

DWI Information Letter 03/2017

12 September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

**UPDATE TO GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING GUIDANCE NOTE ON
LONG TERM PLANNING FOR DRINKING WATER QUALITY**

1. Purpose

1.1. The purpose of this Information Letter is to advise water companies and other stakeholders of recent updates to some of our guidance documents, and of the addition of a guidance note on long term planning for the quality of drinking water supplies that includes two specific requests for information.

2. Links to documents

2.1 The updates to guidance documents may be accessed [here](#), and the guidance note [here](#).

2.2 These updates to guidance documents arise from the consolidation of various advice and guidance previously provided in Information Letters.

2.3 The long term planning guidance note is not intended to be a comprehensive review of water supply practice, and there are no new policy initiatives set out therein, and no new legal obligations. The focus is on delivery of existing obligations including recent and imminent legislative changes, using current good practice, within a long term planning context.

2.4 The guidance note also provides advice on how the Inspectorate might assist companies in the periodic review process for setting of prices, led by Ofwat, including details of arrangements for information submissions to the Inspectorate; the Inspectorate's assessment processes; and a timeline for supporting current expectations of PR19 requirements. It takes account of current draft Ministerial guidance to Ofwat on strategic priorities and objectives from both the Welsh Government and the UK Government.

3. Requests for information

3.1 We would draw to your attention to two specific requests for information contained within the guidance note on long term planning for the quality of drinking water supplies:

- a. A statement from the Board Level Contact for each company that the company's draft Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) takes account of all statutory drinking water quality obligations, and plans to meet all drinking water quality legislation. This statement should be sent to the Inspectorate when the company's final draft WRMP is submitted to Ministers for approval, and it will inform any advice that the Inspectorate may subsequently provide to Ministers that is relevant to their decision (para 4.3.10); and
- b. To provide assurance that risk assessments for drinking water quality include a long term view. Each company is requested to prepare and submit to the Inspectorate, a concise statement that sets out significant new future risk mitigation measures that a company considers it will need to provide for by the end of May 2018. New measures are those that are beyond routine provisions for current risk mitigation for all of a company's supplies from source to tap, insofar as they affect the quality of drinking water supplies (para 5.3.3).

4. Enquiries

4.1. Copies of this letter are being sent to Michael Roberts, Water UK; Catherine Harrold, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Eifiona Williams, Welsh Government; Sue Petch, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Catriona Davis, Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Committees, Consumer Council for Water; Carl Pheasey, Ofwat; Helen Wakeman, Environment Agency; Liz Stretton, Food Standards Agency; Frances Pollitt, Public Health England, Ceri Davies, Natural Resources Wales; and CCG Chairs.

4.2. This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied. Any enquiries about the letter should be addressed directly to caroline.knight@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely



Milo Purcell
Deputy Chief Inspector of Drinking Water