INFORMATION

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No.

meeting date: THURSDAY, 29 NOVEMBER 2012
title: GENERAL REPORT
submitted by: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
principal author: JAMES RUSSELL, HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

1 PURPOSE

1.1 To inform Committee of relevant issues which have arisen since the last meeting.

1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:

- Council Ambitions – The following reports generally relate to the Council's ambitions to make people's lives healthier and safer.

2 FLOOD PROTECTION GRANT UPDATE - RIBCHESTER

2.1 Further to my report to the last meeting of Committee, I am pleased to report that the Property Flood Protection Scheme in Ribchester is all but complete with just the completion administration to finalise with property owners and final payments to contractors. The Council has now secured flood protection to a total of 52 'at risk' properties.

2.2 Furthermore, following the flooding of property in Whalley in June 2012, a further scheme has been submitted to the Environment Agency for consideration. The proposed scheme is for a further 22 properties, to deliver a 'Fit and Forget' scheme which provides an enhanced level of flood protection. I will inform Committee of the outcome in due course.

3 FOOD INSPECTION UPDATE

3.1 I am pleased to report the satisfactory progress with regard to this year's food premise inspection programme, which is on target. To date, all the Category E (lowest risk) premises outstanding at 31 March 2012 have been carried forward and inspected and all programmed premises due and requiring inspection to the end of October have been completed.

3.2 In addition, inspection of 'high risk' health & safety premises is also making better progress than last year, with priority being given to swimming pools and caravan parks.

4 NATIONAL FOOD HYGIENE RATING SCHEME – UPDATE

4.1 I am pleased to report the ongoing successful operation of the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) in Ribble Valley. In particular, out of a possible 522 eligible premises, 341 premises have achieved the 'very good' category of 5 (65%), 130 achieved the 'good' category of 4 (25%) and 45 achieved the 'generally satisfactory' category of 3 (7%). This equates to 97% being category 3 and above which is excellent and reflects the quality and dedication of food businesses in the Ribble Valley.

4.2 The Food Standards Agency (FSA) are seeking to promote the FHRS mobile phone application, which is now available for both android and smart phones, to encourage

the public to consider the rating when selecting a food premise in relation to Christmas.

4.3 The FSA is also continuing to seek to make the display of FHRS stickers mandatory alongside raising the level of consumer awareness.

5 HANSON CEMENT LIAISON MEETING

5.1 A liaison meeting was held on 20 September 2012. A copy of the minutes is attached as the Appendix A to this report.

6 DOG WARDEN SERVICE - UPDATE

6.1 Since my last report, I am please to report considerable ongoing effort and dedication by our Dog Warden Officers. The service continues to see elevated levels of stray dogs, last year 27 were uplifted and taken to kennels with a further 13 being returned or claimed by their owners. From April, the service has dealt with 16 strays with a further 3 being returned. Investigation of complaints relating to dog barking continue to require significant time.

6.2 Since April, a further 2 Fixed Penalties have been issued, however, 1 was subsequently withdrawn due to particular circumstances. The service is experiencing a general reluctance by the public to give evidence and provide witness statements as often the offenders are neighbours and known. As a result, these complaints are dealt with informally with approaches being made and informal warnings being given. In 2011/12, 20 informal warnings were issued and have been recorded in the event of further offences being reported or witnessed.

6.3 As reported previously, in 2011/12, a further five Fixed Penalty Notices were issued in relation to dog fouling. Including this year's, this means that a total of 61 fixed penalties have been issued since the introduction of the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act Provisions.

6.4 The dog wardens are employed on a flexible hour arrangement and undertake a significant proportion of their patrols as 'high profile' and 'out of office hours' including weekends and bank holidays as appropriate. This approach continues to be successful and a credible deterrent.

7 DRINKING WATER 2011 – CHIEF INSPECTOR'S REPORT

7.1 The above report is available for Members upon request. The report consists of two parts, the first covering Public Water Supplies in the Northern Region of England and the second Private Water Supplies in England. The Public Water Supply report for the Northern Region, which is served by five water companies including United Utilities delivering public water supplies to over 14 million consumers.

7.2 The results of testing in 2011 demonstrated that the overall quality of drinking water in the Northern Region was satisfactory. The United Utilities figure for compliance with drinking water standards at consumers' taps was 99.95% being equal to the industry figure of 99.95%.

