



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 April 2020

RE: - Water Advisory Body Quarterly Report No. 1 of 2021

Dear Minister,

Please find the above attached which will be published on the Water Advisory Body (WAB) website Tuesday 27 April 2021, 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.

The WAB welcomes progress in 2020 in reducing the number of water supplies on the Remedial Action List and a net reduction of 146,475 consumers served by supplies on the list. We also note the Environmental Protection Agencies' concern that there are nine supplies on the Remedial Action List at the end of Quarter 4 2020 for which Irish Water has not submitted a completion date.

On the First Fix Scheme we note a continued and disappointing drop-off in the number of leak repairs completed under the scheme since mid-2016. WAB anticipates that the introduction of the Household Water Conservation (Excess Use Charges) Policy in 2021 (with first bills expected to issue in late 2022 or 2023) will encourage customers to avail of the First Fix Free Scheme and that higher numbers of leak

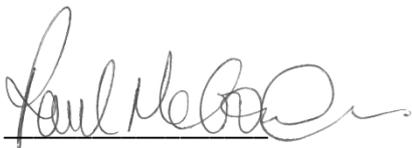
repairs will be achieved in the future. The WAB notes that Irish Water exceeded their target of 1,100 for 2020 with regard to replacement of lead connections by replacing 3,025 connections but that it is highly unlikely that Irish Water will be able meet the targets it set in its' "Lead in Drinking Water Mitigation Plan" to replace all lead services by 2026.

The WAB welcomes the decrease in the number of Boil Water Notices at the end of 2020, but we also note with continuing concern the trends for long term Boil Water Notices highlighted by the Environmental Protection Agency. The WAB also welcomes the publication of the final decision on the Revenue Control 3 (2020 – 2024) by the Commission for Regulation of Utilities. We note that the Commission has set what it considers to be challenging but achievable targets for Irish Water in terms of capital and operating expenditure efficiency and the delivery of outputs and outcomes in the public interest. The WAB now considers it important for Irish Water to demonstrate delivery.

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 and is available to do so at your convenience. We will also send a copy of the report to the Joint Oireachtas Committee and will seek to engage with them on our work and the content of the report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McGowan", written over a horizontal line.

Paul McGowan,

Chair, Water Advisory Body.