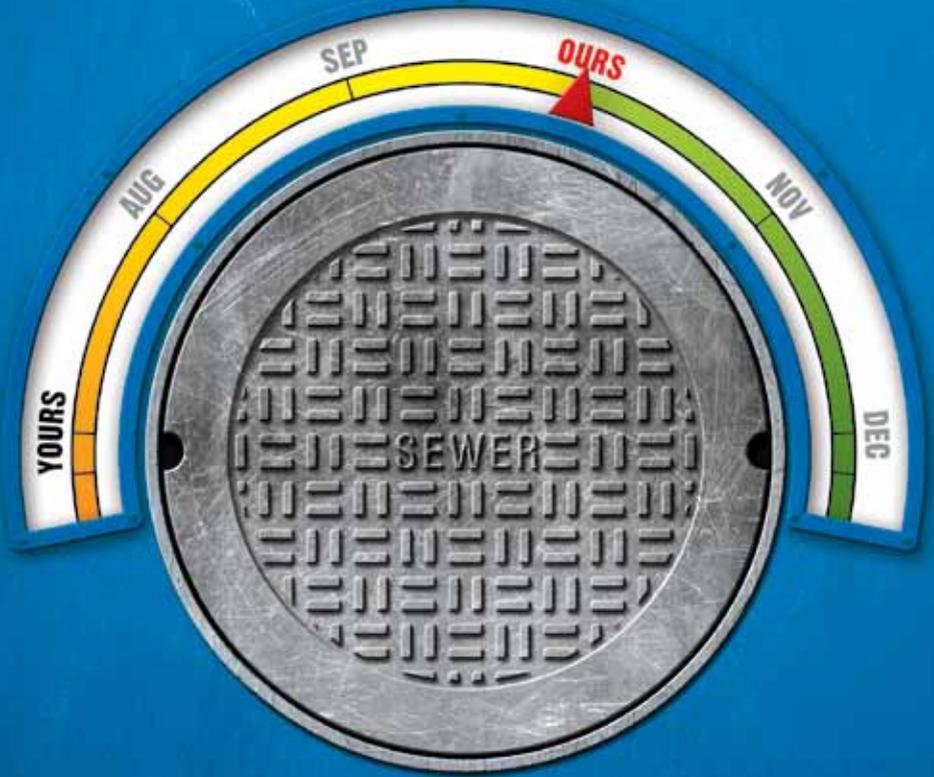


Changes to the ownership of your drains and sewers



Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Your guide to the changes

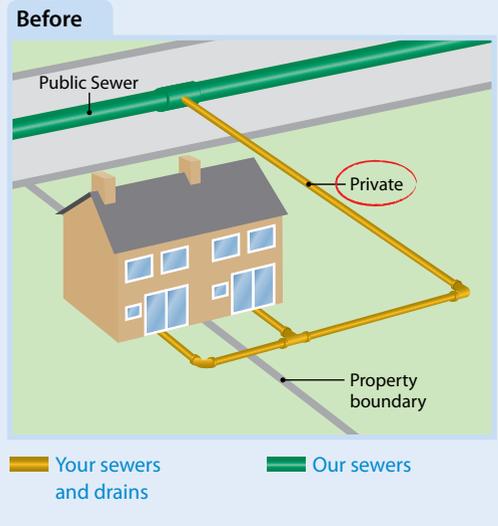
New Government legislation means that from 1 October 2011 Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water takes over responsibility for some sewer pipes that currently belong to home and business owners.

This information is for owners of properties that are currently connected to the public sewers within the Welsh Water sewerage operating area. It should be read in conjunction with the accompanying letter. Together, they give you all the information you need to understand the changes. It is important that you read this leaflet even if you receive your bills from another water company, because Welsh Water will take over responsibility for your sewers.

1. Why is the transfer taking place?

Currently property owners are responsible for the pipes that drain from their property into public sewers. This can include pipes that go beyond the property boundary – and property owners are often unaware that they are responsible for these pipes until problems occur and they face a repair bill. The Government has decided that some specific pipes, called private sewers and lateral drains, would be better looked after if they formed part of the public sewer network which is the responsibility of sewerage companies.

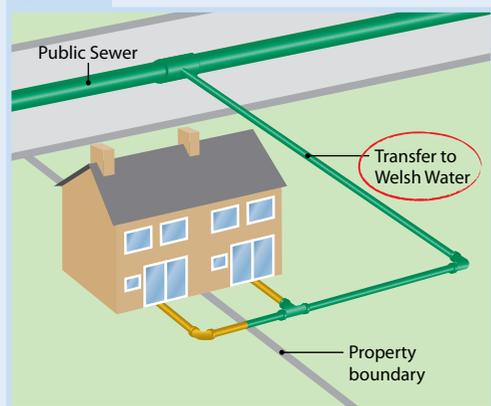
Typical example of how responsibilities will change



2. Will this move benefit property owners?

Yes. As well as causing unexpected bills for property owners, when there is a blockage for example, problems with private sewers also cause disputes between neighbours over who is responsible. Property owners will have the peace of mind that future problems with these pipes will be dealt with by their sewerage company. If you receive a surface water rebate it will not be affected by this change.

After



■ Your drain – remains your responsibility

■ Our sewers and lateral drains

3. I am the owner – do I have to do anything?

No. The transfer of ownership will take place automatically on 1 October 2011.

4. Are there any pipes that will not be transferred?

Drains serving one property inside the property boundary will remain the responsibility of the home or business owner. Privately-owned septic tanks, treatment works and cesspits and their connecting pipework,

large multi occupier commercial sites, and rain water drains and sewers that carry water directly to a watercourse e.g. rivers, streams or canals, or to soakaways and similar devices, will not transfer.

5. What if I don't want to transfer – can I appeal?

If you want to submit an appeal against transfer for any part of the system, you should contact **Ofwat** *within 2 months of receipt of the accompanying letter*. Appeals should be submitted to our regulator Ofwat by email, appealstransfer@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk or by post to **OFWAT, Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA**.

6. Will I be able to build over a sewer once it is transferred to Welsh Water?

Yes, but only with our permission. You currently need approval to build over a sewer owned by a sewerage company, and this will be the same for private sewers that transfer. It is important to ensure that permission is formally given so that the structure of both the building and the sewer are properly protected.

Please see our website at www.dwrcymru.com for more details.