7.3 Water quality events continue to be reported using the Inspectorates 'risk-based' approach to classification and assessment. Events being classified into five categories: Not Significant, Minor, Significant, Serious and Major. In total there were 70 events across the Northern Region and more than half necessitated detailed investigation. However, there were no serious or major events. It was however necessary for the Drinking Water Inspectorate to take enforcement action in relation

to 4 events. The two most common risks being discolouration and microbiological failures.

7.4 With regard to Private Water Supplies, Northern Region consumers who are served by approximately 5,800 private water supplies. During 2011, the results for sampling were of concern with 7.2% of tests failing to meet the standards. The relevant extract is attached as Appendix B to this report. Committee is reminded of the requirement for Ribble Valley to have completed the risk assessment of 150 supplies by the end of December 2014.

8 RADIOACTIVITY IN FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT 2011

8.1 This is the 17th Annual Report on the monitoring of radioactivity in food and the environment. The report focuses on key information that shows that food is safe and the public's exposure to ionising radiation around the 39 nuclear sites around the UK is within legal limits.

7.1 The report generally concludes that levels monitored are either stable or continuing to reduce.

7.2 The environmental effects of Chernobyl continued to be monitored in 2011. There remain a total of 338 farms or part farms which are subject to restrictions (8 in England, 0 in Scotland and 330 in Wales). There are approximately 190,000 sheep within these restricted areas this represents a reduction of over 95% since the incident in 1986. All remaining restrictions in Northern Ireland were lifted in 2000 and the final controls were removed in Scotland in 2010.

7.3 The accident at Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power station in Japan in March 2011 resulted in significant quantities of radioactivity being released to air and sea. At the end of March 2011, elevated iodine-131 levels were detected in the UK. The Environment Agency, the Food Standards Agency, the Health Protection Agency (HPA), NIEA and SEPA increased the scrutiny of their environmental monitoring programmes and took additional samples where appropriate. The levels detected in the UK environment mean that there is minimal risk to public health in the UK from the release of radioactive material at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant. Enhanced monitoring was undertaken as a precautionary measure until July 2011 when monitoring returned to normal.

JAMES RUSSELL
HEAD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

MARSHAL SCOT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for James Russell on 01200 414466.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 'Drinking Water 2011' 'Report by the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water' July 2012.

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APPENDIX A

HANSON CEMENT LIAISON COMMITTEE
MEETING DATE – THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012

PRESENT:	G Young	-	Hanson Cement
	S Wrathall	-	Hanson Cement
	L England	-	Bellman Committee
	M Gysbers	-	Bellman Committee
	S Booth	-	Chatburn PC
	B Honeywell	-	West Bradford PC
	D Sharp	-	West Bradford PC
	P Goodwin	-	Environment Agency
	Cty Cllr A Atkinson	-	LCC
	Cllr I Brown	-	RVBC
	Cllr P Dowson	-	RVBC
	Cllr A Knox	-	RVBC
	J Russell	-	RVBC
	O Heap	-	RVBC

Before the meeting, Gary gave members of the committee a guided tour of the site to show recent changes and improvements. This included the quarry, the control room and the bagging plant.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Jonathan Haine (LCC) and Cllr R Sherras (RVBC).

2 MINUTES

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2012 were circulated and approved as a correct record.

3. OPERATIONAL UPDATE

3.1 Gary gave a brief update on operations at both Ribblesdale and Padeswood. Times were difficult at the moment with no prospect of improvement until at least 2014. He reported a 10% contraction in the cement industry in this year with no growth forecast for 2013.

4 BELLMAN, LANEHEAD AND COPLOW QUARRIES

4.1 Gary reported that development at Bellman had continued although there have been some issues with management of clay deposits. De-watering was continuing into Worston Brook in compliance with EA permit conditions. Tarmac stone swap development was ongoing as was the development in the Horrocksford area. The application for the deepening of the operation at Lanehead had been submitted in the last week.

4.2 Gary presented an overview of blasting data for both Bellman and Lanehead along with the outflow data which confirmed excellent compliance with quarry planning conditions. There had been 5 blasts at Bellman and 33 blasts at Lanehead. There was additional work ongoing to minimise impact during the development of the Horrocksford reserve.

