



guardians of drinking water quality

DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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2 March 2010

Information Letter 02/2010

To: Board Level and Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies and Water Companies in England and Wales

To: New (Inset) Appointees and potential applicants

Dear Sir or Madam

REVISION OF GUIDANCE ON THE REGULATORY RESPONSIBILITIES OF NEW (INSET) APPOINTEES IN RELATION TO PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES

Purpose

1. The purpose of this letter is to issue revised guidance to prospective and newly appointed water companies on the regulatory requirements associated with public water supplies intended for drinking, cooking, washing and food production purposes. The revised guidance is enclosed with this letter and will be placed on the Inspectorate's website (<http://www.dwi.gov.uk>) in Adobe Acrobat® (pdf) format.
2. The guidance applies to water companies appointed via the new (inset) appointment regime in England and Wales, and will be of interest to all water suppliers (water undertakers and licensed suppliers). It does not apply to Scotland or Northern Ireland; to Water Supply Licensees; or to private water supplies, 'grey waters', or treated waters supplied for industrial processes only.

Background

3. The Inspectorate provides technical advice to Ministers on drinking water quality and guidance to water suppliers to assist with the fulfilment of their statutory obligations. Guidance to prospective and newly appointed water companies was last issued in July 2005 (Information Letter 11/2005). This has now been reviewed and revised to take account of changes in the regulatory regime. The revised

guidance (enclosed with this letter), dated March 2010, replaces the 2005 guidance.

4. This guidance will be reviewed and updated as appropriate. The version will reside on the Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk), and readers are advised to check the version number on any printed copy to ensure it is still current.

Enquiries

5. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Richard Wood, Water Supply and Regulation Division, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Olwen Minney, Water Management Team, Welsh Assembly Government; Colin McLaren, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; Margaret Herron, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Consumer Council for Water; Noel Wheatley, for Office of Water Services; Tony Warn, Environment Agency; Nigel Harrison, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at the Health Protection Agency
6. This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.informationletters@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied. Any enquiries about the letter should be addressed directly to me using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Milo Purcell
Deputy Chief Inspector (Regulations)