

PROSECUTIONS BROUGHT BY THE DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Date of event	Date of court case	Company	Court	Event	Offence	Outcome	Costs
March 2021	30 May 2023	Wessex Water Services Ltd	Swindon Magistrates' court	Newton Tony Taste and Odour	Section 70 supply of water unfit for human consumption	£280,000 and a victim surcharge of £190	£21,656.60
23 June – 18 July	Guilty Plea 1 April 2022 Sentencing 13 Sep 2022	South West Water Ltd	Plymouth Magistrates' Court	Bratton Flemming Taste and Odour	Section 70 supply of water unfit for human consumption	£233,333 and a victim surcharge of £170	£83,967.93
1 April – 31 May 2018	Guilty plea 5 Apr 2022 Sentencing 24 May 2022	Southern Water Services Ltd	Hove Crown Court	High Park chlorate	Regulation 33(3)(a) - applying or introducing a substance or product into water in contravention of Regulation 31(1)	£16,000 and a victim surcharge of £170	£49,401.95
16 February 2017 and 10 July 2017	10 June 2019	Thames Water Utilities Ltd	Stratford Magistrates' Court	Coppermills Water treatment works	Regulation 33(1) - breach of regulation 26(1)(a) failure to disinfect water and breach of 26(4) failure to design and continuously operate an adequate treatment process Regulation 33(1) – breach of regulation 26(1)(b) failure to subject water to sufficient preliminary treatment to prepare it for disinfection before treatment	£80,000 and a victim's surcharge of £120 £80,000	£79,839.68
17 December 2016	10 Jan 2019	Northumbrian Water Ltd	Peterlee Magistrates' Court	South Moor service reservoir taste and odour.	Section 70 supply of water unfit, and not following Instructions for use - regulation 33(3)(b).	£499,725 and a victim surcharge of £170	£32,792.65

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31 January- 12 February 2013	Guilty plea 27 Jul 2018 Sentencing 10 Aug 2018	Southern Water Services Ltd	Newport Crown Court	Cooks Castle Shanklin Water Supply Reservoir	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured and highly turbid)	£65,000	£44,620.99
March – July 2015	Guilty plea 30 Jan 2018 Sentencing 5 Jun 2018	United Utilities Water Plc	Bolton Crown Court	Sweetloves works	Regulation 33 - breach of regulation 26(1) inadequate treatment and disinfection of water for two events from 31 March – 3 April 2015 and 19 July – 22 July 2015	£50,000 for first event £150,000 for second event	£54,000
August – September 2015	Guilty plea 19 Jul 2017 Sentencing 10 Oct 2017	United Utilities Water Ltd	Preston Crown Court	Franklaw works – detection of Cryptosporidium	Section 70 supply of water unfit for human consumption	£300,000	£150,000
October 2015	Guilty plea 14 Aug 2017 Sentencing 25 Aug 2017	Southern Water Services Ltd	Southampton Magistrates' Court	Discolouration due to burst main	Section 70 supply of water unfit for human consumption and use of non- approved products (reg 31)	£400,000 for Section 70 offence £80,000 for Reg 31 offence	£50,000
May 2013	25 May 2015	Sembcorp Bournemouth Water	Bournemouth Magistrates' Court	Alderney works, Bournemouth	Section 70 supply of water unfit and breach of regulation 26 (failure to operate an adequate treatment process)	£80,000 (four counts of water unfit); £5,000 (failure to adequately operate a treatment process) and a victim surcharge of £120	£48,772

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21 November 2012	20 Jan 2014	Severn Trent Water	Coventry Magistrates' Court	Broadway, Worcestershire	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured, taste and odour)	£66,000 (11 counts) and a victim surcharge of £120	£25,950
Dec 2010	13 Sep 2012	Severn Trent Water	Chesterfield Magistrates' Court	Sandiacre, Nottingham	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£16,000 (4 counts)	£37,990.10 (all three cases at Chesterfield magistrate's court)
September 2011	13 Sep 2012	Severn Trent Water	Chesterfield Magistrates' Court	Melbourne works, Leicestershire and Derbyshire	Regulation 33 - breach of regulation 26 (supply of inadequately treated and disinfected water, and failure to operate an adequate treatment process)	£10,000 (2 counts)	
September 2011	13 Sep 2012	Severn Trent Water	Chesterfield Magistrates' Court	Ogston works, Chesterfield	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured); Regulation 33 - breach of Regulation 26 (supply of inadequately treated and disinfected water, and failure to operate an adequate treatment process) and failure to subject the water to adequate preliminary treatment and failure to adhere to national conditions of use for products and processes	£30,000 (6 counts of water unfit); £5,000 failure to disinfect the water; £5,000 not subjecting the water to adequate preliminary treatment prior to disinfection; £5,000 failure to operate an adequate treatment process; £5,000 failing to adhere to national conditions of use for products and processes	
July 2010	11 Sep 2012	Northumbrian Water	Newcastle Magistrates' Court	Horsley works, Tyneside	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£8,000 (4 counts) and a victim surcharge of £15	£14,487.96
March 2011	9 Aug 2012	Southern Water	West Hampshire Magistrates' Court	Chandlers Ford, Hampshire	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£ 12,000 (1 count) and a victim surcharge of £15	£14,483.08

