

Current water quality legislation and policy (International and European)

Legislation	Main requirements	How it may affect the consideration of water in plan-making and SEA
2008 - Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy	The purpose of the Directive is to eliminate pollution from list I substances and to reduce pollution from list II substances as established under the original Directives which this replaces. The Directive will work together with the Water Framework Directive with regard to discharges of certain dangerous substances.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will minimise water pollution.
2008 - Integrated Pollution and Prevention Control Directive (IPPC) 2008/1/EC	To prevent or minimise air, water and soil pollution by emissions from industrial installations in the Community with a view to achieving a high level of environmental protection.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan should minimise water pollution from industrial installations.
2007 - Floods Directive 2007/60/EC	To establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will affect flood risk.
2006 – Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration (Groundwater Directive)	Establishes specific measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution. Sets criteria for assessing groundwater chemical status, identifying and reversing trends and preventing deterioration of groundwater.	Consideration should be given to whether the measures proposed will prevent and limit the input of pollutants into groundwater.
2006 - Shellfish Water Directive 2006/113/EC	Replaced the Shellfish Waters Directive (79/923/EEC) but the new codified Directive maintains all existing measures which provide for the monitoring and assessment of shellfish waters and the setting of the water quality standards they are required to achieve.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will affect quality required for shellfish waters.
2006 - Revised Bathing Water Directive 2006/7/EC Will repeal BWD 76/160 by 2013 (requirements started in 2008).	To preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and to protect human health by complementing the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan may affect bathing water quality and human health.

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2000 - Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	To protect, enhance and restore all surface and groundwater bodies with the aim of achieving good ecological status and good surface water chemical status by 22 nd December 2015.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan may affect water quality, quantity or cause changes in hydromorphology.
1999 – Landfill Directive 99/31/EC	To prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment (particularly water, soil, air and human health) from the landfilling of waste, by introducing stringent technical requirements for waste and landfills.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will harmonise measures on waste disposal/ landfilling throughout the community.
1998 - Drinking Water Directive 98/83/EC	To lay down at Community level minimum quality and control standards for water intended for human consumption.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will affect drinking water quality.
1991 - Urban Waste Water Directive 91/271/EEC	To regulate the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors, so as to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges on the aquatic environment.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will harmonise measures on urban waste water treatment throughout the community.
1991 - Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC	To reduce or prevent water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources by introducing voluntary 'good agricultural practices' and the designation of Nitrate Vulnerable Zones.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will affect levels of nitrate in water and how it will prevent pollution of water by nitrates.
1980 - Groundwater Directive 80/68/EEC	Requires that the entry of 'List I' substances into groundwater be prevented and that there should be no pollution of groundwater by 'List II' substances. It will be repealed by the Water Framework Directive in 2013. Replacement provisions have been provided for in the Groundwater Daughter Directive (2006/118/EC).	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will prevent the entry of 'List I' substances into groundwater or prevent pollution of groundwater by 'List II' substances.
1978 - Freshwater Fish Directive 78/659/EEC	Requires that certain designated stretches of water (rivers, lakes/ lochs or reservoirs) meet quality standards that should enable fish to live or breed in the designated water (this includes physical conditions).	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will affect water quality and hydromorphology required for fish.

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	This directive will be repealed in 2013 by the Water Framework Directive.	
1976 - Bathing Water Directive 76/160/EEC	To protect the environment and public health, by reducing the pollution of bathing water and to protecting such water against further deterioration.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan may affect bathing water quality and human health.
1974 - Dangerous Substances Directive 74/464/EEC	The purpose of the Directive is to eliminate pollution of the aquatic environment by 'List I' substances and to reduce pollution from 'List II' substances.	Consideration should be given to how the Plan will control discharges to inland surface waters, territorial waters, inland coastal waters and groundwater.