

# Risk Assessment



info@privatewatersupplies.org.uk

## Spring 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

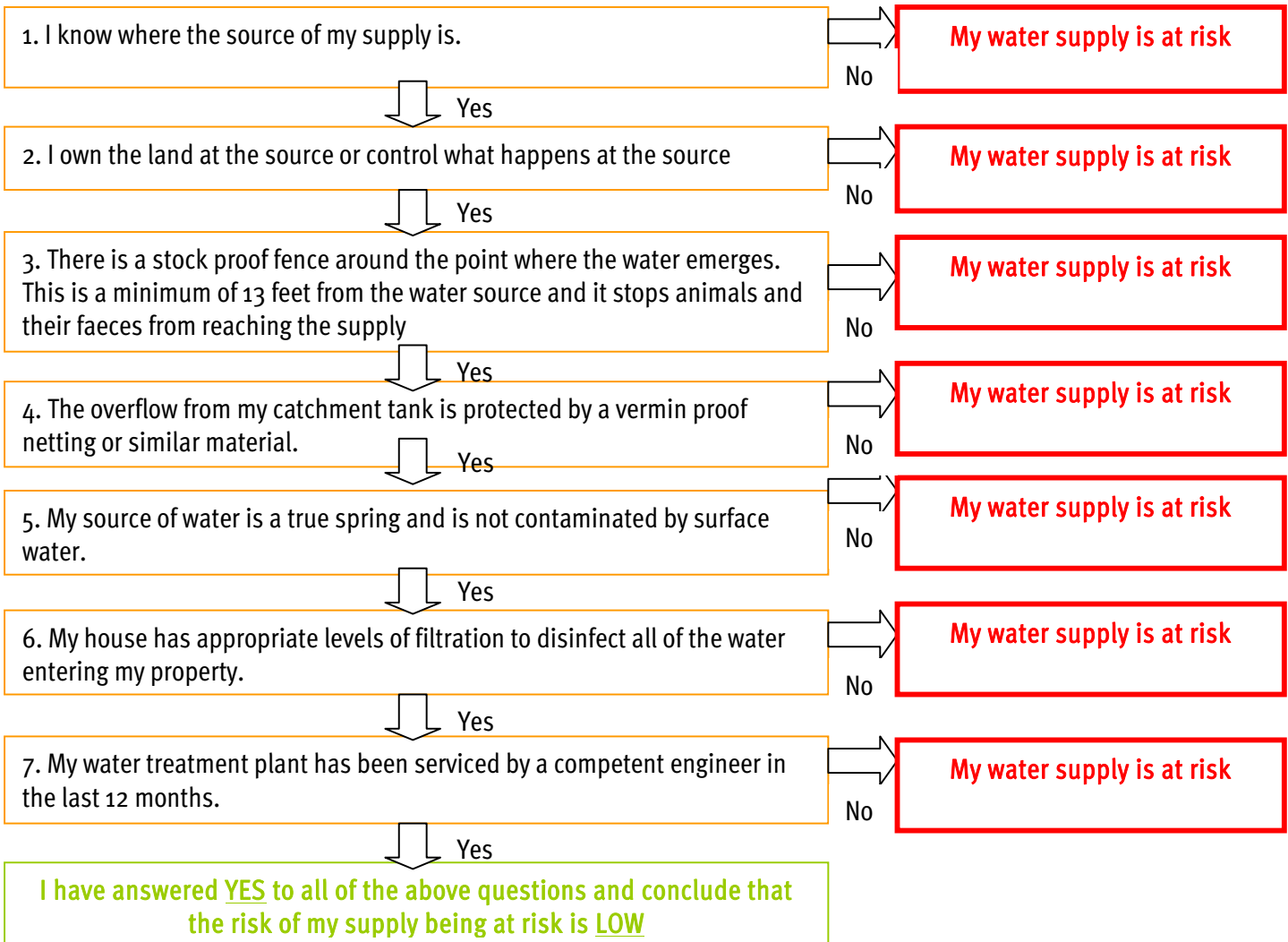
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



# Spring Supply 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** – If 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. Your local Environmental Health may have some useful times in terms of negotiating access.

## Question 3

**Yes** – A stock proof fence should be positioned at least 4 metres from the well chamber. Without source protection, a spring supply carries a high risk of being contaminated by surface run off, especially after heavy rainfall or a snow melt. Digging a small “moat” or drainage ditch around the source will direct water away from your water supply. A properly designed ditch should allow water to freely flow away and not stagnate and should be lined. The area protected by the ditch should be kept clear of grass or other vegetation as these will attract wild life and disease carrying vermin.

**No** – Ideally, the fence should have a tight enough mesh to stop small animals such as rabbits from entering the area immediately surrounding the source.. The water from heavy rain or snow melt will run over ground, probably where animals have grazed and excreted. In periods of heavy rain it may also wash down debris & sediment. This water will be heavily contaminated and may also be very discoloured.

## Question 4

**Yes** – A properly constructed and designed vermin proof lid overflow will prevent small animals from entering the catchment tank.

**No** – Small animals entering the system may not be able to escape and their decomposing remains will be a potential source of microbiological contamination.

## Question 5

**Yes** – It can be very difficult to ascertain the true source of a supply suggesting that a large number of springs marked on Ordnance Survey maps are not really springs at all. Even if they have a flow of water coming from them which makes them look like springs, in many cases they are artificial land drains.

**No** – A more accurate description of many of the supplies that are described by their owners as springs might be to use the term surface supply which means the risk of microbiological contamination, especially after rainfall or a snow melt, will be high.

## 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**.