

Report on	Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2022
Date of Meeting	16 th November 2023
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide information on the recently published Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) recently published their 27 th annual report on Drinking Water Quality in Northern Ireland 2022 during September 2023. The Drinking Water Inspectorate's (DWI's) primary role is to protect public health through effective drinking water regulation.
2.2	<i>"Drinking Water Quality in Northern Ireland, 2022 – A report by the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland"</i> is attached at Appendix A.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In Northern Ireland over 99% of the population receive their drinking water from Northern Ireland Water Limited (NI Water). The remainder is served by private water supplies.
3.2	The DWI's report provides an independent assessment of drinking water quality of both public and private supplies for the calendar year 2022.
3.3	Overall public drinking water quality for 2022 remained high with 99.91% compliance, a slight increase from 2021 (99.88%). Compliance at private water supplies was 99.02% a slight decrease from 2021 (99.19%).
3.4	Safe, clean drinking water is critical for our health and wellbeing, to support business and grow the economy. In December 2021, DWI agreed that there would be no consumer tap sampling required in early 2022 due to the restrictions imposed over the Omicron variant of COVID-19. A return to full consumer tap sampling occurred in March 2022.

3.5	Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) was the parameter with the lowest compliance in 2022, at 98.83%. THMs are a group of disinfection by-products that form when naturally occurring organic substances combine with chlorine, which is added to disinfect the water and make it safe to drink. Work is planned at a number of water treatment works to improve THM compliance.
3.6	DWI continues to work with all stakeholders to ensure the effective prioritisation of investment in drinking water quality in areas where there is greatest need.
3.7	<p>Enforcement action is taken where necessary, and in 2022, there were four Notices in place requiring improvements at three water treatment works, none of which were within or impacted on the Mid Ulster District Council area.</p> <p>During 2022, NI Water continued construction on a major capital investment programme (£12m) to improve water quality at Derg WTW as required by DWI, to comply with the regulatory limit for the herbicide MCPA.</p>
3.8	In addition to domestic properties, a range of commercial businesses, and public buildings such as food producers; hospitals and health care premises use private drinking water supplies. Notwithstanding some rescheduling of samples due to COVID-19 restrictions, private water supply monitoring returned to normal in 2022. 99.77% of scheduled sampling was completed to meet DWI's regulatory duty.
3.9	In the report DWI take the opportunity to recognise and thank council staff, for their contribution in achieving this target and for their ongoing work in the completion of risk assessments on behalf of DWI. This work is undertaken by officers within the Environmental Health Service in accordance with a Service Level Agreement with the Drinking Water Inspectorate.
3.10	<p>Reports are available via the following website:</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/drinking-water-quality-northern-ireland</p>
3.11	<p>Drinking water quality tables detailing non-compliance of individual water supply zones, by parameter are available via the following website:</p> <p>https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/drinking-water-quality-tables</p>
3.12	<p>Anyone can check the water quality in their area including hardness and dishwasher settings, by accessing the below website and entering in their full postcode:</p> <p>https://www.niwater.com/water-quality-results/</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Human: None anticipated at this juncture.
	Risk Management: None anticipated at this juncture.

4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	To note the contents of this report.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix A: Annual Report on Drinking Water Quality in Northern Ireland 2022