



Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Part 5 – Asset Transfer Requests

Section 95

Scottish Water 2nd Annual Report

(April 1st 2018 – March 31st 2019)

In the year to 31st March 2019 Scottish Water received a total of 8 'pre-application' enquiries relating to the potential submission of Asset Transfer Requests by community groups with reference to Part 5 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. In terms of geographical distribution these ranged from the Highlands and Islands to the Central Belt (including the City of Glasgow).

One of these requests progressed to Scottish Water reaching a negotiated agreement with a community-based organisation for a redundant asset to be transferred on Best Value principles - legal conveyancing is underway and expected to conclude in the near future. It is also anticipated that some of the other enquiries recently received will lead to formal Asset Transfer Requests being submitted in the coming year.

In general terms the above marks an increase in activity and interest from communities in the possible application of the Act with regard to Scottish Water's available assets.

With regard to promoting awareness of the legislation Scottish Water undertakes the following:

- Has a dedicated Community Empowerment (Scotland) 2015 Act page on its external website.
- Publishes a regularly updated asset register on the external website.
- Invites those seeking further information on possible asset transfers to make enquiries via a dedicated mailbox.
- Has now has increased knowledge and capacity within its property team to receive Asset Transfer enquiries and provide information to community groups.
- Regularly attends working group meetings with other public bodies supported by the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment team to share best practice in processing and progressing Asset Transfer requests.

In addition, our Corporate Affairs team have regular meetings with local community groups around the country where issues relating to the future use of assets – particularly those which may become, or already are, non-operational – are discussed and highlighted to colleagues in our Property team to investigate further.

