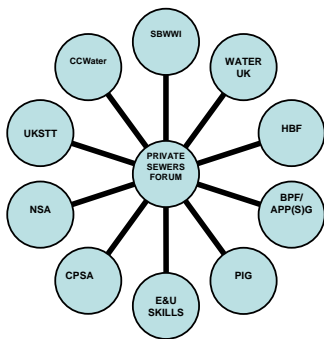




## PRESS RELEASE PRIVATE SEWERS FORUM

2 August 2011



Members of the SBWWI Private Sewer Forum met on the 28 July.

Whilst the “day of vesting – 1<sup>st</sup> October” is fast approaching and water companies have now sent out most of the letters and legal notices to customers, there are still many uncertainties.

As Donald Rumsfeld reminded us there are the known knowns, the known unknowns and the unknown unknowns. Members suggested the same applies to private sewer transfer and the arrangements for new sewers post October this year - or will it be April or October next year?

The list of uncertainties include the Appeals Process against transfer of a private sewer; the Mandatory Build Standards for new sewer construction; standards and training requirements for operators; status of sewers upstream of those remaining private; Guidance on the regulations from Defra and standards for SuDS This is worrying at this late stage in the game. It really seems to be just “Watch this Space” for now...

We understand that water companies have not had that many calls from customers following the letters and notices going out. Responses of less than 0.5% were mentioned. It will be interesting to see how many customers now decide to appeal against transfer. Rumour has it that large property companies may do this in principle – though they will have to prove “serious detriment” to win an appeal with Ofwat

On the political front it appears unlikely that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Sewers will be reformed. They achieved their main ambition in getting private sewers transferred. It ticked the box. But there are still many sewerage issues to resolve, even if not with legislation, including sustainable drainage, misconnections, discharge of fats oils and grease. There’s a role here that the All Party Water Group really needs to consider

2 August 2011

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

- 1 *The SBWWI is a not for profit trade association representing contractors, manufacturers, consultants, distributors and training providers, supplying the UK water and wastewater industries and has become recognised as the foremost trade association for the supply chain.*
- 2 *The Private Sewers Forum comprises representatives from SBWWI, BPF/APP(S)G, CPDA, CPSA, CCWater, EUSkills, HBF, NSA, PIG, Water UK, UKSTT.*