



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

Nobel House  
Area 1E  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

T: 03459 33 55 77  
helpline@defra.gov.uk  
[www.gov.uk/defra](http://www.gov.uk/defra)

Wynne Jones  
By email: [cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru](mailto:cj-editor@biggeesblog.cymru)

Our ref: EIR2021/22662  
1 October 2021

Dear Wynne Jones,

### **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: Use of Graphene Oxide in Water Filtration**

Thank you for your request for information of 9 September 2021 about the use of Graphene Oxide in water filtration. We have handled your request under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs).

The EIRs apply to requests for environmental information, which is a broad category of information defined in regulation 2 of the EIRs. Public authorities are required to handle requests for environmental information under the EIRs. They give similar access rights to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA).

Your information request and our response are set out below.

#### ***Subject: C J 177: Use of Graphene Oxide in water filtration***

*I refer to the above subject and my request for information directed to DHSC 10 August. I received a response from DHSC in a letter dated 8 September. A copy is attached hereto. The content should be self-explanatory. On advice from DHSC my request for information [as set out below] is now redirected to DEFRA.*

*I refer to the use of "Graphene Oxide" in water filtration. Additional information regarding the process is available at the link below.*

<https://g2owatertech.com/>

*I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information.*

- 1. The name of the regulator in England tasked with ensuring the safety of the potable water supply for public use, and*

We can confirm that this information is held by Defra.

The Secretary of State is the regulator for all, although others are responsible for enforcement.



The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) is an organisation made up of inspectors appointed by the Secretary of State to enforce the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 and the Water Industry Act 1991 where they relate to the quality and sufficiency of water supplied by water undertakers or water supply licensees. Products and substances must conform to the requirements of Regulation 31 of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016. The DWI inspectors approve the introduction of any substances or products into water that is intended for human consumption under the requirements of Regulation 31(4)(a).

Local authorities enforce the Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016, where water tends to be supplied from natural springs, boreholes, etc. They may serve a notice if they determine the supply is, was or is likely to be unwholesome or insufficient for domestic purposes and must serve a notice, under a different procedure, if they determine there is a potential risk to human health.

*2. The relevant statute and / or regulations in England relating to the safety of the potable water supply for public use.*

We can confirm that this information is held by Defra.

The Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended), The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2016 (as amended), The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016 (as amended) and The Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 (as amended) are in place to ensure safe, clean drinking water to consumers.

Water undertakers enforce the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999 which are designed to prevent water fittings from being installed, connected, arranged or used in such a manner that it causes or is likely to cause waste, misuse, undue consumption or contamination of water supplied by them or a water supply licensee. As per Regulation 4, every water fitting shall be of an appropriate quality and standard and be suitable for the circumstances in which it is used.

Information disclosed in response to this EIRs request is releasable to the public. In keeping with the spirit and effect of the EIRs and the government's Transparency Agenda, this letter and the information disclosed to you may be placed on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk), together with any related information that will provide a key to its wider context. No information identifying you will be placed on the GOV.UK website.

We attach Annex A, explaining the copyright that applies to the information being released to you, and Annex B giving contact details should you be unhappy with the service you have received.

If you have any queries about this letter please contact me.

Yours sincerely

**Jo Collinge**  
**Information Rights Team**  
[InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk)

## **Annex A**

### **Copyright**

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## **Annex B**

### **Complaints**

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request you may make a complaint or appeal against our decision under section 17(7) of the FOIA or under regulation 11 of the EIRs, as applicable, within 40 working days of the date of this letter. Please write to Andrew Mobsby, Head of Information Rights via email at [InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk](mailto:InformationRequests@defra.gov.uk) and he will arrange for an internal review of your case. Details of Defra's complaints procedure are on our website.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, section 50 of the FOIA and regulation 18 of the EIRs gives you the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) for a decision. Please note that generally the ICO cannot make a decision unless you have first exhausted Defra's own complaints procedure.

The ICO can be contacted using the following link:

<https://ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint/official-information-concerns-report/official-information-concern/>