

<b>Report on</b>	Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2020 – Mid Ulster District Council
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Fiona McClements

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To advise Members of the availability of the Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2020.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	This local council report is designed to demonstrate water quality by individual council area based on the percentage Compliance at Customer Tap (including Supply Points) over the water supply zones associated with Mid Ulster District Council area.
2.2	The report notes that during 2020 due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, with the agreement of the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI), NI Water reduced potable water sampling as part of the plan to protect staff and customers, whilst maintaining assurance that there was no risk to public health from public water supplies.
2.3	This included the cessation of all sampling at customer taps with effect from 16th March 2020, with a reduced number of parameters sampled upstream at Service Reservoirs. From 18th May 2020, sampling returned to the regulatory frequencies, with the exception of a small number of parameters, which are customer tap specific.
2.4	Customer tap sampling remains at designated Service Reservoirs or other identified fixed point locations. This has created a shortfall in regulatory sampling at customer tap for the calendar year 2020.
2.5	During the period however, NI Water maintained full sampling and analysis at its Water Treatment Works and downstream Service Reservoirs as per regulatory requirements. This along with customer tap samples taken at designated fixed points in the distribution system ensured that the quality of water supplied to our customers was effectively monitored and maintained throughout the period.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	For monitoring purposes NI Water's supply area is divided into water supply zones. These are areas serving not more than 100,000 people, each of which are normally supplied from a single water supply source or combination of sources. There are areas where owing to topography and dispersal of population, it is not practicable to provide a mains water supply. Currently over 99.9% of Northern Ireland's population receive public water supplies.
3.2	In a number of cases water supply zones overlap council boundaries and therefore the information does not mirror the council boundary exactly but relates to a zone determined by the Drinking Water Inspectorate.
3.3	The information is based on samples taken randomly in each water supply zone and from planned samples at authorised supply points. Due to the nature of random sampling, there may be fluctuations in water quality across the water supply zones.
3.4	The report also details capital works programmes affecting the council area which directly related to water quality during the reporting period.
3.5	Small variations in water quality compliance performance occur across Northern Ireland. This reflects the need to continue to invest in and to maintain water treatment works, and to improve the water mains network.
3.6	A change to the Drinking Water Quality Regulations in 2017 resulted in a reduction of testing frequencies for some parameters at Authorised Supply Points for 2018 onwards. This has slightly lowered the percentage Compliance at Customer Tap at council level, but has not affected the overall compliance.
3.7	NI Water has identified the need to deliver a significant volume of water mains rehabilitation and other works across its ageing network. The works are necessary to ensure the efficient and cost effective operation of its water supply system in the immediate future and longer term as well as ensuring adequate levels of water quality and customer supply. To achieve this goal, NI Water has implemented a Water Mains Rehabilitation Framework, within which it undertakes work on a Northern Ireland wide basis as identified by the zonal study programme of work.
3.8	The overall percentage compliance at the Customer tap (including supply points) for Northern Ireland in 2020 was 99.9% with Mid Ulster compliance also at 99.9 %.
3.9	The report contains a map showing the extent of the current Water Mains Rehabilitation Framework covering most of Northern Ireland. The report also highlights water quality events, water quality standards, where samples are taken and what happens when a test fails, number of samples, individual parameters, results obtained and a water supply commentary.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>
	Financial: None
	Human: None
	Risk Management:
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>
5.1	Members are asked to note the Drinking Water Quality Report 2020 for Mid Ulster District Council area and the overall compliance at Customer Tap (including supply points) which for Mid Ulster District Council was 99.9%.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>
6.1	Appendix 1 – Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2020 (MUDC)