



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body  
Wednesday 14 December 2022 at 10am.**

**Venue:** Online via WebEx

Attended by:

Chairperson	Paul McGowan	
Members	Dónal Purcell	Miriam Mc Donald
	Martin Sisk	Noel Byrne
Secretariat	Claire Gavin	Nason Fallon
	Deirdre Byrne	Valerie Longmore

**Introduction**

The Chair introduced and welcomed Noel Byrne, Programme Manager, EPA, who has replaced Michelle Minihan on the WAB for the period remaining prior to dissolution.

**1. Draft minutes of the previous meeting on 10 November 2022.**

The minutes of the meeting were adopted and will be published on the website.

**2. Declaration of any conflict of interest.**

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

**3. Water Services (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2022**

As of 30 November, the Water Services (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2022 had passed all stages in the Dáil and the Seanad and the Bill was signed by the President on 7 December 2022. The dissolution date for the WAB stands at 31 December 2022. Work

on the final Quarterly Report (No. 4 of 2022) and the WAB Annual Report 2022 was to be completed by 28 February 2023. However, on foot of a letter from the Chair of WAB to the Minister, the Chair advised that an extension until the end of April 2023 was granted. The aim to publish the final Quarterly Report by the end of February 2023 still stands and a decision will be made at the next meeting to determine the time required to complete both reports.

#### **4. Irish Water Regulatory Framework.**

The final draft of the document was circulated for comment and the Board confirmed that it is happy for it to issue to the Minister. The Secretariat will draft a letter for the Chair and will then issue the letter to the Minister and copy it to Water Division in DHLGH, the CRU, the EPA and An Fóram Uisce this week. The assistance of all in the preparation of the document was acknowledged.

#### **5. WAB Quarterly Report No. 3 of 2022.**

The Quarterly Report No. 3 of 2022 was published on the website on 30 November, and circulated in the usual manner. It was noted that an error in the Boil Water Notice figures was flagged by Irish Water and corrected, immediately prior to the release of the Report. The work involved in the preparation of the Report and its release by the 30 November was acknowledged.

#### **6. WAB Quarterly Report No. 4 of 2022**

The Quarterly Report No. 4 of 2022 will be the final Quarterly Report of the WAB and will contain a significant level of content. The data cut-off date is 31 December 2022 and material in respect of updated KPIs is to be submitted to the Secretariat as soon as possible after that date. The Secretariat will prepare and circulate a Table of Contents document, which will act as a guide to completion. The document will list the Performance Indicators and the CRU and EPA will advise the Secretariat which indicators will be updated. It was advised at the previous meeting on 10 November that data will become available in January and early February 2023. The EPA noted that material on Boil Water Notices will be finalised early in 2023, but that material on

the Remedial Action List (RAL) may not be ready until early February. Information on two recently published EPA reports will be included –

- Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2021
- Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2021

The CRU expects to include material on –

- Scottish Water International Review
- Irish Water Revenue Control 3 Interim Review
- Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2020 to 2024 Monitoring Report
- Irish Water Innovation Programme
- Compliance Update on Gorey.

A press release will not be issued in respect of the report, but a WAB statement will be prepared and placed on the website with the report. It is unknown how long the website will remain after the dissolution, but links to the report can be placed on the Department's website. The Secretariat will write to Fleishman Hilliard with regard to the dissolution of the WAB and thank them for their assistance with PR for previous Quarterly Reports.

The Secretariat will send a copy of Quarterly Report No. 2 of 2022 to the EPA, to aid in the submission of their material for the final Report.

#### **7. Confirm next meeting dates.**

The following dates were agreed for the next meetings;

- Thursday 2 February, in person at 10.30am in the Custom House.
- Wednesday 22 February in person at 2pm in the Custom House.

#### **8. AOB**

The WAB Annual Report 2022 will be the final report of the WAB and will contain a summary of the work carried out in 2022 and a statement on the dissolution.

The Chair's term as Commissioner in the CRU ends on the 28 February 2023 and therefore his role as Chair of WAB will cease. Depending on when the Quarterly Report No. 4 of 2022 is published, there may be a need to designate a Chair to sign off on the Annual Report. The position in this regard will be considered at the next meeting.