

Appendix 2
Local Authority Questionnaire re. Rural Water Programme

This Review is focusing on the period of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-2006 and the implementation of water quality upgrading solutions for Group Water Schemes falling within the remit of the Drinking Water Regulations, 2000. **All references to Group Water Schemes in questions below (except Q.23, Q.24, Q25 & Q.26) only refer to those schemes, which require water quality upgrading to comply with the Drinking Water Regulations, 2000 i.e. schemes serving greater than 50 people.** The references to water quality upgrading solutions below refer to the five solutions identified in the June 2006 Report to the European Commission i.e. Design Build Operate (DBO), Non-DBO, Connection to the public main, Takeover by local authority and Sterilisation/Disinfection. Please provide a response to each of the questions below (using as much space as you need) and e-mail the completed questionnaire to frankJ.gallagher@environ.ie by 15th December 2006.

Value for Money

Question 1

Did your local authority select the most economically advantageous water quality upgrade solution for all Group Water Schemes in your administrative area (as specified in the Rural Water Strategic Plan Guidance Documentation)?

Yes No

If No, please state reason?.....

Question 2

Did your local authority carry out a comparison of the relative cost of building/upgrading a water treatment facility for each Group Water Scheme (or sub-bundle of schemes) or alternatively connecting the scheme(s) to an existing public water supply?

Yes No

If No, please state reason? If there was insufficient available public water capacity, was the option of increasing public water capacity considered and costed?
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If Yes, please state where this information is documented?.....

Question 3

Is competitive tendering being used in the procurement of all contractors for the implementation of all water quality upgrading solutions (including necessary network upgrades) for all Group Water Schemes in your local authority's administrative area?

Yes No

If No, please state reason?.....

Question 4

In all cases where it was decided to procure water treatment plants using DBO bundles, was a technical/economic assessment of the possibility of connecting a number of Group Water Schemes to the same treatment plant as a DBO sub-bundle considered?

Yes No

If No, please state reason?.....

If Yes, please state where this assessment is documented?.....

Implementation of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-‘06

Question 5

What in your local authority’s view are the main obstacles to the full implementation of the current Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality?

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Question 6

What additional measures if any, in your local authority’s view, are needed to fully and successfully implement the current Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality?

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Question 7

It appears from the June 2006 Report to the European Commission, which was compiled based on local authority information, that the two water quality upgrading solutions involving connection to the public water supply i.e. “Takeover by local authority” (**3 schemes completed nationally**) and “Connection to the Public Main” (**6 schemes completed nationally**) have not been implemented at the same rate as other upgrading solutions e.g. DBO.

Please provide reasons, if any, why there have been delays in implementing the “Connection to the Public Main” upgrade solution in your county?

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Please provide reasons, if any, why there have been delays in implementing the “Takeover by local authority” upgrade solution in your county?

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Question 8

Please confirm the number of schemes completed for the above two upgrade solutions in your County during the period of the Action Plan 2003-'06 (provide name of Group scheme and month and year of completion in each case). *In the case of takeovers, please indicate whether the scheme taken over was on a public or private water supply at the time.* If no details are provided, a nil completion will be recorded for your County for the "Takeover by local authority" and "Connection to the Public Main" upgrade solutions.

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Question 9

Please provide details in the box below of how many Group Schemes (approx) in your administrative area are participating and not participating in the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality in implementing a water quality upgrade solution for their scheme?

	Participating	Not Participating
No. of Group Water Schemes		
Total No. of Households (approx)		

Please state reasons given by Group Schemes for non-participation

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Question 10

Please provide details in the box below of how many Group Schemes, who are not participating in the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality, are in receipt of an operational costs subsidy from the Rural Water Programme.

Non-participating Schemes	Receiving Subsidy	Not receiving subsidy
No. of Group Water Schemes		
No. of Households (approx)		

Monitoring of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality

Question 11

In schemes where water quality upgrading solutions have now been completed, what monitoring measures have your local authority implemented to verify that the water coming out household taps in those Group Schemes now fully comply with the Drinking Water Directive on a sustained basis?

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Question 12

Do all Group Water Schemes in your County, where water quality upgrading solutions have been completed, as per the June 2006 Report to the European Commission, now fully comply with the Drinking Water Directive?

Yes No

If No, please state reasons and provide details of numbers of compliant and non-compliant completed Schemes below? Please also state any risk factors, which could cause currently compliant upgraded schemes to become non-compliant again.

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	Compliant	Non-Compliant
No. of upgraded Group Water Schemes		
Total No. of Households (approx)		

Question 13

What initiatives have your local authority taken to encourage Group Water Schemes to implement improved source protection measures?

