

# **BREXIT: What does it mean for groundwater?**

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# Quick groundwater updates

Guidance

## Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution

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JAGDAG

**wfd** Water Framework Directive UK TAG



# Groundwater regulation and the EU



22.12.2000 EN 327/1  
Official Journal of the European Communities  
I  
(Acts whose publication is obligatory)  
**DIRECTIVE 2000/60/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
of 23 October 2000  
establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy

27.12.2006 EN  
Official Journal of the European Union  
**DIRECTIVE 2006/118/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL**  
of 12 December 2006  
on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration  
THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL OF THE  
EUROPEAN UNION,  
having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Commu-  
nity, and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,  
and in particular Article 175(1) thereof,  
regard to the proposal from the Commission,  
and to the Opinion of the European Economic and Social  
Committee (2),  
(5) In order to protect the environment as a whole, and human  
health in particular, detrimental concentrations of harmful  
pollutants in groundwater must be avoided, prevented or  
reduced

**Method to select substances for a  
Groundwater Watch List (GWWL)**  
- Concept Paper -  
Draft 8.5  
(23.01.2017)

Technical Report - 002 - 2007  
**COMMON IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY  
FOR THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE  
(2000/60/EC)**

# The 23 June 2016 referendum

- ➔ A choice between leaving or staying in the EU
- ➔ UK majority in favour of leaving (52% / 48%)
- ➔ Leave favoured in England/Wales
- ➔ Remain favoured in Scotland/Northern Ireland

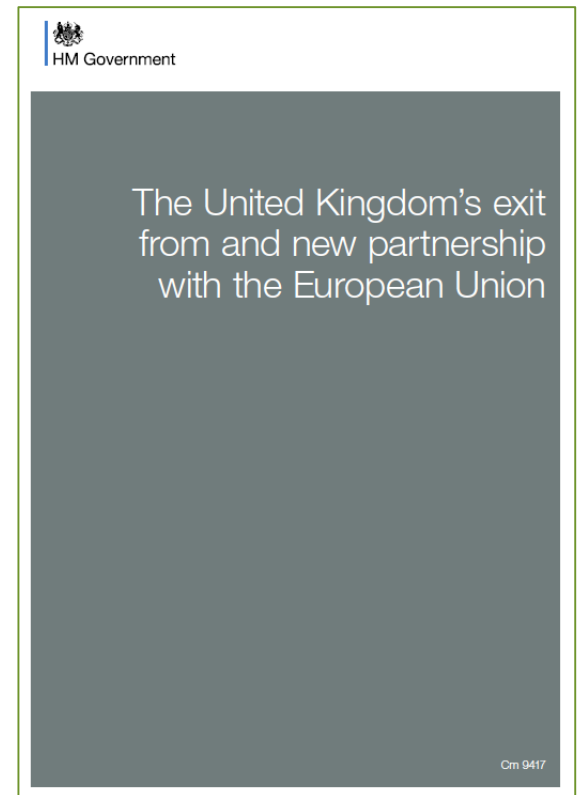
# Government approach

- ➔ Until the UK leaves the EU it is **business as usual** and EU laws must be implemented
- ➔ Government will invoke Article 50 by 29 March 2017 to start the process of leaving EU
- ➔ A Bill to repeal the EC Act 1972 and convert the EU acquis into UK law will be introduced

# The Withdrawal Bill and the White Paper

## EU exit negotiating objectives

1. Providing certainty and clarity
2. Taking control of our own laws
3. Strengthening the union
4. Maintaining the common travel area with Ireland
5. Controlling immigration
6. Securing rights for EU nationals in the UK and UK nationals in the EU
7. Protecting workers' rights
8. Ensuring free trade with European markets
9. Securing new trade agreements with other countries
10. Ensuring the UK remains the best place for science and innovation
11. Cooperating in the fight against crime and terrorism
12. Delivering a smooth, orderly exit from the EU



# What the white paper says on the environment

- ➔ First generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it
- ➔ Bring current framework of EU environmental regulation into UK law

# What did/do we know?

## 24 June 2016

- Referendum outcome to leave the EU
- The Article 50 process



## 23 March 2017

- Government negotiating objectives
- No to EEA membership
- UK not a member of the Single Market but will seek to negotiate access to it
- UK will also be leaving Euratom
- Timing of exit process
- Government's broad intentions regarding current EU law
- UK legislative approach



# Inside EEA

- **Keep most env. directives**
- **Loose Habitats, Birds & Bathing Water Directives + CAP**
- **No infraction risk**
- **Limited influence on new legislation**

# Entirely Outside

- **EU environmental directives no longer apply but...**
- **International treaties, protocols and agreements will still apply**
- **No influence over future EU env. law**

# What does it mean for groundwater?

- 0-2 years - 'business as usual'
- 2 years - updated legislation
- 2-5 years - minor changes
- 5+ years - potential for substantial change  
policy diversion between administrations?

# Evidence based policy making

- UK has strong tradition of evidence based environmental policy making
- Budget cuts impacting on evidence and expertise
- Where will this evidence come from post-Brexit?

# Thank you