



# Water Quality & Strategy Board Minutes

18<sup>th</sup> June, 2025

## ATTENDEES

- Minister for the Environment (MENV)
- Group Director – Regulation (GDR)
- Group Director – Natural Environment (GDNE)
- Director for Housing, Environment and Placemaking (DHEP)
- Deputy Director of Public Health (DDPH)
- Senior Public Health Officer (SPHO)
- Head of Media Relations (HMR)
- Head of Regulatory Support (HRS)
- Senior Regulatory Improvement Officer (SRIO)

## MINUTES AND ACTIONS

### Discussion:

- Minutes from 2 June Board and the 5 June Programme Team meeting were reviewed
- Subject to DDPH review by 17:00, all other members confirmed approval for publication

### Decisions:

- Comms Terms of Reference approved

### Actions:

- Minutes from 2 June to be published once reviewed by DDPH

## STEERING GROUP

### Discussion

- Draft Terms of Reference were addressed
- Feedback from Jersey Water and Ports of Jersey have been received and updated
- Terms of Reference will be published with the addition of a regular meeting cadence and focus-topic framework once agreed
- It was confirmed that the group's remit is strictly focused on remediation, not regulatory thresholds

### Decisions:

- Steering Group Terms of Reference approved

## INTERVENTION DECISION LOG

### Discussion:

- Discussion held around finalising the decision log for health interventions

### Decisions:

- Additional point to be added confirming individuals must be tested by the Government before receiving an offer
- Clarification to be added for wider plume eligibility

## DETAILED RESPONSE

### Discussion:

- Incorrect map aired by ITV; correction requested and acknowledged

### Actions:

- Correct map to be shown at public meeting
- Ensure clarity in public communication

## BOREHOLE UPDATE

### Discussion:

- 343 properties identified within expanded plume area (as referenced in recent FOI)
- 26 on private supply
- 16 expected to remain under active management
- All affected households have been contacted
- Constraints on connection in some cases due to pipe degradation and PFAS adherence
- Ministers noted importance of direct communication and clarity on water supply arrangements

## REPORT FOUR UPDATE

### Discussion:

- Public Panel meeting in July to demonstrate direction of travel for water treatment and regulatory standards
- MENV reiterated that outcomes will inform future Ministerial decisions
- Aspirational levels of treatment were discussed; new technologies may support feasibility

# TESTING PROTOCOL

## Discussion:

- MENV requested presentation of the approved testing protocol
- Protocol outlines rationale, method, scope and is aligned with Panel expectations
- Protocol will be published in advance of test results

## Decisions:

- Protocol to be shared with relevant Ministers and the Steering Group
- Protocol to be published by end of June

*Due to time constraints, the meeting was adjourned before the full agenda could be completed. A commitment was made to reconvene later in the week to conclude the outstanding items.*

# APPROVALS BY CORRESPONDENCE

Three items were deferred for approval by correspondence. These items were circulated following the meeting and formally approved by Ministers via email on 24 June 2025. Approval by correspondence ensured continuity of programme delivery in the absence of full Ministerial attendance at the meeting.

## Items approved:

1. Report Four – Testing Protocol – Approved for publication following endorsement by the Scientific Advisory Panel
2. Draft Letter Text to Potato Farmers – Approved for communication to producers explaining the approach to the publication of recent produce testing results
3. Board and Team Minutes – Approved for publication on the Government website

## Reason for approval by correspondence:

These items were tabled at the meeting but deferred to allow all Ministers sufficient time to review and approve in light of competing commitments and the need for full Ministerial input before publication.

*The meeting recommenced on 27th June 2025, where the remaining agenda items were discussed.*

## Q&A UPDATE

### Discussion:

- Final approval of the updated Q&A document pending from DDPH and DPH
- All other members confirmed approval

### Action:

- DDPH and DPH to confirm approval

## REPORT THREE – CLINICAL INTERVENTIONS

### Discussion:

- Board reviewed key decisions on clinical interventions for individuals in the plume area with PFAS levels above 20, and options for wider testing of those not previously tested, including occupational groups.
- Four options for intervention were presented. Options 1 and 2 were discounted as unfeasible.
- Consideration was given to the rationale for interventions and public expectations.
- Option 3 (strict eligibility criteria) was discussed, noting complexities around defining clinical exceptionality, a mechanism not routinely used in Jersey.
- Option 4 (offer intervention to all eligible individuals who request it) was supported as aligning with the programme's ethos of openness and transparency.

### Decisions:

- Option 4 agreed in principle, subject to funding confirmation.
- Board noted the need for consistent messaging and clarity on eligibility, to avoid confusion or perceived inequity.

### Actions:

- Draft CoM paper to be prepared outlining the proposal for Option 4 intervention and additional testing, including maximum cost estimate of £650k over three years.
- Draft messaging to reflect that the Board decision is subject to funding approval, with no commitment to implementation until funding is secured.

## TESTING OPTIONS

### Discussion:

- Options for wider testing were reviewed, with slides outlining proposals to make either a) up to 150 b) up to 300 tests available
- Estimated costs and operational considerations were discussed, including likely uptake based on clinical consultations.
- The importance of publishing the testing protocol ahead of results was noted, ensuring transparency and public confidence in the methodology.

#### Actions:

- Testing protocol document to be finalised and published by end of June.
- Include clear rationale, scope, and methodology as approved by the Panel.

## FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

#### Discussion:

- Funding for interventions and testing is not currently included in Health budgets.
- Board discussed potential options for funding, including contingency allocations or a Government Plan bid.
- Ministers agreed that no public announcement can be made without a confirmed funding source to avoid creating unfulfilled expectations.

#### Decisions:

- Proposal to seek CoM approval via circulation email, supported by a high-level slide pack outlining costs and rationale.

#### Actions:

- Joint email from Health, MENV, and programme leads to be drafted for circulation to CoM and ELT outlining the Board's decision and funding request.
- Meeting with Chief Minister and Treasury Minister to be sought for informal indication of support ahead of formal submission.

## COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

#### Discussion:

- Importance of framing communications to ensure clarity on the scope and intent of interventions and testing.
- Board agreed messaging should remain focused on the pollution incident and remediation, particularly for the upcoming public meeting.

### Actions:

- High-level slides and key messages to be prepared for circulation and public meeting use.

Meeting Adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025