



From mountain to sea



DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES AND PLANNING



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Policy

- All new developments must be served **either** by a mains water supply or by a private supply if the developer is able to show that the private supply is **adequate** (including potable water where necessary).
- It will be the responsibility of the developer to demonstrate that any new supply is adequate to serve the proposed development and that, for domestic use, it is safe to be consumed as drinking water.
- Groundwater abstractions must comply with Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) policies and guidelines.



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SEPA

- No significant interest in private water supplies unless they have an abstraction rate greater than 10 cubic meters a day
- More interested in contamination of ground water
- Will act if farmers spreading fertiliser near drinking water abstraction points (5m inorganic 50m organic)



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EH Policy of mains connection where feasible

In principal, applicants should connect to the public mains wherever reasonably practical.

- Policy supported by DWQR and the Health Board
- Included as part of the E. H. Team Plan as a priority for 2016 -19
- Climate Change Scotland Act 2009 – Duty of public bodies to ensure sustainability Building a resilient Scotland for the challenges of climate change.



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Feasibility



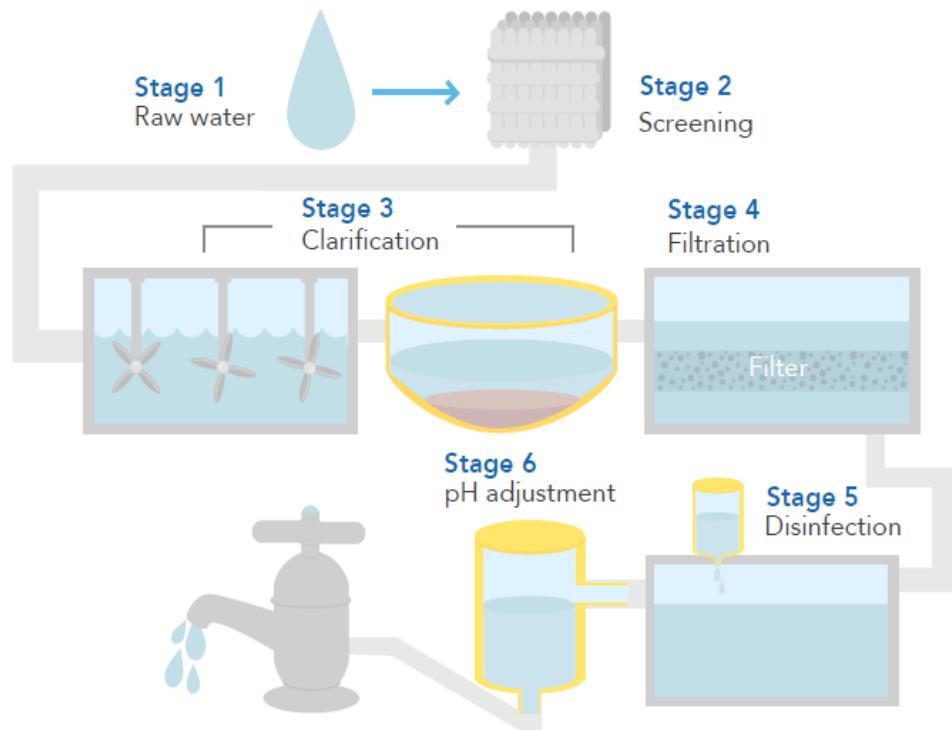
We now have access to Scottish Water mains maps to determine distance from the mains to any application site.



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Mains water is better

Typical example of the water treatment process



Better quality

Better managed

Better monitored

Better reliability



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May 2012

Aboyne nursery *E.coli* outbreak

The mother of a 22-month-old boy left with serious health problems after an *E. coli* outbreak at an Aberdeenshire nursery has hit out at a report into the incident.

- A statement said: "An MRI scan has indicated that there has been some damage to the brain."
- "He has lost his sight. He has severe hearing loss. He had complete kidney failure. His kidneys will not function again. He is likely to be on dialysis for life."
- "The long-term effects are still unpredictable and uncertain other than that they will be very severe."



