-domestic properties to inform Licensed Providers when there is a change of tenancy. In order to provide an incentive for a landlord to do this they would become jointly liable for any water charges that are incurred by their tenant until the Licensed Providers is informed that the tenancy has begun.

Proscribed Substances

- Provide Scottish Water with the powers to undertake work in drainage catchments and take pro-active actions to identify pollution;
- Clarify that trade effluent consents issued by Scottish Water can identify ‘prescribed substances’ in them;
- Clarify that discharges of fats, oils and grease to the foul sewer is an offence and to establish powers to rectify blockages; and
- The Bill will clarify that Scottish Water has powers of entry for monitoring and inspecting inputs into the sewerage network, as well as for taking away samples of sewage.
- Further work and liaison with Scottish Water has clarified that Scottish Water already has sufficient powers to rectify cross-connections between foul and surface water sewers and hence no provisions on this area are now proposed for inclusion in the Bill.

The Scottish Government

Septic tanks

- The consultation proposal was to seek a mechanism to encourage regular maintenance and emptying of communal septic tanks, as it can be difficult for the different owners to come to an agreement on these matters.
- The proposed mechanism, modelled on the Tenements (Scotland) Act 2004, is to allow any one co-owner to notify, then have maintenance works carried out and to be able to recover the costs from, their follow co-owners.

The Scottish Government

Old problems

The Scottish Government

Centre of Expertise

- We will partner with Scotland's academic sector to develop further a centre of expertise in water issues and work to develop global recognition of Scotland as an academic centre of expertise in key water governance areas.

The Scottish Government

New Solutions

The Scottish Government

The Value of Water

The Scottish Government

Priorities for 2015 onwards

- Stable Charges and better service
- Maintaining existing assets
- Protecting public health
- Climate change & environment
- Increasing capacity to accommodate economic growth
- Reduce water demand and catchment management to reduce pollutants

The Scottish Government

Community Resilience

- The Hydro Nation agenda includes water efficiency and good stewardship
- Is there room for community action on water resources?
- Innovation
- Energy
- Conservation
- Local management

The Scottish Government

Scotland The Hydro Nation

- Scotland is determined to respond to the global challenges and capitalise on the clear economic opportunity.
- Scotland has a unique contribution to make in areas such as water technology, governance, management and regulation.
- Scotland has the communications capacity and global reach to project key messages on water issues and build our reputation as a **Hydro Nation**.

The Scottish Government