

NI Water Ltd  
("the Company")

Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors (the "Board")  
on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 @ 9.00 am  
F&R Conference Room/IOC Conference Room, Westland House

**Present:**

Len O'Hagan	Chair
Peter McNaney	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	Finance, Regulation and Commercial Director
Stephanie McCullagh	Director of Customer and Operations

**In attendance:**

Mark Ellesmere	General Counsel & Company Secretary
Rose Kelly	Director of People & Learning
Alistair Jinks	Director of Business Services
Gary Curran	Director of Engineering and Sustainability
Tzvetelina Bogoina	Director of Infrastructure Delivery

**Apologies:** Maurice Bullick, Non Executive Director

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

### **Board Theme – Wastewater Briefing**

The Board received an update on the challenges of managing wastewater discharges into watercourses and current plans to address these matters going forward. Next steps were agreed to include engagement with key stakeholders to ensure that the nature and extent of the investment required is properly understood before decisions on funding are taken.

#### **1. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting**

- The draft minutes of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were approved.
- Board actions were dealt with under Agenda Item 3.

#### **2.1 Health and Safety Report**

- There were no RIDDOR reportable incidents in period. Positive progress continues in relation to the Health and Safety action plan across both compliance and improvement areas.

### 3. Funding

#### 3.1 23/24 Funding – Recent Developments

- The Chair provided a verbal update on the Shareholder Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

#### 3.2 Funding – Accounting Officers Briefing

- Members were advised that a decision on a direction to the Accounting Officer was not being sought at this point.
- The CEO (in her capacity as Accounting Officer) briefing the Board on the current budgetary position for 23/24. The Director of Finance, Regulation and Commercial presented a number of slides in relation to RDEL including details of areas where spend may be cut or reduced in order to meet the current RDEL allocation of £171.4m.
- A number of potential areas where spend may be reduced or stopped were discussed in detail to enable the Board to examine all practical alternatives to overspending.
- The Director of Engineering and Sustainability presented an update on the 23/24 CDEL position including details of projects that would need to be stopped or delayed in 23/24 in order to meet the current CDEL allocation of £321m. Analysis was also presented in relation to the impact of the same capital allocation for the remainder of the PC21 period as outlined in the letter from Dfl to the UR dated 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2023. These matters, including recent correspondence from the Dfl Permanent Secretary to the Chair requesting a pause on capital spend, were discussed by Members in detail in the context of the Board's legal duties and licence obligations. A number of points of clarity were requested and it was agreed that a response be issued on behalf of the Board to the Dfl letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> November in line with the discussion.

### 4. Main Board Report

#### Significant Matters in Month

The CEO provided an update on the following matters.

- **Winter Readiness** – the CEOs of the Joint Utilities Group met recently to launch the Annual Utilities Winter Awareness Campaign.
- **Capital Supplier Conference** – the CEO and Director of Infrastructure Delivery attended a recent conference with capital suppliers which was well attended and received.
- **Stakeholder Engagement** - The Company hosted the UR's newly formed Water Team at Belfast Wastewater Treatment Works for a site visit at the end of October.
- **Staff Engagement** – Engagement sessions have recommenced at all 6 hub locations involving the 3 new Directors on the Executive Team.

#### Colleagues

- **Transitional Protections McCloud Remedy** – Dfl approval given for the business case – DoF approval is now being sought.
- **NI Water Unplugged** – the new employee survey has now issued and is closing on the 12<sup>th</sup> December.
- **Management Development Programme** – this programme has now moved into delivery phase.

## **Customer**

- Core targets on track for delivery, leakage remains a challenge.

## **Compliance**

- Drinking water quality remains on track against target, the pollution incidents target in relation to wastewater compliance has been exceeded.

## **Finance**

- Financial targets remain on track for delivery with income holding at a steady level.

The remainder of the Main Board Report was taken as read.

## **5. Approvals**

### **5.i Half Year Subsidy Assurance**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **5.ii Financial and Procurement Delegations**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper and on the basis that there were no material changes to the Policy.

### **5.iii. IF108 Water Rehabilitation Integrated Partnership Framework Award**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **5.iv. Belfast WwTW Pre A1 Fee Approval**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **5.v. CE010 – Anti-Slavery and Human Trafficking Policy Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **5.vi. Go Power Mediation**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

### **5.vii. Electricity Hedging – Request to Proceed to Request for Pricing (RfP) Stage**

- Approved based upon the information provided within the paper.

## **6. Cyber Update**

- Members welcomed the video presentation circulated in advance of the meeting and discussed the potential implications of AI going forward as well as continued positive engagement with the Competent Authority.

## **7. Forward Look**

- The forward look was noted.

## **8. Any Other Business**

- No items under Any Other Business.