

**DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE**

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9 July 2021

To: Julie James
Minister for Climate Change

The Drinking Water Inspectorate for Wales will be publishing its annual drinking water report on 9 July, which summarises the overall drinking water quality of both private supplies within Wales and public supplies managed by water companies operating in Wales.

The focus of the Drinking Water Inspectorate is on ensuring the delivery of Ministers' and consumers expectations for clean safe drinking water supplies in Wales particularly during a year where this has been vital to health and wellbeing.

2020 brought some challenges for water companies and local authorities when monitoring supplies, especially where staff needed to enter homes for sampling, but also for wider operations. Nevertheless, water continued to be supplied without interruption throughout the year.

Continuous regulatory oversight ensures that Welsh water companies provide safe clean drinking water supplies continuously and sustainably. Companies in Wales perform well in this regard, but intervention is needed occasionally, as discolouration can experienced by consumers in Wales.

The work of the Inspectorate contributes to private supplies in Wales. This is through advice and guidance provided to local authorities who are responsible for such supplies. Approximately 3% of consumers in Wales receive their water in this way. Unlike public supplies, these are not always safe and clean and will continue to require close monitoring.

The work of the Inspectorate will continue to provide pro-active regulation on sufficiency and quality of water supplies, through engagement with Welsh water companies and local authorities, developing strategic planning and guidance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus Rink".

Marcus Rink
Chief Inspector of Drinking Water