

## John W Smith

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John Smith is an experienced regulatory economist and policy adviser who has worked extensively at senior levels in Government and in the privatised water and rail sectors, where he spent 12 years as Director of Regulation, first with Anglian Water and then at Railtrack. He has a sound understanding of UK utility regulation and has led major price reviews in water and rail.

He began his career in the Ministry of Transport working as a transport economist in cost benefit appraisal (including the Channel Tunnel project). Subsequently, as a member of the Government Economic Service in the Department of the Environment, he worked in the fields of local government finance and environmental protection (water quality and waste management), where he developed experience of EU directives and decision-making. As Head of Water Quality Division (1986-89) he led work on developing frameworks for water pollution control and conservation under water privatization, to be implemented under the 1989 Water Act.

At Anglian Water, he directed work for the first water price review (1994); promoted strategy for domestic metering and led work on competition strategy for large industrial users, through inset appointments,

At Railtrack, he directed work on the 2000 periodic review of track access charges, which included work on incentive structures and the development of frameworks for funding enhancement projects. Subsequently, following Hatfield, he was involved in negotiations with Government and the SRA on funding and, from October 2001, worked with the Administrators as a member of the transfer team. He also coordinated Railtrack's involvement in Europe.

Since leaving Railtrack, working as a consultant, he has advised Scottish Water and Northern Ireland Water, both publicly-owned utilities, on strategic, regulatory and governance issues.

In 2003, he undertook a study on behalf of Defra and Ofwat into the structure of the water industry in England – examining the public policy implications of highly-g geared financial structures. He was also a member of an independent panel set up to review Ofwat's conduct of the 2004 periodic review.

More recently, he has undertaken work for the RAC Foundation on governance and administration of the road network – examining how far the regulatory and funding frameworks used for utilities could usefully be applied to roads.

Since 2005, he has been a member of the Competition Commission, and has worked on a number of merger and market inquiries. He is currently a member of the Finance & Regulation Group.

He has also been a non-executive member of the Steering Board and Audit & Risk Committee of the Marine & Fisheries Agency (2005-10).

Over the years, he has spoken at conferences in the UK, Europe, USA, Australia, New Zealand and India on the experience of UK privatization, competition and regulation.

## **INVOLVEMENT WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

- **Groundwork, North London** - trustee & hon. Treasurer (from 2006); chair sub regional committee and member of Groundwork London Board (from 2010)
- **Indepen Consulting Ltd, London** - associate

## **EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS**

1966	University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne -BA (Jt Hons) Economics and Geography
1973	London School of Economics - MSc (Econ) in Economics

## **PUBLICATIONS**

These include:

- Structure of the Water Industry in England: Does it Remain fit for Purpose? – -report for Defra and Ofwat - by John Smith & Duncan Hannan (November 2003)
- Water Regulation: sector review in 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition of CRI Regulatory Review 2006/07 – Centre for the Study of Regulated Industries (University of Bath)
- Governance & Administration of National & Local Roads in GB – report for RAC Foundation (June 2009)
- Roads: a Utility in need of a strategy – by Stephen Glaister and John Smith – Oxford Review of Economic Policy, Volume 25 (Autumn 2009)