

The Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2026

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Ministers give this direction under section 202 of the Water Industry Act 1991¹ as amended in 2003 and 2014, to companies appointed as water undertakers under Chapter I of Part II or holding a water supply licence granted under Chapter 1A of that part of the Act (as amended by the Water Act 2014²).

1. Citation

This Direction may be cited as the Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2026.

2. Commencement

This Direction comes into force on 1 January 2027.

3. Interpretation

(1) In this Direction:

“compliance sample” means a water sample taken to show compliance with a requirement of the Regulations; including samples of untreated water taken from abstraction points under regulation 17(2).

“the drinking water quality regulator” means the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water appointed under section 86 of the Act, acting on behalf of either:

(a) the Secretary of State; or

(b) in relation to a water undertaker whose area is wholly or mainly in Wales, or a licensed water supplier so far as its licensed operations use the supply system of such a water undertaker, the Welsh Ministers;

“the Regulations” means—

(a) the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016³ or

(b) in relation to a water undertaker whose area is wholly or mainly in Wales, or a licensed water supplier so far as its licensed operations use the supply system of such a water undertaker, the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2018⁴.

¹ 1991 c.56.

² 2014 c.21

³ SI 2016/614, amended by SI 2018/706

⁴ SI 2018/647 (W.121)

“the Act” means the Water Industry Act 1991, as amended; and

“working day” means any day that is not a Saturday, a Sunday, Christmas Day, Good Friday nor a bank holiday under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971⁵.

A “contact about drinking water quality” is defined in Information Letter 04/2022⁶, which may be amended from time to time.

(2) A reference in this Direction to a water supplier is a reference to:

- (a) A water undertaker;
- (b) The holder of a water supply licence, within the meaning given by section 17A of the Act; or
- (c) The holder of an appointment referred to in section 6(1) of the Act.

(3) Expressions used in this Direction have the same meaning as in the Regulations.

4. How to provide information

(1) Information provided under this Direction must be provided electronically in the format specified by the drinking water quality regulator.

(2) An obligation of a water supplier to provide information or a document to, or notify, the drinking water quality regulator is satisfied if the water supplier provides the information or document to, or notifies:

- (a) the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water; or
- (b) the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for Wales, in the circumstances referred to in paragraph 3(1).

(3) The circumstances are that:

- a. The water supplier is a water undertaker whose area is wholly or mainly in Wales, or a licensed water supplier so far as its licensed operations use supply systems wholly or partially in Wales; and
- b. The person appointed as Chief Inspector of Drinking Water for Wales by the Welsh Ministers under section 86(1B)(a) of the Act is not the person appointed as Chief Inspector of Drinking Water by the Secretary of State under section 86(1A) of the Act.

⁵ 1971 c.80.

⁶ [01-Annual-Consumer-Contacts-IL.pdf \(dwi-content.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com\)](#)

- (4) The Inspectorate has been developing its reporting portal to ensure that all types of data can be directly submitted securely without the need for email. The Inspectorate will contact companies when a data reporting type moves away from email and on to the portal.

5. Annual provision of information

- (1) Subject to paragraph 5(2), on or before 1 January in each calendar year, a water supplier must provide the drinking water quality regulator with the following information:
- (a) For each abstraction point:
 - (i) Its designation, its type of source water such as surface, ground or mixed, the national grid reference of its location and an estimate of the average total daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies;
 - (ii) The designation of each water treatment works that it serves; and
 - (iii) An estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies to each treatment works;
 - (b) For each water treatment works:
 - (i) Its designation and the national grid reference of its location;
 - (ii) Whether the water treated by it is groundwater, surface water or a mixture of the two;
 - (iii) An estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water supplied from it;
 - (iv) The designation of each supply point (if applicable), service reservoir and water supply zone that it serves; and
 - (v) An estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies to each reservoir and zone;
 - (c) For each service reservoir:
 - (i) Its designation, the national grid reference of its location and its capacity (in cubic metres);
 - (ii) The designation of each water supply zone that it serves; and
 - (iii) Its type of source water such as surface, ground or mixed water;
 - (d) For each supply point:

