



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

10 May 2022

Re: Water Advisory Body
Quarterly Report No. 1 of 2022

Dear Minister

Please see the attached report, which has been produced in accordance with Section 44 (1) (b) of the Water Services Act, 2017.

The report will be published on the Water Advisory Body (WAB) website and a press release will issued today.

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.

In this report, we welcome the addition of three new Performance Indicators, which will now be included in our Quarterly Reports and will provide further objective information on Irish Water's performance. We also review reports produced by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities.

Some points of note from the report are set out below.

The WAB is pleased to note that the number of supplies on the Remedial Action List has decreased by three at the end of Q1 2022 and that Irish Water replaced 3,152 lead service connections in Q4 2021, which was double its target for the entirety of 2021.

The WAB notes a decline in the number of consumers on Boil Water Notices at the end of Q1 2022 but the fact that 10 of the 17 notices in place were “long term” or over 30 days in duration is a concern.

The number of repairs completed under the First Fix Scheme has declined since mid-2016, despite Irish Water’s efforts to contact affected customers and to encourage take up of the Scheme. More generally in relation to leakage, the WAB notes that the amount of water lost in the distribution network is unacceptable and must be a focus for Irish Water in the future.

Finally, the WAB is pleased to note that Drinking Water quality remains high at greater than 99.5%, which means that Irish Water’s public water supplies are safe to drink.

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



Paul McGowan
Chairperson