

# Water for life and livelihoods

River Basin Management Plan  
South West River Basin District

Annex M: Competent authorities

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## M1 Introduction

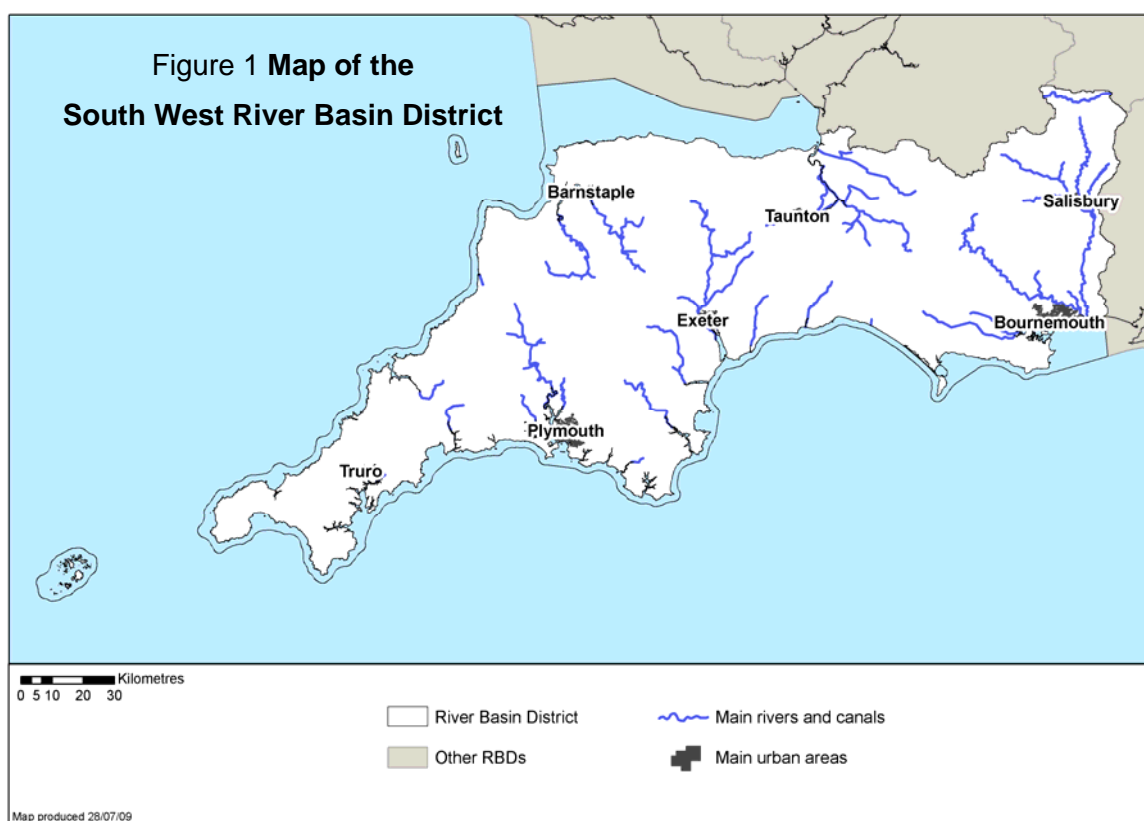
This annex sets out the names and addresses of competent authorities for river basin planning within the river basin district and a note of their legal status and responsibilities. The annex also gives, for external enquirers, our contact points and procedures for obtaining background documentation and information.

## M2 Names and addresses of competent authorities

Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, UK SW1P 3JR

Environment Agency  
Rio House, Waterside Drive, Aztec West,  
Almondsbury, Bristol, UK BS32 4UD

## M3 Geographical coverage of river basin district



## M4 Legal status of competent authorities

Secretary of State:

The Secretary of State is legally part of the Crown and is not established in legislation.

Environment Agency:

The Environment Agency is a non-departmental public body established by the Environment Act 1995.

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga\\_19950025\\_en\\_1.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts1995/Ukpga_19950025_en_1.htm)

## **M5 Responsibilities of competent authorities**

In England there are two competent authority roles – the “appropriate authority” role undertaken by the Secretary of State and the “Agency” role undertaken by the Environment Agency.

The “appropriate authority” has general responsibility for ensuring the Directive is given effect. That authority also has specific responsibilities for ensuring that appropriate economic analysis is carried out, approving proposals for environmental objectives and programmes of measures, and approving the draft River Basin Management Plans. The appropriate authority may also give guidance or directions to the “Agency”, and any other public body, on the practical implementation of the Directive. The appropriate authority for a river basin district also has the duty to ensure that the requirements of the Directive are given effect in relation to that district as a whole.

The “Agency” is responsible for carrying out the analysis required for characterisation, monitoring, identifying waters used for the abstraction of drinking water, and establishing a register of those waters and other protected areas. It has to prepare proposals for environmental objectives and programmes of measures for each river basin district, and prepare draft River Basin Management Plans. The Agency must also ensure public participation in preparation of the River Basin Management Plan and make certain information required under the Water Framework Directive accessible to the public.

The competent authorities for the South West river basin district are the Secretary of State and the Environment Agency. The Secretary of State has the “appropriate authority” responsibilities and the Environment Agency has the “Agency” responsibilities.

## **M6 Membership**

Not applicable.

(The Water Framework Directive requires us to record if a competent authority acts as a coordinating body for other competent authorities and, if so, what is the membership of that group).

## **M7 Contact points and procedures**

The initial point of contact is the South West river basin district Programme Manager who will co-ordinate a response to queries:

Ben Bunting  
South West River Basin District Programme Manager  
Manley House  
Kestrel Way  
Exeter  
Devon  
EX2 7LQ

Email: [ben.bunting@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ben.bunting@environment-agency.gov.uk)