- (i) Its designation, the national grid reference of its location and an estimate of the average daily volume (in cubic metres) of water that it supplies;
 - (ii) The designation of each service reservoir and water supply zone that it serves; and
 - (iii) Its type of source water such as surface, ground or mixed water;
- (e) For each water supply zone:
- (i) Its designation;
 - (ii) Its type of source water such as surface, ground or mixed water;
 - (iii) An estimate of the number of people living within it; and
 - (iv) The name of each local authority, and each local or regional health board (or equivalent), whose area is wholly or partly within it; and
 - (v) The designation of the previous year's water supply zone(s) if replaced in the area (all or part).
- (f) Where a water supply zone receives a supply of water from another water supplier, for each such supply:
- (i) Details of the upstream water treatment works from where the water originates; and
 - (ii) Details of all other upstream assets associated with the original supply.
- (g) The relationship between assets and supply systems as required for reporting risks identified under regulation 28(1).
- (h) For each sampling point, where pesticides are monitored under the requirements of parts 4 and 6 of the Regulations, details of the individual pesticides included in the monitoring programme.
- (2) On or before 21 October each year, under regulation 28, a water supplier must report to the Inspectorate a full submission of risks identified under regulation 27(1).
- (3) To remain in compliance with regulation 3 companies must not make changes to their zones mid year. Companies may add in additional zones, but the splitting of or combining of zones is not allowed. Should a company bring online a new location during the year then this must be registered as a new zone until the end of that year and not combined with any existing zones.

- (4) If companies have submitted an annual details file which contains information about an asset which is not in service the company must load out of service details rather than resubmit a new annual details folder.

6. Provision of information for mapping

- (1) On or before 31 December in each calendar year, a water supplier must provide the drinking water quality regulator in electronic format, details to allow maps to be produced to an appropriate scale (ideally 1:50,000). The following information for the forthcoming calendar year must be provided:
- (a) the location of each abstraction point, water treatment works, supply point and service reservoir;
 - (b) the boundaries of each water supply zone;
 - (c) any areas that it does not supply;
 - (d) the boundary of the water undertaker's area of appointment
- (2) Each abstraction point, treatment works, supply points, service reservoir and water supply zone must be allocated a unique name and number.

7. Monthly provision of information

- (1) On or before the last working day of each month, a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator the results of analysis of all compliance samples taken during the previous month (for example, a report in April must be about the samples taken during the previous March).

From January 2024 this must be done on the drinking water regulator's reporting page.

- (2) The report must set out:
- (a) For each abstraction point from which the supplier abstracts water for supply for regulation 4(1) purposes:
 - (i) The number of samples taken under regulation 17(2) of the Regulations,
 - (ii) For each sample taken at an abstraction point—
 - (aa) the properties, organisms or substances for which the sample was

analysed; and

(bb) the results of that analysis, and

(iii) If either the Secretary of State or Welsh Minister have, by notice under regulation 17(3) of the Regulations, required the supplier to take and analyse samples in relation to the abstraction point, the results of each such analysis;

(b) For each water treatment works:

(i) The number of samples required, and the number of samples taken, under part 5 of the Regulations, and

(ii) For each sample taken at a water treatment works—

(aa) the designation of the water treatment works;

(bb) the date and time the sample was taken;

(cc) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and

(dd) whether an authorisation under part 7 of the Regulations applied to the water treatment works;

(c) For each service reservoir—

(i) The number of samples required and the number of samples taken under part 5 of the Regulations, and

(ii) For each sample taken at a service reservoir:

(aa) the designation of the service reservoir;

(bb) the date and time the sample was taken;

(cc) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and

(dd) whether an authorisation under part 7 of the Regulations applied to the service reservoir;

(d) For each supply point:

(i) The number of samples required, and the number of samples taken, under part 4 of the Regulations,

- (ii) For each sample taken at a supply point:
 - (aa) the designation of the supply point;
 - (bb) the date and time the sample was taken;
 - (cc) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and
 - (dd) whether an authorisation under part 7 of the Regulations applied to the supply point; and
- (e) For each water supply zone:
 - (i) The number of samples required, and the number of samples taken, under part 4 of the Regulations,
 - (ii) For each sample taken in a water supply zone:
 - (aa) the designation of the water supply zone;
 - (bb) the date and time the sample was taken;
 - (cc) the national grid reference of the location from which it was taken;
 - (dd) the result of analysis for each parameter listed in schedules 1 and 2 to the Regulations; and
 - (ee) whether an authorisation under part 7 of the Regulations applied to the water supply zone.
- (3) On or before the last working day of each month, a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator details of the out of service records for any of the above assets for the previous month (for example, a report in April must be about the out of service records during the previous March).

