

CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL BETTER REGULATION ACT (NI) 2016	1st November 2016
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient Healthy & Engaged Communities
Outcome	Provision of Safe Drinking Water Supply
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

CHANGES TO ENVIRONMENTAL BETTER REGULATION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2016

The purpose of this report is to (a) advise members of regulatory changes under the Environmental Better Regulation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, (b) the subsequent re-organisation of Government Departments under the Executive Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 and (c) the appointment of a new Chief Inspector of Drinking Water.

Regulatory Changes

The Environmental Better Regulation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 amended the Water and Sewage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 to transfer the regulation of the quality of public drinking water supplies from the Department of Regional Development (DRD) to the Department of Environment (DoE) from the 12th April 2016.

In May 2016 there was a re-organisation of Government Departments (Executive Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016) when the regulation of public drinking water supplies became the responsibility of the newly formed Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) which regulates NI Water in respect of drinking water now carries out its functions within this new Department (DAERA). The regulation of private water supplies remains the responsibility of DWI.

Future Working Relationships

The existing arrangements with local Councils' Environmental Health Departments to deliver the sampling and risk assessment functions for private water supplies on behalf of DWI is not affected by the restructuring of the Departments.

Appointment of New Inspector

A new Chief Inspector of Drinking Water (Catriona Davis) will have responsibility for ensuring the provision of a safe, clean drinking water supply whether water is provided through the public supplier, NI Water or through persons responsible for private water supplies.