



**DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE**

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1 February 2011

Information Letter 01/2011

**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

**AMENDMENT TO THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS 2010 (WALES)**

**Purpose**

1. This letter is to inform you of an amendment to the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 (Wales) relating to the regulation of public water supplies wholly or mainly in Wales. The Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 clarify the sampling requirements in Regulation 6 and corrects a typographical error affecting Regulations 20 and 33

**Background**

2. The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 (Wales) ('the Principal Regulations') consolidated the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2001 (Wales) and the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2001 (Amendment) Regulations 2007 (Wales). The Principal Regulations also introduced amendments to the 2001 Regulations to address concerns raised by the European Commission over the implementation of aspects of the Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC.
3. The Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments (JCSI), in its Third Report of Session 2010-11, identified a number of concerns with the Principal Regulations. These relate to errors in cross references in Regulation 6(4) and 6(5) and to the enforcement provisions in Regulation 33(1) applying to Regulation 27(3) instead of 27(4). These amending Regulations aim to address JCSI's concerns and to correct a typographical error. They do not make any change to the policy.

4. The Water Supply (Water Quality) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 address the concerns raised over the Principal Regulations and ensures that they operate as intended. Therefore no additional consultation has been undertaken. Full consultations were undertaken for the 2001 Regulations as the changes were a requirement of the Drinking Water Directive. However, as the amendments only affect those companies providing public water supplies wholly or mainly in Wales, a limited engagement exercise was undertaken, in accordance to Welsh Assembly Government consultation guidelines. The Drinking Water Inspectorate, on behalf of Welsh Assembly Government, met with Water UK and officials to discuss the proposals directly with DCWW and Dee Valley Water Company. The water companies were content with the proposed amendments.
5. The amendments have no impact on the content and meaning of the Guidance on the Principal Regulations which is published on the Drinking Water Inspectorate's website ([www.dwi.gov.uk](http://www.dwi.gov.uk)).
6. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; John Bourne, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Olwen Minney, Water Management Team, Welsh Assembly Government; Philip Anderson, Drinking Water Quality Regulator's office 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.
7. 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](mailto: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 me using the contact details above.

Yours faithfully



**Mrs Claire Pollard**  
**Deputy Chief Inspector (Science & Strategy)**