



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Dear Consultee,

Drinking Water Regulations: Consultation on the draft Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 and the draft Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016

We are writing to invite your views on draft regulations that will revoke and replace the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000 (as amended) and the Private Water Supplies Regulations 2009 (as amended). The 2000 and 2009 Regulations provide the legislative framework for public and private drinking water quality in England. The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) enforces for the public supply – that is, the supply from public water companies. Local Authorities enforce for private supplies and DWI monitor the results. The draft Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 and the draft Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016 will primarily transpose the monitoring requirements of the Euratom Directive ([Council Directive 2013/51/Euratom of 22 October 2013](#)) that provides for more efficient monitoring for radioactive substances, in particular radon.

We are also taking this opportunity to clarify and consolidate the content from the existing drinking water regulations and to make minor amendments so that the legislation is more readily understandable. These are in keeping with the Government's commitment to better regulation.

The consultation runs for 6 weeks from 1 February 2016 to 14 March 2016.

Due to the shared drinking water theme, this is a joint consultation covering the respective update for both public and private drinking water legislation. This consultation will therefore be of interest to those concerned with either public or private drinking water supply and the online survey provides for responses to the questions for either or both draft regulations.

Responses

We welcome your views and comments on the draft regulations. The draft regulations, consultation documents and questions can be accessed as part of our online survey.

Please complete the online consultation survey at:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/water/drinking-water-regulations>



Alternatively, you can return your responses by email to Defra at:
drinkingwaterquality@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

If you prefer you can respond by post to Defra at:

Drinking Water Quality
Area 3D Nobel House,
17 Smith Square,
London
SW1P 3JR

Consultation Criteria

This consultation is in line with the UK Government's Consultations Principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>.

Summary of responses and confidentiality

Any responses you send us may be seen in full by staff at Defra and the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) who are dealing with the issues covered by this consultation. It may also be seen by other staff to help them plan future consultations.

When this consultation ends we will summarise all responses and place this summary online, available through the UK Government website at www.gov.uk. This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details. If you require a hard copy of the summary, or have any other enquiries, please contact us at: drinkingwaterquality@defra.gsi.gov.uk

We will store a copy of the responses received for at least six months from the date the consultation responses document has been published. This is so that the public can see them and copies of responses will be made available to the public on request. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.

If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation.

Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.

Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to: Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Room 629, 9 Millbank, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR; or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to consider and respond to this consultation.

Yours Faithfully

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs