NRW water duties text from IWC

NRW are the primary environmental regulator for Wales and their core functions in the water sector include:

- **Preparing and publishing River Basin Management Plans** – functions in relation to convening local stakeholders impacting on the water environment to undertake short-term and long-term water sector planning
- **Environmental Monitoring** – undertaking statutory and investigative monitoring programmes to understand the state of the water environment (such as waterbody classification), and to provide evidence to inform environmental planning.
- **Setting environmental objectives** – Setting environmental objectives for waterbodies.
- **Water company planning** – Issuing guidance, reviewing, and providing advice (to water companies and Welsh Government) for Water Resources Management Plans, Drainage and Wastewater Management Plans, Drought Plans and environmental programmes (National Environmental Programme).
- **Permitting and compliance** – issuing and regulating environmental permits for water discharges, abstraction and impoundment, marine licensing, sludge, industrial emissions, waste, radioactive materials, flood risk activities and the regulation of diffuse pollution from agriculture. Roles include determining and issuing licences / permits, oversight of compliance with conditions, and carrying out investigations and enforcement actions to ensure compliance with conditions.
- **Incident response** – role to respond to environmental incidents or emergencies such as drought, chemical spills and pollution incidents. NRW also maintain a Drought Plan, monitor water company actions during a drought and provide advice to Welsh Government.

The general purpose of NRW, as set out in the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, is to pursue the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the exercise of its functions[1]. The Act, in conjunction with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, provides a legislative framework to ensure that the principles of sustainable development are at the core of decision-making in Wales.

NRW has a broad range of environmental functions that impact water, including:

- Nature conservation – includes managing and protecting designated sites such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), many of which are water environments such as rivers, and wetlands.
- Forestry regulation and land management (including managing ~7% of Wales)

[1] Our duties functions are set in statute, such as the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Functions) Order 2013 and others. NRW also receive a remit letter which sets out what objectives the Welsh Government wants them to achieve during a set period.

- Land drainage (including managing drainage districts)
- Flood and coastal erosion risk management
- Statutory consultee for
    - Planning applications
    - Nationally significant Infrastructure Projects
    - Marine development proposals affecting Welsh waters
    - Environmental assessments e.g. Strategic Environment Assessments, Environmental Impact Assessments and Habitats Regulations Assessments.
    - Developments affecting protected areas
- Advisory functions
- Fisheries management and regulation
- Navigation regulation
- Reservoir safety
- Statutory member of Public Service Boards
- Production of Area Statements to facilitate the delivery of the Natural Resources Policy