4.3 De-watering undertaken by Ribblesdale to maintain current levels was costing £1/4m pa. Gary showed graphs for discharge monitoring for Lanehead, Bellman and the settlement pond (ph and suspended solids). A hydro scheme / electric pump was currently being investigated instead of the current diesel pump.

5 DEEPENING APPLICATION

5.1 This had been submitted on 17.9.12 for the right hand side of Lanehead quarry. There were current reserves of 7 years that would be extended by a further 13 years. This application, in conjunction with existing Bellman reserves, allows for sufficient reserves to support ongoing investment at the plant. It is still the plan that both quarries will operate together up to the end of reserve life; estimates for when this will be relate to production volumes.

6 SUBSTITUTE FUELS / MATERIALS UPDATE

6.1 Gary reported that compared to last year use of substitute fuels was down – 57% compared to 70% in 2009. Gary showed a bar chart of the substitute fuel replacement rates.

6.2 Application has been made for use of SRF – Solid Recovered Fuel and Waste Oil plus Recovered Fuel Oils. Trials were ongoing with SRF to the main burner. Application had been made for capital to also enable burning of SRF to the calciner (approx £3m). They were still looking for a long term contract with companies for provision. Gary also gave an update on the position with RDF which is plentiful in the UK (9m tonnes pa) but with limited outlets for usage at the current time. Plants in Sweden and Norway are in need of it.

6.3 Transport issues

- Delivery of SRF by 'moving floor' trucks.

<u>3 Stages of Implementation</u>

- Main burner – Feb/Mar 2012 – 2 tonnes per hour
- Calciner Phase 1 - 6 tonnes per hour
- Calciner Phase 2 now end 2013 - 12 tonnes per hour

<u>Lorry Movements – absolute maximum</u>

- Stage 1 – 32 per week
- Stage 2 - 100 per week
- Stage 3 – 200 per week

7 COMMUNITY CONCERNS (COMPLAINTS)

7.1 Hanson had received 1 complaint so far in 2012. The EA had received 3 – none of which had been substantiated. Lynda England brought 3 recent occasions of odour to the attention of the committee (2nd, 11th and 13th September). Gary would investigate.

8 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS

8.1 Hanson are having ongoing discussions with the EA regarding improvements to:

- Reduce oxides of nitrogen emissions from Kiln 7 main stack.
- Reduce particulate emissions from cement mills 7 & 8 stacks.

These reductions would be phased in over next 4 year period. There would be a cost v benefit analysis. NOx reduction first.

8.2 The Environment Agency was currently re-evaluating the reduction programme on a national level.

8.3 Gary gave an overview of continuing monitoring of dust by dust gauges on Google Earth that were placed all around the site and had been in operation since 2007 (single kiln operation). The results showed correlation between all the gauges (North, South, East and West) and the general trend of deposits was continuing to decrease. Improvement has shown since the close down of the wet kilns and the demise of the Tarmac operation. Any gauge with a high result is sent off for independent analysis that often does not identify the Ribblesdale works as the likely cause but shows environmental contamination reasons – eg bird poo.

9 PUBLIC HEALTH ALES REPORT – PADESWOOD

9.1 Gary reported that the report was now available on the Public Health Wales website.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

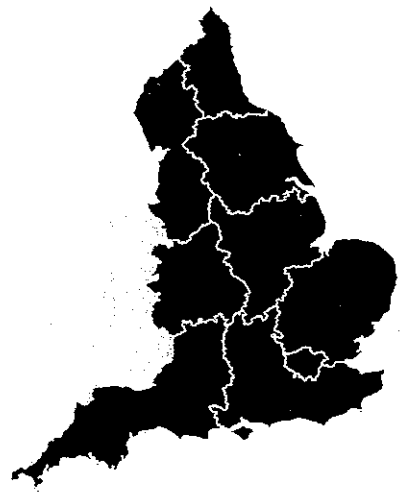
10.1 Housing development

Gary mentioned that written representations had been lodged by Hanson Cement for the appeal on the planning application that had been submitted and subsequently refused by RVBC at Old Road, Chatburn. The outcome was awaited.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11.1 The next meeting of the Hanson Cement Liaison Committee will be held on Thursday, 21 March 2013.

