

# Water Safety Plans



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# Why Water Safety Plans

- IW are following the WHO lead on WSPs
- Irish Water Aligned with WHO/EPA Approach to Risk Assessment of Water Supplies,
- Risk Assessment used in all aspects of our lives food, road transport, construction,
- Why not Risk Assessment with the most valuable and widely used food resources?,
- We need to apply the “Field to Fork” approach to the “Source to Tap”
- WSP will bring clarity to what's good and not so good about our Drinking Water Supplies



## The Benefits of Water Safety Plans

- WSPs support the development of each county and assist in the protection of the counties most valuable assets,
- Ultimately WSPs highlight risk so water supply made safer,
- Irish Water has to justify all investments to its customers and to the Water Regulator,
- Focus will be on water safety and consumer,
- WSPs provide basis for investment prioritisation,
- LA with plans can make better case than those without,

# WSP Planning for Plans

- Irish Water Committed to WSP from Day 1
- Water Safety Plans has been included within the SLA Agreement,
- The duty of preparation WSPs will fall primarily to LAs,
- The co-ordination of the development of the WSPs will fall to Irish Water,
- Irish Water appointed a Water Specialist for each of the 3 Regions:
  - *North & West Region* *Des Joyce*
  - *Eastern Region* *Mary McMahon*
  - *Southern Region* *Brian Quinn*
- Working Group from 8 LA's & EPA have paved the way for us,
- Out of this collaboration the EPA WSP Tool has emerged to assist us,
- Planning for the WSP will now move to Water Safety Plan preparation phase



# Training, Learning & Acting

- Today we start with the use of the EPA WSP Tool,
- LA's will identify key staff who will prepare the Plans,
- Irish Water currently engaging with LA's on WSP,
- Preparation of WSP will require input from a range of LA staff,
- Some assistance from IW systems to assist (e.g. WAM asset data capture programme)
- Preparation of WSP may require external information,
- Will necessitate cross LA cooperation,
- Process will evolve as we progress,

# Getting Started

- Availability of Key Staff,
- Engagement with Irish Water staff with LA staff,
- Engagement of Irish Water with EPA
- Review of Water Supply Zones in each LA Agree on schemes to start
- Work-shops Review (1-2 months from now)

# Overview of the task ahead

- 1027 Water Supply Zones in Country
- Southern Region 494
- Eastern Region 365
- North & West 168
- Asset Strategy continue to validate the WSZ list



## Review Process

- Process for review of WSPs to be finalised,
- Irish Water will need to review Plans ahead of submission in accordance with (protocol IW-PRM-EPA-006 Water Safety Plans Process Map)
- Water Safety Plans are submitted but never finished – they are Live Documents,
- By reviewing our plans we will learn lessons and improve our approach,
- Need to Standardise Approach and Standard use of internal & external data (asset standards specialist/strategy)

# A final word

*“The preparation of Water Safety Plans will provide wide ranging benefits to the safety of our water supplies. In doing so we can support the development of that county and region”*

*Does anyone  
know this location?*



- Thank you for your attention
- Des Joyce