

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO HEALTH & HOUSING COMMITTEE

Agenda Item No. 10

meeting date: 19 OCTOBER 2017  
title: PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES  
submitted by: MARSHAL SCOTT, CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
principal author: MATTHEW RIDING, ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Members on the action taken by Ribble Valley Borough Council in order to improve the quality of private water supplies throughout the borough.
- 1.2 To highlight both recent and proposed changes to private water supplies legislation and their implications for this authority.
- 1.3 To consider and approve the funding for a radon survey of 11 high/ moderate risk private water supplies throughout the borough.
- 1.4 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
  - Community Objectives – Health and wellbeing.
  - Corporate Priorities – To help make people's lives safer and healthier.
  - Other Considerations – None.

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Private water supplies are any supplies that are not provided by a statutory water undertaker or a licensed water supplier. There are currently 312 private supplies within the Ribble Valley and approximately 39,000 throughout England.
- 2.2 Origins and circumstances of private supplies are highly variable. For example, the source of the supply can be a well or borehole (groundwater) that draws water from an aquifer, there may be an underground spring that emerges on the surface in one or more places, or a supply may be abstracted from a surface water source, such as a lake, river or stream. In many cases the identity of an owner, or person responsible for a private supply is known, but in other cases there may be no reliable legal documentation, or historical records of the development of the supply have been lost.
- 2.3 The source of private supplies can also vary in quality, particularly following heavy rain. Some supplies are treated satisfactorily to remove impurities, while others have inadequate treatment, or none. Supplies with inadequate or no treatment are a serious risk to human health when contaminated following rainfall events.
- 2.4 The greatest risk to human health is caused by contamination of a private supply with pathogenic micro-organisms, such as *Cryptosporidium*, *Campylobacter*, *Giardia* and *Escherichia coli* (E.coli) O157. All those who drink water contaminated by micro-organisms are at risk of infection. However, the risk of illness caused by a contaminated private supply is likely to be greater for people who are exposed to the supply irregularly, for example occasional visitors, guests at hotels, guest-houses,

bed and breakfast establishments and people staying in rented holiday accommodation.

- 2.5 In rural areas the most likely cause of microbiological contamination is animal faecal matter which has entered water sources from land where farm or wild animals graze. The risk is particularly high at times of heavy rain when water runs directly off the land into inadequately protected shallow wells, springs, streams and lakes. Another source of microbiological contamination are discharges from cesspits and septic tanks that store and treat domestic sewage.
- 2.6 Although a supply contaminated by micro-organisms poses the greatest risk to human health, non-microbiological (chemical) contamination can also be a health risk in some cases. For example, naturally occurring arsenic in groundwaters in certain parts of the country.
- 2.7 Private supplies can also become contaminated post treatment, during distribution to and within premises. Common causes of contamination during distribution to premises are ingress of surface water when there is low pressure or loss of pressure in the distribution system and leaching of chemicals from inappropriate materials used in the pipe work. Common causes of contamination within premises are dissolving of metals from plumbing systems, particularly when old lead pipes or storage tanks are still present, where inappropriate solders have been used and microbiological contamination from unhygienic fittings such as taps.
- 2.8 The introduction of the Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 was significant as for the first time, local councils were required to undertake a risk assessment and sampling programme of all private supplies within their area (with the exception of those supplies serving a single dwelling which only required monitoring at the request of the owner or occupier).
- 2.9 Risk assessment is a proactive approach identifying potential hazards to human health. This involves surveying the supply, from the source through to point-of-use, to identify factors that could lead to contamination of the supply. The information is then used to manage the risks through a multi-barrier approach, involving source protection, treatment of the source water and management of the distribution network to prevent contaminants from entering the supply. The regulations require each supply (excluding single private domestic dwellings) to undergo a risk assessment every five years.
- 2.10 The regulations classified private supplies into three categories dependent on the number and type of premises served:-
  1. Large supplies: applies to large domestic supplies of 10 m<sup>3</sup> per day (or serving 50 or more persons) and private supplies of any size that are used as part of a commercial or public activity;
  2. Small supplies: applies to domestic supplies that provide less than 10 m<sup>3</sup> per day;
  3. Single dwelling supply: discretionary whether to monitor or carry out risk assessment.