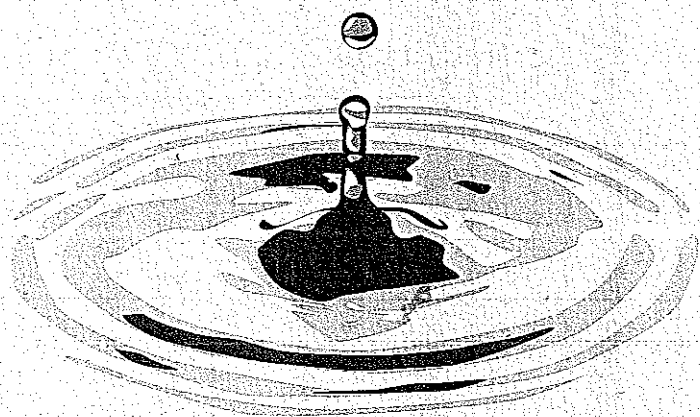
Drinking water 2011



Private water supplies in England

July 2012

A report by the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water



Overview of private water supplies in England

Drinking water 2011 is published as a series of seven reports, two describe private water supplies in England and Wales and five cover public water supplies.

This report, the second of its type, presents information about the quality of private water supplies in England. Private water supplies are those not provided by water companies or licensed water suppliers, instead they are the responsibility of the owners and users. Since July 2002[1], in England only a licensed water supplier is permitted to own and operate a new private distribution system[2], likewise, if an existing private distribution system is sold, it can only be purchased and operated by a licensed water supplier. Details of all licensed water supplies in England and Wales can be found in the companion reports on public water supplies. The information in this report comes from the private water supply records that local authorities are required to maintain and send to the Drinking Water Inspectorate annually.

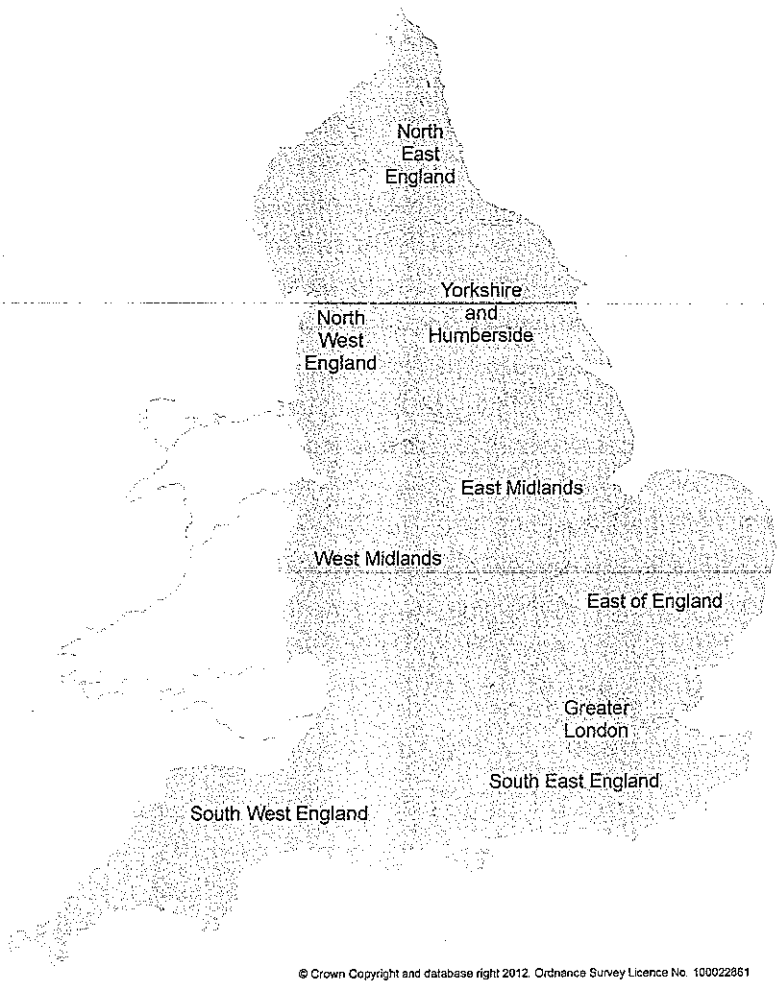
The report describes the number, nature and usage of private supplies. It also discusses local authority activities in relation to carrying out risk assessments and requiring private supplies to be improved. The results of drinking water quality testing are summarised in tables with commentary by the Inspectorate. For the purposes of the report, data provided by local authorities have been allocated to one of nine regions of England as illustrated in Figure 1. Maps showing the distribution of private supplies across each region are provided at *Annex 1*.

