

T: 0131-244 0186 F: 0131-244 0259  
E: colin.mclaren@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Mr Peter Brown  
Regulation  
Scottish Water  
Castle House  
6 Castle Drive  
Carnegie Campus  
DUNFERMLINE  
KY11 8GG

Your ref:  
Our ref: B1955986  
25 February 2008

## Information Letter 2/2008

Dear Mr Brown

### TRIGGER VALUES FOR “Priority” EVENT REPORTING

#### Purpose

1. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the concentration or values for individual parameters that will trigger “Priority” event reporting from Scottish Water to the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland. This letter replaces IL6/2007.

#### Background

2. During the development of the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland’s data warehouse, consideration has been given to the reduction in reporting burden affecting Scottish Water while not impacting on either drinking water quality or public health.
3. The electronic reporting of event notices has been underway for some months and the system has been proved to be robust and effective in communicating events to the Regulator. The next phase of the programme is to identify those events that require a “Priority” approach to reporting as opposed to those that can be notified via the monthly data return.
4. It should be noted that all failures will continue to be investigated regardless of when the notification is received. Event notices presented to the DWQR as part of the routine data transfer mechanism will be reviewed and action taken accordingly.
5. Health Protection Scotland has revised Annex G of the Scottish Waterborne Hazard Plan and replaced the old Significant Medical Risk Values (SMRVs) with Short-term Health Risk Action Values for Scotland (SHRAVS). The revised Annex G information is the basis for the “Priority” trigger values.

6. This information letter sets out the trigger levels that will result in “Priority” event reports being provided to the Regulator. Issues not connected with the regulatory parameters listed will still be “Priority” where Scottish Water considers them to be of sufficient importance to require immediate consideration by the Regulator and/or Scottish Ministers e.g. where there is a treatment failure or there is likely to be press interest.
7. Any detection of *Cryptosporidium* in treated water, in excess of 0.1 oocysts per 10 litres, must also be “Priority”. Note that this is a reporting value and not a “treatment” or health-based standard.

### Trigger Levels for “Priority” Reporting

8. Starting with the revised Annex G in the Scottish Waterborne Hazard Plan, the Short-term Health Risk Action Values for Scotland (SHRAVS) have been used as the basis for the trigger values set out in the annexes to this information letter. The trigger value for each regulated parameter has been based on the following rule set:
  - a. Use the tighter of the 7 or 10 day SHRAV;
  - b. If no 7 or 10 day SHRAV then use WHO Guideline Value;
  - c. If no WHO Guideline Value then use the PCV.
9. Annex 1 of this Information Letter sets out the trigger levels for regulated chemical parameters.
10. Annex 2 of this Information Letter sets out the trigger levels for regulated microbiological parameters.
11. Annex 3 of this Information Letter sets out the trigger levels for regulated physical and other non-chemical parameters.

### Implementation of the “Priority” Reporting criteria

12. The use of “Priority” reporting criteria will commence from 1 April 2008.

### Further Information and Enquiries

13. Enquiries about this letter should be addressed to David Grzybowski (Tel No: 0131 244 7544). Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.
14. Copies of this letter have been sent to Dr Colin Ramsay, Health Protection Scotland and Consultants in Public Health Medicine in each NHS Board area.

Yours sincerely

Colin McLaren

## Annex 1 – Chemical Parameters

Acrylamide	30 µg/l
Aluminium	200 µg/l
Ammonium	500 µg/l
Antimony	10 µg/l
Arsenic	30 µg/l
Benzene	10 µg/l
Benzo(a)pyrene	0.7 µg/l
Boron	0.9 mg/l
Bromate	60 µg/l
Cadmium	15 µg/l
Chloride	250 mg/l
Chromium	1000 µg/l
Copper	2.0 mg/l
Cyanide	200 µg/l
(1,2) Dichloroethane	360 µg/l
Epichlorohydrin	21 µg/l
Fluoride	1.5 mg/l
Hydrogen Ion	<6.5 and >9.5
Iron	2000 µg/l
Lead	50 µg/l
Manganese	1000 µg/l
Mercury	1.0 µg/l
Nickel	70 µg/l
Nitrate	10 µg/l
Nitrite (at consumers' taps)	1 mg/l
Nitrite (at treatment works)	0.1 mg/l
Pesticides(Individual)	0.1 µg/l
Pesticides Aldrin	0.5 µg/l
Pesticides Dieldrin	0.5 µg/l
Pesticides Heptachlor	1.5 µg/l
Pesticides Heptachlor Epoxide	1.5 µg/l
Pesticides Total	0.5 µg/l
Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons	0.1 µg/l
Selenium	10 µg/l
Silver	200 µg/l
Sodium	200 mg/l
Sulphate	250 mg/l
Tetrachloroethene + Trichloroethene	10 µg/l
Tetrachloromethane (Carbon Tetrachloride)	300 µg/l
Total Organic Carbon	n/a
Total Trihalomethanes	100 µg/l
Tritium	100 Bq/l
Vinyl chloride	45 µg/l
Zinc	6.0 mg/l

## Annex 2 – Microbiological parameters

Coliform bacteria	0/100ml
Colony Count (22°C)	none
Colony Count (37°C)	none
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	0/100ml
<i>E.coli</i>	0/100ml
Enterococci	0/100ml

## Annex 3 – Physical and other Non-chemical parameters

Colour	20 mg/l
Conductivity	2500 μS/cm at 20oC
Odour	3 dilution number
Taste	3 dilution number
Ionising Radiation Total Indicative Dose	0.1 mSv/yr
Turbidity (at consumers' taps)	4 NTU
Turbidity (at treatment works)	1 NTU