



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01646

Name of petitioner

Caroline Hayes

Petition title

Drinking water supplies in Scotland

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to i) review the role of the Drinking Water Quality Regulator and ii) commission independent research into the safety of the chloramination of drinking water.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

We have raised this issue with our MP and three local councillors, who have put our concerns to Scottish Water.

We have also raised the issue with Kate Forbes MSP and in writing to John Finnie MSP.

Petition background information

Drinking Water Quality Regulator

The role of the Drinking Water Quality Regulator (DWQR) is to ensure that Scottish Water complies with duties in relation to the quality of water supplies to households in Scotland, and to ensure that drinking water is not only safe but is pleasant to drink and has the trust of customers.

We have previously raised concerns about the taste and odour of drinking water in Badenoch and Strathspey with Scottish Water. Despite conducting a full audit, the DWQR found no issues with the treatment works which it said were working within normal parameters. It took the intervention of a third party – our MP – to request an independent survey, which eventually revealed that the quality of the drinking water was substandard. This experience leads us to have concerns about the role of the DWQR and how it investigates complaints. These concerns include whether investigations test only for safety, but ignore concerns about the taste and odour. It does not instil the level of trust that we believe consumers should be able to have in their water supply.

Research into chloramination of drinking water

We are also aware that Scottish Water proposes to introduce a process of chloramination to improve the quality of drinking water.

This raises separate concerns for us. The chloramination process involves a

combination of chlorine and ammonia and can form toxic by-products, including cancer carcinogens. This process is being banned in some states in the USA as it has been shown that the by-products can be connected to a range of health concerns including weakening the immune system and disrupting the central nervous system.

Chloramines can't be removed by quick boiling your water or by leaving it out in an open container as is recommended for chlorine. We are particularly concerned about the potential impact this may have in rural areas of Scotland which are not connected to the mains sewerage network.

We believe that the safety of chloramination should be independently researched before it is introduced as a measure for improving the quality of drinking water and are calling on the Scottish Government to commission such research.

Unique web address

<http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01646>

Related information for petition

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

YES

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

12 / 04 / 2017

Comments to stimulate online discussion

How confident are you that the Drinking Water Quality Regulator carries out its role effectively, not just testing for safety but ensuring that the water is pleasant to drink?

Do you agree that the safety of the chloramination process should be independently researched before being introduced in Scotland?