



Neuadd y Sir / County Hall, Llandrindod, Powys, LD1 5LG

QUESTIONS AT ANY TIME TO CABINET PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Question From:	County Councillor James Gibson-Watt
Subject:	New guidance on foul drainage systems
Question To:	County Councillor Iain McIntosh Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning & Housing

Question:

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) recently issued updated Statutory Guidance to Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) in Wales with regard to proposals for foul drainage systems for new properties in areas of the county that are in a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and are unable to connect to the public (main) sewer.

Proposals must satisfy the following criteria (new criteria in red):-

Private sewage treatment systems discharging domestic wastewater to ground which are:

*Located more than 50m from the SAC boundary, **and** are more than 40m from a surface water feature (e.g. river, stream, ditch, drain),*

***and** which have a daily discharge rate of less than 2 cubic metres (m³)*

***and** which discharge to ground via a drainage field constructed to BS 6297:2007+A1:2008 Code of Practice for the design and installation of drainage fields for use in wastewater treatment*

***and** where there is no other discharge to ground within 200m*

***and** where the density of discharges to ground is not greater than 1 per 4ha (or 25 per km²).*

Has the LPA and PH made an assessment of the likely impact of the above new guidance on future residential and economic (commercial) development in Powys, given the wide areas of the county that are covered by a SAC designation, with particular reference to the restriction on the installation of new systems to only locations more than 200 metres from other discharge-to-ground systems, which inevitably will have a significant impact on many Powys settlements and parts of settlements that do not have access to the public sewer?