

European Commission : "Guidance Document No 1. Economics and the Environment – The Implementation Challenge of the Water Framework Directive" 2003. p. 189.

[https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/d/cffd57cc-8f19-4e39-a79e-20322bf607e1/Guidance%20No%201%20-%20Economics%20-%20WATECO%20\(WG%202.6\).pdf](https://circabc.europa.eu/sd/d/cffd57cc-8f19-4e39-a79e-20322bf607e1/Guidance%20No%201%20-%20Economics%20-%20WATECO%20(WG%202.6).pdf) :

1. When is it Necessary to Assess Disproportionate Costs?

This information sheet presents an approach for determining whether the total costs of the programme of measures are disproportionately costly or expensive and is relevant for justifying derogation. In particular, this approach is relevant for:

- **Designating heavily modified water bodies (HMWB)** when the beneficial objectives served by the artificial or modified characteristics of the water body cannot, for reasons including **disproportionate costs**, reasonably be achieved by other means, which are a significantly better environmental option (*Article 4.3*, see *Illustration 1* of this information sheet for further explanation);

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The analysis of whether costs are disproportionate or not will need to be initiated relatively early in the process, around 2006, in order to ensure that the public can be consulted on such a key element of the economic assessment (by 2008) and that work can be coordinated with other expertise, as this process will require a combination of technical and economic expertise. The precise tasks of the analysis are described in *Box 5* at the end of