



# Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003

## 2003 asp 3

### PART 1

#### PROTECTION OF THE WATER ENVIRONMENT

### CHAPTER 2

#### RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLANNING

##### *River basin districts*

#### **5 Characterisation of river basin districts**

- (1) SEPA must, by 22nd December 2004, carry out a characterisation of each river basin district.
- (2) In this section “characterisation”, in relation to a river basin district, means—
  - (a) an analysis of the characteristics of the water environment,
  - (b) a review of the impact of human activity on the status of the water environment, and
  - (c) an economic analysis of water use.
- (3) SEPA must review and, where necessary, update each characterisation carried out under subsection (1) by 22nd December 2013 and by the end of each period of 6 years thereafter.
- (4) A characterisation under subsection (1) and a review under subsection (3) must be carried out in accordance with the technical specifications set out in Annexes II and III to the Directive.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision as to the characterisations and reviews to be carried out under this section, including provision as to—

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**Changes to legislation:** Water Environment and Water Services (Scotland) Act 2003, Section 5 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) [View outstanding changes](#)

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- (a) the criteria by reference to which characterisations and reviews are to be carried out, including criteria for designating bodies of surface water as artificial or heavily modified,
- (b) the methods and procedures to be followed in carrying out characterisations and reviews.

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**Commencement Information**

**II** S. 5 in force at 15.12.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/562](#), **art. 2(a)**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 23(5) inserted by [2014 asp 3 sch. 3 para. 8\(6\)\(b\)](#)