



National Federation of Group Water Schemes

Society Limited

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Motions for ADC on 9th March 2017

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A. Capital Grants and Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme:

1. That the NFGWS Board works to;
 - a. ensure maximum capital grant aid for the group water sector which is in line with the bids submitted from Local Authorities
 - b. protect the existing operational subsidy for GWSs
 - c. ensure the group water scheme sector is treated equally with the public water supply services.

Cavan
2. That the NFGWS Board through the Rural Water Monitoring Committee ensures the re-establishment of county rural water monitoring committees that will include GWS and NFGWS representation and will consider, inter alia, Rural Water Programme investment priorities and the resolution water quality issues.

Donegal
3. That the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government would continue to provide investment for source protection for the Group Water Scheme sector.

Galway
4. Kildare and Wicklow FGWS would like to express their dissatisfaction with the late allocation of funding under the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme in 2016 resulting in several projects not being able to proceed. The NFGWS must ensure that the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government announce the rural water allocations before the end of March in any year.

Kildare Wicklow
5. The NFGWS ensures that capital funding for the remainder of the Multi-Annual Rural Water Programme (2017 & 2018) is increased to take account of works that could not be completed due to the lateness of the announcement of funding in 2016.

Kilkenny

6. That the NFGWS seeks to have a substantial increase in funding for Group Sewage schemes through the Rural Water Program to help with the rural regeneration policy and halt the decline in rural communities.

Leitrim

7. That the NFGWS Board seek a review of the county rural water monitoring committees remit nationally through the National Rural Water Services Committee to address in more detail current issues in the Group Water Scheme sector.

Meath and Monaghan

8. That the NFGWS Board ensure that capital grant aid & subsidies continue to be available to the Group Water Scheme Sector at current levels to assist schemes with managing, maintaining and improving their infrastructure and networks into the future.

Meath and Monaghan

9. That the Board of the NFGWS would work with the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government to ensure that the Rolling Budget is fully implemented and upgrading works can be completed without the stipulation of unreasonable deadlines

Roscommon

B. GWS Operational Subsidy & GWS Operational Costs

10. The NFGWS continues to seek costs associated with statutory compliance monitoring under the drinking water regulations funded in full by the Department of Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government.

Carlow Wexford

11. That the NFGWS ensure that there is equity between rural water sector and public water sector in relation to domestic water charges which is reflected in a higher operational subsidy towards the cost of providing domestic water for GWSs.

Cork

12. That the NFGWS Board ensure that subsidy payments reflect the full cost of domestic water provision on group water schemes.

Donegal

13. That the NFGWS should uphold the right of group schemes to determine their customer charging tariff.

Donegal

14. The NFGWS should ensure, as part of any future review of operational subsidy, that a minimum fixed amount of subsidy be available under strand A for small GWS to cover high annual costs such as insurance, auditor's fees, etc. similar to the minimum capitation grants provided by the Department of Education to small rural schools.

Kildare Wicklow

15. That the NFGWS Board continue to ensure that the operational subsidy is maintained and secured to adequately meet the needs of the Group Water Scheme sector into the future.

Louth

16. That the NFGWS requests an increase in the rate of Strand A Subsidy for DBO GWSs from the minimum of 60%.

Roscommon

17. That the NFGWS seeks to have the subsidy A substantially increased so that domestic Group Water Scheme customers are not disadvantaged over publicly supplied domestic householders.

Sligo

18. That the NFGWS continues to have the costs associated with compliance monitoring under the drinking water regulations funded separately under the rural water programme and not through the GWS operational subsidy.

Tipperary

C. Road Management Office, 'Purple Book' & Associated Costs

19. The NFGWS must ensure that GWSs are not levied with excessive charges as a result of the new 'Purple book' specifications when carrying out works on public roads.

Carlow Wexford

20. That this ADC would work with the Roads Management Office and Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport to reduce the cost of road restoration as the implementation of the purple book standards will guarantee the quality of the work and ensure that the road is reinstated properly.

Clare

21. That Group Water Schemes would not be disadvantaged in relation to the new national online system for road opening licensing applications amid the revised 'Purple Book'.

Galway

22. The NFGWS seek to have reinstatement charges for the guarantee period associated with road opening licences not levied on the GWS sector. These charges can be excessive and many GWS can simply not afford the upfront cost.

Kilkenny

23. The NFGWS must ensure that Local Authorities and the new Roads Management Office are not charging GWSs excessively for the cost of road opening licences and that any new national licencing system being introduced is efficient and user friendly for the applicant.

Laois

24. That the NFGWS Board seek to ensure that the new Road Management Office for the application of road opening licenses is both efficient and cost effective for the Group Water Scheme sector.

