6 November 2014

I am writing to you, and all water company Chief Executive Officers, about a concern raised with my Committee regarding the way in which school laboratories are categorised by water companies.

Please provide me with details of your company’s policies on categorising secondary school laboratories with regard to the risk of backflow under the Water Supply (Water Fittings) Regulations 1999. I would appreciate if you could tell me how you categorise schools (either as a class or individually) and what specialist equipment you judge would be necessary for schools to comply.

It would be helpful to understand how WRAS guidance (or any other guidance material) feeds into that categorisation process.

I realise that this may be short notice but I am hoping you can respond to us before Friday 28 November as the Committee will taking evidence from an Education Minister on 3 December and an Environment Minister on 14 January. It may be an issue we need to take up with both Departments.

If you need to discuss the issue, please feel free to contact the Clerk of my Committee, Dr Stephen McGinness, by phone (020 7219 2792) or email (mcginnesss@parliament.uk).

Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Miller
Chair
Science and Technology Committee
House of Commons London SW1P 3JA