CONSULTATION ON THE WATER INDUSTRY (SCOTLAND) BILL

The Water Industry (Scotland) Bill was introduced to the Parliament on 26 September 2001 (SP Bill 35). The Transport and the Environment Committee has been designated the lead Committee for consideration of the Bill at Stage 1.

The Transport and the Environment Committee is keen to receive written evidence on general issues arising from the Water Industry (Scotland) Bill, as introduced, as well as on specific sections of the Bill. In your response to the Committee, you may wish to express a view on some or all of the main themes of the Bill, which are set out below—

- **Part 1 of the Bill**: the creation of Water Consumer Consultation Panels under an independent Convener to represent the views of consumers and the functions and powers of the Water Industry Commissioner;

- **Part 2 of the Bill**: the creation of a post of Drinking Water Quality Regulator in order to safeguard public health;

- **Part 3 of the Bill**: the creation of Scottish Water as a single all-Scotland public water authority
  - do you think it will lead to a better service for customers?
  - what are your views on the idea that a single authority will be able to act in a more commercial manner?
  - do you have any comments on how the proposed body will be accountable to the people of Scotland, through Scottish Ministers and the Scottish Parliament?
  - what are your views on the proposed charging scheme and the involvement of the Water Industry Commissioner?
  - do you have any comments on issues relating to the establishment of the single authority?

- **Part 4 of the Bill and other matters**: Your views are also welcome on the policy memorandum and financial memorandum of the Bill. How helpful do you find these documents? Also, do you have any comments on the consultation that the Scottish Executive carried out prior to the introduction of the Bill.

Every response will be considered by the Committee. Some of those responding may be invited to come and talk to the Committee and give more detail on their response. **Your response will be treated as a public document, unless you make it clear when you send it in, that you do not want it to be published or circulated in public.** All responses will be circulated to the Committee.
HOW TO SEND YOUR RESPONSES TO US

Your response should be divided into sections so that it is clear which part of the Bill you are commenting on.

Since written evidence may be published it would be most helpful if responses could be submitted by EMAIL to transportandenvironment@scottish.parliament.uk

If you have a computer, but no EMAIL, you can post your response to us on a 3½" disk in Word 97. If you cannot use EMAIL or a disk, your submission must be typed. Submissions should not exceed 4 sides of A4 paper. All responses become the property of the Scottish Parliament and we are unable to return documents.

Submissions also can be faxed on 0131 348 5600 or posted to Water Industry (Scotland) Bill, Room 2.01 Committee Chambers, Scottish Parliament EDINBURGH EH99 1SP.

Please could evidence should be submitted no later than Monday 22 October 2001. Late submissions can only be accepted by prior arrangement with the Committee Clerk.