



DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

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Information Letter 02/2016

To: Board Level and Day to Day contacts of Water and Sewerage Companies and Water Companies in England and Wales

Dear Sir/Madam

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES RELATING TO THE DWI COST RECOVERY SCHEME

Purpose

The purpose of this letter is to keep the industry informed of legislative changes relating to the DWI cost recovery regime.

Background

The DWI cost recovery charges have been made under the Public Bodies (Water Supply and Water Quality Fees) Order 2013 which exercises powers under the Public Bodies Act 2011. These powers will cease to have effect from early in 2017. In order to maintain the existing regime, a new Order has been made under section 86ZA of the Water Industry Act 1991. This new Order is the Water Quality and Supply (Fees) Order 2016 that enters into force on 1 April 2016 and relates to companies wholly or mainly in England. A corresponding Order for Wales will be considered after the Welsh election.

Impact on the water industry

There is no significant impact on industry. The Order simply continues the practice whereby the Chief Inspector can charge for certain activities.

The fees charged have been recalculated based on the latest data but are essentially unaffected. The charge for receiving and checking sample results remains the same at £55 per hundred sample results. The fees for audits, events and complaints are expressed as £65 per hour which is a small reduction from the previous rate of £470 for a seven hour chargeable period.

The invoicing arrangements will continue to be as set out in previous Information Letters (8/2012 and 3/2013). The invoices for audits, events and complaints for 2015/16 will continue to be charged at the rate in the Public Bodies Order. The invoices for sample results for 16/17 will be made under the new Order but may be issued later than the target date of the end of May.

Circulation

Copies of this letter are being sent to Michael Roberts, Chief Executive, Water UK; Catherine Harrold, Water Services, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Alison Maydom, Water Services, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs; Olwen Spiller, Water Management Team, Welsh Government; Sue Petch, Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland; David O'Neill, Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland; Tony Smith and Chairs of the Regional Consumer Council for Water; Nicci Russell, Ofwat; Paul Hickey, Environment Agency; Liz Stretton, Food Standards Agency; and Frances Pollitt at Public Health England.

Acknowledgement and enquiries

This letter is being sent electronically to Board Level and day to day contacts. Please acknowledge receipt by email to dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk. Hard copies are not being sent but the letter may be freely copied. Any enquiries about the letter should be addressed directly to Peter Marsden (peter.marsden@defra.gsi.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully



Marcus Rink
Chief Inspector of Drinking Water