



CMM Group Water Scheme

Castlerahan, Mountnugent, Munterconnaught

23rd. March 2022

Submission to CRU

In relation to CRU proposed decision paper where you were looking for submissions from Publicly Sourced Group Water Schemes, I wish to make the following observation:

In the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government Terms and Conditions for Subsidy towards the Operational Costs of Group Water Schemes issued August 2018, the outcome looking to be achieved is transparent, fair and equitable charges to be achieved this also features in the CRU document Enduring Charging Arrangements for Public Group Water Schemes.

A short history of CMM GWS: It was established in 2002 and at that time CMM GWS were forced to purchase treated water from Cavan County Council at a cost of €1.10 per cubic meter. All other schemes were allowed to put in place their own treatment plants which was 100% grant aided, this was as a result of oversupply in the Ballyjamesduff Regional Water Supply. Neighbouring schemes are in a position to charge about half the price that CMM GWS has to charge.

As a result of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government document been issued, we were instructed that domestic standing charges had to be abolished and that each domestic house was to be given 160 cubic meters of water free of charge. As Castlerahan, Mountnugent, Munterconnaught (CMM) Group Water Scheme was purchasing treated water from Cavan County Council now Irish Water at a cost of €1.10c per cubic meter and standing charge being abolished to domestic houses, together with the increase in domestic allowance from 120 cubic meters per year to 213 cubic meters per year, this resulted in CMM Group Water Scheme being placed in a seriously financial situation with having to made up the shortfall.

When we discussed this with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes we were assured that this unfair and inequitable charge faced by CMM Group Water Scheme would be resolved as a matter of urgency to bring publicly sourced schemes in line with the charging private group water schemes are in a position to charge for their water and be viable. The Federation of Group Water Schemes advised us to calculate the amount to be paid to Irish Water based on water used in excess of 213 cubic meters and that when this was sorted it would be backdated to the 1st. January 2018 the date the new subsidy regulations were implemented from. As you can appreciate this now leaves us facing an enormous bill if the new pricing arrangement is not going to be backdated.

In the CRU Document in section 3.1 Six Tariff Principals issued to Irish Water, we have been trying to correspond with Irish Water to air our grievance in not being allowed to deduct the difference between the 120 cubic meters which had been set by Cavan County Council and transferred to Irish Water and the 213 cubic meters now in place. We never had a response from Irish Water and our correspondence was never acknowledged. In the interest of Transparent, fair and equitable charges I believe we should be allowed use the figure of 213 cubic meters per domestic house when calculating the charges from Irish Water.

If this enormous bill is not sorted it will result in CMM GWS not being viable and the scheme will have to be taken in charge by Irish Water or our 850 members approximately will have no water. Can this be allowed to happen? In relation to the CRU's proposals where publicly sourced group water schemes would be taken in charge by Irish Water, this is another compelling reason why Irish Water would not be entitled to charge CMM Group Water Scheme for water usage in excess of the 120 cubic meters per domestic house as they would be paid for water usage and then take control of the scheme, as I would see this as double payment by CMM Group Water Scheme.

In relation to all of the CRU's proposals going forward I would have no objection to them but feel in the interests of being transparent, fair, and equitable this outstanding water charge by Irish Water must be dealt with.

Thanking you.