Update on Future Delivery of Water Services

24th June 2022

Dear colleague,

I refer to previous correspondence where I undertook to keep you updated on developments in relation to water services. As you are aware, the government published a Water Sector Transformation Policy Paper, Irish Water – Towards a National, Publicly Owned, Regulated, Water Services Utility, in February 2021. The paper referenced the process facilitated by the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC), which has been ongoing with a view to assisting the parties to devise a mutually agreed operational framework to replace the Service Level Agreements. The government asked the parties to engage to agree a framework for a stable operating structure for the future delivery of water services.

Meetings have been ongoing since July of 2021 between the representatives of the management side (CCMA,LGMA, DHLGH and Irish Water) and the trade unions under the auspices of the Workplace Relations Commission and a final meeting was held on the 20th of June 2022.

The outcome of this engagement is the attached Framework for Future Delivery of Water Services, which addresses staff issues relating to the future delivery of water services. There will be significant detail to be agreed on the migration of services to the Single Public Utility (Irish Water) and we will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that this will be done as seamlessly and efficiently as possible.

As the detail of the implementation plan to deliver on the framework is developed, I will provide updates and information.

I recognise the magnitude of the change programme that the delivery of the transformation policy for the sector involves and will work to support staff as much as possible.

Kind regards,

Ann Doherty, Chief Executive