



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body
Wednesday 18 May 2022, 2pm**

Venue: WebEx VC.

Attended by:

Chairperson Paul McGowan

Members Michelle Minihan Dónal Purcell
Martin Sisk Miriam McDonald

Secretariat Claire Gavin Nason Fallon
Deirdre Byrne Darren Browne

1. Minutes of main meeting on 14 April 2022

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

2. Declaration of any conflict of interest

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

3. Irish Water Regulatory Framework

Minutes of meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) – 10 March 2022

Following circulation of the minutes to the representatives of the EPA and the CRU, the WAB agreed the amendments. The minutes will be published on the WAB website along with the presentations provided at the meeting.

Regulatory Framework: Updated note by the WAB:

Following the last meeting of the WAB, an updated version of the draft note was circulated in advance of this meeting. The note concerns possible advice to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage regarding the robustness of the environmental and economic regulatory framework for Irish Water. This note will form the basis of further discussions with An Fóram Uisce.

Presentation for An Fóram Uisce (AFU)

A letter of invite has issued for the WAB to meet with representatives of An Fóram Uisce to present and discuss the current regulatory framework and the associated roles of the WAB, the EPA and the CRU. Prior to this meeting, the Chairperson of the WAB will have an introductory meeting with the Chairperson of the AFU, Dr. Matt Crowe, to discuss provisional meeting dates and the meeting agenda. The WAB agreed provisional dates for a meeting, including either the afternoon of 12 July or the 13 July. The presentation to the AFU will feature the results of the Irish Water Customer Survey, the draft note on the Regulatory Framework, along with the background and functions of the WAB.

4. Quarterly Report 1 of 2022.

Coverage of release

The WAB discussed the press and media coverage of the recently released Quarterly Report 1 of 2022. The Secretariat provided a brief media coverage comparison overview in respect of the first Quarterly Report of 2022 and the four Reports published by the WAB in 2021. Overall it was felt that the level of coverage obtained by the public relations company for this report was disappointing having received very little national media coverage and did not, for example, feature in the weekend editions of any of the national newspapers or on national radio to any great extent. The WAB felt that improvements could be made in the scheduling of report releases and to the circulation of the report amongst media outlets. In addition, the tone of future press releases should strike a more balanced tone. The Secretariat will contact

the public relations company to discuss these matters further. The Secretariat will also circulate the media coverage comparison report to the WAB board.

5. Irish Water Customer Survey Update

As with the Quarterly Report 1 of 2022, the WAB felt that the level of media coverage obtained by the public relations company for the customer survey report was disappointing. It was agreed that the report will feature in the upcoming Quarterly Report 2 of 2022. In preparation for the release of the next Quarterly report, the Secretariat will seek assistance from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's own communications unit. This is a facility set out as part of the 'Performance Delivery Agreement' between the WAB and the Department.

6. Quarterly Report 2 of 2022

It was agreed that the Irish Water Customer Survey will feature prominently in the 'Foreword' of the next Quarterly report. The CRU has published its Irish Water Performance Assessment Framework Report for 2020 which will result in updates to the performance indicators in Part 2 of the report. Where a performance indicator has not been updated for this report, the main report will feature a graph with no commentary and an Appendix entry featuring a brief explanation. For Part 3 'Key Events', the WAB agreed to include commentary on the following:

- Irish Water Customer Survey Commentary
- The EPA Bathing Water Quality Report 2021
- The CRU Irish Water Performance Assessment Framework Report
- The CRU Capital Investment Plan 2020 to 2024 Monitoring Report No.1.

'Part 4: Commentary on Key Indicators and Conclusions' will not feature from this report onwards and the use of footnotes will also be removed. To aid drafting of the report, the Secretariat will circulate a short guidance note to the Board, the CRU and the EPA outlining what material is required. The data cut-off date was agreed as the 27 May with material to be submitted to the Secretariat by 3 June.

7. Confirm next three meeting dates

The following meeting dates were agreed:

- 8 June 2022 at 2pm - this meeting is scheduled to take place remotely via WebEx.
- 13 July at 10am - this meeting is scheduled to take place in-person and may feature a meeting with representatives of An Fóram Uisce (as mentioned in Agenda Item 3).
- 30 or 31 August (afternoon) – the Secretariat will confirm availability and revert. This meeting will take place remotely via WebEx

8. Any Other Business

The WAB will seek to arrange a meeting with representatives of Irish Water following the release of Quarterly Report 2 of 2022.

The meeting was brought to a close.

Agenda Item No:	Action	Decision
1.	Minutes of WAB Main Meeting on 14 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed subject to minor editorial amendments. • Publish on the website.
3.	Minutes of meeting with the EPA and the CRU on 10 March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed subject to minor editorial amendments. • Publish on the WAB website.
3.	Irish Water Regulatory Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chairperson of the WAB will have an introductory meeting with the Chairperson of the AFU, Dr. Matt Crowe, to discuss provisional meeting dates and the meeting agenda.
4.	Quarterly Report 1 of 2022 Media Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat will contact the public relations company to discuss the media coverage and what improvements can be made.
5.	Irish Water Customer Survey Coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In preparation for the release of the next Quarterly report, the Secretariat will seek assistance from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's own communications unit.
6.	Quarterly Report 2 of 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WAB agreed the content for the next Quarterly report. • To aid drafting of the report, the Secretariat will circulate a short guidance note. • The data cut-off date was agreed as the 27 May with material to be submitted to the Secretariat by 3 June.

7.	Upcoming WAB meeting dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following meeting dates were agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8 June 2022 at 2pm (remotely via WebEx) ○ 13 July at 10am (to take place in-person and may feature a meeting with representatives of AFU) ○ 30 or 31 August (afternoon) – the Secretariat will confirm availability and revert. This meeting will take place remotely via WebEx
8.	Any Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The WAB will seek to arrange a meeting with representatives of Irish Water following the release of Quarterly Report 2 of 2022.