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November 2008	17 May 2010	Southern Water	Chatham Magistrates' Court	Chatham, Gillingham and rural Kent	Regulation 33 - breach of regulation 26 (supply inadequately treated and disinfected water)	£7,500 (3 counts @ £2,500) and a victim surcharge of £15	£23,932.36
February – November 2006	19 May 2008	Three Valleys	St Albans Magistrates' Court	Colney Heath	Section 70 supply of water unfit (untreated water)	£12,000 (2 counts @ £6,000)	£7,610.30
November 2005 - January 2006	11.10.07	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Caernarfon Magistrates' Court	NW Wales - cryptosporidiosis outbreak	Section 70 supply of water unfit (consumer illness – cryptosporidiosis)	£60,000 (4 counts @£15,000)	£69,399.43
6-12 February 2006	20.06.07	South West Water	Honiton Magistrates' Court	Pennsylvania, Beacon Heath and Stoke Hill areas of Exeter	Section 70 supply of water unfit (taste and odour)	£20,000 (4 counts @ £5,000)	£11,875.10
18 – 24 May 2004	06.12.06	United Utilities	St Helens Magistrates' Court	Merseyside and Cheshire	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£35,000 (7 counts @ £5,000)	£11,345
14 - 15 May 2004	24.11.06	Thames Water	Reading Magistrates' Court	Spencers Wood	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£24,000 (2 counts @ £12,000)	£7830.50
10.02.2004	19.05.06	Yorkshire Water	Harrogate Magistrates' Court	Harlow Moor	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£6,000 (3 counts @ £2,000 each)	£9,051.28
3.4.2002	26.03.04	Anglian Water	Cromer Magistrates Court	Northrepps	Section 70 supply of water unfit (taste and odour)	£3,750 (2 charges. 1 @ £3,750. No separate penalty on second charge)	£11,106
February 1999	11.01.02	Yorkshire Water	Leeds Crown Court	Thornton and Denholme	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£15,000	£8,261

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				(Pudsey 2 – May 1999 was taken into consideration)			
28.8.2000	5.9.01	Anglian Water	Bedford Magistrates Court	Meppershall	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£21,000 (6 charges @ £3,500)	£7,345
July 2000	18.6.01	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Merthyr Tydfil Magistrates Court	Merthyr Tydfil – Penybryn service reservoir	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£12,000 (all 4 charges were considered in totality)	£5,777
June/July 1998	12.3.01	Mid Kent Water	Maidstone Crown Court	Hadlow	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£12,000 (4 charges @ £3,000)	£43,077
5.11.98 8.5.98 11.6.98	8.12.00	Yorkshire Water	Leeds Crown Court (16 counts relating to incidents at West Leeds, Sheffield and Addingham to lie on file but Company awarded £73,000 in costs)	Marton 2 Sheepscar Drighlington	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£50,000 (5 charges @ £10,000) [Reduced to £30,000 on appeal] £21,000 (3 charges @ £7,000) [Reduced to £18,000 on appeal] £28,000	£125,599

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2.7.98				Idle Hill		(4 charges @ £7,000) [Reduced to £18,000 on appeal] £20,000 (5 charges @ £4,000) [Reduced to £14,000 on appeal]	
13.1.99	13.10.00	North West Water	Crewe Magistrates'	Nantwich (Macclesfield and Cheadle Hulme taken into consideration)	Section 70 supply of water unfit (taste and odour)	£20,000 (5 charges @ £4,000)	£7,100
21.4.98	6.10.00	North West Water	Wallasey Magistrates	Wallasey (Eccles St Helens Rainford 2 taken into consideration)	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£12,000 (4 charges @ £3,000)	£10,471
24.7.97	26.01.00	Thames Water	Guildford Magistrates	Ewhurst	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£12,000 (4 charges @ £3,000)	£3,900
13.12.98	25.01.00	North West Water	St Helens Magistrates	Rainford	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£2,500 (all on first charge, no fine on 3 others)	£5,036
14.11.97	15.11.99	North West Water	Preston Magistrates	Preston	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£3,000	£3,646