### 3 PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY

- 3.1 The 312 private supplies within the Ribble Valley serve approximately 600 premises, the majority of which are domestic properties. There are currently 38 large supplies, 80 small supplies and 194 single dwelling supplies.

- 3.2 The number of private supplies in the Ribble Valley has steadily increased over the past few years mainly due to the large number of barns that have been converted into residential accommodation in remote locations not supplied by mains water. Also, some of the large commercial establishments have transferred from United Utilities mains to their own private borehole for financial reasons. Interestingly, the number of borehole supplies has more than doubled since 2001 (when 73 were recorded) and now account for 50 per cent of all private supplies in the Ribble Valley.
- 3.3 The initial programme of work has now been completed and 118 private supplies have been risk assessed and sampled for both bacteriological and chemical parameters. The sampling results confirm that 46 supplies (39%) were contaminated with the faecal indicator organism, E.coli, resulting in boil water notices being issued to 145 properties.
- 3.4 The results also show that 40 supplies (34%) failed to meet at least one of the chemical parameters sampled, although the majority of these cause aesthetic rather than health related problems. Many supplies contain high levels of Iron and Manganese. Iron may result in the water appearing brown and can cause problems such as staining laundry, whilst Manganese may cause dark staining, for example, a dripping tap on a white enamel bath.
- 3.5 The risk assessments have identified a wide range of problems due to unprotected springs, insecure tanks, leaking pipework etc. The responsible person for each supply has been sent a letter instructing them to carry out supply improvement measures within a defined time frame. Two poor quality spring supplies have already been disconnected and the properties are now connected to the mains, whilst another supply has switched from spring to borehole. Several boil water notices have already been revoked following the installation of a suitable Ultra-Violet (UV) water treatment plant.

#### 4 NEW DUTIES/POWERS PLACED ON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 4.1 The Private Water Supplies Regulations were amended last year and now require local authorities to monitor private supplies that serve individual rented properties (excluding long-term agricultural tenancies). Monitoring of these supplies will comprise of an annual water sample plus a risk assessment every five years.
- 4.2 There is also now a requirement for local authorities to determine an appropriate monitoring strategy for radon in water, according to the risk of it being present in a private supply. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released from rocks and soils. The majority of the Ribble Valley is designated a radon affected area and attached, at Appendix 1, is a radon information leaflet that is available on our website.
- 4.3 On the advice of Public Health England, the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) has recently issued revised guidance to local authorities about radon in water and also provided radon hazard information for all known groundwater supplies (boreholes & wells) throughout the country. The DWI have identified 135 private supplies within the Ribble Valley which originate from either a high or moderate risk aquifer (includes three different rock types).
- 4.4 Whilst I am concerned that this appears to be a large number of private supplies potentially at risk of radon contamination in the Ribble Valley, these figures must be put into context by considering the published sampling data for radon in water in England and Wales. Over 300 samples have been taken from 124 public water

supply sources and not one has exceeded the regulatory specified value of 100 Bq/l (the vast majority of results were below 50 Bq/l). It must also be noted that the risk of exposure from radon in private supplies comes from inhalation rather than by ingestion, by breathing in radon decay products when they are released to indoor air due to normal household uses of water such as showering and bathing.

- 4.5 The cost of a radon water sample is relatively expensive (£90.95 laboratory fee) and officers consider it would be inappropriate at this stage for the Council to require all 135 groundwater supplies to be tested for radon, as the full sampling costs would be recharged to the supply user. Therefore, in order to comply with the new regulations, it is proposed that an initial survey of 11 high/ moderate risk supplies be undertaken throughout the next 12 months, at cost to the authority of £1000.45, to establish whether or not there is a problem with radon in water in the Ribble Valley. Following this, should the results indicate any cause for concern, we will immediately review the situation and consider initiating a more comprehensive sampling programme for all remaining high/ moderate risk supplies in our area (at cost to the supply user).

