



Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body

Tuesday 13th September 2022, 2.30pm.

Venue: Montpellier Suite, Ashling Hotel.

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul Mc Gowan

Members Michelle Minihan Dónal Purcell

Martin Sisk

Secretariat Claire Gavin Valerie Longmore

Deirdre Byrne

Apologies Miriam Mc Donald

1. & 2. Draft Minutes of the previous meeting of the Board and the meeting with Irish Water on 2 September 2022.

The Board agreed that both draft minutes would be resent to the Chair for his review and then recirculated to the other members.

3. Declaration of any conflict of interest.

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

4. Irish Water Regulatory Framework - discussion of Meeting with An Fóram Uisce.

The Board noted that the meeting with An Fóram Uisce was very engaging and worthwhile, and an interesting range of views were exchanged. It would be beneficial to build on the engagement in future, with regard to issues of mutual concern and a meeting each calendar year could be a suitable forum for this engagement. As there are a number of bodies working on issues in the water area, it would be useful to create a flowchart/map of “who does what”. The Board welcomed the views raised at the meeting but considered that some of the suggestions were outside the scope of the WAB.

With regard to the Regulatory Framework, the Board will outline its views in a letter to be finalised by the end of November. Irish Water will be invited to the November board meeting, which is scheduled to take place on Thursday 10 November in the Custom House.

5. WAB Quarterly Report No. 3 of 2022.

The Board noted that the third Quarterly Report of 2022 will not contain significant new content. The EPA will provide an update on two or at most three KPIs, including Boil Water Notices and Lead Service Connections, and there will be no update on publications. The CRU will provide an update on the First Fix scheme in H1 2022. The cut-off date for data for the Report is 16 September and the data is to be submitted to the Secretariat by 23 September.

The fourth Quarterly Report of 2022 will contain more significant updates, including material on the Irish Water Performance Assessment Framework.

6. Customer Satisfaction Survey.

The Secretariat advised that Core Research could be engaged to carry out a further survey on behalf of the WAB and the cost could be lower, if the same format as the previous survey was used again. The Chair noted that the scope and target areas of a further survey could be discussed at the next meeting on 18 October. The EPA agreed to prepare a list of topics, such as issues with water supply on islands including Inishbofin and Whiddy Island and areas affected by drought in Cork and Wexford.

7. Work Plan 2022 review.

It was agreed that the Secretariat would recirculate the Work Plan for a final review by the Board.

8. Water Services Policy Statement 2018 – 2025 review.

The Chair noted that a short high level response will be drafted and will incorporate the views of the CRU, the EPA and An Fóram Uisce. The WAB welcomes the review and considers that a full review of the Policy Statement is merited, as there have been many changes since it was published in 2018.

9. Meeting with the Assistant Secretary, Water Division, DHLGH.

It was noted that the new Assistant Secretary Fintan Towey has been invited to attend the next meeting on 18 October and confirmation of his attendance is expected to be received shortly.

10. Confirm next three meeting dates

The following meeting dates were agreed:

- Tuesday 18 October 2022 at 10.30am, in person in the Custom House.
- Thursday 10 November 2022 at 10.30am, in person in the Custom House.
- Thursday 8 December 2022 at 10.30am. This meeting is scheduled to take place remotely via WebEx.

11. AOB

No items were raised under AOB.