



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body
Wednesday 17 February 2021, 3pm**

Venue: Remote Meeting via WebEx Video Conferencing

Attended by:

Chairperson	Paul McGowan	
Members	Miriam McDonald	Michelle Minihan
	Martin Sisk	Dónal Purcell (until 3.47pm)
Secretariat	John McCarthy	Colin Flood
	Darren Browne	
Apologies	Neill Dalton	

1. Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the following meetings were agreed subject to amendments:

- WAB Meeting with Bríd O Donovan of the CRU – 22 January 2021;
- WAB Main Meeting – 22 January 2021.

Once the amendments have been made, the minutes will be circulated to the board and Bríd O Donovan (for the CRU meeting) for final approval/approval.

2. Declaration of any conflict of interest

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

3. Review of Irish Water procurement procedures

A discussion was held following the earlier meeting with the representatives of Ernst and Young and Irish Water. The Board have provided their comments on the draft procurement report to Ernst and Young and they will revert with an updated report covering these

revisions. Following receipt of an updated report, the Board agreed to seek a written response from Irish Water covering the recommendations laid out in that review and their subsequent implementation. The Board will provide a review and comment as part of a future Quarterly report. The Secretariat noted that Irish Water are subject to the Public Spending Code as set out by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform.

As part of future reviews, the WAB may commission auditors and liaise with the Ervia Board.

4. Progress for Report 1 of 2021.

The CRU have advised that they will revert with updated metrics. The EPA will have their metrics next week. The 'Drinking Water' metrics will be updated while the 'Waste Water' metrics will not.

A simplification of the Quarterly reports was discussed. It was agreed to move forward on a phased basis with identifying areas of the report which could be moved to an Appendix in the short term while ultimately working towards the establishment of a Data Hub for the website in the longer term. The EPA and CRU will review what metrics material may be kept in the main report or could be moved to the Appendix.

As previously agreed, Part 3 of the report will provide comment on the CRU Revenue Control 3 decision and the Scottish Water International report. Following the release of the National Water Resources Plan Framework by Irish Water, the Board agreed to note its release in Part 3 of the report.

Following drafting of the report, the Desktop Publishing and Public Relations companies have been arranged to publish by the end of March.

5. WAB work programme 2021

An updated Work Programme has been circulated. With regards the Consumer Survey element of the programme, it was agreed to target Quarter 4 of this year. It was agreed this would cover the perceptions of Irish Water by the public rather than complaint figures. It was agreed that further discussion of this survey is required and will be made an agenda item for a future WAB meeting. The Board adopted the Work Programme subject to the agreed amendment. A further updated document will be circulated to the Board by the Secretariat and will be uploaded to the WAB website.

6. Future meeting with the Minister

The Secretariat have prepared a draft presentation ahead of the meeting with Minister O'Brien. The presentation will broadly cover the following:

- Background to the WAB;
- Functions;
- Membership;
- Progress to date;
- Quarterly Report Indicators;
- Meetings with Irish Water;
- Advice to the Minister;
- WAB Work Programme.

The Secretariat will finalise the presentation for the Board. The Board agreed to hold a preparation meeting at 9.30am on 1 March to finalise the presentation.

7. Communications/Website

The Secretariat will circulate examples of short summary animated videos that could accompany the release of WAB reports.

The Secretariat are progressing updates to the WAB website. It is envisaged that there will be improvements to accessibility, an Irish language version, updating of the contact details, greater use of imagery and the development of a Data Hub. By way of updating the 'Useful Information' page, the Board were encouraged to provide links to relevant webpages and documents from other bodies.

Preliminary meetings have already been held with the Departments Statistical Unit in developing the Data Hub. Going forward, raw data from the CRU and EPA reflecting the current indicators will be required to facilitate this feature.

8. Confirm next three meeting dates

As previously mentioned, the Board are due to have a preparatory meeting (1 March) ahead of the meeting with Minister O'Brien (4 March). The Board have also agreed to the next main meeting dates which include the following:

- 18 March at 10.30am
- 12 April at 10.30am
- 18 May at 2pm

9. Any Other Business

The Board discussed the correspondence received from Kennedy Analysis covering:

1. National Water Resources Plan Framework (NWRP) by Irish Water and
2. Water Mains Replacement.

The Secretariat will draft a response based on previous discussions regarding the NWRP. With regards the queries raised regarding Water Mains Replacement, the WAB will consider this matter as part of its work.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda Item No:	Action	Decision
1.	CRU Meeting Minutes	Once the amendments have been made, the minutes will be circulated to the board and Bríd O Donovan for final review/approval.
1.	WAB Main Meeting Minutes	Approved subject to amendments.
3.	Review of Irish Water procurement procedures	Following receipt of an updated report, the Board agreed to seek a written response from Irish Water covering the recommendations laid out in that review and their subsequent implementation.
4.	Progress for Report 1 of 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CRU and EPA to revert with updated metrics. • The EPA and CRU will review what metrics material may be kept in the main report or could be moved to the Appendix. • Part 3 of the report will provide comment on the RC3 decision, the Scottish Water International report. • Part 3 will also note the release of the NWRP
5.	WAB Work Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was agreed to target a Consumer Survey in Quarter 4 of this year. Further discussion to be had at future WAB meeting • A further updated document will be circulated to the Board • To be uploaded to the WAB website.
6.	Future meeting with the Minister	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat will prepare briefing material for the Board and separately for the Minister prior to the meeting.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board agreed to hold a preparation meeting at 9.30am on 1 March to finalise the presentation.
7.	Communications / Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will circulate examples of short summary animated videos that could accompany the release of WAB reports. Board to revert will suggestions for updates to the 'Useful Information' page.
8	Confirm next three meeting dates	Agreed additional date of 18 May 2021, 2pm.
9.	Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Secretariat will draft a response based on previous discussions regarding the NWRP. With regards the queries raised regarding Water Mains Replacement, the WAB will consider this matter as part of its work.