

Responsibilities

Organisational Roles and Responsibilities	Relevant legislation or policy	Comments
Collection treatment and discharge of domestic sewage from communities in Northumberland and Tyne & Wear	The Water Industry Act 1991 The Urban Waste Water Treatment (England and Wales) Regulations 1994	
Licencing discharge of trade effluent to a sewer	The Water Industry Act 1991	
Public awareness raising about the impacts of putting inappropriate items into the public sewage system	The Water Industry Act 1991	
Competent Authority with a general duty, in the exercise of any of their functions, to have regard to the EC Habitats Directive and Wild Birds Directive	The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulation 2017	Any competent authority authorising a plan or project that may (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), have a significant effect on the protected site, must undertake an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives
Statutory duty as a public authority to take reasonable steps to conserve and enhance the special features of sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs)	Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as amended	<i>Section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended)</i> imposes a duty on public bodies in exercising their functions to take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to further conservation and enhancement of the special

		features on a SSSI. This applies where the public body is exercising its statutory functions on a SSSI or on land outside the SSSI where those functions affect a SSSI.
Statutory duty as a public authority to consider the effect of proposed activities on MCZs before issuing any authorisation	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009	The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (Section 125) places a general duty on public authorities in regard to MCZs. Public authorities must exercise their functions (so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of the functions) in a manner which best furthers - or where that is not possible, least hinders - the conservation objectives for MCZs
Statutory duty as a public authority to have regard to conserving biodiversity as part of decision making	Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	Under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, there is a duty on all public authorities have regard, in exercising its functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The Act states that 'conserving biodiversity includes, in relation to a living organism or type of habitat, restoring or enhancing a population or habitat.'