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KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Rural Water DEPARTMENT

**Small Private Supplies**

**Introduction:**

**‘Almost 20% of Ireland’s population is supplied by private water supplies’ (EPA 2016 Report).**

Q. What are private water supplies?

A. Any water supply that is not managed by Irish Water, including the following,

* Private Group Water Schemes, where abstraction, treatment and distribution of water is managed by a local community group.
* Small Private Supplies, where a water supply is serving a commercial or public activity and the abstraction, treatment and distribution is managed by a commercial or public entity. E.g. Schools, Creches, Pubs, Restaurants and Sports Clubs.
* Household wells, where water is used for domestic use only and treatment is managed by the individual homeowner.

Q. Are private water supplies regulated?

A. Yes, private water supplies fall under the EU Drinking water regulations, except for Household wells or if you supply less than 10,000 litres/day or serve less than 50 people and you do not supply a commercial or public activity.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

**Small Private Suppliers or (SPS)** is a person, group or organisation supplying water for public/commercial activity and is responsible for ensuring it is safe to drink and is subject to regulation by the relevant Water Services Authority.

The operator of a Small Private Supply (SPS) is obliged to ensure that the water meets the requirements set out in the EU Drinking Water Regulations 2014 & 2017 amendments. The Regulations also require the supplier/operator to monitor the quality of the drinking water, by having samples taken and analysed for specified parameters.

If you are the supplier/operator of a Small Private Supply (SPS) in County Kildare please note that you are legally obliged to have the supply tested and analysed to ensure compliance and you should register your supply with Kildare County Council.

**Kildare County Council** is the Water Services Authority responsible for ensuring that Small Private Supplies (SPS) meet the requirements of the EU Drinking Water Regulations by:

Implementing annual water monitoring programme.

Sampling water supplies to check water quality.

Investigating where water quality standards are not met.

Assisting private supply owners with advice and guidance to improve their water quality.

Taking enforcement action if private water suppliers are not taking steps to improve water quality in supplies that fail to meet standards.