



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Room M07, 55 Whitehall
London, SW1A 2EY

Enquiries: 030 0068 6400
Facsimile: 030 0068 6401

E-mail: samantha.vince@defra.gsi.gov.uk
DWI Website: <http://www.dwi.gov.uk>

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Information Letter 08/10

To: Board Level and Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies, Water Companies and licensed water suppliers in England and Wales

Dear Sir/Madam

CHANGES TO THE PROCESS FOR ASSESSMENT OF DRINKING WATER QUALITY EVENT NOTIFICATIONS

Purpose

Further to Information Letter 02/09, I am writing to inform you of a change to the Inspectorate's process for assessment of drinking water quality event notifications. This change has arisen as part of our on-going review of processes and procedures and to reflect the principles of a proportionate and targeted response within a Better Regulation Strategy.


Changes to the existing process

Currently the Inspectorate assesses in detail all events classified as significant (category 3) and above. In general this requires companies following notification, to submit a 3-day report and subsequently a 20-day report. A review of the quality and detail within companies' 3-day reports by the Events Team has identified that on a number of occasions, sufficient and robust detail is provided in these initial reports to enable the Inspectorate to ascertain that companies have discharged their duties under Regulations 17 & 18 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 in England and Regulations 18 & 19 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 in Wales without the need for further information or the necessity of Recommendations. Accordingly, in such circumstances the Inspectorate will now be providing companies with a short letter confirming that the investigation, response, provision of information and assistance enabled the duties of section 86(2) of the Water Industry Act 1991 to be complied with and that no further action is proposed. Where this cannot be ascertained, the process will continue as before.

Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; John Bourne, 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, Ofwat; Tony Warn, Environment Agency; Nigel Harrison, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at the Health Protection Agency.

This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.enquiries@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 Samantha Vince, Principal Inspector (Events).

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Vince', written in a cursive style.

Samantha Vince
Principal Inspector
(Operations - Events)