8. Provision of monthly information relating to compliance with the Regulations

- (1) On or before the last working day of each month, a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator, and from January 2024 onwards on the drinking water regulator's page, the results of analysis of any compliance sample taken during the previous month (for example, a report in April must be about the samples taken during the previous March) where the analysis showed that the sample exceeded: reporting
 - (a) The prescribed concentration or value for a parameter listed in schedule 1

to the Regulations; or

- (b) The specification of an indicator parameter listed in schedule 2 to the Regulations.

(2) The report must set out as a minimum:

- (a) The parameter concerned;
- (b) The result and the extent to which the prescribed concentration or value or specification was exceeded;
- (c) Details of all the action taken as part of the investigations carried out under part 7 of the Regulations;
- (d) Whether the results exceeded an authorisation under part 7 of the Regulations, including, where applicable, details of any retailers for non-household properties contacted during the follow-up of the failure;
- (e) Whether a legal instrument such as an undertaking under section 19 of the Act or a notice under part 8 of the Regulations is in place;
- (f) Whether a monitoring variation notice issued under part 4 of the Regulations is in place, and the annual sampling frequency specified by that notice; and
- (g) Details of all the risk assessment records submitted under regulation 28 that are associated with the exceedance, to include:
 - i. The asset reference;
 - ii. The asset name;
 - iii. The hazard reference;
 - iv. The DWI risk category;
 - v. The unique hazard ID.

(3) Where the sample was taken from a public building and the failure was attributed to the domestic system of the property, the report referred to in paragraph 8(2) must include a copy of the notice served under section 75(2)(b) of the Act, and evidence (covering letter) that the notice has been sent to the owner and/or representatives of the building and, where applicable, the retailer for non-household properties.

(4) Companies may submit risk assessment data by 21st day of each month either

as part of a rolling programme of updates and/or make an annual submission of all risk assessment data by 21st day of a month (company specified) with the addition of significant updates by the 21st day of each month. Significant updates include all new risk assessments, updates where the residual score and/or DWI category has been changed for 'high' or equivalent risks, new 'high' risks and downgraded 'high' risks that have been mitigated by delivery of additional control measures. The significant risks described above, and risk assessment reports submitted to comply with milestones in a regulation 28 notice, must be submitted with sign-off by a board level representative.

9. Provision of information—events, incidents, emergencies etc.

(1) A water supplier must notify the drinking water quality regulator of:

- (a) The occurrence of any event which, because of its effect or likely effect on the quality or sufficiency of water supplied by the supplier, gives rise, or is likely to give rise, to a significant risk to the health of persons to whom the water is supplied.
- (b) Any other event associated with a public water supply that is notified by the supplier to a local authority, UK Health Security Agency, or Public Health Wales (or equivalent) under regulation 35 of the Regulations.
- (c) The occurrence of an event that may have been notified to the supplier by a local authority that is related to a private water supply or private distribution system (as set out in the Private Water Supplies Regulations⁷) that could affect the quality or sufficiency of water supplied by the supplier.
- (d) Any other matter relating to the supply of water that:
 - (i) In the opinion of the supplier, is of significance;
 - (ii) Has attracted or, in the opinion of the supplier, is likely to attract local or national publicity because of a concern about drinking water quality or sufficiency;
 - (iii) Has caused or, in the opinion of the supplier, is likely to cause concern to persons to whom water is supplied; and
- (e) Any reports of disease that might be associated with water supplied by the supplier; and
- (f) Any significant occurrence apprehended or otherwise, where the

⁷ SI 2016/ 618 in England amended by SI 2018/707 in England; SI 2017/1041 (W.270) in Wales

collection or analysis of samples causes the test results for those samples to be unrepresentative of the quality of water at the time of sampling or that results in the failure to provide data from sampling.

- (g) Any significant occurrence apprehended or otherwise of where the company has identified external interference that has or could affect quality or sufficiency of water.

(2) The notification must be:

- a) Made as soon as possible after the event or matter has come to the supplier's attention, on the drinking water quality regulator's reporting web page, and also if necessary by telephone in the circumstances set out in guidance⁸ published by the regulator (which may be amended from time to time); and
- b) Confirmed in writing with a report submitted to the Inspectorate no later than three working days after compliance with sub-paragraph 2(a).