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Water Demand and Unaccounted for Water (UFW)

Question 14

How does your local authority calculate the maximum allowable plant capacity, when authorising the design and construction (or upgrade) of a water treatment facility for a group water scheme(s)? *Please specify the maximum domestic water allowance per house when calculating plant design capacity.*

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Question 15

What is the maximum level of unaccounted for water, which your local authority permits when authorising the design and construction (or upgrade) of a water treatment facility for a group water scheme(s)?

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Question 16

What measures have your local authority taken to encourage group water schemes to reduce their level of UFW?

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Water Charging for Group Schemes connected to the Public Water Supply

Question 17

Are domestic Group water users charged for their water supply?

Yes No

Question 18

Are non-domestic Group water users charged for their water supply?

Yes No

Question 19

How is water usage by domestic and non-domestic Group Scheme consumers measured?

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Question 20

Are Group Water Scheme non-domestic users charged for water on the same basis as non-Group Water Scheme non-domestic customers e.g. commercial customers in urban centres?

Yes No

If No, please state reasons.

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Question 21

Please provide details of your authority's current charging levels for Group Scheme domestic and non-domestic users in the box below. If different Group Water Schemes are charged at different rates, please explain in the space below. Mark N/A, where not applicable.

	Domestic User	Non-Domestic User
Connection Fee per house (€)		
Fixed Charge per house (€)		
Variable/Volumetric Charge(€ & qty)		
Free Water Allowance (quantity)		
Other Charge (please specify)		

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Question 22

Does your local authority's water charging system recover your full costs in providing water to Group Scheme customers?

Yes No

If No, please state reasons.

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New Schemes, Network Upgrades and Subsidy Payments for all Group Schemes

Please provide details in relation to **all** Group Water Schemes for the last four questions (Q23 – Q26) not just Group Water Schemes serving greater than 50 persons.

Question 23

Please provide details of **all** newly established Group Water Schemes that have received approval for funding i.e. current (subsidy) and/or capital funding (network or water quality upgrade) for the first time from your local authority during the period of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-2006? Where a new Group Scheme received funding over more than one year, only include/count the Group Scheme and its houses in the first year of funding approval.

Year of first funding approval	No. of new Group Schemes with a <u>private</u> source	Total no. of houses in new Group Schemes with a <u>private</u> source	No. of new Group Schemes with a <u>public</u> source	Total no. of houses in new Group Schemes with a <u>public</u> source
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				

Question 24

Please provide details of **all** existing Group Water Schemes that have received funding for an extension by your local authority during the period of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-2006? Where a Group Scheme received extension funding over more than one year, only include/count the Group Scheme extension and its additional houses in the first year of funding approval.

First year of extension funding approval	No. of extended Group Schemes with a <u>private</u> source	Total no. of new houses in extended Group Schemes with a <u>private</u> source	No. of extended Group Schemes with a <u>public</u> source	Total no. of new houses in extended Group Schemes with a <u>public</u> source
2003				
2004				
2005				
2006				

Question 25

Please provide details of **all existing** Group Water Schemes i.e. (not new Group Schemes), which have received a pipe network upgrade during the period of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-'06? Where a Group Scheme received network upgrade funding over more than one year, only include/count the Group Scheme and its houses in the first year of funding approval.

First year of pipe upgrade approval	No. of existing private Group Schemes which received pipe network upgrades	Total no. of Houses in upgraded private Schemes	No. of existing public Group Schemes which received pipe network upgrades	Total no. of Houses in upgraded public Schemes	No. of Scheme network upgrades (in Columns 2&4 of this table) unrelated to water quality upgrade solutions
2003					
2004					
2005					
2006					

Question 26

Please provide details of the number of Group Water Schemes and houses in receipt of the different levels of subsidy during the 2003-'06 period in the table below?

	Subsidy for houses supplied by local authority source (€50.79 max)			Subsidy for houses supplied from private source (€101.58 max)			Subsidy for houses with a DBO/O&M treatment contract (€196.81 max)		
	No. of Schemes	No. of Houses	Total Subsidy Paid (€)	No. of Schemes	No. of Houses	Total Subsidy Paid (€)	No. of Schemes	No. of Houses	Total Subsidy Paid (€)
2003									
2004									
2005									
2006									

Thank you for completing the above questionnaire. The questionnaire respondent is asked to provide their name and details in the space provided below.

Name:

Official Title:.....

Date:

E-mail address:.....

Contact telephone No.....

The Department may need to contact you again in relation to expenditure on specific Group Water Schemes in your administrative area. If there are any further issues that you wish to raise in relation to the implementation of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-2006, please provide details on subsequent pages.

Local authorities are asked to return the completed typed questionnaire and any other submissions by 15th December 2006. Completed questionnaires and submissions should be e-mailed to Mr. Frank Gallagher (frankJ.Gallagher@environ.ie), Water Services Section, Block 1, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1 (tel. No. 01-8882771).