

DWQR Newsletter to Local Authorities Private Water Supplies

Hello. We hope you found the first newsletter for local authorities on private water supplies useful. Here is another one.

As always, this newsletter will not replace Information Letters and data return emails (these will still continue!). Instead this is our opportunity to let you know of new developments in the world of private water supplies and where we are going with regard to changes in legislation.

ANNUAL RETURN

Remember to send your grant claims back by 31st March!

You should have received a reminder from Eleanor with your claim form and the new annual return template.

The 2014 Annual Report was published in September and can be found on our website: <http://dwqr.scot/media/16237/dwqr-annual-report-2014-private-water-supplies-final-report.pdf>



www.dwqr.scot

We shall be updating our website over the next few months to make it more user-friendly for both professionals and owners and users.

The technical manual is being broken down into different sections so you don't have to trawl through the whole thing. If there's anything you would like us to include please drop us a line.

A Date for Your Diary: Local Authority PWS Workshop

We shall be holding a workshop on private water supplies for you on **Thursday 19th May** at Victoria Quay, Edinburgh. Please look out for your invitation and details of the programme.

It will be lovely to see you.

On-going Research

Colour and UV

This research project is almost at an end and the results shall be communicated as part of the PWS workshop in May (see box above).

Regulation

Our research partners are reviewing the effectiveness of the regulatory procedure in comparison with other countries to see if we can do things better. The results will be available in the spring.

Community Engagement

We have commissioned research in how we (and you) can engage better with rural communities. The research is ongoing and should be published in the autumn.

LEGISLATION

Radon

We have adopted the new EC EURATOM Directive regarding radon in drinking water. http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2015/346/pdfs/ssi_20150346_en.pdf

The new legislation also includes slight parameter changes for private supplies. Guidance shall shortly be available on our website, and we will aim to meet with local authorities to discuss the implications and approaches to sampling.

Changes to the private water supply legislation

We shall be publishing a consultation to revise the current pws legislation later in the year. Look out for it as it will affect you!



RISK ASSESSMENTS

We are working with colleagues in Northern Ireland to develop an improved Risk Assessment for pws, which will be more relevant and provide the framework for a tailored Drinking Water Safety Plan for each supply, helping you better capture and score specific risks in a consistent manner and support maintenance plans. We hope to have a draft version for you to see later in 2016.

AQUIFER REPORT

The British Geological Survey and SEPA have produced a report on Scotland's aquifers and groundwaters which may be useful for risk assessing pws:
<http://bgs.ac.uk/research/groundwater/waterresources/ScotlandsAquifers.html>

Lead

DWQR's project to develop a strategy for reducing exposure to lead in drinking water includes private water supplies. Almost 10% of samples taken from PWS in 2014 failed the new 10 µg/l standard – ensuring that this will be a continuing area of interest to driving improvements.

Communication

In addition to this newsletter we would like better engagement with you and other private water supply stakeholders.

We want to raise awareness of the health risks associated with poor pws and encourage grant uptake. We also want to help you with your enforcement of private supplies.

We shall be publishing articles in trade journals periodically to raise awareness with small businesses. We will also be producing material you can use for further engagement – e.g. banners to use at rural shows. Let us know what you want!

FEEDBACK

We hope this newsletter is useful to you. If you have any suggestions as to how we could improve our communications or any other aspect of our work please let us know.

regulator@dwqr.scot 0131 244 0190