

PR19 Drinking Water Inspectorate statement for Sutton and East Surrey Customer Scrutiny Panel report to Ofwat

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) is the independent regulator of drinking water quality in England and Wales. We protect public health and maintain confidence in public water supplies by ensuring water companies supply safe clean drinking water that is wholesome, and that they meet all related statutory requirements. Where standards or other requirements are not met, we have statutory powers to require water supply arrangements to be improved.
- 1.2 We publish information about drinking water quality and provide technical advice to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, and to Welsh Ministers.
- 1.3 For PR19, water companies are expected to ensure that their business plans make provision to meet all their statutory obligations, including the need for public water supplies to be safe, clean and wholesome, and that provision is made for a sustainable level of asset maintenance to maintain public confidence in drinking water quality in the long-term. Ministers summarised these requirements in “The government’s strategic priorities and objectives for Ofwat¹ (Sept 2017)”.
- 1.4 In addition, the Inspectorate set out in our “Guidance Note: Long term planning for the quality of drinking water supplies (September 2017)²”. This includes guidance to companies on the regulatory framework for drinking water quality, statutory requirements, the Inspectorate’s role in the Price Review process and our requirements for companies seeking technical support.
- 1.5 It is worth noting the particular emphasis that Ministers placed in their Guidance on the resilience of supply systems, and that the Inspectorate placed on existing duties to manage the introduction of new sources and to plan supply arrangements to protect consumers and ensure no deterioration in the quality of their supplies.
- 1.6 The Inspectorate have supported the Company’s CCG process throughout the PR19 process being available to discuss any matters relating to drinking water quality.

2 Formal drinking water proposals requiring DWI technical support

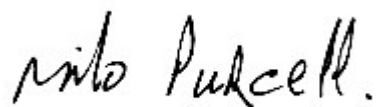
- 2.1 As with previous periodic reviews, water companies seeking technical support from the Inspectorate must demonstrate the need for each proposal. The case for justification must be accompanied by evidence of the company’s options appraisal process to identify the most robust, sustainable and cost-effective solution, with evidence that the preferred solution will adequately address the risk and deliver the required outcome within an appropriate timescale.

¹ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/661803/sps-Ofwat-2017.pdf

² <http://www.dwi.gov.uk/stakeholders/guidance-and-codes-of-practice/ltpg.pdf>

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- 2.2 Sutton and East Surrey submitted no formal proposals for drinking water quality to the Inspectorate.
- 2.3 With regard to metaldehyde, we are currently awaiting Ministerial guidance about future use restriction for metaldehyde and will look to revise the existing undertakings once this guidance has been received.
- 2.4 This note will be copied to Nicola Houlahan of Sutton and East Surrey Water. Any queries arising should be directed to Sue Pennison, Principal Inspector, Drinking Water Inspectorate, at Sue.Pennison@defra.gsi.gov.uk.



Milo Purcell
Deputy Chief Inspector
Drinking Water Inspectorate
Area 1A Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London
SW1P 3JR

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