

# Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland

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## Local Authority PWS Contacts

Your ref:

Our ref:

18 December 2017

Dear Colleague,

### **PWS Information Letter 2017-1**

### **The Water Intended for Human Consumption (Private Supplies)(Scotland) Regulations 2017**

#### **Guidance**

You will be aware that these regulations came into force on 27 October 2017 to replace the old 2006 PWS Regulations. Following feedback from the two workshops we ran in Edinburgh and Inverness during the Autumn months we have updated the draft guidance and posted this on our website - please find a link [here](#).

It is intended that we will add to the guidance as we receive queries so that we build up a pool of information that should be the first point of enquiry for local authorities looking for specific assistance with the interpretation of the regulations.

With the introduction of the new regulations, the classifications of "Type A" and "Type B" PWS became redundant, and the new regulations do not define a replacement terminology. To avoid confusion therefore, we will be referring to supplies that are covered by the definition in Regulation 2 of the above regulations (i.e. former Type A supplies plus PWS with private rented properties) as "Regulated PWS" and the PWS excluded by this definition ( the former Type B PWS) as "Exempt PWS". New regulations that deal explicitly with Exempt PWS will be produced during the course of 2018.

#### **Zonal Sampling**

Some of you have asked for further assistance with the concept of zonal sampling for PWS, and accordingly we have strengthened this section in the guidance. In addition, our data manager, Dave Grzybowski, will shortly be sending a list of supply zones and zonal sampling requirements to each authority to further clarify things. Please remember that each supply will still need to be sampled individually for the parameters listed in 4(1)a of Part B of Schedule 3 of the Regulations, as well as for any other parameters that you consider relevant following your risk assessment of the supply.

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## Risk Assessment

Many of you have been asking about progress with the IT application for risk assessment that will provide the risk assessment process approved by the Drinking Water Quality Regulator as specified in the Regulations. As you are aware, we were intending to implement a version of the risk assessment application being used for PWS in Northern Ireland. For several reasons, this has not proven possible and we will now need to develop our own risk assessment tool in Scotland. Initial work is underway to scope this product and we do not currently have a date for deployment, but it is anticipated to be in the Summer of 2018. I am aware that some of you are concerned that this will delay progress to use the new risk assessment for all regulated PWS by 1 January 2022. I regret any delay and inconvenience, but we do now have an opportunity to develop a tool that more directly supports local authorities in producing risk assessments and provides an optional output of a partially completed drinking water safety plan that can be developed further with the PWS owner / user. I have been working with several local authorities and the PWS sub group on the design and scoping of this tool, and I welcome continued involvement in the process where opportunities arise. I can reassure you that we will take the delayed implementation into account when undertaking DWQR's role to supervise the implementation of the new risk assessment by local authorities.

In the meantime, it is vital that local authorities continue to risk assess PWS using their existing methodology until such time as they are able to transition to the new method. We will provide training and support once the new tool becomes available.

I hope that this letter serves to allay some of the concerns that have been expressed to us regarding the implementation of the new regulations. On behalf of the team, I hope that everyone has a lovely Christmas and we look forward to continuing to work with you all in 2018.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Bower  
Operations Team Leader  
Drinking Water Quality Regulator

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