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Subject:

27 August 2014 12:53
Water Charges

To whom it may concern

I have a number of issues with regard to water charges which have come to a head now that a meter is being installed out the property my family and I reside at. We did receive about three days notice, but not the information pack which was supposed to have been sent out previously.

1. There seems to be a complete lack of transparency on the issue. I can remember shortly after returning to Ireland in 2005 having meters installed on some new build houses for Dublin City Council. As of today the consumer does not know for sure what water will cost them in the future and based on €4-8B per kilolitre the consumer is in for a nasty surprise, a € 1000 additional annual cost of supporting a family. That is € 4880 per megalitre. If that is the real cost of providing and treating that small amount of water, the country will not be able to attract and grow manufacturing industry. Add that to the already high cost of energy in Ireland.

2. I have lived where water charges have applied and know well what a family of four will consume based on the wish to maintain first-world standards of personal hygiene etc. The average Irish water consumer most likely has little idea of their water use. That will force them to make more intelligent use of the resource, a good thing. However, modest use must be affordable and at the above charges it clearly will not. On top of the myriad of social problems caused by the Celtic Tiger and its demise, a section of the population will now be faced with the prospect of water poverty. That is a recipe for civil strife

3. Factors fuelling the price are;

i) the grossly overpaid remuneration packages being offered to management at Irish Water. The supply of water is not rocket science. If these people are not happy with the type of salary that equivalents are paid in the UK, they should be 'invited' in no uncertain terms to pack their bags and go!!! Why is these people can get away with putting a gun to the heads of the consumer?

ii) The lack of investment in water infrastructure in recent decades and the maintenance of same reflects very badly on those responsible. These same people will be in charge of Irish Water no doubt. Another classic example of our ability to reward incompetence.

4. Why is there going to be a distinction between those who are under/over 18 yrs of age. Most young people are still at home well into their 20's whether it is due to study, the inability to afford to rent/buy a place of their own. There seems to be a trend here and it's not going in the right direction.

Finally, water wastage is not a myth, but water scarcity in a country like Ireland, that is a lie! The former can be solved easily enough, but not by fleecing the consumer. The latter suits those with a political agenda.

This water charge is going to be rolled out in the traditional hamfisted, half-cocked, stupid way that Irish decision makers are known for.