



Irish Water Consultative Group

Dear Colleagues

At a meeting of Irish Water Consultative Group held on 28th September 2017 Irish Water announced that they wish to make significant changes to the way water services are delivered. In short they announced that the Board of Ervia (the parent company of Irish Water) had decided that they would not be entering into a further service level agreement with local authorities and that they wished to exit the current service level agreements prior to the expiry date of 2025, preferably in 2021. Irish Water further announced that they had informed the Minister of this and the Minister had noted their decision.

In the course of their presentation Irish Water stated that they would continue to honour the service level agreements currently in place but they wished to enter into discussions with the unions with a view to advancing their proposal.

In response the unions said that this announcement would create a lot of uncertainty and anger amongst the staff of Local Authorities and it would add to anxiety about the future ownership of Irish Water. The unions stated that they expected that all agreements currently in place with Local Authorities would be honoured and that if management took any unilateral action to undermine these agreements the unions would act to protect the interests of their members.

The unions are now seeking separate meetings with the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, with Local Authority management and with Irish Water. We will also be seeking to meet with all the political parties represented in the Oireachtas. Following these meetings the unions will consult with members in Local Authorities before any response to the Irish Water announcement is formulated.

We will keep you informed of developments.

**For and on Behalf of Congress, SIPTU, IMPACT, UNITE, TEEU and LAPO.
October 2017.**