## 5 CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (ENGLAND) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2017

- 5.1 On 12 September 2017, the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA) issued a 6 week consultation on the draft 2017 Regulations. The consultation concerns proposed amendments to the 2016 Regulations, primarily to transpose the requirements of Commission Directive (EU) 2015/1787, so that the principles of risk based sampling and analysis of drinking water from private supplies are aligned with those of the World Health Organisation (WHO).

- 5.2 In the long-term, the principle of risk based sampling will help to justify future lower level monitoring for Large private water supplies. However, for the next 3 years, there will be a significant financial impact for the 38 Large supplies within our area, as a comprehensive monitoring programme will be required for a much greater number of parameters.

- 5.3 The other key proposals are:

- changes to the level of fees local authorities can charge for all activities relating to carrying out their duties with respect to private water supplies, enabling full cost recovery.
- provide local authorities with the powers to perform remedial work where there is a risk to health and a notice has not been complied with.
- requirement for all sampling staff to be accredited within 2 years.

- 5.4 Following consultation, the final draft of the regulations will be laid before Parliament in late 2017. Officers will develop and report to Committee any updated approaches to risk assessment, sampling and charging if the final regulations issued by DEFRA require changes to be made to the Council's current approach.

## 6 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications

- Resources – A significant amount of staff time will be needed to comply with and for enforcing this legislation.

- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Legal input will be required where enforcement action is necessary.
- Political – Rural households will be affected through increased fees and treatment costs.
- Reputation – Important that private water supply consumers are fully informed of the changes in the legislation and are informed of the new requirements.
- Equality & Diversity – no implications identified.

## **7 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

- 7.1 Agree for the Council to fund the cost of £1000.45, for the initial radon survey of 11 high/ moderate risk private water supplies throughout the borough.
- 7.2 Authorise the Council's Head of Environmental Health to write to all known properties served by private water supply, informing them of the recent changes introduced by The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016, concerning both monitoring of single rented property supplies and also radon in water (see Appendix 2 for draft letters/pamphlets).
- 7.3 Agree for an article to be included in the spring 2018 Ribble Valley newsletter, outlining the most recent changes to be introduced by The Private Water Supplies (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017.

MATTHEW RIDING  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER

MARSHAL SCOTT  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

For further information please ask for Matthew Riding, extension 4470

REF: Author/typist/committee/date

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## Radon in Ribble Valley

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas which is formed by the decay of small amounts of uranium present in all rocks and soils. It has no taste, smell or colour.

Outdoors, radon becomes diluted to very low levels and is of little concern. However, indoors radon can be drawn in through cracks and gaps in the ground floor of properties and levels of the gas can build up to a higher concentration. In such cases, radon can pose a serious risk to health.

People who are exposed to higher (elevated) levels of radon are more likely to get lung cancer (much more if they are smokers as well). This is because radon decays to minute radioactive particles which can be breathed in, thus damaging the lining of the lungs and irradiating the surrounding tissue.

It is estimated that radon causes 1,000-2,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United Kingdom.

### How is Radon detected and measured?

Radon is normally measured over a three month period, using two small devices provided by Public Health England (PHE). Its concentration is measured in becquerels per cubic metre of air ( $\text{Bqm}^{-3}$ ) and PHE recommends that radon levels should be reduced in homes where the annual average concentration is more than  $200 \text{ Bqm}^{-3}$ . This figure is known as the Action Level and has been endorsed by the government. The average level in the UK is  $20 \text{ Bqm}^{-3}$ .

A radon measurement kit (two detectors) costs £49.80 (including VAT) and can be ordered by telephone from PHE (01235 822622). Payment can be made by credit or debit card.

It is extremely difficult to identify those properties which may have high concentrations of the gas, as levels can fluctuate significantly between adjoining dwellings. This may be due to a number of factors, including the geological characteristics of the ground beneath buildings, details of construction and the habits of the occupants.

Simple measures such as increasing ventilation within a property are often successful in reducing levels of the gas. However, in exceptional cases, a radon sump may be required.

### Radon affected areas

On 12 November 2007 an updated Radon Atlas was published jointly by The Health Protection Agency (HPA) and The British Geological Survey (BGS).

This updated Atlas differs significantly from its predecessors, as Radon Affected Areas are now grouped into 1km grid squares (the atlas shows the highest probability banding found in each 1km grid square). It combines the results of an extensive national sampling programme with detailed geological maps, which has resulted in a large increase in the number of designated Radon Affected Areas (both locally

and nationally). More significantly, over 90% of the Ribble Valley is now designated as a Radon Affected Area.

The main advantage of this advanced data set is that it provides a radon probability banding for each individual property in England and Wales, with a valid postcode.

**Therefore, for a fee of £3.90 (inc VAT) any individual can carry out a search for a particular property on the UK radon website [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org) to show:**

- Whether a property is located in a Radon Affected Area.
- The estimated probability of the property being above the Action Level.
- Whether radon protection is required for new buildings and extensions at the property location.

## Action taken by Ribble Valley Borough Council

Since 1999, we have surveyed a total of 198 properties for radon gas. The majority of these properties were selected either because of their location within a Radon Affected Area or due to the underlying geology.

The results are summarised below:

Radon concentration in the Ribble Valley

Radon Concentration (Bqm <sup>3</sup> )	0-99	100-199	>200	Total number of dwellings
Barrow	1	-	-	1
Billington	2	-	-	2
Bolton-by-Bowland	8	-	-	8
Chatburn	16	7	-	23
Chipping	1	-	-	1

Radon Concentration (Bqm <sup>3</sup> )	0-99	100-199	>200	Total number of dwellings
Clitheroe	19	2	1	22
Downham	3	1	-	4
Grindleton	55	23	11	89
Holden	4	4	2	10
Horton	1	-	-	1
Langho	2	-	-	2
Longridge	2	-	-	2
Mellor	2	-	-	2
Mitton	3	-	-	3
Newton	2	2	2	6
Ramsgreave	1	-	-	1
Ribchester	1	-	-	1
Simonstone	1	-	-	1
Sawley	5	2	2	9
Slaidburn	1	-	-	1
Stonhurst	1	-	-	1

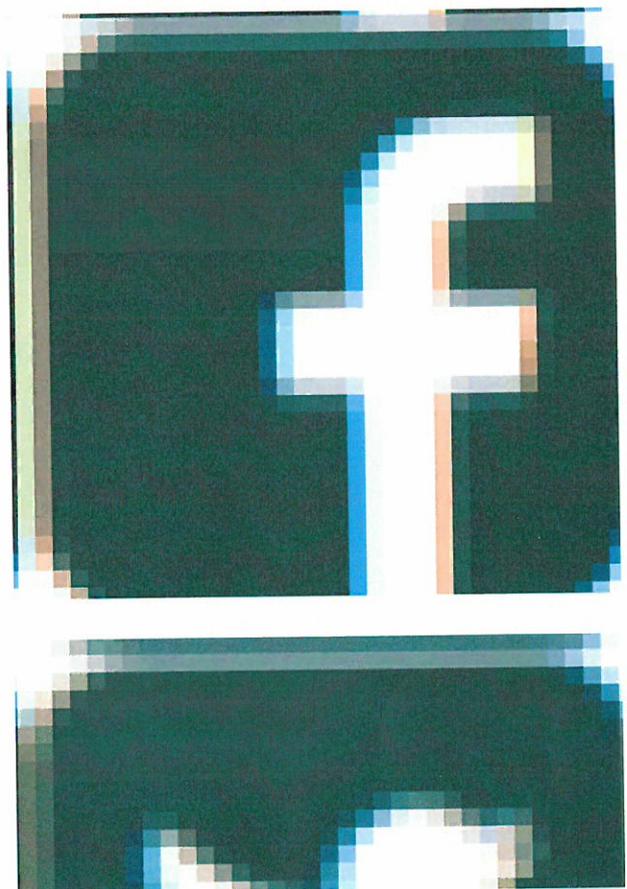
Radon Concentration (Bqm <sup>3</sup> )	0-99	100-199	>200	Total number of dwellings
Waddington	4	-	-	4
Whalley	2	-	-	2
Wilpshire	2	-	-	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>198</b>