In England, 524,669 people live or work in premises which rely on a private water supply, but many more people are exposed to private supplies when they are travelling through, or taking a holiday in, more rural areas of the country. In addition, there are probably in excess of 60,000 people living in the 25,788 single domestic dwellings served by private supplies exempt from regulatory monitoring and a further 2,015,244 people attend festivals, shows and other events served by a temporary private water supply.

[1] The Water Act 2003 amended the Water Industry Act 1991

[2] A private distribution system is a particular type of private water supply where the source is mains water.

Figure 1: Reporting regions



The quality and safety of these water supplies is controlled by the Private Water Supply Regulations[3], which implement the EU Drinking Water Directive[4]. The drinking water standards and the principles of regulation are the same for both public and private supplies: self-regulation by the owner/operator and independent scrutiny.

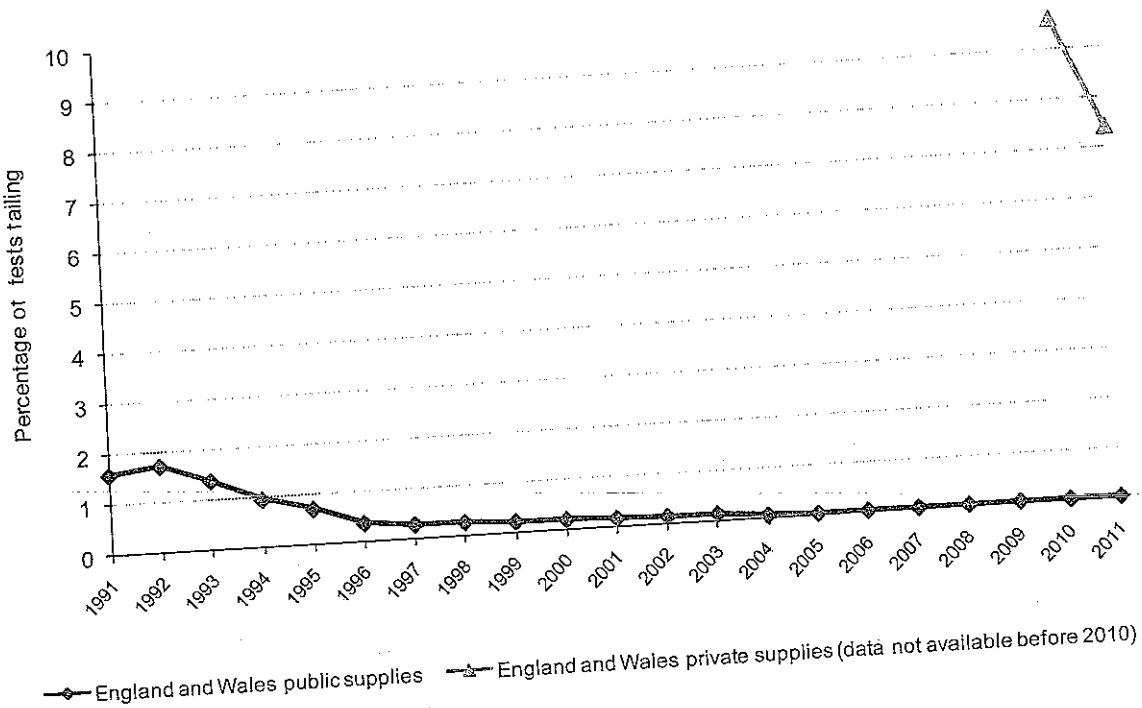
Across Europe all member states have reported that small private or community supplies are of poorer quality and less safe than larger public supplies. In 2011, the EU Commission reviewed small water supply data provided by 19 member states and this study confirmed that fewer than 60% of small water supplies were fully compliant with the Drinking Water Directive standards. The EU Commission has concluded from this review that action is needed to improve small supplies across Europe and has committed to developing a best practice framework for action by 2013.

