



Advice for Private Water Supply Owners/Users

There are approximately 338 private water supplies in Fife.

During times of prolonged dry weather many of these private supplies from springs, surface water or wells may become depleted or fail. It is important that you plan ahead to ensure that you don't run out of water during such times.

You should formulate a water management plan which addresses issues such as potential supply failure, water treatment problems and ongoing maintenance to ensure, where possible, water is always supplied to your premises.

The following should be considered in relation to potential supply failure/prolonged dry spells as part of your Water Management Plan:

- Steps you need to take to ensure the network of pipes on your supply are free from breaks and leaks
- Potential additional sources of water, e.g.
 - Springs or surface sources of water you can tap off to augment your supply or can you pump water from a loch?
- A list of plant hire companies that may be able to supply you with water bowsers which can be used to replenish tanks. (Towable water bowsers of approximately 1100 litres (250 gallons) can be bought for around £2000)
- It is important to consider the impact of introducing a different supply of water on any water treatment equipment you have. You may want to boil any water that is to be consumed
- Buying in a supply of bottled water
- Operators of food businesses will need to consider whether they have a sufficient supply of water to remain operational
- Use water wisely

General advice during times of prolonged dry spells:

- Use water wisely such as shower instead of bath
- Use full loads in washing machines/dishwashers
- Use a watering can in the garden instead of a hose
- Use a cistern displacement device

Note: In exceptional circumstances, Fife Council can request that Scottish Water provide a quantity of bottled water.

Scottish Water charge for this service, including the amount of water supplied, staff time and vehicle hire, and this charge would be passed on the private water supply users. It is likely that for most small supplies these costs would be prohibitive.

Update: May 2020 – Covid 19 Restrictions

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, there are a number of challenges and constraints in providing emergency water compared with 2018. Therefore, providing bottled water is the only option being considered. The Scottish Government has arranged for councils to request quantities of bottled water from Scottish Water, which will be made available to those whose private supply has failed.

All requests for assistance should be made to privatehousing@fife.gov.uk

The emergency assistance scheme should not be considered a long-term option for supply users nor does it make any attempt to provide a piped supply of wholesome water. This can only be done

through improvements to the existing supply, finding an alternative private source or by connecting to the mains network where possible.

Requests for assistance from individual users of private water supplies will be prioritised based on the numbers and vulnerabilities of the people affected. The Council will make every effort to ensure that properties inhabited by those who are required to shield or are self-isolating from Covid 19 will have bottled water delivered.

The assistance scheme relates to domestic premises. It does not include assistance to commercial premises, farms, equestrian facilities or other livestock, however domestic premises within such premises are eligible. Assistance is for domestic use - drinking, cooking and personal hygiene only. Farmers may be able to receive assistance from SEPA who may permit a temporary departure to abstraction permits, where necessary, and the local SEPA office should be contacted for more information regarding this.

SEPA publish regular situation reports regarding groundwater levels at this website:
<https://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/water/water-scarcity/>