

16<sup>th</sup> March 2006

**Circular Letter: WSP2/06**

*To each sanitary authority*

**ECJ DRINKING WATER MONITORING REPORT 2005**

I am to refer to Circular WSP1/2004 dated 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 2004 information was very much appreciated and is again critical in relation to the 2005 drinking water data for cited public water schemes.

**1. National Response to the ECJ Judgement**

Following the ECJ judgement the Department has agreed on a range of measures with the Commission in order to comply with the requirements of the decision. Ireland is putting in place a national strategy with a range of legislative, operational and investment initiatives to remedy deficiencies in drinking water supplies and is required to report to the Commission on implementation and progress. 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 is outlined at Annex 2 and required as a matter of urgency (for 2005 data only).

**2. 2005 Information Request**

The Commission has stipulated the specific information requirements to be provided. A Monitoring Report has been developed for this purpose; see Annex 2. You are requested to complete the reports using 2005 drinking 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](mailto:ecjmonitoring@environ.ie) by **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2006** 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 and each Director of Water Services. An electronic version of this Circular along with the relevant annexes listed below has been e-mailed to each contact person who dealt with the 2004 return (list attached). The annexes sent are as follows:

- Annex 1 - List of ECJ case cited schemes in the administrative area
- Annex 2 – Template of "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 no longer 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. Drinking Water Regulations 2004

It should be noted that the 2005 update should be based on the interpretation and application of the Drinking Water Regulations 2004. Under these regulations faecal coliform is now referred to as e-coli and total coliforms as coliform bacteria. Trihalomethanes are unchanged.

### 5. Future Data Requirements

A similar report on 2006 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.

### 6. Further Information

Where further information and/or assistance is required you may contact Mr. Paul McNally at ☎8882584 or the undersigned at ☎8882775.

Yours Sincerely,

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**Liam Gleeson**  
**Water Services Policy Section**

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