

18th May 2004

Circular Letter: WSP5/04

To each local authority

ECJ DRINKING WATER MONITORING REPORT 2003

I am to refer to Circular 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 required by the European Commission as a consequence of the Judgement. Your timely delivery on the 2002 information was very much appreciated and is now again critical in relation to the swift transmission of the 2003 drinking water data.

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 information as outlined at Annex 2 is now required as a matter of urgency (for 2003 data only).

2. 2003 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. You are requested to complete the reports using 2003 water quality data for each scheme cited at Annex 1 and to include the data for your town councils where necessary. You are also asked to forward the information required to the Water Services Policy Unit by e-mail at ecjmonitoring@environ.ie by **Friday June 18th 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 the completed Annex 1. (List of schemes). You are also asked to provide an e-mail address for future contact.

3. Supporting Information and Guidance

A copy of this Circular has been sent to all County and City Managers as well as all Directors of Water Services. An electronic version of this Circular along with the relevant annexes listed below has been sent to the contact people who dealt with the recent 2002 return in each local authority (list attached). The annexes sent are as follows:

- Annex 1 - List of ECJ case cited schemes in the administrative area
- Annex 2 - "Public Scheme Water Quality Monitoring Report" to be completed for each scheme listed at Annex 1.
- Annex 3 - Guidance Notes to assist the completion of each scheme report. These should be read before reports are filled in.

This information and guidance will assist the efficient completion and timely return of the monitoring reports. However, in cases where the contact is not now dealing with these returns, we have asked them to pass this request on to the appropriate person **as a matter of urgency**. It would be appreciated if each Director of Water Services would ensure that this happens at local level.

4. Future Data Requirements

A similar report on 2004 drinking water monitoring data will be required separately, in due course. 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.*