

# Risk Assessment



info@privatewatersupplies.org.uk

## Loch / Lake / Reservoir / Burn / Stream Supply

Please accept this form as my application for a grant based on the following risk assessment (and guidance notes overleaf) carried out at the property below. The application relates to the Scottish Executive approved Water Regulations that came in force in July 2006. The regulations allow for a non means tested grant of up to £800.00.

Applicants Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

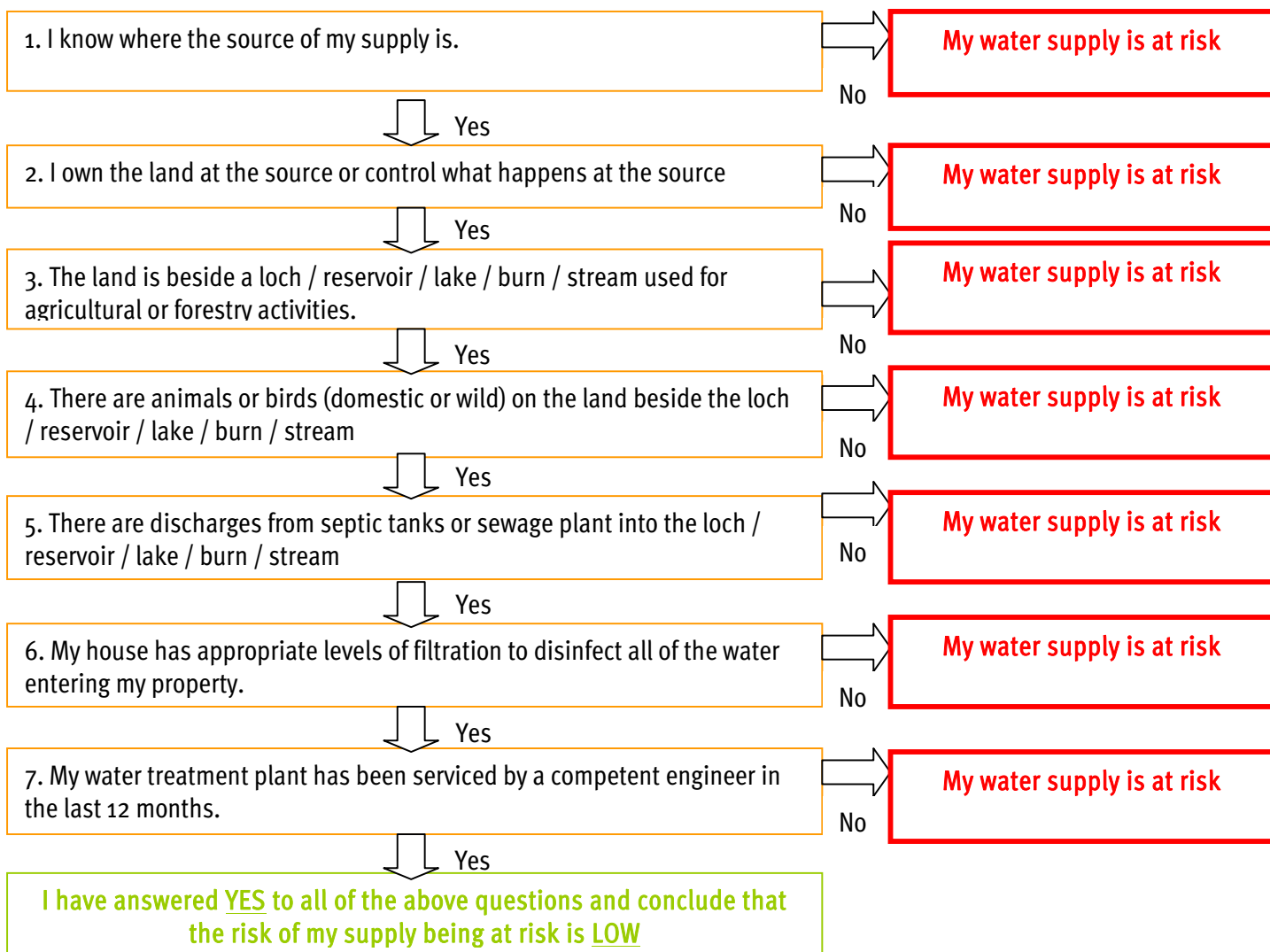
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



# Loch / Reservoir / Lake / Burn / Stream

## Risk Assessment Notes

### Question 1

**Yes** – If you know where the source is then you can assess the risks of contamination from surface water or any other environmental contamination.

**No** – If you do not know where the source of your water is then you will have to assume that it carries a high risk of contamination.

### Question 2

**Yes** – Owning the land and having good access puts you in a good position to control what happens there. Remember, prevention is often better than cure and any improvements you make will help maintain a good quality of water.

**No** – Not having access or control of the area surrounding the source can lead to problems. The best course of action is get some agreement from the owner, preferably in a legal contract, that you can have continuous access for inspection and maintenance work.

### Question 3

**Yes** – Agricultural and forestry activity can affect the natural environment in a way that can cause contamination of a private water supply. For example, chemicals can be used to promote healthy and fast growing plants and trees. These chemicals can be washed into watercourses during periods of heavy rain or following a snow melt. The contaminated water can find its way into unprotected private water supplies.

**No** – The very fact that large bodies of water form is an indication that the area local to these sources are affected by heavy rainfall and surface run off. In many areas gullies, culverts, channels, land drains and other water courses have been used to direct the water away from land that is to be cultivated. This run off may sometimes enter a private water supply very quickly and without any natural filtration or time for “die” off of bacteria.

### Question 4

**Yes** – Domestic as well as wild animals are known carriers of bacteria that are harmful to human health. Rabbits for example are carriers of *E.coli* 0157 and cattle excrete cryptosporidium, both contaminants, if ingested by humans can lead to very serious illnesses. Birds, sheep, deer, cows and many other animals also carry bacteria, viruses and protozoa that can also cause illness.

**No** – Virtually all open bodies of water are prone to contamination from animals and it is safe to assume that several times of the year every supply will be contaminated in some way.

### Question 5

**Yes** – Septic tanks do not discharge water that is safe, either to humans or the environment. Septic tanks should not be confused with properly designed sewage treatment plant where the effluent discharged into a water course has had 95% of its toxins removed. Even at this level of treatment, drinking the discharge is not recommended.

**No** – Rural properties are constantly being developed. Some developers may not be fully aware of the impact that a poorly designed system can have on local private water supplies.

### Question 6 & 7

**Yes** – Ultraviolet is the disinfection system of choice for most owners and users of private water supplies. To be effective a UV must be protected by at least a 10 micron pre filter.

The bulb must be changed on the UV every 12 months and the quartz sleeve periodically checked. If you do not change your bulb, clean the quartz sleeve or do not have a pre filter installed, then your UV **will not be destroying pathogens** in your water. The result from a health point of view could be catastrophic.

**No** – Drinking water from a private water supply in the United Kingdom carries some of the risks associated with drinking un-protected water in the developing world. Like in these countries, private water supplies in the United Kingdom also can, and sometimes do, **cause very serious illness**.