

Sewer Adoption and Connection

The Welsh Ministers' Standards



FROM 1 OCTOBER 2012, IF YOU ARE PROPOSING TO DEVELOP WITHIN THE DŴR CYMRU WELSH WATER REGION YOU SHOULD READ THIS LEAFLET.



On October 1st 2012 the Welsh Government will implement important new legislation for changing the way connections to the public sewerage network are provided in Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water's operating area.

From this date all new sewers and lateral drains, including associated pumping stations, must be included within a Section 104 Adoption Agreement before a connection to the public sewerage network can be approved.

The foul sewers and lateral drains must also comply with the new Ministers' Standards, which become effective under Section 42 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

The Welsh Ministers' Standards that will accompany this new legislation will standardise sewer and lateral drain construction to enable subsequent adoption by Welsh Water.

It is intended to improve the performance and reliability of the public sewerage network in the long-term – reducing future problems which can cause sewer flooding of homes, pollution of streams and rivers and will help to ensure that customers are not exposed to any future burden for the maintenance and operation of a private sewerage network.

The new legislation follows the transfer of private sewers and lateral drains to Welsh Water on October 1st 2011. On that date ownership of most private sewers and lateral drains which connect to the public sewerage network in Welsh Water's operating area transferred to the company.

This clarified ownership and responsibility for maintenance - so the public can now be assured that Welsh Water will deal with problems that may arise.

In order to prevent the creation of a new stock of private sewers and lateral drains, Section 42 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 contains provisions making the adoption process for all new sewers and lateral drains (including pumping stations) that are going to connect to a public sewer **mandatory** and introduces the Welsh Ministers' Standards for new gravity foul sewers and lateral drains to ensure they are built to a suitable standard.

Under Section 106B of the Water Industry Act 1991 (inserted by Section 42 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010) every proposed new sewer connection will be therefore be conditional on an adoption agreement with Welsh Water being in place **before any new drainage work begins**.

This applies whether you are connecting a new or existing property to the public sewerage network for the first time, or if you are building a large development. The only exception to this requirement is if a new connection to the public sewerage network is only for a drain which does not extend beyond the boundary of a property.

5 STEPS TO FOLLOW

From 1 October 2012, there are 5 steps that **MUST** be followed by customers, developers, builders and contractors who are proposing to develop within Welsh Water's operating area:

STEP 1 – Contact Welsh Water

You should get in touch with us **very early** in your planning. We'll give you advice on the process to follow.

STEP 2 – Submit your detailed plans

We'll need to ensure that your design plans satisfy the new Ministers' Standards before any work begins.

STEP 3 – Obtain Adoption Agreement

If we agree that your plans satisfy the new Ministers' Standards then we'll enter into an Adoption Agreement with you. **The Agreement needs to be in place between us before any physical work on the drainage system starts.** Note that the new arrangements will require an acceptable form of security to be in place and Welsh Water will advise customers on the specific requirements at this stage .

STEP 4 – Carry out the connection

When you have received the Adoption Agreement then work may begin on construction of the drainage network. We will inspect the work in progress, to ensure it complies with the new Standards. When you are ready to undertake a connection to the public sewerage network you should ensure the procedures outlined in documentation we send you are followed.

STEP 5 – Observe the Defects Period

Following adoption by Welsh Water, there will be a defined period where you will continue to be responsible to repair any defects. This is called the 'Defect Liability' period and it is usually 12 months following the date of adoption. Thereafter, all responsibility will transfer to Welsh Water.

(Under certain circumstances Welsh Water may step-in to carry out the necessary repairs, the cost of which will be borne by the Developer).

More information: www.dwrcymru.com

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