

Water Advisory Body concerned by long term boil water notices

- The Water Advisory Body publishes latest report on Irish Water-

Dublin, Ireland – 10 May 2022: In its latest report, the Water Advisory Body (the WAB) notes that although there is a decline in the number of people affected by boil water notices, there were 10 “long term” notices out of a total of 17 in place at the end of Q4 2021, meaning that the notice was in place for more than 30 days.

The WAB is also concerned that progress has slowed significantly when it comes to the replacement of lead service connections. However, the WAB does understand the difficulties Irish Water continues to encounter in accessing shared and backyard service replacements, as some homeowners have refused to sign the necessary consent forms for works to be carried out on private property.

Commenting on the report, Chairperson of the Water Advisory Body, Paul McGowan, said: “We welcome the EPA’s ‘Drinking Water in Public Supplies Report 2020’, which indicated that compliance with the microbiological and chemical standards for drinking water remains high. However, there are many public supplies, where drinking water quality needs to be improved to help secure continued safe water supplies for the future.”

Some of the key findings in the latest WAB report include:

- ✓ **Remedial Action List (Water)** – The number of supplies on the Remedial Action List has decreased at the end of Quarter 4 2021 by three supplies.
- ✓ **Lead service connections replaced** – Irish Water replaced 3,152 lead service connections in Quarter 4 2021, double the target for the entirety of 2021.
- ✓ **First Fix** – Despite the efforts by Irish Water in contacting customers to avail of the First Fix Scheme, there has been a general decline in the number of leak repairs completed under the scheme since mid-2016.
- ✓ **Boil Water Notices** – The WAB notes the decline in the number of consumers on a boil water notice at the end of Quarter 1 2022. However, 10 of the 17 notices in place at the end of Quarter 4 2021 were “long term” boil water notices.
- ✓ **Leakage** – The WAB notes that the amount of water lost on the water distribution network is unacceptable and needs to be a focus for Irish Water in the future. The WAB welcomes Irish Waters Leakage Management System which will provide improved yearly data, and allow the WAB further comment on Irish Water’s performance against this metric.
- ✓ **Water Quality** – Drinking Water quality remains high at greater than 99.5%, which means the water in Irish Water’s public water supplies are safe to drink.

McGowan concluded by saying: "Finally, we also welcome the addition of the three additional key performance indicators which will be included throughout the WAB's quarterly reports for 2022. These three new indicators; Unplanned Interruptions to Water Supply, Agglomerations with no Wastewater Treatment and Energy Consumption Targets, have been included in our quarterly reports to provide further objective information on Irish Water's performance."

ENDS

Notes for the Editor

The three new key performance indicators are as follows:

- ***Unplanned Interruptions to Water Supply*** – this metric monitors Irish Water's performance in delivering a continuous supply of clean drinking water to the homes and businesses that it serves.
- ***Agglomerations with no Wastewater Treatment*** – this metric intends to capture Irish Water's performance in reducing the number of agglomerations which discharge untreated wastewater into the environment.
- ***Energy Consumption Targets*** – this metric monitors Irish Water's Total Primary Energy Requirement in GWh (Gigawatt hours).

For further information contact Michael Moriarty at FleishmanHillard

Tel: 01 0872432 550

Email: Michael.moriarty@fleishmaneurope.com

About the WAB

The Water Advisory Body (the WAB) is an independent statutory body established under Part 7 of the Water Services Act 2017. The WAB was formally established on 1 June 2018. Irish Water's Strategic Funding Plan is a public document and available on Irish Water's website www.water.ie. Every three months the WAB prepares a report on Irish Water. This report sets out the WAB's view on how Irish Water is performing against its own Strategic Funding Plan. Each report is prepared for the Oireachtas and is published on the WAB's website. This is the quarterly report of the WAB and covers Q1 2022. For further information on the WAB, including this and previous reports, see www.wateradvisorybody.ie