



guardians of drinking water quality

## DRINKING WATER INSPECTORATE

Area 7E, 9 Millbank  
c/o Nobel House  
17 Smith Square

London SW1P 3JR

0300 068 6400

E-mail: [dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:dwi.enquiries@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

DWI Website: <http://www.dwi.gov.uk>

03 July 2017

### Operational Note - Forthcoming Prosecution

Please note the forthcoming prosecution being bought by the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water.

Proceedings are being taken forward against United Utilities Water Limited for an event that affected approximately 700,000 people in the area of Preston and Blackpool, the Fylde Coast and the area south of Preston in August and September 2015.

The details of the timing and location of the court appearance and the charges are set out below

Date : 19 July 2017

Time : 09.45hrs

Court : Preston Magistrate's Court

Defendant : United Utilities Water Limited

Schedule :

1. Between 30 July 2015 and 7 September 2015, United Utilities Water Limited supplied water to premises within Water Supply Zones served by Franklaw Water Treatment Works at Catterall Lane, Catterall, Preston that was unfit for human consumption, contrary to section 70(1) of the Water Industry Act 1991.
2. Between 30 July 2015 and 12 August 2015, United Utilities Water Limited at Franklaw Water Treatment Works, Catterall Lane, Catterall, Preston, failed to disinfect water that was supplied for domestic purposes as consist in or include cooking, drinking, food preparation or washing, contrary to Regulation 26(1)(a) and Regulation 33(1) of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000.
3. Between 30 July 2015 and 12 August 2015, United Utilities Water Limited at Franklaw Water Treatment Works, Catterall Lane, Catterall, Preston, failed to design and continuously operate an adequate treatment process before supplying water for domestic purposes as consist in or include cooking, drinking, food preparation or washing, contrary to Regulation 26(3) and Regulation 33(1) of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations 2000.

## **Notes for Editors**

Under Section 70 of the Water Industry Act 1991 (as amended) it is an offence for a water undertaker to supply water that is unfit for human consumption.

Regulation 26(1) requires that a water undertaker or combined licensee shall disinfect water. Regulation 26(3) requires a company have designed a treatment process suitable for the raw water it is treating and then to continuously operate the process.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate was set up in January 1990. Its main task is to check that water companies in England and Wales supply wholesome drinking water and in doing so comply with the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations.

Proceedings are being taken forward in the name of the Chief Inspector of Drinking Water against United Utilities Water Limited for an event that affected approximately 700,000 people in the area of Preston and Blackpool, the Fylde Coast and the area south of Preston between 6 August 2015 and 6 September 2015.

Whilst we cannot share information or discuss the prosecution prior to the conclusion of the court case, details of this case will be made available on request to journalists and members of the public by the Drinking Water Inspectorate at the conclusion of the court session.

**In order to arrange an interview with an Inspector at the conclusion of the court case please contact.**

**Drinking Water Inspectorate**

**0300 068 6400 (Office)**