



# National Federation of Group Water Schemes

Society Ltd.

24 Old Cross Square, Monaghan, Co. Monaghan, H18 NX30

Tel: (047) 72766 Mob: (087) 2300214

E-Mail: [colm@nfgws.ie](mailto:colm@nfgws.ie)

[www.nfgws.ie](http://www.nfgws.ie)

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The Exchange

Belgard Square North

Tallaght

Dublin 24

By e-mail to: [irc2@cer.ie](mailto:irc2@cer.ie).

## Public Consultation on CER Review of Irish Water Revenue (2017 to 2018)

The National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS) is the representative and developmental organisation for the Group Water Scheme (GWS) sector in Ireland. The GWS sector consists of community owned piped water supply systems which are managed on behalf of the owners/members by largely voluntary boards with the assistance of some paid management, administrative and maintenance personnel.

Water services legislation provides for the "Taking in Charge" of GWSs by the Water Services Authority, when so requested by the members of the GWS or in other exceptional circumstances. Following the enactment of the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013, Irish Water (IW) became the Water Services Authority and responsibility for the taking in charge of GWSs moved from the Local Authority (LA) to IW.

Over the past 12 months detailed procedures and protocols in relation to the process of taking in charge of GWSs by IW have been formulated and agreed. A review group made up of officials from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, the NFGWS, IW and LAs worked on the development of these procedures and protocols.

The process of taking in charge of GWSs by IW, which has been held back since 2013, can now proceed. There are between 100 and 200 GWSs around the country that have made initial application to be taken in charge and many of these will be ready during the 2017 to 2018 period.

**IW contends that their taking in charge of these GWSs will result in substantial additional costs, particularly operational costs. There is no mention of such additional costs in any of the documentation regarding the CER's Review of Irish Water Revenue (2017 to 2018). It is essential that any such additional costs are catered for in this review in order to ensure that the members and organisers of these GWSs are not disadvantaged or left waiting any longer for their GWS to be taken in charge. This review should acknowledge these additional costs and clarify how they will be funded.**

We are available to meet CER officials in relation to this issue should that be considered necessary.

Yours sincerely,

Colm Brady, NFGWS  
National Co-ordinator