

The National Lead Strategy

- an overview

Cian Ó Lionáin

Principal Officer, Water Quality.

cian.olionain@housing.gov.ie



**An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála,
Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil**
Department of Housing, Planning,
Community and Local Government



Why have a national strategy?

- The strategy sets out:

“a long-term national objective to reduce people’s exposure to lead by removing it from drinking water or reducing its prevalence to levels compliant with prescribed standards through the removal of pipes and where appropriate other measures”.

Key elements of the National Strategy

- Building **awareness** amongst responsible bodies and consumers, particularly focussed on vulnerable groups
- Ensuring that the levels of risk are subject to on-going **assessment** and, where possible, **mitigation** measures taken in advance of longer term solutions.
- A **grant scheme** to assist homeowners to replace lead piping
- Development of an **IW Lead in DW mitigation plan**



Key players in the National Strategy

- Water providers – public and private
- Health Services Executive
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Householders and other property owners, including Local Authorities, Government Departments & various agencies under their aegis
- Department of Housing, Planning Community & Local Government / Department of Health



Progress on the National Strategy

- 9 June 2015
 - National Lead Strategy launched
- November 2015
 - High level Seminar takes place
- February 2016
 - Grant scheme legislation enacted (S.I. 56 of 2016)
- Lead mitigation advisory group
 - Agreed Dec 2016
 - First meeting March 2017



Lead Mitigation Advisory Group

- Public confidence role
- To advise on IW lead mitigation decision-making process
- Review DW and Env impacts and advise on possible derogation requirements under WFD / Natura – IROPI
- Advise on broader IW lead mitigation strategy



LMAG membership

- Water Division, D/HPC&LG (chair)
- Health Services Executive
- EPA
- NPWS Division of D/AHRRGA

- IW will attend meetings of the group
- Sub-group of WPAC



Various actions of the Strategy

- Raising Awareness
- Water Providers
- Removing lead from housing stock
- Education Sector
- Hospitals & Health Care facilities
- Other Public Bodies
- Research & Monitoring



Focus Point for today: Removing Lead from Housing Stock

- Grant scheme administration
 - provision of consumer information
 - processing grant applications
 - assisting with Irish Water customer-opt-in scheme
- Social housing stock
 - risk assessment of stock
 - maintenance/stock improvement programmes



Key Challenges

- Define scale of LA housing stock lead issue
- Progress on assessing other State property portfolios
- Utilisation of private grant
- Awareness building: role of water forums



Further Information

- General Information available on the Department Website:

<http://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-quality/lead-drinking-water>

Email: waterquality@housing.gov.ie

- Health Advice:
 - HSE / EPA