

PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE: 05 March 2014

Report of the Head of Regulatory and Supporting Services

Water Quality at Temporary Events

1. Background

1.1 The Private Water Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2010 require local authorities to carry out risk assessments of private water supplies in its area. The Regulations also require a risk assessment to be undertaken at temporary events that have a water supply which is classified as a Private Distribution System (PDS), as defined by Regulation 8 of the PWS Regulations 2010.

1.2 Local authorities are responsible for implementing and enforcing the Regulations and Pollution Control undertakes these duties in Cardiff.

1.3 The majority of temporary events in Cardiff do not meet the definition of a PDS under Regulation 8 and therefore are not enforceable. However, in order to ensure the protection of public health at events especially where there are large attendances and long duration events Pollution Control take a proactive approach through the Council's Events Liaison Panel. Examples of temporary events with a water supply include the RHS Show (Bute Park), International Food Festival (Oval Basin) and Winter Wonderland (City Hall Gardens).

1.4 The process includes initial officer scrutiny of the event organiser's event plan with provision of advice back to the event organiser. This is followed up with an inspection and risk assessment of the event's water installation, its fittings and potential contamination issues by Pollution Control officers. Where an event has a temporary water supply from a mains connection, a joint inspection between Pollution Control officers and an Inspector from Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) is undertaken. DCWW Inspectors have inspection duties under the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 to identify potential issues and advise event organisers of corrective action(s) prior to the commencement of the event.

1.5 Officers will also take water samples following the installation and disinfection of the water supply. The samples aim to verify the disinfection process of the supply pipes and fittings has been undertaken and that the water supply is wholesome and fit for use. In situations where the sampling results are not acceptable then officers will advise the event organiser of appropriate corrective action(s) and undertake additional sampling to verify the remedial actions undertaken.

1.6 The public health implications identified through risk assessment and/or water sampling at temporary events can include both chemical and microbiological contamination such as E.coli where if present in the water can pose a potential danger to human health.

2. Progress Report 2013

2.1 During 2013 Pollution Control officers inspected 14 temporary events where a temporary water supply was required. These were predominantly large and long duration events such as the RHS Show (Bute Park), International Food Festival, the Beach (both at the Oval Basin) and Winter Wonderland (City Hall Gardens).

2.2 The experience at temporary events has improved from 2012 when Pollution Control first undertook event inspections. Improvements have been achieved from 2012 mainly as a result of the advance provision of information from the event organisers to Pollution Control, through the use of a Temporary Water Supply Checklist that is now part of the ELP submission. Further improvements have been found in having meetings with event organisers with their subsequent advance planning of water supplies and knowledge of potential risks having improved.

2.3 However some contamination issues have occurred in 2013. One example is a chemical incident with the back-siphoning of toilet disinfectant water into a catering sink due to the event organisers' toilet contractors own installation of the mobile toilets. The incident took place after the main water installation at site and was prior to the officer inspection. Pollution Control officers undertake inspections a number of days before the commencement of the event so that any concerns or issues identified can be addressed in sufficient time. In this scenario the problem was found to be a recirculation system set up in the toilet cisterns that was identified in a collaborative effort of the Pollution Control and DCWW joint inspection. The problem was rectified during the inspection with the removal of small fittings from each cistern and advice given to re-disinfect the system. Water samples were taken to check compliance.

2.3 A summary table of events with temporary water supplies in 2013 and issues encountered is presented as follows.

No. of Events with a Temporary Water Supply	No. of Inspections	Incidents / Issues				No. of water samples taken
		Information / Reporting	Chemical	Microbiological	Water Fittings	
14	14	2	1	4	5	82

2.4 A similar number of temporary events are anticipated to be inspected in 2014. Experience since the introduction of the event water supply inspections showed an increase in officer time commitment to ensure the safety of the public at each event, particularly where identified issues have led to multiple site visits.

2.5 Pollution Control recovers the costs for site inspection and sampling visits as well as the costs for laboratory analysis. The costs are based on our approved charging scheme, a copy of which is attached in Annex A. It is intended that these charges will remain the same for 2014.

3. Achievability

3.1 Based on current staffing levels in the Contaminated Land team, the discharging of the Councils duties in relation to the Private Water Supply (Wales) Regulations 2010 and through the Event Liaison Panel can be achieved.

4. Legal Implications

4.1. The Private Water Supply Regulations 2010 require a risk assessment to be undertaken at temporary events that have a water supply which is classified as a Private Distribution System (PDS). The majority of temporary events in Cardiff do not meet the definition of a PDS and therefore are not enforceable. However Pollution Control takes a proactive approach at temporary events held in Cardiff in order to ensure the protection of public health from temporary water supplies is ensured.

5. Financial Implications.

5.1 This report is for information purposes only and does not result in any additional financial implications

6. Recommendations

6.1 Committee is asked to note the contents of this report..

Dave Holland

HEAD OF REGULATORY AND SUPPORTING SERVICES

DATE

This report has been prepared in accordance with procedures approved by Corporate Managers.



Annex A

THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF CARDIFF PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (WALES) REGULATIONS 2010 CARDIFF COUNTY COUNCIL – FEES 2014-15

- Under Regulation 21 of the Private Water Supplies (Wales) Regulations 2010 there is provision for local authorities to charge fees for carrying out a variety of duties. These fees set maximum charges for these duties, under Schedule 5 of the Regulations, and include undertaking tasks such as a Risk Assessment, Sampling, Investigation and granting an Authorisation for a private water supply.
- The Council has a duty to undertake a risk assessment and routinely monitor all the large and small water supplies in its area as defined under the Regulations. The Welsh Assembly Government has compensated local authorities in Wales with a transitional grant scheme so the Council will not charge the large and small supplies for a risk assessment for the first 5 years (commencing in 2010).
- Cardiff County Council have therefore adopted the following fees for 2014-15:

Service (Activity)	Schedule 5 Maximum Fee (£)	Cardiff Council Fee (£)
Risk Assessment (each risk assessment) ¹	500	18.00 / hour up to Maximum
Sampling (each visit)	100	18.00 / hour up to Maximum
Investigation (each investigation)	100	18.00 / hour up to Maximum
Granting an Authorisation (each authorisation)	100	18.00 / hour up to Maximum
Analysing a sample:		
taken under Regulation 10	25	Recover Analytical Costs up to Maximum
taken during check monitoring	100	Recover Analytical Costs up to Maximum
taken during audit monitoring	500	Recover Analytical Costs up to Maximum

¹ A transitional grant scheme in Wales compensates the Council for the cost of undertaking risk assessments for an initial 5 year period.

- In the case of a supply to a single dwelling where the owner or occupier requests either a Risk Assessment or Sampling visit the Council will charge the fees listed in the table in Section 3.
- The fees are payable by the relevant person for each private water supply on receipt of an invoice from the Council. Where there is more than one relevant person then the Council may apportion the fee between the relevant persons.