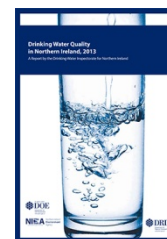


# What's new in private water supplies?

## 1. PUBLICATION OF ANNUAL REPORT ON DRINKING WATER QUALITY IN NORTHERN IRELAND, 2013

Each year the Drinking Water Inspectorate publishes a summary report on drinking water quality in Northern Ireland. Our 18<sup>th</sup> annual drinking water quality report covers both public and private water supplies. It presents information relating to our private water supplies sampling and analysis programme for 2013 and was published on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2014. A copy is available to view or download from our web site at



[http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/drinking\\_water\\_report\\_for\\_northern\\_ireland\\_2013.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/drinking_water_report_for_northern_ireland_2013.pdf).

The regulations require us to maintain a register of private water supplies; from time to time we receive requests for information on the location and quality of private drinking water supplies. These are mainly in connection with the production of Environmental Impact Assessments relating to planning proposals. This data which includes the private water supply site code, nature of the source (i.e. spring, well, borehole) and the location (as grid references) may therefore be provided to third parties. No personal details such as name and address are provided thus taking due regard to data protection legislation.

## 2. PUBLICATION OF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES ENFORCEMENT AND PROSECUTION POLICY

As an owner or user of a private water supply you have responsibilities under the private water supplies regulations. These regulations are in place to ensure that the water supply is wholesome and safe to drink.



In support of the regulations the Drinking Water Inspectorate published its Private Water Supplies Enforcement and Prosecution Policy in August 2014. This policy details the general principles which will be followed when it is considered necessary by the Inspectorate to take enforcement and prosecution action of a person or persons who are legally responsible for ensuring compliance with The Private Water Supplies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 (as amended).

A copy of the policy is available to view or download from our web site at [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/dwi\\_enforcement\\_policy\\_private\\_water\\_supplies\\_august\\_2014.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/dwi_enforcement_policy_private_water_supplies_august_2014.pdf).

## 3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES

Each year the Drinking Water Inspectorate carries out a review of all private water supplies registered with us through the Environmental Health department of your local council. It is therefore important that any changes in your registration details such as the purpose, use or treatment of your private water supply are notified to us or to Environmental Health. If necessary a new Private Water

Supplies Registration Form (available at [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/pws\\_registration\\_form.pdf](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/pws_registration_form.pdf)) can be completed and returned to us.

#### 4. GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES IN PRIMARY PRODUCTION

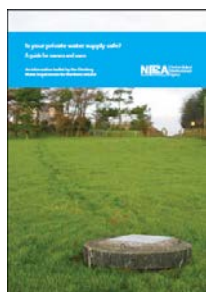
For food business operators using of a private water supply for primary production activities, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) released a new guidance document for consultation in November 2014, closing date 18 February 2015. This document sets out the requirements regarding the safe use of water in primary production. Further details are available on the FSA web site at <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-updates/consultations/2014/use-of-private-water-supplies-consult>.



#### 5. NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES IN WATER INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

New European legislation introduced in October 2013 lays down the requirements for the protection of the health of the general public with regard to radioactive substances in water intended for human consumption. These new regulations are to become national law by November 2015. One of the major changes will be the introduction of a standard for radon in water used for drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes.

#### 6. PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE ON PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES



The Drinking Water Inspectorate provides information and guidance on the private water supplies. This will include guidance on protection of the source water and treatment options as well as checks needed and records to be kept for the ongoing management of a private water supply.

A new Private Well App for use online will be released on our web site in early 2015. This application will allow the owners or users of private wells to assess the general risks associated with their water supplies and provide advice on action they can take to reduce these risks and improve the safety of their supplies.

Additional guidance on private water supplies can also be found in the **PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES TECHNICAL MANUAL** available through our web site at [http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/drinking\\_water/private\\_water/pws-technical-guidance-2.htm](http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/drinking_water/private_water/pws-technical-guidance-2.htm)

#### 7. Contact Us

If you have any queries on private water supplies you can contact us at [privatewatersupplies@doeni.gov.uk](mailto:privatewatersupplies@doeni.gov.uk) or tel: 028 9056 9282