



Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body

Thursday 9 December 2021, 2.30pm

Venue: Remote Meeting via WebEx Video Conferencing

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul McGowan

Members Michelle Minihan Dónal Purcell
Martin Sisk Miriam McDonald

Secretariat Claire Gavin Colin Flood
Darren Browne

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of WAB Main Meeting on 9 November 2021:

The Members agreed the minutes of this meeting subject to editorial amendments and they will be published on the WAB website.

2. Declaration of any conflict of interest

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

3. Release of WAB Quarterly Report No.3 of 2021.

The WAB discussed the media coverage that the report received. Coverage of the report was lower than usual due to media focus on the new government Covid-19 restrictions announced the evening before the report was published. The report did however feature in two national news articles along with a local radio interview with the WAB Chairperson. It was confirmed that the report was submitted to the Joint Oireachtas Committee and the

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. An update was provided on website and twitter activity following the release of the report.

4. Progress of WAB Quarterly Report No.4 of 2021

It was agreed that WAB Quarterly Report No.4 of 2021 would now be submitted to the Joint Oireachtas Committee and Minister before the end of December in line with the requirement for WAB to publish four quarterly reports a year. Four metrics will be updated in that report. The Commission for Regulation of Utilities' report on the incident in Bailieborough will also feature. The Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water in Public Supplies report will now feature in WAB Quarterly Report No.1 of 2022 as this will not be published until 15th of December. A draft version of report 4 has been circulated to the WAB for comment by close of business 10 December 2021. The Chairperson will then review before being desktop published. The Board agreed to publicise the report with a press release in early January 2022.

5. Review of WAB Key Performance Indicators.

The WAB members previously agreed the new set of indicators to be included from WAB Quarterly Report No.1 of 2022 onwards. These metrics will also now include targets that have been set for Irish Water to achieve. The targets refer to the performance/outcome expected by end 2024. Michelle Minihan will consider and revert with suggested targets to be included with indicators:

- 3 (Remedial Action List – Water) and
- 4 (Priority Urban Area List - Wastewater).

The Chairperson proposed that the presentation of Performance Indicators will be reviewed to aid understanding by readers. The WAB are currently preparing new draft text.

6. Customer Survey Update

The survey company has advised the working group that the survey is on track and that they expect to have results available on the 16 December. The working group plans to meet with the survey company to review the draft report. If the draft report is approved, the survey

company will present to the WAB Board on 20 January 2022. Results of the survey are expected to be included in the first quarterly report of 2022.

7. Confirm next three meeting dates

The following meeting dates were agreed:

- 20 January 2022 at 9.30am
- 15 February 2022 at 11am. This meeting was tentatively agreed to take place in-person in the Custom House subject to public health restrictions at the time. A final decision will be made at the next WAB meeting.
- 10 March 2022 at 2pm.

8. Any Other Business

Quarterly Report No.1 of 2022:

The Quarterly Report No.1 of 2022 will publish in March 2022. This report will feature the revised targets and metrics for Irish Water. The Environmental Protection Agency's Drinking Water report and the customer survey results will also feature.

Regulatory Framework for the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency:

The members agreed to invite the relevant Directors of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, the Environmental Protection Agency and The Water Forum to attend the February WAB meeting to discuss the current framework these organisations operate under and whether it provides the necessary regulatory checks, balances and functions required.

Staffing of the Secretariat:

A mobility application has been circulated to find a replacement Assistant Principal but the position remains vacant.

The WAB members and Secretariat exchanged Christmas well wishes.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda Item No:	Action	Decision
1.	Minutes of WAB Main Meeting on 9 November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed subject to editorial amendments. • Will be published on the website.
4.	Report 4 of 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Report 4 will now publish before the end of December. • The Board agreed to publicise the report on 7 January 2022.
5.	Review of WAB Key Performance Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WAB are currently preparing new draft text.
6.	Customer Survey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The working group plan to meet with the researcher to review the draft report and discuss their presentation to the full WAB Board on 20 January 2022. • Results of the survey are expected to be included in the first quarterly report of 2022.
8.	Regulatory Framework for the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Environmental Protection Agency:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The members agreed to invite the Directors of the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, the Environmental Protection Agency and The Water Forum to attend the February meeting.