



To: Chief Environmental Health Officer  
All Scottish Local Authorities

Our Ref: A55696079

28 April 2026

Dear Colleagues

## **PWS Information Letter 01/2026: Raw Water Supplies**

### **1. Purpose**

The purpose of this letter is to inform local authorities of Scottish Water’s responsibilities with respect to raw water supplies, and the implications for local authorities’ regulation of private water supplies.

### **2. Background**

In addition to the to the public mains supply, Scottish Water provides water to a number of properties that do not undergo treatment, these being legacy supplies to properties previously owned by the predecessor of Scottish Water such as Keepers’ cottages.

Historically Scottish Water regarded these as a private water supply, where water was not from a public treated water mains and where a local authority had previously designated Scottish Water as a “relevant person” under The Private Water Supplies (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies) (Scotland) Regulations 2017 (“the 2017 PWS Regulations”), however, excludes such properties (Regulation 2 (1)(a)) unless it is a contracted raw supply for industrial use.



In summary, all such supplies provided by Scottish Water are considered as a public supply and must comply with The Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Regulations 2014 (as amended).

In response, Scottish Water has committed to bringing all raw water supplies into compliance through risk assessment, monitoring and interim measures, as set out in its January 2025 Letter of Commitment to DWQR.

### **3. Implications for Local Authorities**

Properties provided a raw water supply by Scottish water shall NOT classified as private water supply.

This applies to all circumstances relating to private supplies, including registration, sampling, monitoring and risk assessment. They do not need to be included in the local authority's private water supply register, or in data returns to DWQR. They also do not qualify for grant funding under The Private Water Supplies (Grants) (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Scottish Water holds a list of all raw water supplies, which can be consulted to check if it corresponds with the local authority's own knowledge of these supplies.

Any sample failures from raw water supplies will be reported to DWQR by Scottish water via the event reporting process, and Scottish Water's public health teams will give further information and liaise with local authorities and health boards as appropriate.

### **4. Further Information**

Any queries for Scottish Water regarding the list of designated raw water supplies and Scottish Water's actions regarding these properties should be directed to Graham Knowles, Team Manager, Water Quality Assurance [graham.knowles@scottishwater.co.uk](mailto:graham.knowles@scottishwater.co.uk)

Issues arising from this Information Letter should be directed to Moira Malcolm, Drinking Water Specialist, [moira.malcolm@gov.scot](mailto:moira.malcolm@gov.scot).

A copy of this letter has been placed on the DWQR website and sent to all local authorities,

Scottish Water, and the Water Industry Division of The Scottish Government.

Yours sincerely



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