

Timeline of Events 21/2/12 to 4/4/12

★ = approximately

PAPER I

- Tue 21/02/2012**
- 13:39 Urgent request submitted to Estates & Buildings by Nancy Kirk (Lab Manager)
URGENT Problem with drinking water in kitchen sink. When you run the cold water tap the water is coming out pale green and has a detergent smell. It also froths as it is coming out.
- 13:39 Email from Letty Gibson (CLS Chief Lab Manager) to CLS Lab Managers/Stores/Irene (CLS H&S Coordinator) Blair
*The cold water in the JBC Kitchen has a green colour and appears frothy. Nancy has reported to E and B. Please check the sinks in your area and post a * **Do Not Use** * if it appears to be discoloured. Please also advise Nancy in order that she may update E and B when they are checking the water supply on JBC 2.*
- ★ by 14:00 notices posted on all affected taps and chilled water dispensers
- 14:59 Letty Gibson called Estates & Buildings to track down plumber
- ★ 15:00 Plumber verbally reported contamination to Lisa Grayson (CLS H&S Information Officer)
- 15:15 Email from Lisa Grayson (CLS H&S Information Officer) to CLS-All email group
The JBC mains water supply has become contaminated. Please do not drink water from kitchen taps or drinking water coolers in the JBC building until further notice. E&B are aware of the situation and are dealing with the problem.
- 15:15 Email from Letty Gibson to CLS-announce email group
There appears to be a problem with the drinking water in JBC . Until we have confirmation, please do not drink the water supply from the designated taps or from the drinking water units.
- 15:22 Ian Scragg (Head of Safety Services) alerted by phone call from Lisa Grayson
- 15:34 Email from Letty Gibson to CLS Lab Managers
The Lab Water and water purification systems in JBC are tank fed. E and B have confirmed that the tanks are not contaminated.
- ★ 16:00 Frist emergency meeting with E&B to get preliminary information from Gordon Smith (E&B Senior Manager)
Ian Scragg, Lisa Grayson, Letty Gibson, Irene Blair, Frank Bruce (E&B), Jimmy Dand (E&B) also in attendance?
Sample from JBC 2 kitchen tap collected from Lab Manager and shown to E&B
Colour and odour of sample indicative of ethylene glycol contamination; concentration could not be determined by eye.
- 16:58 Email from Lisa Grayson to CLS-All email group
*Estates & Buildings have confirmed that the JBC mains water system became contaminated with ethylene glycol at some point today – exact time to be determined. The kitchen cold water taps and chilled drinking water units are supplied from the water mains. Do not drink the water in JBC until further notice.
There is a very slim chance that the WTB water supply may become contaminated, therefore, as a precaution, please also refrain from drinking water in WTB.
It is highly unlikely that the concentration of ethylene glycol in the drinking water system will cause ill health. However, if anyone has consumed water from JBC kitchen taps or drinking water chillers today and begins to experience stomach pains, nausea and/or blurred vision you are advised to report to A&E immediately.*
- 17:15 Second emergency meeting with E&B
Gordon Smith, Ian Scragg, Lisa Grayson, Letty Gibson, Frank Bruce in attendance?
Samples collected by E&B from WTB mains and tank shown to CLS.
Samples were completely clear and had no odour.

19:00 Third emergency meeting with E&B

Gordon Smith, Ian Scragg, Lisa Grayson, Letty Gibson, Frank Bruce, Tony McCluskey (E&B), Les Morrison (E&B) in attendance?
Initial samples bottled, labelled and dispatched for testing at lab in Glasgow (Gordon Smith to supply details of lab)

★ 19:30 WTB and WTB/MSI link drinking water outlets labelled with 'do not use' signs as a precaution pending test results

19:59 Email from Lisa Grayson to Doreen Cantrell (CLS Head of College), Ian Scragg (Head of University Safety Services), Rob Ford (College Secretary), Ian Leith (College Secretary)

Gordon Smith (E&B senior manager) is leading the investigation. Water samples are on their way to an analyst in Glasgow now. We should have results for the WTB water supply by midnight. Gordon will relay the results to myself, Letty and Ian Scragg as soon as he gets them. If the WTB water supply shows traces of contamination we will meet back here ASAP to discuss the implications and agree a course of action. If the WTB water is uncontaminated we will be meeting with Gordon at 8am to discuss progress on decontamination and reinstatement of the JBC mains water supply. The contractors who will carry out the decontamination are on their way here now. If all goes to plan, the JBC mains water supply should be reinstated tomorrow at some point. The water will be tested and certified as safe to drink before we give personnel the all clear to start using it again.

★ 22:00 Water sample test results communicated by Gordon Smith to Ian Scragg, Lisa Grayson and Letty Gibson by telephone.

WTB mains and tank samples tested negative for ethylene glycol. JBC 2 kitchen tap sample tested positive at a concentration of 14% ethylene glycol v/v.

22:00 Email from Letty Gibson to Doreen Cantrell, Ian Leith, Rob Ford, Lisa Grayson, Ian Scragg

To update, Gordon Smith has advised that the mains fed water and tank fed water in WTB and tank fed water in JBC has tested normal. This means that there is no impact on the water supply to the labs or equipment. The cleansing of the mains fed water system in JBC is about to start and should be completed by early morning.

