

Yorkshire Water

Adoption policy for assets outside of our geographic area

April 2020

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Version Control

Date	Version	Change
April 2020	1.0	New document



The purpose of the document

The purpose of this document is to set out our policy regarding the adoption of assets within the geographic area of another undertaker.

Adoption of assets outside of our geographic area

The Water Industry Act 1991 ('WIA') provides that we may agree to adopt certain water and/or sewerage assets ('assets') that are situated within the area of another water and/or sewerage undertaker ('undertaker') subject to certain conditions being met. The conditions are either that (i) the other undertaker has consented to the making of the agreement or (ii) the Secretary of State has dispensed with the necessity for such consent.

It will not, generally, be our policy to adopt assets within the geographic area of another undertaker.

In addition to the conditions of the WIA, if an application for adoption of assets relates to, or includes, the adoption of assets that are situated within the geographic area of another undertaker we will adopt a pragmatic approach that deals with each application on its own merits. We will not agree to adopt the assets situated within the area of another undertaker if that gives rise to practical or operational difficulties. To assess applications that include the adoption of assets that are situated within the geographic area of another undertaker we will consider the following points:

- Whether the asset will serve the whole or any part of our geographic area. Where the asset will not serve the whole or any part of our geographic area we would not generally agree to adopt the asset.
- Any complexities including but not limited to health and safety, public health or environmental implications arising as a consequence of adopting assets within the area of another undertaker and the impact that this may have on customers. There must be a clear, logical and reasonable basis as to why we are being asked to adopt assets that are outside of our geographical area.
- The customers both within the geographic area of the other undertaker and those customers within our geographical area must be no worse off as a result of adopting assets within the other undertaker's geographical area. The complexity of having the infrastructure of two undertakers serving one area will be a consideration. Further, we consider that for different undertakers to own assets within (i) the same geographic area and (ii) of the same service type, (for example water supply services) would have a negative impact on customer service. It adds a level of complexity such that a customer may not be clear which asset is owned by which undertaker and therefore they may not be clear who to contact should an issue arise.

If an application for the adoption of assets within the geographic area of another undertaker is potentially proposed, we would suggest that pre-application contact be made using network.access@yorkshirewater.co.uk.



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