

licensed plumbers and contractors

We would always recommend the use of licensed plumbers. A licensed plumber will certify that his or her work meets the requirements of the Water Byelaws. If any breaches are subsequently found in the certified work, the legal responsibility would fall upon the plumber and not you, as the owner or occupier.

Scottish Water advises the use of professional plumbers and plumbing contractors who are members of recognised national licensing schemes. There are a number of benefits in using members of such schemes, these include:

- Their work is certified as complying with the Water Byelaws
- Properly trained and qualified personnel are available
- Members are audited/inspected on a regular basis

- They hold public liability insurance
- They must submit Financial Integrity Statements annually

Scottish Water supports and promotes the Scottish and Northern Ireland Plumbers Employers Federation (**S.N.I.P.E.F**) Plumbing Industry Licensing Scheme. Please call S.N.I.P.E.F directly on **0131 225 2255** and they will be able to recommend a registered plumber in your area. Alternatively details of their members can also be found on their website **www.needaplumber.org**

We also support the national Water Industry Approved Plumbers' Scheme (**WIAPS**). For full details of the scheme and to obtain a list of registered plumbers in your area visit **www.wras.co.uk/plumber_scheme/**

how Scottish Water can help you

General information on Water Byelaw issues, frequently asked questions and useful links can be found by visiting our Water Byelaws page on our website at **www.scottishwater.co.uk** Alternatively, you can contact the Water Byelaws team via email at **byelaws@scottishwater.co.uk**

Our Water Byelaws team is responsible for the enforcement of Water Byelaws and carry out inspections of premises. They also provide an advice service to anyone seeking information or clarification on any Water Byelaw related issue.

Although we cannot provide a design service for plumbing systems, we will be happy to

provide information on how you can ensure compliance with the Water Byelaws – **prevention is better than cure.**

We want to work with you to ensure that everybody does everything that they can to protect our water supplies in Scotland.

If you need to speak to someone directly, then please call your Licensed Provider.

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You can write to us at:

Scottish Water
PO Box 8855
Edinburgh, EH10 6YQ

Alternative formats of this leaflet can be made available free of charge. For information on Braille, large print, audio and a variety of languages, please call **0845 606 8855.**

We record all calls for quality and training purposes.



your water byelaws explained

For more information on Scottish Water and our services call our Customer Helpline **0845 601 8855** or visit our website at:

www.scottishwater.co.uk

SWBYEB 02/10



Scottish Water
Always serving Scotland

welcome to your water byelaws explained

Scottish Water provides good, clean, safe and high quality drinking water to over 130,000 business properties throughout Scotland. This water is delivered to you through our network of mains and pipes and we strive to ensure that the quality of water is maintained to the highest standard.

We use many measures to maintain and protect water quality and, among these, are our Water Byelaws. As part of our service, we have an obligation to explain to you, your responsibilities under the Water Byelaws legislation.

This leaflet will provide you with basic information on what Water Byelaws are and what they mean for you and your business. Should you need any more detailed information, then please contact your Licensed Provider. You can also visit our Water Byelaws page on our website at www.scottishwater.co.uk. This contains further information, frequently asked questions and useful links to other relevant sites.

what are water byelaws?

Scottish Water create and enforce Water Byelaws which must be adhered to in all properties that have a public water supply. These Byelaws are made under the terms of section 70 of the Water (Scotland) Act 1980.

The main aim of the Water Byelaws is to prevent contamination of the public water supply. They will also help your business prevent waste, misuse, and undue consumption of water.

where do water byelaws apply?

The Water Byelaws apply to **ALL** plumbing systems, water fittings and appliances connected to the public water supply in Scotland.

how do the water byelaws affect you?

Businesses should note that compliance with the Water Byelaws can protect:

- **You** – from criminal prosecution
- **Your employees** – by protecting the drinking water they may consume and therefore their safety in the work place

- **Your business** – from criminal prosecution, adverse publicity, potentially substantial fines or disconnection from the water supply

As a business, you also need to ensure that your whole plumbing system is correctly installed and maintained to comply with the Water Byelaws, and take measures to prevent the contamination of drinking water.

