

Federation of Window Cleaners

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Formed in 1947 FWC is the Professional Federation for Window Cleaners

10th January 2012

The Secretary of State,
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra)
Drought Plan Consultation, Water Availability and Quality Programme
Area 2C, Ergon House,
Horse ferry Road
London
SW1P 2AL

Dear Sir,

Draft Drought Management Plan 2011 – Public Consultation - Thames Water

The FWC feel this drought management plan could have ramifications in the window cleaning industry, in particular the use of water-fed poles. Whilst your focus is primarily on encouraging the efficient use of water, we hope that any proposed solution would take the livelihoods of those affected into account.

Water fed pole systems have become more than just a tool of the trade.

- These have become an essential part of the window cleaners working safely in compliance with the Working at Height Regulations 2005 as amended 2007.
- For many window cleaners reverting to the safe use of ladders at this time is not a practical option.
- Transferring from water fed pole systems to traditional methods causes extensive difficulties in achieving the required standard.
- If water fed pole systems are banned under a Drought Order, significant numbers of jobs could be lost.

Naturally we encourage our members to pursue the best possible practice in times of drought, and therefore look forward to DEFRA, establishing a proposed Code of Practice leading to clear guidelines for water-use in the industry during times of drought.

Yours sincerely

Beryl Murray
General Secretary
For and on behalf of the FWC