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No alternative but private supply

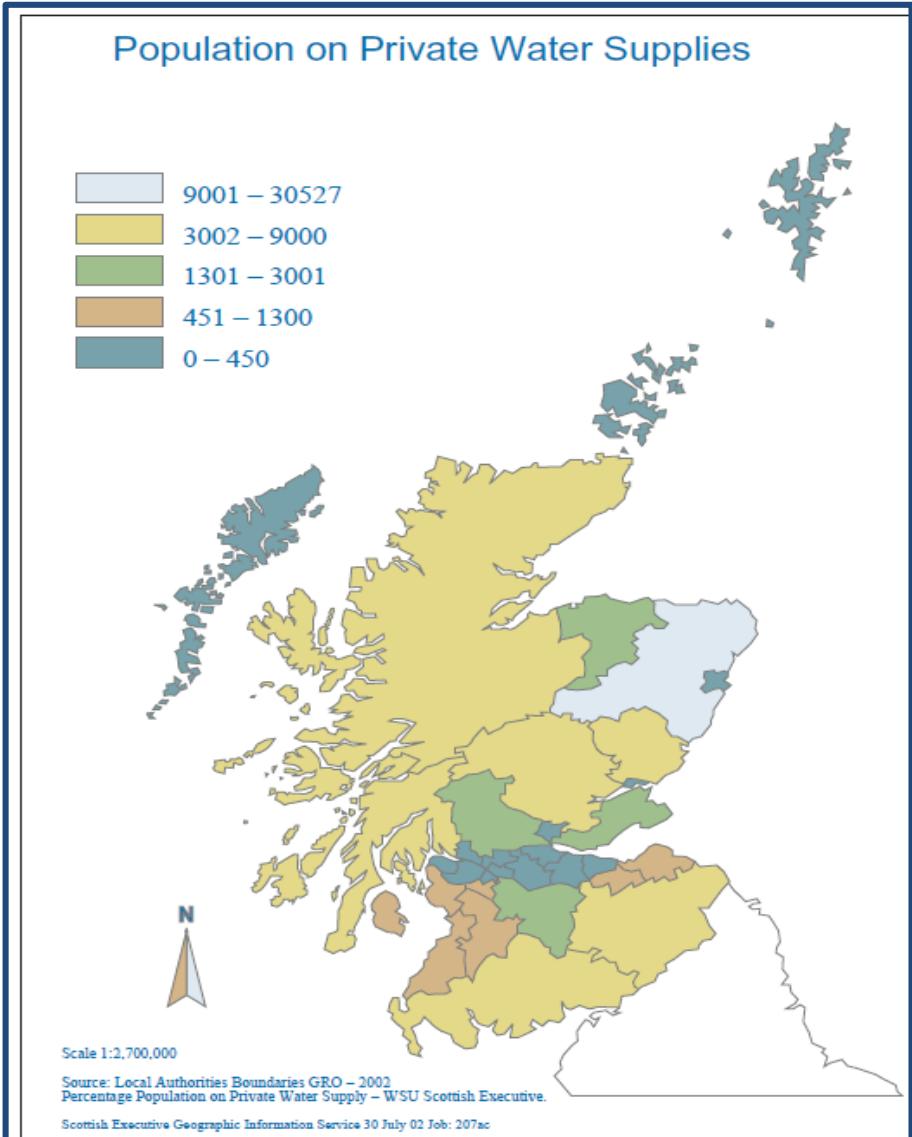
Adequacy and wholesomeness needs to be established.

The applicant requires to submit details of:-

- **Quantity of supply** – details of acceptable tests are available
- **Quality of supply** – water officers will carry out risk assessment and sampling. This will be charged for and third party sampling etc. is not acceptable – impartiality and to defend decisions
- **A water safety and management plan** – for anything other than a single dwelling

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- 20,193 private water supplies in Scotland
- 8710 private water supplies in Aberdeenshire (38%)
- 206 of these supply commercial premises
- 11,500 properties on these private water supplies which relates to approximately 30,000 people, almost 12% of Aberdeenshire's population





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Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



Access to Safe Water





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Aberdeenshire
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The Source





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More Sources





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Infrastructure





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TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS CAN BE COMPLEX





