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Fiona Hyslop MSP  
Deputy Convener  
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee  
Scottish Parliament

15 December 2022

Dear Fiona,

**S6M-06537—Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 [draft]**

Thank you for the opportunity to give evidence on the Public Water Supplies (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2022 [draft]. At the session on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December I agreed to provide more information relating to the costs of implementing these Regulations.

The EU's recast Drinking Water Directive ("Directive") was first published 2018. Owing to a number of factors including the pandemic, the Directive was not adopted in its final form until 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020. This provided ample time for water suppliers such as Scottish Water to understand the new parameters and to make the necessary plans to implement improvements.

As explained, the Scottish Government consulted the water industry on the implementation of the Directive. Scottish Water indicated that the costs of delivering the chlorite and chlorate standards would be up to £10million. This is associated with the improved storage of chemicals at Water Treatment Works that are known to deteriorate when exposed to heat. This is an upper limit and I understand the actual costs are much less. However, in the context of a £4.5 billion investment programme for the 2021-27, this is very small.

I should also note that additional costs will be incurred in additional monitoring of drinking water to ensure that it complies with the standards for the new chemicals that were added to the tables at the Annexes. These are small in the context of Scottish Water's monitoring programme. Furthermore, we have also introduced the ability, in line with the Directive, for Scottish Water, with the agreement of the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland, to reduce the frequency of monitoring or to stop monitoring altogether where a parameter is not detected. This ensures that monitoring is proportionate to the risks.

**MÀIRI MCALLAN**

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