

29th June 2004

Circular Number: WSP6/04

To each local authority

**Re. Water Services Pricing Policy Implementation
Non-Domestic Metering - 2004 Progress Report**

A Chara,

I refer to the Government's Water Services Pricing Policy Framework and the requirement for the metering of all non-domestic water services customers by 2006.

1. Sligo Metering Demonstration Project

The Department continues its support for the metering demonstration project in Sligo. A key deliverable of the project is the development of guidance and information notes to assist local authority non-domestic metering implementation. Two sets of guidance have issued to date (in July 2002 and February 2003) and a further set of guidance is to issue in July.

A service provider has been appointed on the Sligo Demonstration Project. Authorities are again reminded that in order to achieve the 2006 universal metering deadline non-domestic metering programmes should not await the advancement or any conclusions on the Sligo project.

2. Metering Workshops

The Water Services Policy Unit would like to thank all participants in the recent Metering Workshops held in the Water Services National Training Group Regional Centres. Copies of workshop handouts are available from these centres

3. Implementation of Metering Programmes

As outlined in previous circulars, guidance notes and workshops local authorities must move rapidly in their implementation of the Government requirement for the universal metering of the non-domestic sector by 2006. You are reminded in this regard that only 31 months now remain for the completion of this task. It is again emphasised that metering is a critical requirement of Water Services Pricing Policy and that authorities should make it a requirement of their metering programme and a condition on all associated contracts that metering programmes be concluded by 2006.

We are pleased that most authorities have responded to the metering requirement so positively and are fully committed to the implementation of this area of Government policy. This level of progress must however be advanced and replicated by all authorities if universal metering is to be achieved within the 2006 deadline.

4. Metering Progress Report June 2004

The 2004 questionnaire will provide an overview of local authority progress on the implementation of this critical area of water services pricing policy. The questionnaire, which is attached, should be easy to complete. Responses should show the position as of the 30th June 2004. A single return (which includes town councils) should be completed for each sanitary authority.

The questionnaire holds twenty questions, under four headings: the identification of non-domestic customers, cost recovery, meter implementation and the installation programme - all questions should be answered. You are also invited to provide further relevant information and/or clarifications on your non-domestic metering programme with the completed questionnaire. You are asked to make your return to the undersigned as soon as possible after the end of June and by Monday 19th July 2004 at the very latest.

An electronic copy of the return is available from Mr. Emmet Fahy ☎ 01 8882165, e-mail: [emmet_fahy @environ.ie](mailto:emmet_fahy@environ.ie)

5. Access to Circulars

It should be noted that all Departmental circulars including this circular are now accessible by using the new the Internet Sharepoint System at: <http://circulars.lgcsb.ie/doecirculars>

Is mise le meas,

Liam Gleeson
Water Services Policy Unit
Environment Infrastructure and Services Division.

To - Each City and County Manager, Director of Services (Water Services).
Copy to GCCC, AMAI, Ombudsman's Office and Regional Authorities.