The significant findings of these results reveals that out of 89 dwellings surveyed within the Grindleton area, 11 exceeded the Action Level, whilst a further 23 had an elevated radon concentration of between 100 and 200Bqm<sup>3</sup>.

The remaining seven failures were observed in the villages of Holden (2); Newton (2); Sawley (2) and one in Clitheroe itself.

If you wish to purchase a property in any of the above areas we recommend you ask the vendor whether they have already had a radon gas test undertaken and for a copy of the results.

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# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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e-mail: [matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk)  
my ref: MR/ PWS  
your ref:  
date: October 2017

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Switchboard: 01200 425111  
Fax: 01200 414487  
[www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk)

Dear Sir/ Madam,

## THE PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2016 RE: SURVEY OF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES SERVING RENTED PROPERTIES IN THE RIBBLE VALLEY.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you about some recent changes to the legislation governing private water supplies and, more importantly, to let you know about how these may affect you. It is extremely important that you read the booklet enclosed so that you fully understand what these legislative changes will mean to you as a private water supply user.

Our records indicate that your supply originates from a spring, well or borehole and serves just your own property. Until now, there has been no requirement for local authorities to monitor single domestic private water supplies unless requested. However, in certain circumstances, the amended regulations now require local authorities to monitor supplies to **rented** properties (this excludes long-term agricultural tenancies).

In order to help update our records and ensure we are holding accurate information, please can you confirm the following details:-

- your name
- your address
- your telephone number
- state whether your property is rented or owner-occupied. If rented, please provide details of your landlord.
- state whether your supply receives any form of treatment

You can provide this information either by email  
[matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk) or by post.

The new regulations also require local authorities to monitor supplies for radioactive substances including radon. Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released from rocks and soils. The majority of the Ribble Valley is designated a radon affected area and if you would like to find out more about radon, Public

Health England have an excellent radon website [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org) which also includes a specific section about radon in private water supplies.

You can also find out more information about radon in the Ribble Valley by going onto the Council's own website [www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribbonvalley.gov.uk) (follow link:-Environmental Services>Radon in the Ribble Valley). If you do not have access to the internet, please contact my colleague Adele Little on her direct line, 01200414464, who will arrange to send you the required information by post.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact me on my direct line, 01200414470, if you've any concerns regarding your private water supply.

Yours faithfully

MATTHEW RIDING  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER (HOUSING)

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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please ask for: Matthew Riding  
direct line: 01200 414470  
e-mail: [matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk)  
my ref: MR/ PWS  
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Dear Sir/ Madam,

## THE PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2016

Firstly, may I thank you for your co-operation so far which has enabled Ribble Valley Borough Council to complete its initial sampling and risk assessment programme of all private water supplies located within our area (with the exception of single dwelling supplies). Your assistance has been very much appreciated and has significantly helped us update and improve our records on the quality of private water supplies throughout our area.

The main purpose of this letter is to inform you about some recent changes to the legislation governing private water supplies and, more importantly, to let you know how these may affect you. The other reason is to update you about the Council's proposed action plan for securing additional improvements to those supplies where problems have been previously identified.