(3) Events not reported by the company:

- a) If the Inspectorate becomes aware of an incident which, in its opinion meets the requirements of event reporting but has not been reported by the company the Inspectorate may compel the company to report that event or will log the event itself and assign to the company.
- b) The company will then be required to furnish the Inspectorate with the appropriate reports.

(4) The **notification** made under sub-paragraph 2(a) must include:

- (a) Particulars of the event or matter;
- (b) A description of the geographical area affected by the event and the site reference of any assets affected by the event;
- (c) An assessment of its effect or likely effect on the quality or sufficiency of water supplied by the supplier;
- (d) An estimate of the population affected and whether particularly sensitive water users such as hospitals, schools, or food manufacturers are affected;
- (e) Any information available about the cause or likely cause of the event or matter;
- (f) Particulars of the action taken or proposed to be taken to inform and

⁸ Guidance on the Notification of Events, Drinking Water Inspectorate

protect consumers and to rectify the situation, and an estimate of when supplies are likely to be back to normal;

(g) An indication of whether relevant local authorities, public health bodies and the Consumer Council for Water have been informed;

(h) Any other relevant information.

(5) The **report submitted under sub paragraph 2(b)**, within three working days of the date of notification must include:

(a) All details as specified in paragraph 9(3) in order to confirm the facts of the event or matter;

(b) Any information necessary to supplement the information given in accordance with paragraphs 9(2) and 9(3);

(c) A list of any persons (other than consumers of the supplier) notified of the event or matter, and a copy of any notice issued to consumers and to the press about the event or matter;

(d) A list of all non-household retail licensees engaged with about the event or matter;

(e) The number of consumers of the supplier who contacted the supplier raising a complaint or concern about the quality of their water supply associated to the event or matter being notified and:

(i) if there are 50 or fewer such complainants, a list of their names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses (where the consumer provided this information) to be provided electronically in Microsoft® Excel® file format; or

(ii) if there are more than 50 complainants, a list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses (where the consumer provided this information) of at least the first 50 of them on each day for the duration of the event, to be provided electronically in Microsoft Excel file format.

(iii) The company is required to report all contacts it receives regarding reported illness associated with the water supply in addition to the list of the first 50 complainants.

(f) The number of consumers of the supplier who contacted the supplier raising a complaint or concern about the sufficiency of their water supply and:

- (iv) if there are 50 or fewer such complainants, a list of their names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses (where the consumer provided this information) to be provided electronically in Microsoft Excel file format; or
 - (v) if there are more than 50 complainants, a list of the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses (where the consumer provided this information) of at least the first 50 of them on each day for the duration of the event, to be provided electronically in Microsoft Excel file format.
- (g) If samples were taken in connection with the event or matter:
 - (i) particulars of the time at which the samples were taken,
 - (ii) the places from which the samples were taken, and
 - (iii) the results of the analysis of the samples that are available to the supplier at the time of submission of the report;
- (h) Details of all the risk assessment records submitted under regulation 28 that are associated with the event or matter, to include:
 - i. The asset reference;
 - ii. The asset name;
 - iii. The hazard reference;
 - iv. The DWI risk category;
 - v. The unique hazard ID.
- (i) This information must be accompanied by an explanation of what, if any, changes will be made to the risk assessment records following review of the event.
- (6) Depending on the seriousness of the event or other factors as determined by the drinking water quality regulator, within 20 working days of the date of the notification, or such longer period as the regulator allows, the supplier must submit to the regulator **a final report** on the event or matter, which must contain all relevant information, including:
 - (a) Any information necessary to supplement the information given in accordance with paragraph 9(4). This should include full particulars of samples taken as required under sub paragraph 9(4)(f) where sample results were unavailable at the time the report was submitted, and full

- particulars of additional samples taken after submission of the report;
- (b) A copy of any report or advice or information provided to the supplier by its medical, scientific or technical advisers, a local authority or public health organisation;
 - (c) An assessment of the effectiveness of the action taken in respect of the event or matter, and of the adequacy of arrangements for liaison with the local authority, UK Health Security Agency or Public Health Wales, the Environment Agency in England or Natural Resources Wales in Wales, the emergency services and the public, as the case required;
 - (d) A statement of any lessons learned and of any proposals, if any, for further action that the water supplier considers necessary or desirable to prevent a recurrence of the event or matter;
 - (e) A map or plot showing the location of all complaints received and all samples taken in connection with the event; and
 - (f) Any other information about the event or matter that the supplier considers relevant.