[3] The Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 SI 3101

[4] Council Directive 98/83/EC - European Drinking Water Directive

This will draw on the experience of member states, including the UK, where a risk assessment and risk management approach to improving small water supplies has been implemented. Figure 2 shows the picture for England and Wales and compares public and private supplies in relation to the overall number of tests failing to meet quality and safety standards. Tables 17a-d in the body of the report and *Annex* 2 provide more detail. The Inspectorate is pleased to note that there were fewer microbiological test failures in 2011 compared to 2010 when the risk management approach was introduced into law in England and Wales. For example, in 2011, the number of tests failing the microbiological standard for *E.coli* was 10.6% compared to the baseline figure of 13.7% for 2010. While these figures are encouraging, they also confirm there is a continuing and substantive risk to public health that remains to be mitigated by local authorities through implementation of the risk assessment element of the private supply regulations before the end of 2014. By the end of 2011, about one-eighth of private supplies in England had been risk assessed. Table 8 in the body of the report gives more detail about progress with risk assessment.

Figure 2: Percentage of tests from public supplies and private supplies failing drinking water standards – England and Wales



Private supplies vary greatly in their nature ranging from springs and boreholes serving individual properties, to larger groundwater or surface water supplies serving hotels, businesses, holiday accommodation, leisure facilities, country parks, military sites and villages. However, not all are to be found in the countryside, many can be found in larger towns and cities serving factories, business parks, educational centres, shopping centres, visitor attractions and healthcare premises. The first chapter of this report provides an update on the information about the number and nature of private supplies in England first reported in *Drinking Water 2010*. During 2011, local authorities improved the completeness and accuracy of their private supply records providing the Inspectorate with details of an additional 4,346 supplies in England, bringing the total of registered English private water supplies to 44,079. However, it should be noted that these figures continue not to represent the totality of private supplies because there were nine local authorities in England that have so far failed to provide records to the Inspectorate, as required. Notwithstanding this deficiency in records, the sufficiency of information is now such that it is possible, for the first time, this year to produce reasonably robust figures in relation to the number of private supplies in the UK as a whole. Overall, there are records for 85,090 private supplies in the UK, of which more than half (52%) can be found in England. The region with the most private supplies is Scotland (23%), closely followed by Wales (21%) and South West England (17%). Fewer, but nonetheless significant, numbers of private supplies are located in Mid and West Wales (12%), North West England (8%), West Midlands (7%), East of England (6%), Yorkshire and Humberside (5%) and North Wales (5%).

One of the main changes introduced by the new regulations was the setting up of arrangements for oversight, reporting and technical support. Since 1 January 2010, the Inspectorate has had a supervising role in relation to how well local authorities are carrying out their new duties of risk assessment, monitoring and requiring improvements to safeguard public health. The information published in *Drinking water 2010* reflected the baseline position and discussed early implementation issues. This report records how things have changed after a further year and also summarises key supporting activities of the Inspectorate during the year. In the body of the report the Inspectorate has included a series of case studies building on those published in *Drinking water 2010*. Feedback from local authorities and our wider audience was positive about our use of case studies, both as a learning tool and also as a means of acknowledging best practice. New in this year's report are two Annexes: *Annex 3* detailing the relevant guidance on the regulations and advice in the form of Information Letters and topical technical advice notes that the Inspectorate has published and made available on its website to local authorities, private supply owners and other interested parties; and

Risk assessment and risk management

From the beginning of 2010, local authorities have been required to carry out a risk assessment of each private supply in their area to determine whether it poses a potential danger to human health and, if so, to take action to safeguard public health in the short term and to improve the supply in the long term. This duty transposes into law, actions required under Articles 3, 7, 8, 9 and 13 of the EU Drinking Water Directive to safeguard human health and inform consumers about the quality of their water supply with details of the nature and timescale of any necessary improvements.

Risk assessments

Local authorities were given five years to identify and risk assess all relevant private supplies in their area (Regulation 6) and the Inspectorate is required to track the progress being made and provide technical support in relation to methodology and the enforcement process for securing improvements of private supplies. The methodology of risk assessment is based on the World Health Organisation's (WHO) *Guidelines for Drinking water quality*[6] and *Water Safety Plan methodology*[7]. Initial guidance provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) was based on methodology developed by the drinking water regulator in Scotland[8] in 2006. In *Drinking water 2010,* the Inspectorate indicated that the early local authority experiences and feedback from applying the Scottish methodology would enable its refinement and the development of a risk assessment tool specific to the circumstances and regulations in England and Wales.

