



Tipperary

August 28<sup>th</sup> 2014

To Cer ,Water Regulator.

Ref: Submissions on the Water charge in Ireland. (ROI)

**1.THE WEATHER:**

Here in Ireland we experience approx 2 days wet out of every three days throughout the year. This I think should be taken into account in relation to charges for water here. We have to endure its dampness and I believe it has an influence on our outlook, our health, our deficiencies of Vitamin D, not to mention the sadness it leaves with depression and the costs for heating and clothing during the winter months. In general we as a nation have only to collect water harvest it and we don't have to drill to enormous depths to find and pump it. Discovering water here in Ireland by comparison to other countries in which our charges are compared to, do not adequately reflect the ease of access to water in our state and the reduced costs associated with this benefit. This should be reflected in the overall water pricing formula for comparison purposes.

**2.The basis of charges:**

I find it incredible that the regulator would take the information from the company Irish water who are active participants in the pursuit of increasing charges to a maximum in order to be profitable that you would ignore the figures suggested by the public representatives (TD's) i.e. 38,000 litres (H2O) and run with the Irish Water volume of 21,000 litres as a basis for charges. These sample figures were taken from equipment which is new and in use only for a very short period of time and submitted by an active participant and not an independent source; this doesn't make sense as a basis for negotiating on behalf of a consumer position, as adopted by the regulator. I doubt if the figure would be acceptable to any competitive participant in a private sector enterprise. You're supposed victory of future imposed efficiencies up stream to be taken on board by Irish Water Company makes a joke of such statements when viewed in light of the fundamentals adopted. This adherence to the Irish water submitted figures does not demonstrate, in my opinion, true independence by a regulatory body while dismissing or at least ignoring the figures arising from elected representatives of the citizens and or those of our nearest neighbour (UK).

**3.Comparison of water consumption in Ireland versus other European user countries:**

When we look across Europe and see the volume of wine, beer and other soft beverages (not just plain water) for normal everyday consumption, by comparisons with those, here in Ireland, where the custom of beer and wine is not consumed as a Norn for dinner and lunch beverages.

This volume daily drinkable water (should have been reflected as part of the Irish consumption figures to reflect a true comparison. Customs and practice of many aspects of life are normally reflected in most aspects of lawmaking in developed cultures. We would do well not to ignore such volumes and practices.

**4.The extra needs of the elderly and National Dignity.**

As a taxpayer and pensioner who has to visit the toilet twice nightly due to a borderline diabetes condition and whose household looks after a person of some 86 years who now cannot live on their own and in turn needs

bathing and showering several times a week sometimes more than twice daily, in order to keep disease and ailments to a minimum. This person has a catheter in which to contend with its added hygiene requirements of washing and care in the home. The imposition of such restricted water volume to the elderly should be reflected as an extra free allowable volume of water for such cases. The same should apply to the care of the elderly in nursing homes and hospitals.

From life experience we are all very aware of the extra needs of the elderly regarding extra toilet visitations together with extra washing, bathing and showering and to allow for mishaps and the extra blanket and sheet washings which arise as a matter of course. Surely, + we the carers have enough on our plates without the imposition of the extra water costs.

We know from the streets, even today that many of the elderly do not shower daily. This can be verified in many of the parks where elderly people frequent in the summer time. Don't make such situations worse by restricting the needs of those who wish to live out their days in reasonable comfort and into the future. Please do not punish these families and institutions with extra water charges when they undertake the unpleasantness of the work involved and the costs associated with hygiene.

Please also make such amenities as parks and public space even more welcoming to our tourists from home and abroad by making a more liberal water allowances available for the elderly and the homes where they reside for the betterment of all.

I wish to thank the person who has spent the time reading the above.

Yours Sincerely,

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