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						(3 charges @ £1,000)	
06.03.98	05.11.99	South East Water	Aldershot Magistrates	Hindhead	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	Not guilty plea £16,000 (4 charges @ £4,000)	£9,250
18.12.97	3.11.99	North West Water	Blackpool Magistrates	Freckleton	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£6,000 (3 charges @ £2,000)	£4,455
29.01.98	16.8.99	South East Water	Hastings Magistrates	Bexhill	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£8,000 (4 charges @ £2,000)	£5,058
22.10.97	17.5.99	South West Water	Truro Magistrates	Cornwall spine main	Section 70 supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£10,000 (5 charges @ £2,000)	£5,970
15.12.97	23.4.99	Severn Trent Water	Mansfield Magistrates	Kirkby	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£10,000 (5 charges @ £2,000)	£4,000
31.10.97	6.4.99	South West Water	Cullompton Magistrates	Willand	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£5,000 (4 charges @ £1,250)	£5,529
19.12.97	11.1.99 8.2.99	Anglian Water	Ipswich Magistrates Ipswich Crown Court	Bucklesham	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (untreated river water)	AW pleaded guilty to 2 charges, referred to Crown Court under Section 38 of MCA for sentencing. £15,000 (2 charges @ £7,500) £15,000 (2 charges @ £7,500)	£5,5,21

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16.12.97	5.1.99	Anglian Water	Witham Magistrates	Halstead	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£10,000 (5 charges @ £2,000)	£4,886
6.5.97	5.11.98	North West Water	Liverpool Magistrates	Aubrey St. Liverpool	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£3,000 (2 charges @ £1,500 each)	£2,842
31.7.97	19.10.98	Severn Trent Water	Stafford Magistrates	Gnosall	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£8,000 (4 charges @ £2,000)	£3,680
6.6.96	15.10.98	Sutton and East Surrey Water	Sutton Magistrates	Carshalton	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (chalky)	£5,000 (5 charges @ £1,000)	£2,971
1.10.97	5.10.98	Northumbrian Water	Bedlington Magistrates	Ashington	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£6,000 (4 charges @ £1,500 each)	£3,776
1997 audit	13.8.98	South East Water	Royal Tunbridge Wells Magistrates	Epoxy resin relining	Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 1989 (Reg28)	£9,000	£3,518
25.7.97	15.7.98	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Neath Magistrates	Crai	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (low pH & discoloured)	£24,000 (8 charges @ £3,000 each)	£7,960
12.6.97	10.6.98	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Aberystwyth Magistrates	Tregaron	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£17,500 (5 charges @ £3,500 each)	£4,500
16.5.97	1.4.98	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Cardiff Magistrates	Cardiff	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	£14,000 (4 charges @ £3,500 each)	£4,000
20.2.97	20.3 98	Yorkshire	Harrogate	Marton	Section 70 Supply of water unfit	£12,000	£8,325

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		Water	Magistrates		(discoloured)	(3 charges @£4,000 each)	
12.8.95	15.9.97	South West Water	Bristol Crown Court	Torbay	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (cryptosporidium)	Court chose not to consider case	-
17.9.96	3.9.97	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Swansea Magistrates	Swansea	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	Fine £10,000 (5 charges @ £2,000 each)	£1,700
June 1995	4.7.97	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Leominster Magistrates	Westhope	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	Fine £1,500 (3 charges @ £500 each)	£1,850
19.5.95	7.4.97	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Swansea Magistrates	Morrison	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (high pH & taste)	Fine £8,000 (2 charges @ £4,000 each)	£3,000
26.10.94	31.6.96	Thames Water	Kingston Crown	SW London	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (discoloured)	Fine £80,000 (4 charges @ £20,000 each)	£9,300
15.4.94	24.4.95	Severn Trent Water	Hereford Crown	Worcester	Section 70 Supply of water unfit (taste/odour)	Fine £45,000 (3 charges @ £15,000 each)	£67,114
1993	27.3.95	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water	Llangefni Magistrates	Anglesey	Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 1989 (Reg28)	Fine £1,000	£3,000

The above table gives a list of prosecutions for offences under the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations and the Water Industry Act. The table needs to be interpreted with care because the results are largely reflecting a historical situation. As a result of the prosecutions, the water companies involved have taken steps to improve their operations and, in some cases, it is now rare for there to be events occurring in their areas. Also, there are cases pending or investigations under way relating to companies which are not included on this list.