



## **The economic impact of the water and sewerage sector in the UK**

Deloitte has carried out a study on behalf of Water UK on the economic impact of the water and sewerage sector in the UK.

### **Key points from the study**

- The total economic impact of the sector in 2012/13 is estimated to be £15 billion.
- This activity supports 127,000 jobs directly or indirectly. This includes 4,000 construction jobs, 3,000 jobs in transport and 14,000 jobs in distribution.
- In 2012/13, companies spent £4.5 billion on investing in assets including to tackle leakage, flooding, drought.
- In 2012/13, companies spent £5 billion on operating expenditure, including staff, services, power, chemicals etc.
- In 2012/13, the industry took on almost 200 apprentices in a wide range of roles.
- Well over £1 billion was spent on reducing the risk of sewer flooding.
- Overall, the cost on average to consumers for water and sewerage is around £1 a day.

### **Other industry facts**

- Between 1979 and 1989 customers' water bills rose on average 7% a year above inflation. Since privatisation in 1989, bills have risen 2% a year above inflation with pro rata investment doubling.
- 17 billion litres of water is supplied to customers each day.
- 16 billion litres of wastewater and sewerage is treated each day.
- The number of complaints to water companies is down 45% since 2007/8.
- The Drinking Water Inspectorate annual inspection found 99.96% of tests it carried out on water in 2012 met or exceeded EU and national standards.

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