

NI Water Ltd
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")
on Thursday 19th January 2023 at 11.00 am
IOC Conference Room, Westland House

Present:	Peter McNaney Paddy Larkin Belinda Oldfield Maurice Bullick Sara Venning Ronan Larkin Paul Harper Des Nevin	Non Executive Director - Chair Non Executive Director Non Executive Director Non Executive Director Chief Executive Finance, Regulation and Commercial Director Director of Asset Delivery Director of Customer and Operations
In attendance:	Mark Ellesmere Rose Kelly Alistair Jinks Trevor Hutchinson Ivan Jackson Helen Devlin Geraldine Bell Andrea Rushby Larry McAteer	General Counsel & Company Secretary Director of People & Learning Director of Business Services Head of Health and Safety (Item 2) Interim Head of Health and Safety (Item 2) Head of HR Operations (Item 2) CBC R&I Programme Manager (Item 4.ii.) Head of Information Security (Item 4.iii.) Programme Manager – Cyber Resilience (Item 4.iii)
Apologies:	Len O'Hagan Marie-Therese McGivern	Chair Non Executive Director

There were no Conflicts of Interest declared at the beginning of the meeting.

In the absence of the Chair, Peter McNaney chaired the meeting.

1. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting

- The minutes of the meeting on 20th December 2022 were approved.
- All actions closed.

2. Health and Safety Report

- The update report was noted with no Company KPI incidents nor contractor RIDDOR incidents in period.
- Slieve Gullion incident – a discussion ensued in relation to this matter – it was agreed that the Head of Health and Safety provide a briefing to the Risk Committee in relation to tree management at its next meeting.

3. Main Board Report

Significant matters in month.

The CEO provided an update on the following matters:

- Continued strong performance against KPIs in period – December freeze/thaw incident has had detrimental impact on leakage.
- Pay Remit 22/23 – a verbal update was provided on recent engagement with WGTUs – engagement with NIPSA continues.
- 22/23 Budget – notwithstanding recent additional costs as a result of the December freeze/thaw incident the Company continues to achieve its budgetary targets.
- Members also noted recent correspondence between the Company and Dfl in relation to the pay remit and budget 22/23.
- Budget 23/24 – to be taken under Agenda Item 5.
- December Freeze/Thaw Incident – Members expressed their appreciation for the resilience and commitment shown during this incident resulting in minimal customer impact.
- NIAO Report – the Company's comments on the draft report will be shared with Dfl imminently.
- Belfast City Council Consultation – a response to the Council's consultation on its draft economic strategy for Belfast 22/30 was submitted with a view to continuing to work collaboratively with the Council.
- ICE NI Sustainability Award – the Board congratulated colleagues on this award in relation to Ballykelly Wastewater Treatment Work upgrade.

Colleagues

- Hybrid Working – it was noted that the hybrid working pilot project was now extended to the end of June.

Customer

- All customer targets on track except NPS and leakage, the latter mainly as a result of the recent freeze/thaw incident.

Compliance

- Drinking water quality and wastewater compliance year end targets for 2022 have been met subject to NIEA audit.
- Development Constraints – positive recent engagement with planners and local councils.

Finance

- On budget in year excluding energy costs which Dfl wish to be dealt with separately.

4. Approvals

4.i C1147 – Disposal/Recycling of Water Treatment Works Residual

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

4.ii Customer Billing and Contact Contract

- The Board thanked the CBC renewal and implementation team for the completion of this significant tender exercise and acknowledged the extent of the work moving forward towards implementation of the new contract.

4.iii IF101 (JI072) IF102 (JI073) – Framework Extraordinary Extensions

- Approved based upon the information provided within the report and upon confirmation that the legal risk of challenge to the recommendation was deemed to be low.

4.iv. IF182 – Professional Services Framework Strategy

- Approved based upon the information provided within the report.

4.v. NIS CAF 2022 Submission to Competent Authority

- Members thanked the Head of Information Security and the Cyber Resilience Programme Manager for the update and proposed submission to the Competent Authority.
- The Chair of the Risk Committee confirmed that it recommended submission of the NIS CAF self-assessment framework 20/22 to the Competent Authority. On that basis the Board approved submission of the NIS CAF self-assessment framework 20/22 to the Competent Authority.

4.vi. 23/24 Tariff Submission to UR

- Members discussed the options and proposal recommended by management in detail including the role of Dfl, the lack of reserves/contingency within the Company, the communications plan, the likely reaction of customers and the indicative tariff increases of water utilities in England, Wales and Scotland. On that basis the Board approved Option 1 recommended within the paper together with appropriate communications plan to include consideration of engagement with business groups prior to tariff announcement and appropriate engagement with Dfl.

5. Operating Plan and Budget

- The indicative operating plan and budget for 23/24 was noted. It was agreed that the 23/24 operating plan and budget should continue to align with the commitments set out in year 3 of the PC21 Final Determination. It was also agreed that efficiencies should be highlighted to Dfl as well as the proposal to fix energy prices, as far as possible, as part of this process.

6. Forward Look

- The forward look was noted.

7. Any Other Business

- There were no items under any other business.