

Title of Report:	DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT 2019
Committee Report Submitted To:	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	13th OCTOBER 2020
For Decision or For Information	FOR INFORMATION

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Protecting and enhancing our environments and assets
Outcome	Statutory compliance
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	N/A
Included in Current Year Estimates	YES/NO
Capital/Revenue	N/A
Code	N/A
Staffing Costs	N/A

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	Yes/No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	Yes/No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	Yes/No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise members of the publication of the Drinking Water Quality Report for 2019 by the Drinking Water Inspectorate on behalf of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency Northern Ireland Environment Agency. No printed copies are being produced but the report may be found at the following link. <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/drinking-water-quality-northern-ireland>

2.0 Report Summary

- 2.1 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. This report provides an independent assessment of the quality of both public and private water supplies for the calendar year 2019.
- 2.2 Drinking water quality compliance is assessed against the European Directive on Drinking Water Quality which is enacted through national legislation. Overall public drinking water quality for 2019 remained high with 99.90% compliance, the same as 2018.
- 2.3 The report considers regulatory contraventions and drinking water quality events reported to us, including NI Water's management and investigation of these to ensure the continued provision of safe, clean drinking water. Information on consumer contacts made to NI Water is also contained in the report.
- 2.3 Whilst there were no major water quality events in 2019, the total number was the same as 2018. Two of the four Cryptosporidium events were categorised as Serious as oocysts were detected in distribution. Cryptosporidium should not be present in drinking water and when it is found, NI Water must initiate a full investigation and implement enhanced monitoring. Where Cryptosporidium was detected in drinking water, NI Water sought advice from the Public Health Agency, however the detections were not of sufficient concern to put restrictions in place.
- 2.4 The highest percentage of consumer concerns in 2019 again related to appearance of the water, particularly discolouration, which accounted for over 40% of total complaints. Taste and odour was the second highest category, with chlorinous taste accounting for almost 47% of these. It is important for consumers to have confidence in the public water supply and the regulatory standard requires it to be 'acceptable to the consumer' with 'no abnormal change'. NI Water must investigate these complaints in the same way as all other consumer contacts.
- 2.5 No new enforcement notices were issued to NI Water in 2019, however two enforcements remain in place requiring capital works to mitigate risks at water treatment works.

2.6 Private water supplies are used for a range of purposes, from domestic dwellings to large commercial and public premises such as food manufacturers and hospitals. These supplies are monitored to ensure public health protection, and overall compliance for 2019 was 99.29%, a slight increase from 99.11% in 2018, and slightly lower than for public water supplies. The number of supplies continues to increase, with 14 new supplies being registered in 2019.

3.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the report be noted.