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*******PRESS RELEASE*******

Copeland – change of drinking water source – water safe to drink

The Drinking Water Inspectorate is aware that United Utilities have changed the source of water that supplies drinking water to the Copeland area. The Inspectorate is investigating the event, and has obtained from the company sampling information from the area of supply. We have independently reviewed the sample results and can confirm that the samples show the supply is safe to drink.

This change of supply has introduced 'harder' water (containing more minerals), which is causing concern to some consumers.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate's main task is to check that water companies in England and Wales supply wholesome drinking water that complies with Regulations.

As part of our investigation, we will look in detail at the actions of the company from when it first altered the supply. We will also review communications with consumers, and we will be contacting a sample of consumers who have raised concerns to enable them to provide their experiences to our investigation. All of our investigations are published.

Notes to editors:

The Drinking Water Inspectorate was set up in January 1990. Its main task is to check that water companies in England and Wales supply wholesome drinking water and in doing so comply with the requirements of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations.