

2022-23 APR – Open data

Our APR contains a significant volume of data which is of interest to both within and outside the water industry. We want this data to be open and accessible to all.

We have considered what characteristics of data would enable stakeholders to get a **better understanding** of the information. In order to achieve this we have included important metadata into key tables. The rationale for these is set out below.

- Publication date and version number – This will enable users of the data to track any possible changes, for example through Ofwat queries which may lead to an update.
- A cross reference to the relevant Regulatory Accounting Guidelines (RAGs) which defines the data included in the tables. Without this, users may misinterpret what the information is and this could lead to incorrect decision making.
- A cross reference to our own methodology. Although the RAGs are generally prescriptive, there are some areas where the guidance is more open to interpretation. An example is the tables where costs are allocated between different parts of the value chain. In order to aid users in comparing across the industry, we have referenced our own methodology where relevant.
- Within our methodology we also set out other important information including where there have been changes to the approach compared to the previous year and an explanation of any significant movement in values from the previous year. This will help users to understand the consistency of information between years and whether there are any exceptional movements to take into account when looking at data trends.

We believe that the above will aid all users of our data. However, there could be more we could do to make our data even more accessible. We therefore welcome any comments on our approach and suggestions of how we could improve. Please send any comments to regulation@south-staffs-water.co.uk