

24th February 2004

Circular Letter: WSP3/04

To each local authority

ECJ DRINKING WATER MONITORING REPORT 2002

I am to refer to Circular L1/2003 (re-numbered WSP1/2004) dated 22nd January 2004 that outlined the serious implications of the European Court of Justices (ECJ) judgement dated November 2002 which found against Ireland. This circular requests the urgent completion and return of monitoring reports for the cited public water supply schemes (Annex 1) required by the European Commission as a consequence of the Judgement. Your timely delivery on this request is critical.

1. National Response to the ECJ Judgement

Following the ECJ judgement the Department has agreed a range of measures to be taken in order to comply with the requirements of the decision. Ireland is to put in place a national strategy with a range of legislative, operational and investment initiatives to remedy deficiencies in drinking water supplies and to report to the Commission on implementation. The Commission also requires the submission of regular and ongoing drinking water monitoring reports in respect of specific parameters for the public water supply schemes specified in the Judgement. This summary information as outlined in Annex 2 is now required as a matter of urgency (for 2002 data only).

2. 2002 Information Request

The European Commission has as previously advised stipulated the specific information requirements to be provided following the ECJ Judgement. A Monitoring Report has been developed for this purpose; see Annex 2 and the floppy disc attached at Annex 4. You are requested to complete the report using 2002 water quality data for each scheme cited in the Judgement and to include the data for your town councils. You are also asked to forward the information required to the Water Services Policy Unit by e-mail at ecjmonitoring.environ.ie Wednesday 10th March 2004 at the very latest. Every effort should be made to provide the monitoring data as early as possible prior to this deadline.

You are reminded that your returns should be accompanied by summary comments as requested in the Annex 3 guidance note. You are also asked to provide an e-mail address for future contact.

3. Supporting Information and Guidance

To assist the efficient completion and timely return of the summary sheets the following information and guidance is included in the attached information pack:

- Annex 1 List of ECJ case cited schemes in your administrative area.
- Annex 2 "Public Scheme Water Quality Monitoring Report" to be completed for each scheme in your administrative area as listed in the Annex 1 supplied.
- Annex 3 Guidance Notes to assist the completion of each scheme report.
- Annex 4 Disc with the electronic version of "Public Scheme Water Quality Monitoring Reports"

4. Future Data Requirements in 2004

A similar report on 2003 drinking water monitoring data will be required in May 2004. This will be requested separately, in due course. It is also possible that the Commission will require 2004 monitoring data in 2004. Given that the regular ongoing updating of water monitoring data will be required by the Department, for onward transmission to the European Commission it is suggested that you maintain the mechanisms for accessing, collecting and collating this information.

5. Further Information

Where further information and/or assistance is required you may contact the undersigned at ☎8882775 or Ms. Siobhan O'Rourke at ☎8882584.

6. Access to Circulars

It should be noted that all Departmental circulars including this circular are now accessible by using the new the Internet Sharepoint System at: <http://circulars.lgcsb.ie/doecirculars>

Yours Sincerely,

Liam Gleeson
Water Services Policy Unit

*To - Each County and City Manager and Director of Services (Water Services)
Copy to - CCMA, GCCC, AMAI,, Ombudsman's Office and Regional Authorities.*

(NOTE - COPY OF ANNEXES FORWARDED TO DIRECTORS OF SERVICES ONLY)