Louth

25. That the NFGWS seeks to have the unique position of Group Water Schemes taken into consideration when the new online road opening licence application process comes into operation. That the NFGWS seeks to have any additional costs associated with reinstatement in line with the "purple book" standards be fully reflected in an increase in capital grants for Group Water Schemes.

Mayo

26. That additional funding for upgrading works or repair works would be included in the Rural Water Programme on an ongoing basis for the increased costs associated with Road Openings and costs associated with the implementation of the Purple Book.

Offaly

27. The NFGWS will assist GWSs with the implementation of the new Road Opening Licences requirements and to ensure that the GWSs are treated equally as a service provider.

Roscommon

28. That the NFGWS seeks to have Capital Grants increased to reflect the likely large increase in road restoration costs which will result from the establishment of the Road Management Office and the application of the "Purple Book" standards to road restoration.

Sligo

D. Possible Constitutional Amendment on Water Services

29. The NFGWS must ensure that they are consulted as part of any rewording of the constitution in relation to the provision of water services in Ireland to ensure the ownership of the private GWS sector is not negatively impacted on.

Cork

30. Following the Expert Commission's recommendation that there be a referendum on the issue of ownership of water and wastewater infrastructure the NFGWS should seek to ensure that an agreed and suitable wording could be arrived at as the fears of the group water scheme sector is that any wording of such an amendment might unintentionally damage the current very successful operations of the private GWS sector.

Galway

31. The NFGWS must ensure that any proposed amendment to the wording of the constitution in relation to the ownership of water services does not negatively impact on the private GWS sector.

Laois

32. That this ADC direct the Board of the NFGWS to ensure ownership of private Group Water Schemes is not unintentionally damaged in the forthcoming purposed referendum on the ownership of public water and wastewater infrastructure.

Louth

33. That the NFGWS seeks to ensure;
- a. equity and fairness for the GWS sector firmly reflected in whatever the final water policy results from the deliberations of the Dáil Committee dealing with water charges and future funding, and
 - b. any constitutional amendment protects the interest of Group Water Schemes from any unintended consequence ensuring the autonomy of Group Water Schemes as they are currently constituted.

Mayo

34. That this ADC directs the board of the NFGWS to take every measure possible to ensure the Group Water Scheme sector is consulted and protected before any possible amendments are made to the constitution in relation to the issue of ownership of public water and wastewater infrastructure.

Meath and Monaghan

35. The NFGWS ensures that if there is any future change to the constitution in relation to the privatisation of public water services that the privately owned GWS sector is not impacted negatively.

E. Irish Water

36. That the NFGWS will work with Irish Water to reduce the €145 standing charge for Non-domestic members on Part Private GWSs as they are refusing to contribute to the GWS as they feel they shouldn't have to pay twice for water. When the charge per cubic meter is set by IW for Part Private GWSs, the NFGWS should ensure that this rate is affordable into the future.

Clare

37. That this ADC requests the Board of the NFGWS to seek that public pronouncements, which are made by Irish Water or the Energy Regulator, be made abundantly clear that the statements apply to public schemes only and not Water Schemes in general.

Sligo

38. The NFGWS continues to ensure that the Irish Water Eastern Midland Pipeline corridor does not negatively impact on any GWS source or catchment area.

Tipperary

F. Miscellaneous

39. Carlow & Wexford FGWS welcome the appointment of their new Development officer and ask that the NFGWS consider recruiting further staff for the purposes of raising awareness and educating communities about water and their group water scheme through local primary schools.

Carlow Wexford

40. The NFGWS would encourage female participation on the membership of the NFGWS Board.

Clare

41. The NFGWS continues to seek an audit exemption for GWSs constituted as Co-operatives with small turnovers, similar to the exemption allowable to small GWS constituted as companies. The high costs associated with annually auditing GWS accounts are simply too high for many small GWSs.

Cork

42. The NFGWS should continue to seek Audit exemption for GWS Co-operatives with small turnovers, similar to small GWS companies.

Kildare Wicklow

43. That the NFGWS are conscious, when involved in appointing new GWS managers as part of rationalisation or otherwise, that sufficient support, guidance and training are put in place for new managers and committee members to work together, ensuring that local knowledge and experience is not lost.

Kilkenny

44. The NFGWS requests the LASNTG to hold the Rural Water Services Conference in a more central venue.

Laois

45. Speed up the lifting of boil water notices on GWSs and ensure that emergency funding will be available to assist with any remedial works required.

Limerick

46. That the NFGWS seeks to have Group Water Scheme Licencing – Registration urgently progressed so that sections of the 2007 Water Services Act can be commenced.

Mayo

47. That the NFGWS would produce a guidance document for GWS Boards to advise them of their rights and responsibilities as Employers to ensure that they fulfil their legal obligations.

Offaly