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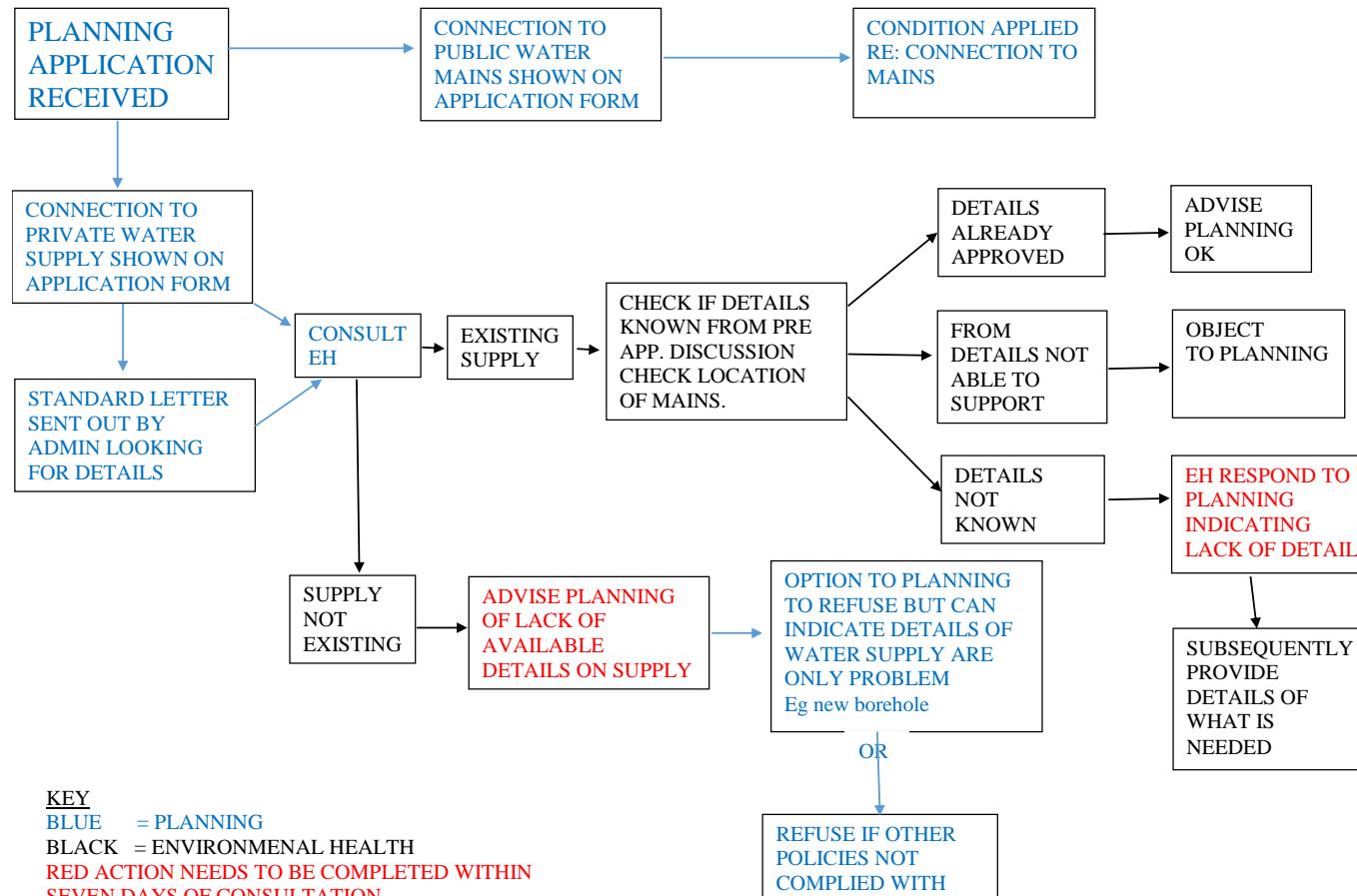


**Even with treatment it's not all
perfect**



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Planning Protocol





Objections

- If there is not enough information about the water supply then you should receive an objection from Environmental Health within **seven days** of them receiving the application for comment.
- This should take the following form

The Environmental Health Service would object to this proposal as the proposal is to use a private water supply and there is insufficient information on its quality or the available quantity and the effect this proposal may have on the other users of the supply



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Information Required

(Regulation 24 letter)

- The position of the source of the water supply (grid reference).
- Details of any properties that share the supply.
- The quantity of water available from the supply as determined by a **competent person**.
- Bacteriological and chemical water samples **taken by the Environmental Health Service**.
- The location of any septic tank discharges proposed or existing, in the vicinity of the source of water.



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Sampling and Risk Assessment

- Following the receipt of the Reg 24 letter, applicants should contact Environmental Health to arrange sampling
- The results from the sampling will be available in approx. ten days (can be more if for a commercial operation)
- A risk assessment of the supply will be carried out at the time of sampling and the results of this work and the sampling will be conveyed to the applicants along with the requirements for treatment and other works.



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Recommendation of Conditional Approval

- This should apply in the vast majority of cases and any condition should be in the form of the new model condition.

The development shall not be brought into use unless the proposed private water treatment system has been installed in accordance with the approved details.

Once installed the treatment system shall thereafter be permanently retained.

- It would always be better to have received a letter confirming that the applicants will provide the identified treatment and complete the necessary works.



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Objection to an Approval

In a small number of cases the proposed water supply may be:-

- Inadequate
- Untreatable
- Too close to a septic tank outfall

In these instances, Environmental Health will object to the proposal



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QUESTIONS





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Thank you

Howard Kershaw, Technical Officer

aberdeenshire.gov.uk