

Changes to Public Regulations Required Because...

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Why - Private (Small) Supplies

New Private Supply Regulations effective from 2010 introduced:

- **Oversight / Supervision**
 - **Local Government required to report information to Central Government (hence data on chart)**
 - **Annual report produced (includes case studies)**
- Central Government Technical Support
- Changed enforcement rules from 'May' to 'Must'
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Private Supply Risk Assessment

- Existing risk assessment was inadequate in a number of areas:
 - Some questions were difficult to answer – double negatives
 - Did not allow for assessment of certain types of treatment (filters and UV devices)
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New Small Supply Risk Assessment

- Studied risk assessments from Scotland, Ireland, Australia and other parts of the world
- Based on WHO WQ and WSP guidelines
- Pre-determined severity scores
- Yes or No answers to hazard questions
- Broader range of treatment processes included
- Source to tap approach
- Assessment of confidence in the supplier

Further Information

- We publish everything including the risk assessment online:

www.dwi.gov.uk



guardians of drinking water quality

2. Lessons from Implementing DWSP's



Public Supplies

- **Companies developed their own risk assessment systems (independently).**
- Different scoring
- Different reporting (some expressed risk as a cost)
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- Difficult to assess risks through a system – lots of data presented

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- **Created a system to harmonise risk assessment reporting across all companies**
 - **Single database and reporting mechanism**
- Take any source of information submitted to us as notice of a problem to solicit enforcing notices for remediation

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Public Supplies

- If DWPS best guarantee water quality and safety then we should see:
 - Fewer water quality events
 - Fewer failures
 - It should reach a point of being a predictive tool – but we are not there yet.
 - Companies are still working hard to put DWSP's in the driving seat for decision making.

Private Supplies

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 - **Previous version was quicker and easier**
- Many local authorities still reliant on final end-point testing as basis for enforcement
 - Should be enforcing on out come of risk assessment
- Enforcement actions focused on management not resolution of issues
- Was not used to being supervised

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 - To check on progress
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 - Educate and emphasise
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Private Supplies

- Owners aren't use to taking action
- Consumers may have not have paid for their supply all the time they have enjoyed it
- Now they have to work together to work out how things will work
 - We arbitrate and hear appeals in this regard

Summary

- UK has put risk assessment at the centre of legislation:
 - Using a proportionate approach
 - Large supplies with sophisticated systems, licenced and regulated by central government
 - Full DWSP expected
 - Small supplies, managed by individuals and communities, regulated by local government now supervised by central government to help improve the safety of supplies better (remember difference in compliance performance)
 - A basic but thorough risk assessment introduced:
 - » to assist local authorities as a starting point for the development of better safety planning systems, dependent on nature (size) of each supply.
 - » As basis for improvement (enforcement) action

Thank you



Links Relating to Questions

- **Inspectors Powers:**

- Section 86 of Water Industries Act:
- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/56/part/III/chapter/III/crossheading/assessors-for-the-enforcement-of-water-quality>

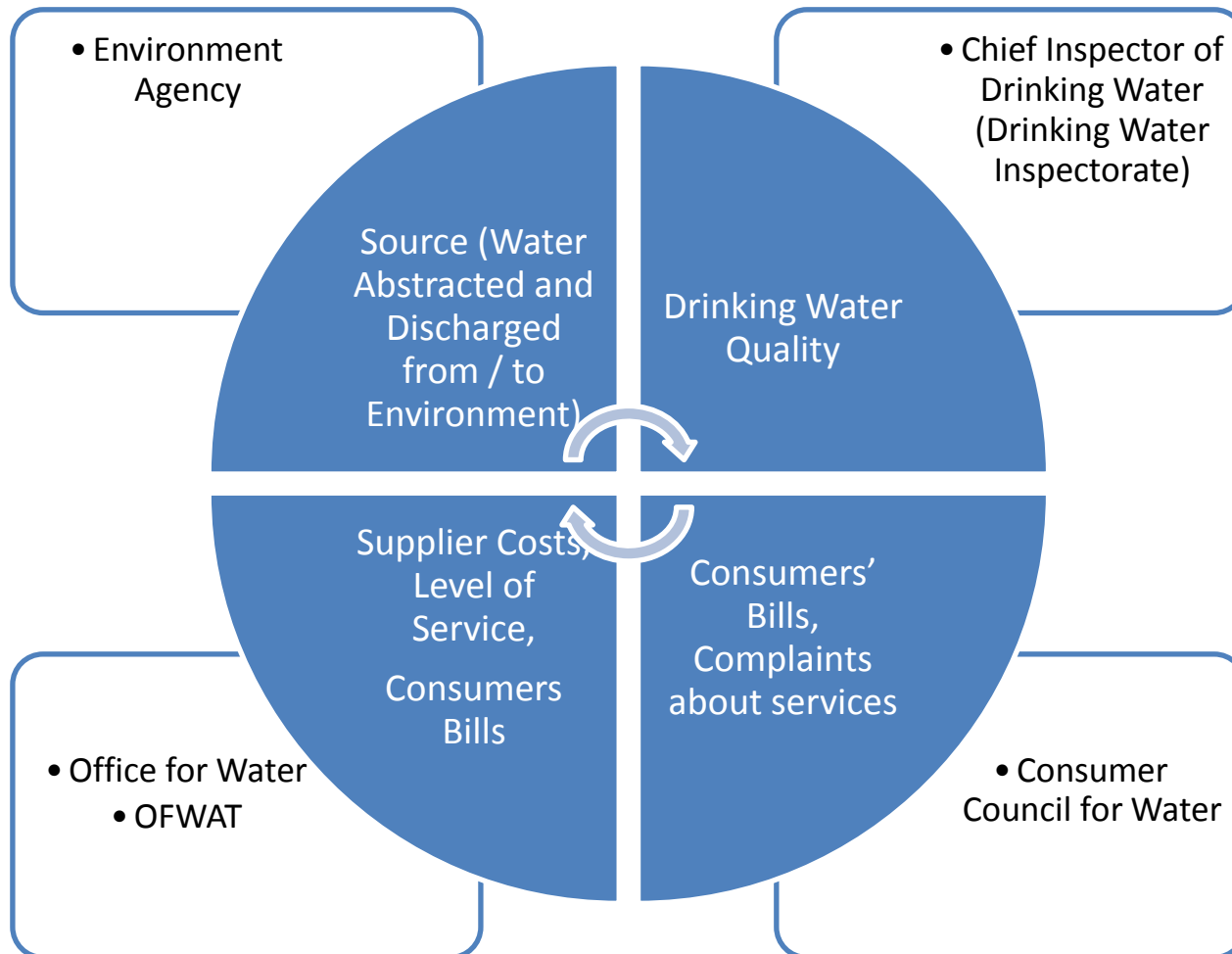
- **Powers to Acquire Information:**

- Section 86 of Water Industries Act:
- Powers to make Directions:
- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/56/section/202>
- Water Suppliers Direction:
- <http://dwi.defra.gov.uk/stakeholders/guidance-and-codes-of-practice/info-directive.pdf>

Links Relating to Questions

Regulators:

Four government 'agencies' regulate water from source to sea:



Links Relating to Questions

- Drinking Water Inspectorate:
 - The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) was formed in 1990 to provide independent reassurance that water supplies in England and Wales are safe and drinking water quality is acceptable to consumers.
 - It is a central government department but its functions are delegated by the Secretary of State to the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water and therefore is independent of Government