



RH / TAC

11th December 2013

Rt Hon Ben Bradshaw MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Mr Bradshaw

I saw the renewed communication from Mr Dransfield about St.Peter's School drinking water fountains and wanted to give you a further update following the letter I sent last month.

Firstly I want to reassure you that no drinking water outlet is available for use at any time if it exhibits metal contamination above the legal standard.

It is frustrating that despite buying products with all appropriate certification that we should just be able to install and set to use by pupils, the products we have procured have exhibited in some models levels of nickel leaching from chrome plated fittings above the acceptable legal maximum.

Carillion's Head of Water Quality recently wrote to DCC with the following update regarding nickel contamination:

"Nickel, as previously reported, will be leaching from a localised fitting as the source of this is chrome/nickel plating. The taps are plated and some of the local isolation (service) valves are also plated. This subsides over time but the time taken for this to occur varies and is unquantifiable. The more the taps are used the quicker this will stabilise. Historical sampling has proven that once these taps are flushed then the nickel level falls to below the PCV levels. The local valves will be replaced with plastic alternatives where elevated nickel is detected and the taps will be cleaned and neutralised with citric acid. These locations will then be retested."

There is currently only one drinking water location at St. Peter's with an elevated nickel reading, and despite our recommendation and that of DCC's advisers, the school have elected to have **all** fountains withdrawn from use, notwithstanding the fact that this could have an adverse effect – see above.

It is worth noting that the level of testing we are undertaking will never have taken place at any other school in Devon, or elsewhere in the country. The level of oversight and governance in this process is unprecedented, and certainly no other school or local authority will know as much about their drinking water supply and fittings as is known in our six schools. It may be worth addressing around this fact as well.

We have a 3-stage assurance programme, of which St Peter's are in stage 2. The final testing will take place in Q1 2014 and at the end of this we will have clear and irrefutable information about the safety of all drinking water.

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I will keep you abreast of developments, but essentially, since my last communication, nothing has changed significantly, because the testing and assurance programme is still ongoing

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rob Holt', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Rob Holt
Managing Director
Carillion Local Government Services