

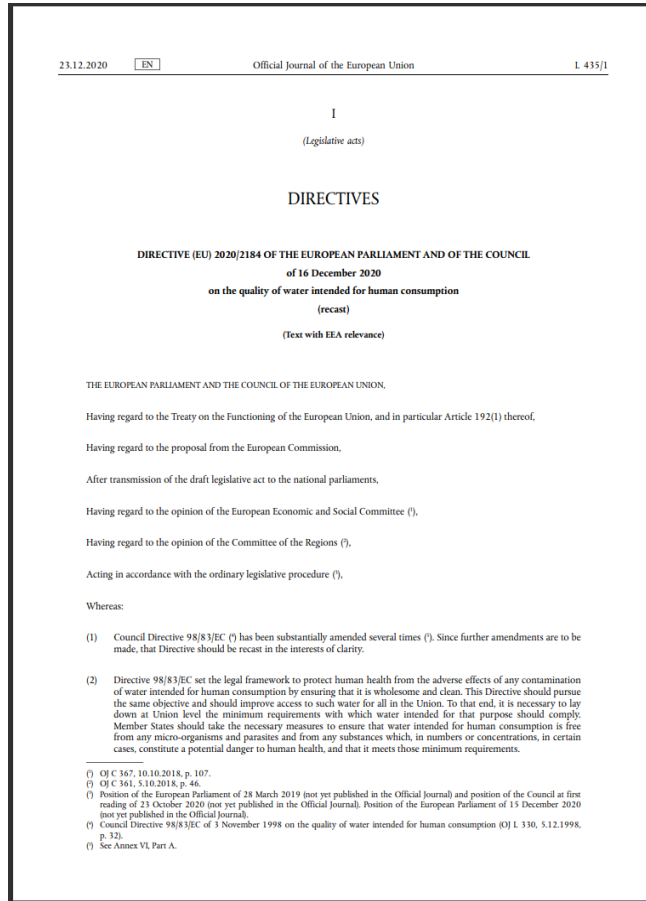
# The Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland

## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PROFESSION

16 JUNE 2022

Recast Drinking Water Directive

# Recast Drinking Water Directive



- Was adopted by EU Member States on the 20 December 2020
- It must come into force on 12 January 2023
- Scotland has committed to align with EU Directives
- It is one of the first Directives to come into force after Brexit

# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Why the Need?

- Previous Directive had been amended
- Citizen's request for a 'Right to Water'
- Concerns about microplastics and other emerging pollutants
- Uniform testing and standards for materials that come into contact with water
- Minimising wastage
- Better information to public on quality and levels of consumption



# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## What does rDWD do?

- Replaces Directive (EU) 98/32/EC (and amendments)
- Risk based approach from catchment to tap
- Updates parameter lists based on latest health advice
- Mechanisms for emerging compounds to be added to the parameter lists
- Provisions on Access to Water
- Information to the public



# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Is Scotland aligning?

- The UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) Act 2021 ('Keeping Pace' Legislation) requires us to align
- Will be transposed for public supplies and private water supplies in the form of new Regulations.
- Public Supplies Regs to be laid in Parliament this Autumn
- Private Water Supplies Regs delayed due to policy review – likely 2024



# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Full alignment?

- Scotland must align where it is in its interests to do so.
- Different approach required in some places as Brexit means that we align e.g. products and materials that come into contact with water
- Lead requirements are impractical
- Some aspect of information to the public aren't possible





# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Main Points of Interest - General

- Parameter Lists
  - Updated parametric values for a handful of chemical parameters
  - New parameters added – endocrine disrupters and PFAS
  - Watch list added – Beta estradiol and Nonylphenol first candidates
  - Microplastics to be added to watch list once methodology developed.
  - Value for Lead halved to  $5\mu\text{g/l}$ , but with a long compliance date



# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Main Points of Interest – General

- Risk Assessments
  - Requirement for Catchment Risk Assessments
  - Requirement for Supply Risk Assessments
  - Requirement for Domestic Distribution Risk Assessments
    - Requires a general analysis in relation to Lead
    - Measures to remove lead from internal plumbing systems with a focus on ‘priority premises’





# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Main Points of Interest – General

- Information to the public
  - Greater information relating to levels of consumption
  - Cost
  - Quality
  - Performance of large water suppliers (leakage, efficiency etc)



# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Implications for Private Water Supplies?

- Policy review underway driven by:
  - Poor compliance
  - Impacts of climate change
  - Access to Water requirements
    - Can we keep exempt supplies?
- Local Authorities, Scottish Water, SEPA, Consumer Scotland, WICS and Scottish Forestry involved in the review.
- Consultation on policy proposals due in Spring 2023



# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Implications for Private Water Supplies?

- Policy review is considering:
  - Use of exemption
  - Sampling duties
  - Risk assessments
  - Catchment RAs and zonal sampling
  - Duties of the DWQR
  - Responsibilities of the owners/users
  - Funding
  - Advisory services
  - Information to the public

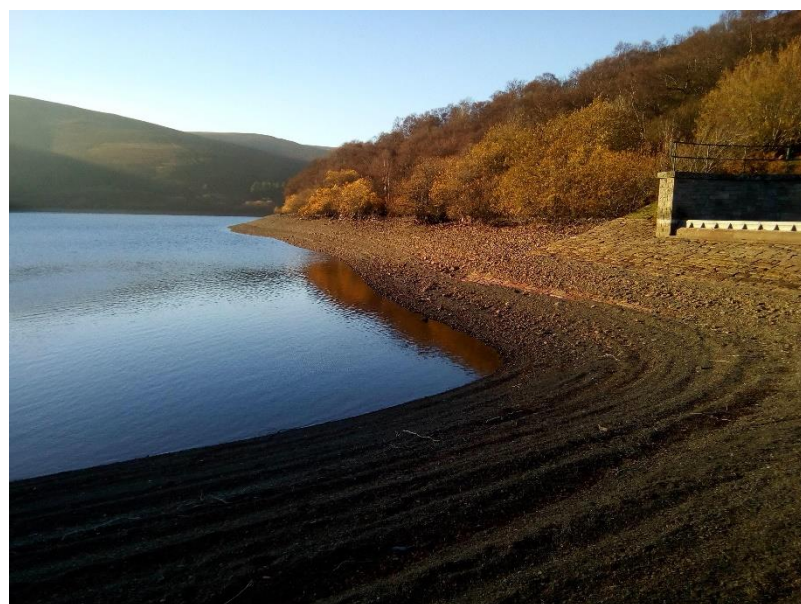




# Recast Drinking Water Directive

## Other issues to consider for Private Water Supplies?

- Climate Change is leading to more extreme weather.
- Water Scarcity noted in 2018, 2019 and 2021
- CCC has noted that prolonged dry summer of 2018 will be, on average, every other year by 2050.
- To fulfil 'Access to Water' requirements, what is required?





# Recast Drinking Water Directive



Thank you!