The Inspectorate is pleased to report that a new risk assessment tool was developed by Inspectors during spring 2012 based on best practice in member states, particularly a tool developed by the Irish drinking water regulator (EPA). In developing the tool the Inspectorate took into account the views of private supply owners, as well as environmental health practitioners, as expressed through case enquiries to the Inspectorate between January 2010 and February 2012. The tool was then piloted by a number of local authority volunteers and further refinements made in April

[6] Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality 4th Edition WHO, 2011.

[7] Water safety plan manual (WSP manual): Step-by-step risk management for drinking-water suppliers - How to develop and implement a Water Safety Plan - A step-by-step approach using 11 learning modules. WHO 2009

[8] Private Water Supplies Technical Manual (http://www privatewatersupplies gov uk)

2012. The new tool was presented to local authorities at a series of training workshops organised by the Inspectorate around the country during May 2012. The Inspectorate is pleased to acknowledge that technical staff of water companies also attended and supported these workshops, enabling knowledge and technology transfer between the water industry and local authorities in relation to analytical science and practical water engineering principles and practices.

Table 8 summarises information provided by local authorities in England about the number of risk assessments carried out by them during the first two years following the regulations coming into force on 1 January 2010. Due to the matter of incomplete returns, explained earlier, the information in Table 8 does not reflect the totality of risk assessments that may have been carried out. However, the Inspectorate considers that the picture is a reasonably accurate representation of the progress made and the amount of risk assessment activity that local authorities need to undertake in the remaining three implementation years (by 31 December 2014). After two years, local authorities in England have risk assessed 1,902 private supplies representing one-eighth (12%) of the total requiring such an assessment. At the end of 2010 the number of risk assessments in place was 793, therefore during 2011 progress has been made with 1,209 risk assessments completed. Table 8 shows that local authorities in the North East and North West regions of England have been slow to start this work with only 138 risk assessments in place (representing only 4% of the total number of supplies requiring a risk assessment). This contrasts with a much higher rate of risk assessment activity by local authorities in London and the South East (17%) and the East and West Midlands regions (14%).

When judging the progress being made by local authorities in England it is important to consider not just the absolute number of risk assessments carried out, but also evidence of prioritisation over the five-year period of different types of supply in relation to their public health significance. To this end, in Table 8, the Inspectorate has highlighted the risk assessment figures for particular types of private supply that it would be reasonable to expect local authorities to be targeting at an early stage: food premises, accommodation for tourists/visitors and public buildings. The figures for these three types of supply are encouraging with risk assessments in place for 34% of public buildings, 30% of food premises and 20% of hotels and B&B accommodation. It can also be seen that the approach being taken by local authorities is broadly consistent and commensurate with public health protection with risk assessing of small, shared, domestic supplies (5%) generally being afforded a lower priority relative to those private supplies that are used in the provision of services to the public. Nonetheless close to one-third (100) local authorities have not reported carrying out any risk assessments in their area by the end of 2011.

Table 8: Percentage of supplies with risk assessments

Use of supply*	Percentage of reported supplies risk assessed to date at 31 Jan 2012	Number of risk assessments in place					
		Food premises	Bed and breakfast / hotels	Public buildings	Shared domestic supplies	Other	Total number of risk assessments in place
Central and Eastern region							
East Midlands	14%	27%	25%	29%	10%	0%	71
West Midlands	14%	32%	21%	22%	6%	36%	208
East of England	9%	32%	22%	19%	4%	3%	158
Northern region							
North East England	4%	53%	46%	38%	2%	0%	48
North West England	4%	17%	6%	27%	0%	17%	90
Yorkshire and Humberside	16%	38%	29%	24%	6%	19%	346
London and South East	17%	33%	30%	30%	9%	20%	202
South West England	13%	32%	22%	43%	6%	24%	779
England Total	12%	30%	20%	34%	5%	16%	1,902
Wales Total	27%	16%	29%	52%	8%	45%	614
Total	13%	26%	22%	36%	5%	19%	2,516

*Double counting may occur as some premises have more than one commercial activity