



Article 7 of the EU Water Framework Directive and The Drinking Water Directive: impacts on potable water decision making and catchment management strategy

Background:

The European Water Framework Directive (WFD) promotes increased awareness of catchment processes, and challenges the established dependence on a 'treatment-led approach' for the supply of European Drinking Water Directive (DWD) compliant potable water. WFD Article 7 promotes a 'prevention-led approach' to DWD compliance, based on pollution prevention at source with one objective to reduce investment in new treatment. In this context the challenge of preventing diffuse pollution is significant, with numerous parameters presenting an issue, for example, colour, TOC, turbidity, manganese, and pesticides like metaldehyde (a molluscicide) and the herbicide clopyralid are, despite current treatment, causing DWD non-compliance for drinking water in a number of catchments within the UK.

It is thought that a shift in behaviour from a 'treatment-led' to an appreciation that a combination of 'prevention-led' and 'treatment-led' approaches may be necessary/most effective will require collective action from, and shared mutual understanding between, a number of stakeholder groups. However, each of these groups has a unique perspective on WFD Article 7 and other elements of the currently uncoordinated legal and voluntary framework for diffuse pollution prevention. There is a need to work with stakeholders in Scotland to seek better ways of implementing Article 7 for a common good and as a vehicle of change.

This project builds upon previous and ongoing work looking at the benefits of catchment management for improving drinking water supply quality, such as Scottish Water's catchment management research, monitoring and The Sustainable Land Management incentive scheme, and a number of CREW projects including [CATCH-II](#), [CRW2014_17](#), and [diffuse pollution management](#) research.

This project aims to seek views from other EU countries on how they apply Article 7 with a view to identifying best practice and moving the topic area forwards. The project will expose the potential benefits of a coordinated approach to applying Article 7 and in particular look at the benefit and value that this can bring to safeguarding drinking water supplies in Scotland.

Impact:

The outputs of this project will help to:

1. Inform policy makers on the application of WFD Article 7 to improve drinking water quality management practices
2. Identify best practice in implementation of Article 7 and the value it could bring to drinking water management

Objectives and research required:

The successful project team will conduct a review of the application of WFD Article 7 across a number of EU member states with respect to identifying changes in management practice that enable a shift in 'treatment-led' to 'prevention-led' DWD compliance.

Objectives:

1. In consultation with the CREW Drinking Water Steering Group, identify target EU countries to be case studies in the project. For example, Scandinavian countries that hold some alignment with Scottish raw water quality challenges. The selection of companies/municipalities/authorities should include private and public water authorities and where land is owned and not owned by the water authority as this can influence how catchment management/prevention-led activities take place and are funded. It will be necessary to take the regulatory structure of the European countries considered into account.
2. Produce a review of current best practice in application of WFD Article 7 in the case study countries for the purposes of enhancing DWD compliance and protection of public health
3. Host and deliver a workshop that will include representation from the EU case study countries and Scottish stakeholders
4. Identify best practice in application of Article 7 in the context of Scotland and the benefits and value that this could bring to water management in Scotland
5. Deliver a report to share findings
6. Organise a dissemination event to share findings

Outputs required:

- A full report detailing each of the objectives above
 - A stand-alone research summary
- Recommendations for policy on application of WFD Article 7 to enable improvements to compliance with the DWD and support a paradigm shift from 'treatment-led' to a range of 'prevention-led' and 'treatment-led' activities where appropriate/likely to be most effective.
- A workshop that will include representation from the EU case study countries and Scottish stakeholders
- A Dissemination event to present the finding to policy makers and other relevant stakeholders

Key dates:

1. Project start up: 1st March 2017
2. Project start up meeting: March 2017
3. Progress updates: June, September 2017
4. Draft report: 2nd October 2017



5. Final project meeting: week beginning 23rd October 2017
6. Final report: 27th November 2017

Maximum funding available (excluding VAT):
£35k