Company No: NI054463

NI Water Ltd
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")
on Tuesday 29th July 2025 @ 11am
IOC Conference Room, Westland House

Present:	Jo Aston	Chair
	Maurice Bullick	Non Executive Director
	Danny McSorley	Non Executive Director
	Paddy Larkin	Non Executive Director
	Marie-Therese McGivern	Non Executive Director
	Belinda Oldfield	Non Executive Director
	Sara Venning	Chief Executive
	Ronan Larkin	Director of Finance, Regulation and Commercial
	Stephanie McCullagh	Director of Customer and Operations

In attendance:	Tzvetelina Bogoina	Director of Infrastructure Delivery
	Gary Curran	Director of Engineering & Sustainability
	Rose Kelly	Director of People & Learning
	Damien O'Mullan	Director of Transformation & Innovation
	Aisling McHugh	Acting Company Secretary
	Trevor Hutchinson	Head of Health and Safety **(Item 3)**
	Anthony Lynn	Head of Communications **(Item 5 & 8.2)**
	Paddy Brow	Head of Living with Water Programme **(Item 6)**
	Nicola Brennan	Head of Internal Audit **(Item 7.5)**
	Patrick Brown	Managing Partner, Tughans **(Items 8.1 onwards)**
	Tom Kelly	Senior Climate Engagement Manager **(Item 8.2)**
	Anthony Lynn	Head of Communications **(Item 8.2)**
Apologies:	Mark Ellesmere	General Counsel & Company Secretary

1. Conflicts of Interest
- No conflicts of interest declared.

2. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting
- The draft minutes of the meeting on 24th June 2025 were approved subject to minor amendment to final bullet point at 9.2.1.
- Actions from the last meeting were updated.
- The members noted the briefing note on Head Count
- The members noted the briefing note on the Impact of rainfall volumes on RDEL costs.

3. Health and Safety Report

- The update report was noted with 1 RIDDOR injury and no new Contractor reportable incidents.
- No reportable contractor injuries.
- Health and Safety Department are supporting a 15 day review by the Internal Audit Department beginning end of July 2025 and focusing on H&S Strategy 2025-28.
- The members welcomed the update on the training record.

4. Main Board Report

The CEO highlighted the following matters:

- Updates on PC21shareholder investment, Ministerial Review and Withdrawal of SORPI will be picked up at agenda Item 8.
- Regulatory Fee increases by NIEA and UR are being carefully evaluated in light of RDEL constraints.
- Minister Kimmins received a briefing in Newry WwTW on the Building for the Future pilot and made announcements in relation to work in Newry and Derry that facilitated housing schemes.
- In relation to Shareholder Engagement the Chair confirmed she met with the Permanent Secretary of DAERA
- Alpha PPP restructuring has secured DfI approval and still waiting DoF approval
- Pay and Reward: continuing to engage with NIPSA on 2023/24 pay reward.
- Customer Delivery: it was noted that high demand event occurred over the July bank holiday weekend with up to 700Ml/D produced. Incident management teams were mobilised.
- In relation to pollution incidents, it was noted that the annual target is likely to be exceeded. After action reviews are carried out for each incident to identify learnings and preventive measures.
- Wastewater Compliance metrics for number of compliant treatment works are predicted to fail under the announced sampling regime.
- The financial highlights were noted, and further discussion will follow at Item 8

The remaining items on the Main Board Report were taken as read but questions were welcomed by all Board Members.

5. Engagement Strategy Update

- An update was given on current engagement with Stakeholders, Domestic/Business customer and internal communications
- Communications regarding Lough Neagh and water quality (‘potable water’) were discussed, it was noted that there are updates on the website and continued water quality messaging.
- A discussion on the impact of curtailing comms activity took place. Board asked for more information in this regard.

6. LWWP Update

- NI Water has responded to DfI on the outcome of the LWWP Review.
- LWWP Major Projects deferral related stakeholder interest and investigations continue.
- Water quality in Belfast Lough is deteriorating – Comms Team have been provided with reactive lines to take.
- Work continues to secure DfI and DoF OBC approvals for 5 out of the 9 major projects, with good progress on many enabling works and consequential base maintenance.
- Plan to invite the Minister to open the new Kennedy Way Hub.
- Work has commenced on the DfI SuDS Transformation Project, with the areas of focus agreed and DfI accepting that it can include a SuDS Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW).
- The July to September focus area were noted.

7. Approvals

7.1 Changes to FR009 Financial Delegations Procurement Control Limits

- Approved based on the information provided within the paper.

7.2 IF030 Compressors and Blowers Framework – Contract Award

- Approved based on the information provided within the paper.

7.3 IF031 Water and Wastewater Pumps Framework – Contract Award

- Approved based on the information provided within the paper.

7.4 Approval to Award C09-46 Supply and Delivery of Polyelectrolytes

- Approved based on the information provided within the paper.

7.5 Additional Approval Paper: C1098 - Internal Audit Resource DAC Request Paper

- Approved based on the information provided within the paper.

Patrick Brown joined the meeting at this point.

8. Specific Items

8.1 Funding and Governance Update

- A discussion on the current REDL and CDEL positions and the risk of budget deficit was held
- Consideration was given to options to reduce RDEL; Scenario A: requires change in classification of volatile costs (RDEL to AME); and, Scenario B: requires change in policy (Ministerial directive)

- The Board confirmed its desire to produce an operating plan aligned to DfI budget allocations, noting that this resulted in higher levels of risk. The Board also noted the number of capital schemes that cannot be delivered based on the reduced funding allocations. It was agreed that ORG would be informed of this and given a further opportunity to comment on the guiding principles contained within the Reasoned Submission.
- A single Operating Plan & Budget aligning to the allocations of £150.2m (RDEL) and £361m (CDEL) will be submitted to DfI. It was agreed to share the implications of this budget settlement which is below the PC21 MTR with the UR.
- It was agreed that the Chair would revert to Minister Kimmins with a view to convening a Senior Leaders Forum to consider a pragmatic way forward to address the challenges of wastewater compliance and capacity.
- Following discussion on the Ministerial Review into Accounts and Accounting Practices it was agreed to collate the recommendations from the recently published reports (NIAO Report on Water Funding, NIAO Report on Major Capital Projects, Leo O, Reily Report, PWC Report, Chamber Report, Fiscal Council Report) and consider in light of any forward work programme.
- The UR has indicated a workstream to remove the CWA / MoU mechanism during PC21 and identify a replacement in PC28. It was agreed to inform the UR that NI Water could not support removal absent a replacement mechanism.
- The proposed removal of SORPI was discussed and a further update on officer liability to be provided at the next meeting. It was agreed to ensure DfI were aware of advice provided in this regard.

8.2 Funding Communications Update

- The report was noted and consideration given as to how we engage with key stakeholders.
- The Board requested an Action Plan which will document the strategic communication outcomes we want to achieve and identify key activities.

9. Minutes from Audit Committee Meeting on 9th June (verbal update given at last EC Board)

- The draft minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting on 9 June 2025 were noted.

10. Update on Remuneration & Nomination Committee - 29th July 2025

- The update highlighted the position on Holiday Pay redress together with two retirements, the second due to ill health.

11. Forward Look

- The Forward Look was noted.

12. AOB

- The Chief Executive gave a brief update on various ongoing matters raised by an ex-contractor.