**It is extremely important that you read the booklet enclosed so that you fully understand what these legislative changes will mean to you as a private water supply user.**

To summarise, the amended regulations now require the majority of private water supplies serving rented properties to be sampled annually (this excludes long-term agricultural tenancies). There is also a requirement for local authorities to monitor supplies for radioactive substances including radon.

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released from rocks and soils. The majority of the Ribble Valley is designated a radon affected area and if you would like to find out more about radon, Public Health England have an excellent radon website [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org) which also includes a specific section about radon in private water supplies.

You can also find out more information about radon in the Ribble Valley by going onto the Council's own website [www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk) (follow link:-Environmental Services>Radon in the Ribble Valley). If you do not have access to the internet,

please contact my colleague Adele Little on her direct line, 01200414464, who will arrange to send you the required information by post.

Throughout the next 12 months, I will be re-visiting as many private supplies as possible to ascertain whether any of the necessary improvements identified from your supply's risk assessment have been completed. It is my intention to focus initially on those supplies that have previously received a Regulation 18 Boil Water Notice from the Council, due to the confirmed presence of E coli.

In order to further help me prioritise our scheduled work, it would be extremely useful if you could inform me whether there have been any improvements recently undertaken on your supply including the installation of any water treatment equipment. You can provide this information either by email [matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk) or by post.

Finally, please don't hesitate to contact me on my direct line, 01200414470, if you've any concerns regarding your private water supply. Thanks again for your continued co-operation.

Yours faithfully

MATTHEW RIDING  
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER (HOUSING)



Ribble Valley  
Borough Council

[www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk)

# **GUIDANCE ON THE PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES REGULATIONS**



## Private Water Supplies

A private water supply is any water supply which is not provided by a water utility company. The source of the supply may come from:

- wells
- boreholes
- springs
- rivers or streams
- lakes or ponds

The supply may serve just one property or several properties through a network of pipes.

## Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016

The Private Water Supplies Regulations were introduced in January 2010 and require local councils to undertake a risk assessment and sampling programme of all private supplies in their area. This is to ensure that private water supplies meet the same quality standards as mains water. The council charge for this work (please refer to the charges table on the back page).

Risk assessment is a proactive approach identifying potential hazards to human health. The information analysed in the assessment is recorded in a report specific to your private water supply. It allows action to be taken to manage risks through a multi-barrier approach, involving source protection, treatment of the source water and management of the distribution network to prevent contaminants entering the supply system.

**The amended regulations now require local authorities to monitor private supplies that serve individual rented properties (this excludes long-term agricultural tenancies). There is also now a requirement for the majority of private supplies that serve rented properties to be sampled annually. Single-property supplies that serve an owner-occupied dwelling will only be risk assessed and sampled upon request of the owner. Local authorities must also monitor supplies for radioactive substances including radon.**

## Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas released from rocks and soils. The majority of the Ribble Valley is designated a radon affected area and if you would like to find out more about radon, Public Health England have an excellent radon website [www.ukradon.org](http://www.ukradon.org) which also includes a specific section about radon in private water supplies. You can also find out more information about radon in the Ribble Valley by going onto the Council's own website [www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk) (follow link:-Environmental Services>Radon in the Ribble Valley).

Local authorities are now required to determine an appropriate monitoring strategy for radon in water, according to the risk of it being present in a private supply. The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) has provided radon hazard information for all known groundwater supplies (boreholes & wells) throughout our borough and have identified 135 supplies which originate from either a high or moderate risk aquifer (includes three different rock types). Whilst I am concerned that this appears to be a large number of private supplies potentially at risk of radon contamination in the Ribble Valley, these

figures must be put into context by considering the published sampling data for radon in water in England and Wales. Over 300 samples have been taken from 124 public water supply sources and not one has exceeded the regulatory specified value of 100 Bq/l (the vast majority of results were below 50 Bq/l).

