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City hotel to save 80,000 bottles a year

EDINBURGH's largest independent hotel has declared it will save more than 80,000 plastic bottles a year by encouraging guests to fill their glasses with tap water.

Ten Hill Place will no longer provide single-use bottles of water in its 129 bedrooms to help reduce plastic waste.

The four-star hotel, run by Surgeons Quarter, is the latest to join the wave in supporting Scottish Water's Your Water Your Life campaign which encourages people to drink the country's great tasting tap water to benefit the environment.

Surgeons Quarter is the commercial arm of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd), and so all profits made at Ten Hill Place Hotel are put towards the College's charitable aims of advancing surgical standards and improving patient outcome worldwide.

Scott Mitchell, Managing Director of Surgeons Quarter, commented: "Ten Hill Place Hotel is a good choice for conscious consumers – but we're still mindful of the effects that travel and the tourism industry has on our planet.

"It's very important to us that we make decisions which positively impact the environment, while remaining a four star establishment.

Scottish Water is the perfect partner for us to make this change. Our tap water in Scotland is world class, so there really is no need for us to be bringing in truckloads of plastic bottles.

We know that some of our international guests might feel unsure about drinking water from the tap, so we would like to reassure everyone that it tastes delicious and is great for our health."

The Old Town-based hotel underwent significant expansion last year following record occupancy numbers, seeing it increase from 77 to 129 rooms.

Brian Lironi, Director of Corporate Affairs at Scottish Water, said: "It's fantastic to have Ten Hill Place Hotel make such a positive change to the way it operates as a business.

"We're proud to partner with them and hope that they inspire other hotels across Scotland to follow in their footsteps, as the more that get involved, the more we can protect our environment."

Recognised with a Gold Green Tourism Award, Ten Hill Place is committed to doing what it can to ensure that its operations have as little impact as possible on the environment.

Scott added: "Getting rid of plastic bottles is a simple, but highly impactful, step towards becoming more sustainable. We've already made lots of positive changes over the years, and will be making more in the near future."

The hotel already has low flow showers and high efficiency boilers to manage resources more effectively. Ten Hill Place also sources local and seasonal Scottish ingredients where possible to reduce air miles in transporting food.

The hotel's own gin, 1505 Gin, is produced at Summerhall Distillery just five minutes away from the Surgeons Quarter campus.

Surgeons Quarter promotes, sells and manages all commercial activities held within the RCSEd campus. All profits support the charitable aims of the College which are education, assessment and advancement in surgical standards worldwide.

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Issued on behalf of Surgeons Quarter by Holyrood PR, for more information contact 0131 561 2224 or catriona@holyroodpr.co.uk

Notes to Editors

About Surgeons Quarter

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About Scottish Water

Scottish Water provides vital water and waste water services, essential to daily life, to 2.54 million households and 152,000 business premises across Scotland. At the heart of our business is everyone who lives and works in communities across Scotland. Every day we deliver 1.46 billion litres of clear, fresh drinking water – enough to fill over 540 Olympic swimming pools. We also take away and treat 996 million litres of waste water and help protect the environment across Scotland – every day of the year.

More at www.scottishwater.co.uk