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DWI Information Letter 09/2012

21 December 2012

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

Dear Sir or Madam

THE WATER INDUSTRY (SUPPLIER'S INFORMATION) DIRECTION 2012

Purpose

1. This letter is to inform you of the introduction of the Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2012 on behalf of the Secretary of State and Welsh Ministers, and to outline the key changes within it. A copy of the Direction is sent with this letter and will also be available on the Inspectorate's website (www.dwi.gov.uk).

Background

2. The Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2012 will come into effect on 1 January 2013 and will supersede the Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2009.

Key changes in the 2012 Direction

3. The Direction has been updated to reflect changes to the legislation relating to drinking water quality, namely the implementation of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/991) and the Water Supply (Water Quality Regulations 2010 (Wales) S.I. 2010/994).

4. The 2012 Direction also incorporates minor amendments and additional information requirements including:

   a. clarification (in section 4(3)(a)) that the obligation to provide information under the Direction applies to all licensed water suppliers including those whose area is wholly or mainly in Wales or its licensed operations use supply systems wholly or partially in Wales;

b. a new requirement (in section 5(1)(a),(d) and (e)) to provide source water type (i.e. GW, SW or mixed) in respect of abstraction points, supply points and water supply zones;

c. a new requirement (in section 5(1)(f)) for information where a water supply zone receives a supply of water from another water supplier;

d. the provision of relevant information electronically to allow electronic maps to be produced (Section 6(1)) - the information to include additionally details of supply points;

e. a new requirement (in Section 8(2)(e)) to provide information following a compliance failure on whether an improvement programme is in place;

f. a new requirement (in section 8(3)), where the failure is attributable to a public building, to provide a copy of the notice served by the company to the owner of the building;

g. the reinforcement of when water companies should be notifying DWI of events including two new requirements (section 9(1)(c) and (f)) and an amendment to the mechanism for notification (section 9(2)).

Enquiries

5. Copies of this letter are being sent to Pamela Taylor, Chief Executive, Water UK; Peter Jiggins and Chris Preston Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Olwen Minney, Welsh Assembly Government; Susan Petch, 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; Nick Cartwright, Environment Agency; Liz Stretton, 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.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 made directly to me using the contact details at the head of this letter.

Yours sincerely

Claire Pollard
Deputy Chief Inspector (Science & Strategy)