



Mr. Darragh O'Brien T.D.
Minister for Housing Planning and Local Government
Housing, Planning and Local Government
Custom House,
Dublin 1, D01 W6X0.

23 December 2020

RE: - Water Advisory Body Quarterly Report No. 3 of 2020

Dear Minister,

Please find the above attached which will be published on the Water Advisory Body (WAB) website tomorrow, 24 December 2020 and has been produced in accordance with Section 44 (1) (b) of the Water Services Act, 2017.

In submitting the report, the following are of note: -

- The report seeks to address in so far as possible the performance of Irish Water in the implementation of its Strategic Funding Plan 2019-2024;
- It is based on information that has been published; and
- It seeks to present the information using plain, jargon free, language, as far as practicable.

I set out below some points of note in this report.

Remedial Action List and Lead Connections

The WAB note that Irish Water needs to ensure an action plan is in place to remediate each of the drinking water supplies that are currently included on the Remedial Action List. Also, there is a concern with the lack of progress by Irish Water during 2020 to replace lead connections, with little progress on this performance indicator during 2020.

Irish Water's "Ease of Contact"

The WAB welcome Irish Water's improved performance against all four 'ease of contact' metrics in 2019 when compared to 2018 and that Irish Water has demonstrated good performance against the complaints resolution metric in 2019.

Environmental Protection Agency's report on "Urban Waste Water Treatment 2019"

In this report we also highlight the findings from the Environmental Protection Agency's report on "Urban Waste Water Treatment 2019". The WAB particularly notes that in 2019, treatment at 19 of Ireland's 172 large urban areas failed the mandatory standards set out in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and that the final deadline to meet these standards was 2005. The greater Dublin area, served by Ringsend treatment plant, was one of the areas that did not meet the standards and the Environmental Protection Agency expressed particular concern about this because it produces almost half (44%) of Ireland's waste water.

Further to the above, the report contains eleven metrics which measure the performance of Irish Water. The report, along with other information about the Water Advisory Body, can be found on the website, www.wateradvisorybody.ie.

The WAB welcomes the opportunity to meet you and update you on its work to date and for the future in the New Year, as discussed in recent communications, and is available to do so at your convenience.

Yours sincerely



Paul McGowan,
Chair, Water Advisory Body.