10. Provision of annual information on consumer contacts about drinking water quality

- (1) On or before 31 January in each calendar year, a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator about each contact about drinking water quality that the water supplier received from any of its consumers during the previous calendar year, as specified in Information Letter 04/2022 (or any subsequently amended or updated version of this Information Letter).
- (2) The report must set out, for each water supply zone:
 - (a) The number of consumer contacts, according to their nature and type;
 - (b) The total population of the water supply zone; and
 - (c) The overall rate of contact per thousand population.
- (3) For the purposes of this paragraph, water supplier includes the holder of a retail licence.
- (4) The holder of a retail licence complies with its obligations under paragraph (1) if it secures that the details about each consumer contact required by that paragraph are reported by the water supplier from which the holder takes its wholesale supply of water.

11. Provision of annual information on treatment chemicals

- (1) On or before 30 September in each calendar year, a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator about each chemical that is currently dosed into the drinking water at every water treatment works, service reservoir and distribution network, including membrane cleaning chemicals, as specified in Information Letter 01/2021 and the associated Annex A (or any subsequently amended or updated version of this Information Letter and associated annex) on the drinking water regulator's reporting web page.
- (2) This includes chemicals dosed into raw water; in-process water and final supply water; in addition to chemicals dosed into service reservoirs and at other points in the distribution network; chemicals that are used for treatment and recovery of waste process water where this is returned to the water supply system (for example the head of the works); and chemicals used for on-site production of sodium hypochlorite.
- (3) The report must set out, for each treatment chemical:
 - (a) Year of submission
 - (b) Date of submission
 - (c) Company assigned three-letter acronym
 - (d) Asset reference
 - (e) Asset name
 - (f) Product name (where applicable)
 - (g) Active ingredient
 - (h) BS EN standard that applies to the chemical (where applicable)
 - (i) Product code from the List of Approved Products for Use in Public Water Supply in the United Kingdom (where applicable)
 - (j) Supplier name
 - (k) Maximum number of days of on-site storage
 - (l) Minimum number of days of on-site storage
- (4) The report must identify:
 - (a) any new chemicals added to the report since the previous submission.

(b) where information for any chemical in the report has changed.

12. Provision of annual information on service reservoirs, contact tanks and final water storage tanks

- (1) On or before 30 April in each calendar year, a water supplier must report to the drinking water quality regulator about each current service reservoir, contact tank and final water storage tank.

From January 2024 this must be reported on the drinking water regulator's reporting web page.

- (2) The report must set out, for each current service reservoir, contact tank or final water storage tank:

- (a) Year of submission
- (b) Date of submission
- (c) Company assigned three-letter acronym
- (d) Asset reference
- (e) Asset name
- (f) Year of construction
- (g) Post code
- (h) National grid reference easting
- (i) National grid reference northing
- (j) Date of last full drain down, inspection and clean
- (k) Date of last remote vehicle inspection if applicable
- (l) An indication of whether the asset can be removed from supply

- (3) The report must identify:

- (a) any new service reservoirs, contact tanks or final water storage tanks added to the report since the previous submission.
- (b) where information for any service reservoir, contact tank or final water storage tank in the report has changed.

13. Provision of information – change in company status

- (1) When a licensed water supplier changes status, for example it is bought, sold or merged with another water supplier that will apply for a new or varied licence under section 6 of the Act, the following must be submitted from the new water supplier, before the date that the new licence comes into effect and before commencing the supply of drinking water:
- (a) Provide the full name of the company, as it will appear in the new or varied licence under section 6 of the Act, along with the company registration number and head office address.
 - (b) Provide all information required under paragraph 5 (unless the company reporting name is to remain unchanged).
 - (c) Provide all information required under paragraph 6 (unless the company reporting name is to remain unchanged).
 - (d) Resubmit all regulation 28(1) risk assessments, including sign-off from a person authorised to sign on behalf of the new company.

14. Enforcement of this Direction

- (1) This Direction is enforceable under section 18 of the Act.
- (2) Where information provided is found to be false or incorrect and recklessly provided, the Inspectorate will consider whether it is appropriate to bring criminal proceedings against the information provider under section 207 of the Act.

15. Revocation of the Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2024

The Water Industry (Suppliers' Information) Direction 2024 is revoked.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State and the Welsh Ministers:



Marcus Rink
Chief Inspector of Drinking Water

30 September 2026