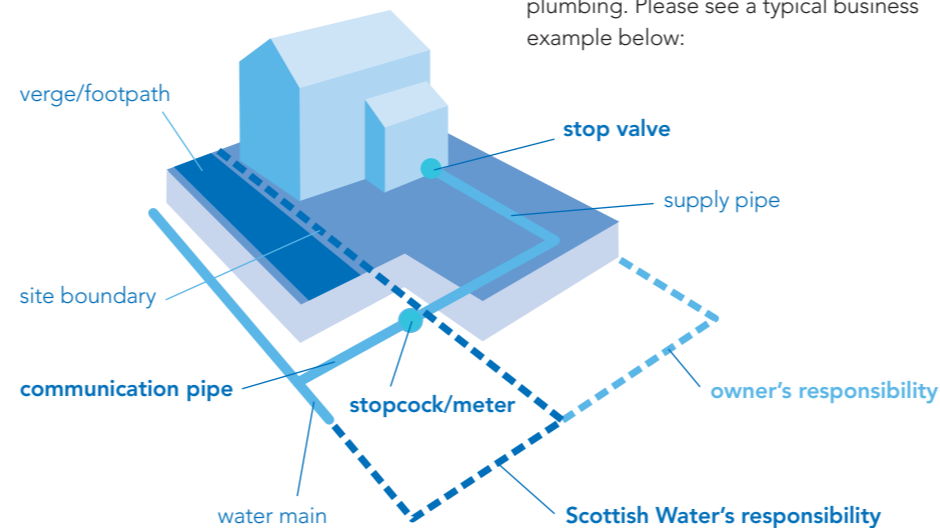
who needs to meet the requirements of the water byelaws?

Owners and occupiers of premises, and anyone who installs or maintains plumbing systems and water fittings, have a legal obligation to ensure that the systems and fittings meet the requirements of the Water Byelaws.

In addition, architects, developers, plumbers and builders need to ensure the requirements are met for any future owners or occupiers.

Failure to do so could lead to criminal prosecution.

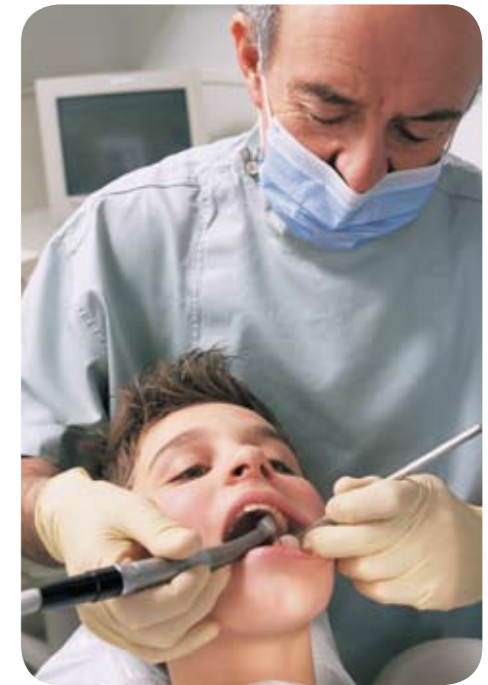
Scottish Water is responsible for the water main in the street and all the pipework up to, and including the stopcock at the boundary of your business property. The owner/occupier will then normally have responsibility for compliance with the Byelaws for any pipework from the stopcock into the business property and all your indoor and external plumbing. Please see a typical business example below:



advance notification

In most cases, before you start work on the installation or undertake any changes to your water system, you as the owner or occupier must get approval/consent from Scottish Water to carry out this work. This is done by giving us advance notification in writing of your intentions (please see our address details at the end of this leaflet). However, in many cases the use of a licensed plumber means that you are not required to give advance notification direct to Scottish Water.

We cannot 'unreasonably' withhold consent for your work. If you have not heard from us within 10 working days of writing to us, consent is 'deemed' to have been given and you can proceed with the work. Please note: Even if consent is deemed to have been given, ALL work must be in compliance with our Water Byelaws.



approved fittings and materials

All plumbing fittings and materials that you use must meet the requirements of the Water Byelaws and therefore must have relevant UK or EU approval.

A list of approved fittings can be found in the 'Water Fittings and Materials Directory' published by the Water Regulations Advisory Scheme (**WRAS**). This directory can be viewed free of charge by visiting their website at www.wras.co.uk

Please note that not all plumbing fittings and materials on sale in the UK meet these requirements. It is important that you check their suitability prior to purchase. Remember, it is illegal to use fittings which do not have the relevant approvals.