



Drinking Water Quality Regulator  
for Scotland

# Incident Assessment

## Kirbister Orkney Supply Zone Iron Failure 28 March 2011

DWQR Inspector:  
William Byers

### Summary of Incident

This incident was declared following exceedences of the iron standard in samples collected from properties in the Holm area of Orkney. A scheduled sample taken on 28 March 2011 failed with 495µg/l and a programme of regular flushing and monitoring of the supply to date has shown the cast iron water mains to be in very poor condition.

DWQR declared this to be an incident due to the failure to restore water quality within two months.

### DWQR Assessment of Cause of Incident

DWQR accepts the cause of the iron failures to be due to the poor condition of the cast iron water mains, which form an extensive part of the water supply network.

### DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

Scottish Water is currently undertaking an extensive programme of mains rehabilitation on Orkney. The water mains serving the properties in this particular area are scheduled to be replaced by the end of July 2012.

Scottish Water has carried out a regular programme of flushing of the water mains and monitoring of water quality in this area to minimise the effects of iron in the supply. DWQR considers this to be an essential response, which should be maintained at appropriate frequency to alleviate consumer concerns until the mains rehabilitation programme in the area, has been completed.

