

**20 November, 2006**

**Circular L9/2006.**

**To each County Manager**

**Value for Money Review of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality  
2003-2006**

A Chara,

I wish to advise you that this Department has recently commenced a Value for Money Review of the Rural Water Programme. This Review forms part of the 2006-2008 programme of Value for Money Reviews approved by the Government in June 2006. The Review will focus on the implementation of water quality upgrading solutions for Group Water Schemes, falling within the remit of the Drinking Water Regulations, 2000, during the period of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-2006. The Small Public Water and Sewerage Scheme and Well Grant elements of the Rural Water Programme will not be reviewed as part of this study. The terms of reference for the Review (see Appendix 1) are in line with Department of Finance guidelines.

As the administration of the Rural Water Programme is largely devolved to local authorities, the efficiency and effectiveness of the local government system in meeting the objectives of the Action Plan for Rural Drinking Water Quality 2003-2006 will be a central element of the Review. Accordingly, as a first step in this Review, each local authority is asked to complete the attached questionnaire. Local authorities are also welcome to make additional submissions, relevant to the terms of reference of the Review. Individual local authorities will be contacted in the coming months in relation to specific Group Water Schemes in their administrative area. Information already provided in previous local authority returns, including the June 2006 Report to the European Commission, will also be used as part of the Review.

The attached questionnaire has also been e-mailed to all Rural Water Liaison Officers. Local authorities are asked to return the completed questionnaire (both by e-mail and signed hard copy) and any other submissions by 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006. Submissions should be forwarded to Frank Gallagher, Water Services Section, Block 1, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1 ([frankJ.Gallagher@environ.ie](mailto:frankJ.Gallagher@environ.ie)).

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Cc: Rural Water Liaison Officers