Wed 22/02/2012 07:00 Signs on WTB and WTB/MSI link drinking water outlets removed

08:00 Fourth emergency meeting with E&B

Gordon Smith, Ian Scragg, Lisa Grayson, Letty Gibson, Les Morrison, Colin McNally (E&B, Director of Campus Services) in attendance?
Agreement that University Secretary, HR, Press Office, legal team and insurers have to be informed
Agreement to issue another email instructing people experiencing symptoms to seek medical advice

08:21 Email from Lisa Grayson to CLS-All

*E&B have confirmed that the WTB water supply is free from contamination and safe to drink.
Do not drink the water in JBC.*

09:40 Email from Lisa Grayson to CLS-announce (CLS-announce used due to some people not receiving CLS-All emails)

*We are awaiting test results on the JBC drinking water supply to confirm that the decontamination has been successful and the water is safe to drink. You will be informed as soon as E&B relay the results to me. Note: the water in the laboratories and toilets has not been affected.
Just to follow up on yesterday's advice: if you consumed water from the JBC kitchen taps or drinking water chillers after 11.30am yesterday (Tuesday 21/2/12) and experience nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain you should report to A&E immediately.
Also, if anyone consumed water from the JBC kitchen taps or drinking water chillers yesterday after 11.30am, whether you have suffered symptoms or not, could you please email me with the details (i.e. approx volume consumed, time consumed, symptoms, if any) as soon as possible.
Many thanks and sincere apologies for any anxiety this incident may be causing.*

11:54 Email from Letty Gibson to JBC Lab Managers

*You were advised at our meeting this morning at 9am to immediately advise staff working in JBC, **in person**, the following :-*

- 1. If staff have ingested water from the mains supply or drinking water systems in JBC after 11.30 am on Tuesday 21st February (yesterday) and feel or have felt unwell, they should seek immediate medical advice.*
- 2. Report any member of staff who has not come into work today unexpectedly or has reported unable to come to work due to sickness developing O/N.*
- 3. Advise staff to read and respond to the emails regarding the JBC water contamination.*

As we agreed please tour the labs now between 11.00 and 12.00 am and reiterate this information in order ensure staff who have come to work later are aware. Please confirm in email that you have completed this task.

12:20 Email from Lisa Grayson to Division Heads

Doreen has asked me to email all Division Heads to underline the seriousness of the drinking water contamination incident in JBC. A sample taken from the kitchen cold water tap on JBC floor 2 was found to contain 14% ethylene glycol v/v. At this concentration approximately 200ml could be fatal by ingestion. We are trying to identify everyone who drunk water from the JBC kitchen areas yesterday (Tuesday 21/2/12) after 11.30am. All personnel have already been emailed and asked to come forward. However, we need to make sure we reach people who have not read their emails and/or are not at work today. Could you please ask your PIs to check amongst all their staff/postgrad students/undergrad students and ask individuals to report back to me if they may have drunk contaminated water from the JBC kitchen areas.

★ 12:30 Initial meeting with Environmental Health Officers

Ian Scragg, Lisa Grayson, Colin McNally in attendance

★ 13:15 Signage on affected drinking water outlets check by Lisa Grayson upon instruction from Environmental Health Officers

19:00 Signs posted on all CLS building exits to alert personnel who may not have read or received emails.

This was in response to one PI saying they had not received any emails.

Thu 23/02/2012 12:12 Official statement to CLS staff from Doreen Cantrell

SIR JAMES BLACK CENTRE – water contamination

Dear colleagues,

You will be aware that we had a serious issue regarding contamination of the water supply in the Sir James Black Centre on Tuesday of this week (Feb 21st).

Investigations are ongoing into the cause of the contamination. The contaminating substance has been confirmed as ethylene glycol, an anti-freeze routinely used in the building's cooling systems.

This substance has now been removed from the water supply. However, the supply will remain turned off until further notice while further tests are carried out to ensure it is safe to use again.

The water contamination was first brought to attention around 1.30pm on Tuesday and notices advising people in the building not to drink the water were posted at an early stage.

We have had one member of staff attend hospital showing suspected adverse effects from drinking the affected water. They have now returned to work.

All staff are advised to attend at Accident & Emergency if they show adverse symptoms, which include nausea and vomiting.

Symptoms would have been expected to display within 24-36 hours of ingestion of the water, which was green-blue in colour and had an unusual taste.

We are looking to provide alternative drinking water supplies in the JBC and in the meantime we are actively liaising with the Public Health Team at NHS Tayside and the Health & Safety Executive regarding the incident.

If you have any queries please do contact your lab or office manager or Human Resources.

Wed 04/04/12 16:28 Official Statement to CLS staff from Doreen Cantrell confirming JBC mains water has been reinstated and is safe to drink

Update: JBC water supply - reconnected

Dear all

I'm pleased to inform you that the University have received confirmation from the NHS Public Health Team that

statutory chlorination of the wholesome drinking water has been successfully completed as planned. The water

supply has been reconnected in the JBC kitchens and is fit to drink. The chilled drinking water systems and the

chilled water supply fridge and freezers on JBC will be installed as soon as possible.

I thank you all for your patience and support during this period and apologise again for the disruption.