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**STATEMENT – THE PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS
2009****Private Drinking Water Supplies**

A private water supply is one that is not provided by a water company, which in the case of Shropshire are Severn Trent, South Staffs Water Company or Welsh Water. These supplies can come from a well, borehole or a spring and are usually found in the more rural areas of the county. The supply often serves just one home, but some supplies serve several. In Shropshire there are 1,971 known private water supplies serving approximately 14,000 people.

Safe drinking water is essential to good health. All private water supplies can pose a threat to health unless they are properly protected and treated. They may become contaminated with bacteria or other substances. You may not be able to tell whether your water is safe as contamination may not change the smell, taste or colour of the water. Unlike public supplies, most private supplies are not treated to remove contamination.

Local authorities have a duty to monitor and sample private water supplies.

Private Water Supply Regulations 2009

These new regulations came into force on 1st January 2010. The Regulations classify private water supplies into three categories, primarily dependent upon the number and type of premises served. The regulations introduce a requirement for local authorities to monitor private water supplies and distribution systems.

These are national regulations that derive from a European Directive and the Council has no discretion as whether to implement the regulations. Consultation was undertaken by DEFRA at a national level prior to the Regulations being enacted.

Fees

The Government expects Councils to recoup the cost of its duties under these regulations from the owners of private supplies and has set out allowable charges. It should be remembered that owners of private supplies pay no water rates. The council has decided that: the service should be self financing and has adopted fees below the statutory maximum set by Government.
