

To: Lead Food Officers, Heads of Service

Cc: SFELC, REHIS

3 March 2020

Ref: FSS/ENF/20/005

Dear Colleague

### **Survey of radionuclides in Scottish bottled water**

In 2019, Food Standards Scotland, jointly with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, commissioned a survey of radionuclides in Scottish bottled water by CRCE Scotland (part of Public Health England). CRCE Scotland worked with eight LAs to collect bottled water and spring water samples for analysis.

The survey was prompted by EU Directive 2013/51 EURATOM which introduced a new requirement for Food Authorities (i.e. Local Authorities) to provide regular measurements of radon levels in drinking water (as well as retaining the requirements for other radionuclide analysis). This was brought into effect for bottled water in Scotland by [The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water \(Scotland\) Amendment Regulations 2015 \(SSI 2015 No. 363\)](#) which specify that no further investigation is required if total alpha and total beta are less than the 0.1 Bq/l and 1.0 Bq/l trigger levels respectively. It also allows for an exemption from monitoring by the Local Authority on the basis of representative sampling.

Aside from very low levels of some naturally occurring radionuclides, results were below the level of detection. This included total alpha and total beta levels meaning that further investigation was not required and there were no concerns with radioactivity in Scottish bottled water. FSS has therefore granted monitoring exemptions to the eight LAs with a review period of five years.

The survey results are due to be published in this year's Radioactivity in Food and the Environment report ('RIFE) and should you require further information relating to this survey please contact Will Munro at [will.munro@fss.scot](mailto:will.munro@fss.scot) or 01224 285 161.

Yours sincerely,

Amber Souter  
Food Standards Scotland