



Dŵr Cymru
Welsh Water

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
Linea
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Tel: 0800 052 0148
Web site: www.dwrcymru.com

Dear Customer

Changes to the ownership of your drains and sewers

I have to let you know about changes to the ownership of some drains and sewers that serve your property. By law we must inform all property owners of these changes and the legal notice explaining the change of ownership is on the back of this letter. Every property owner in England and Wales is getting a letter like this one from their local water and sewerage company.

What is changing?

Property owners are responsible for the pipes that drain from their property into the public sewer network - but in many cases, as things stand, this includes pipes that go beyond the boundary of their property. Often people are unaware of this responsibility until there is a problem and they face a repair bill. This is what is going to change.

The Government has decided that the pipes that go beyond the boundary of the property – called “private sewers and lateral drains” – would be better looked after if they were part of the public sewer network and the responsibility of your local water and sewerage company.

What do I have to do?

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING – the transfer of ownership will happen automatically on 1 October later this year. The purpose of this letter is just to let you know that this is happening.

Please read the enclosed leaflet, because it gives you more information on which pipes are transferring to us and which ones will remain the responsibility of property owners. If you want to know more or you have a particular question then please go to our website at www.dwrcymru.com. **If you are not the property owner, can you please pass this letter on to them. Or, if you are a housing association or council tenant you do not need to do anything, because we have already been in contact with your landlord.**

Thank you.

Nigel Annett
Managing Director

If you need a large print, audio or Braille version of this letter and leaflet, please contact us on the telephone number quoted at the top of this letter or text us on minicom text phone 0800 052 4125.

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO ADOPT PRIVATE SEWERS AND LATERAL DRAINS

To: The owner(s) of private sewers and lateral drains

Dŵr Cymru Cyfyngedig ("Dŵr Cymru") gives notice under Sections 102 and 105A of the Water Industry Act 1991 ("the Act") that in accordance with a scheme or schemes made by the Welsh Ministers under the Water Industry (Schemes for Adoption of Private Sewers) Regulations 2011 ("the Transfer Regulations"):

1. On 1 October 2011:

- a. any private sewer (excluding pumping stations and highway drains or sewers) situated within Dŵr Cymru's sewerage area and which, immediately before 1 July 2011, communicates with a public sewer; and
- b. any private lateral drain (excluding pumping stations) which, immediately before 1 July 2011, communicates with a public sewer vested in Dŵr Cymru; and

2. On 1 October 2016, any pumping station which forms part of such a sewer or lateral drain and has not been transferred to Dŵr Cymru before that date;

will transfer to Dŵr Cymru and become a public sewer or public lateral drain belonging to Dŵr Cymru unless that private sewer or private lateral drain is subject to an outstanding appeal under Section 105B of the Act.

This notice does not apply to private sewers or private lateral drains which:

1. are owned by a railway undertaker; or
2. are situated on or under Crown land and Dŵr Cymru has received notice in writing before 1 July 2011 from the appropriate authority that the private sewer or private lateral drain should be exempt.

Any owner of a private sewer, private lateral drain or pumping station or any other person affected by the proposal to adopt a private sewer, private lateral drain or pumping station, or the failure to do so, may appeal to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) within 2 months of service or publication of this notice, whichever is the later. The grounds on which you can appeal are set out in Section 105B(3) of the Act. Ofwat can be contacted at **Centre City Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham, B5 4UA** or by email to: appealpstransfer@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk

Any terms used in the Transfer Regulations have the same meaning when used in this notice.

Richard Curtis
Company Secretary

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