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**Letter****Letter: System set up to manage the water sector is creaking**

From David Philp, Chief Value Officer (Advisory Services), Bentley Systems, London EC2, UK

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In “UK regulators have no coherent plan to upgrade water infrastructure” ([Report, April 24](#)) you show it’s not just the pipes that are cracking, but the system meant to oversee them. With no coherent approach to mapping and monitoring the treatment plants, storm overflows and ageing mains, regulators are operating blind — a failure not of investment, but of basic information.

Our water system is part of a complex of systems, providing essential services for society. We need to understand these relationships to ensure resilience and maximise all round value. A black hole of data cannot support proper oversight, let alone justify further strategic spending. The urgent first step must be a sector-wide digital modernisation plan to give regulators and operators the visibility they need to act, and to be held accountable. Before billions of extra investment is committed and ultimately passed on to customers, the sector must prove it can manage what it already owns.

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