



Minutes of the Meeting of the Water Advisory Body

Thursday 10 November 2022 at 11am.

Venue: Online via WebEx

Attended by:

Chairperson	Paul Mc Gowan	
Members	Michelle Minihan	Dónal Purcell
	Martin Sisk	Miriam Mc Donald
Secretariat	Claire Gavin	Nason Fallon
	Deirdre Byrne	Valerie Longmore

1. Draft minutes of the previous meeting on 18 October 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were adopted, as edited.

2. Draft Minutes of meeting with Fintan Towey, Assistant Secretary, Water Division, and DHLGH on 18 October 2022.

The minutes of the meeting were adopted and will be forwarded to the Water Division for review.

3. Declaration of any conflict of interest.

There was no declaration of any conflict of interest.

4. Water Services (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2022

The Water Services (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill 2022 passed Report stage in the Dáil on 9 November 2022 and will proceed to the Seanad. The Secretariat will circulate the latest version of the Bill to the board, when it is available.

Letter from the Minister

The Minister wrote on November 2nd to the Chair and board members, with regard to the dissolution of the WAB and it was noted that the Secretariat were not notified of this in advance. The letter outlined that the WAB will cease to have advisory and reporting functions by the end of 2022 and the Minister expects the work of the WAB to be completed by the end of February 2023. The Bill states that the final reports of the WAB will be the Quarterly Report No. 4 of 2022 and the Annual Report 2022. The Secretariat will forward this text to the Board for its information.

The Secretariat and the Chair will draft a letter to the Minister, which will acknowledge receipt of his letter and note that the WAB will endeavour to complete its work as quickly as possible, but as outlined in the letter to Water Policy Division it may take until the end of April 2023 for this work to be completed.

5. Irish Water Regulatory Framework.

The Chair will work with the Secretariat, to finalise drafting of the document, and it will be sent to both the Minister and Irish Water.

6. WAB Quarterly Report No. 3 of 2022 – update.

It was noted that the EPA material remains outstanding and it will be sent to the Secretariat by 11 November at the latest. The report will not contain significant new content and will be published on the website without PR support as soon as it is ready.

WAB Quarterly Report No. 4 of 2022

It was agreed that the fourth Quarterly Report will be substantive. The data cut-off date is 31 December 2022. Data will become available at various points in January and early February 2023. The EPA advised that the Boil Water Notice Report should be completed in the first week of January, Irish Water's Lead Report will be available in mid-January and the Remedial Action List will be published on 31 January 2023, with commentary available in the first week of February 2023. In addition, two 2021 Annual Reports on Urban Wastewater Treatment and Drinking Water Quality in Public

Supplies, which were published by the EPA in October, will be covered in the fourth Quarterly Report.

It was agreed that sections of material could be sent to the Secretariat as they are ready. Clarification on many KPI's will be updated and the date the material will be ready should facilitate a prompt turnaround of the fourth report. The Chair suggested that the Table of Contents could be used to track material as it is received and included in the Report. A new point of contact in the EPA will be confirmed by the end of the week.

7. Work Plan 2022 review.

All work of note in 2022 will be covered in the Annual Report.

8. Water Services Policy Statement 2018–2025 – review.

It was agreed that no further action is required on this matter.

9. Confirm next three meeting dates.

The following dates were agreed for the next meetings;

- Thursday 8 December, online via WebEx.
- Thursday 2 February, in person.
- Wednesday 22 February at 2pm in person (to be confirmed at the next meeting).

10. AOB

Noting Michelle Minihan's departure from the EPA, the Chair acknowledged that having someone with such breadth of experience and depth of knowledge was a huge contribution to the work of the WAB and he wished her all the best in her new role. This sentiment was concurred by the other members and the Secretariat.