The cost of a radon water sample is very expensive (£129) and I believe it would be inappropriate at this stage for us to require all 135 groundwater supplies to be tested for radon, as the full sampling costs would be recharged to the supply user. Therefore, in order to comply with the new regulations, Ribble Valley Borough Council are proposing to undertake an initial survey of 11 high/ moderate risk supplies throughout the next 12 months, to establish whether or not there is a problem in our area. Following this, should the results indicate any cause for concern, we will immediately notify you and initiate a more comprehensive sampling programme for radon in water.

### **Risk Assessments**

The regulations require each supply (excluding owner-occupied single dwellings) to undergo a risk assessment every five years, to determine how regularly the supply needs to be tested and for which parameters (i.e. which types of bacteria, chemicals etc). This involves surveying the supply, from the source through to point-of-use, to identify factors that could lead to contamination of the supply. Factors influencing sampling requirements include the type of source (borehole, well etc), how well it is protected, the treatment methods in place, the number of people served by the supply and the intended use of the water.

Risk assessments are normally carried out by prior appointment. Where possible details of what needs to be inspected/considered will be provided prior to the site visit. This is to ensure that the owner or occupier has the opportunity to arrange access to the various parts of the water system, arrange for someone with detailed knowledge of the system to attend, and generally reduce the amount of time we are required to be on site, thereby also reducing the cost.

### **Sampling**

Samples from private water supplies will normally be taken from a consumer's kitchen tap and then sent for analysis at an accredited and approved laboratory. The sampling frequency and the extent of analysis needed will depend on the results of the risk assessment.

Larger supplies (using more than 10 m<sup>3</sup> water per day and serving 50 or more persons) and those serving commercial premises are required to undergo regular 'check monitoring', as well as 'audit monitoring' on a less frequent basis.

Small supplies (using less than 10 m<sup>3</sup> water per day and serving less than 50 persons) are monitored at least once every five years and more frequently if shown to be necessary by the risk assessment.

### **Investigations**

Any sample that fails to meet the prescribed concentrations laid out in the Private Water Supplies Regulations must have an investigation to determine the reason for the failure

and to identify what action is needed to improve the supply. This may mean further sampling being conducted at the source, holding tanks and/or other parts of the infrastructure to assist the investigation. In complex cases, it may be necessary to engage a specialist water engineer.

If a wholesome supply cannot be achieved through implementing physical changes to the supply network, the water will require treatment before use. A wide range of treatment options are available.

### Notices

In the event of failure, where a supply is found to be 'unwholesome' or a 'risk to human health', a notice will be served on any relevant person either prohibiting or restricting the supply, as appropriate. A relevant person may include:- all users of the supply; owners of tenanted properties; any relevant landowners and any person who exercises powers of management for the supply.

The notice will be specific for each supply and can be appealed against in a Magistrate's Court and/or by appeal to the Secretary of State, but the notice will remain in force until either it has been complied with or it is suspended by the courts/Secretary of State

### Charges

The Council will charge the costs of carrying out their duties under these regulations to those responsible for the supply. Where part of a shared supply is used by some commercial activity, e.g. bed and breakfast, pub, camp site, the charges may be divided between the commercial and non-commercial properties proportionally.

A breakdown of the council's charges in respect of private water supplies for 2017/18 is shown below. These charges are subject to change on an annual basis.

Activity	Charge
Risk Assessment	At cost to a maximum of £500 (minimum of £100)
Full sample (Check & Audit parameters)	£111.00
Check sample	£77.00

Audit sample	£74.00
Small Supply sample	£58.00
Bacteriological sample	£43.00
Additional Bacteriological sample	£4.10
Radon sample	£129.00
Investigation	At cost to a maximum of £100

### Contact us

Email: [matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.riding@ribblevalley.gov.uk)  
 Tel: 01200 414470

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**For further information visit:** [www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk) or  
[dwi.defra.gov.uk/consumers/advice-leaflets/PWS-newregs](http://dwi.defra.gov.uk/consumers/advice-leaflets/PWS-newregs)

