

29 June 2005

Circular Number: WSP4/05

To Each Sanitary Authority

RE. WATER SERVICES NON-DOMESTIC METERING PROGRAMME

A Chara

I refer to the Government's Water Pricing Policy Framework, which *inter alia*, requires the universal metering of the non-domestic sector by 2006.

Sanitary authorities are asked to complete the attached Questionnaire in order to establish the level of progress on metering nationally.

2006 Deadline

The implementation of non-domestic metering programmes has become increasingly time critical. With only 18 months remaining for full delivery on this Government's requirement, the Minister is concerned with the pace of progress on non-domestic metering nationally and wishes to re-emphasise the need for all sanitary authorities to secure full and timely delivery. Authorities are again asked to rapidly advance their meter installation programmes.

All authorities have confirmed to the Department that they will complete their non-domestic metering programmes by or before the end of 2006; it is expected that this commitment will be met.

Response to December 2004 Questionnaire

The Department issued individual letters to each sanitary authority in April 2005 commenting on the position and requesting additional information on your implementation programme. I acknowledge the response by most authorities to this request and note the significant progress that has been made on the programme.

I would ask that the Department be kept informed of key developments and any impediments to progress as they arise.

Charging All Non-Domestic Customers

The Department continues to be concerned with the growing number of non-domestic customers not charged or not directly charged for their water services. This ranges in our most recent surveys at up to 85,000 nationally. This practice

conflicts with the principles of water services pricing policy and the requirement that all non-domestic users to be directly charged for their water services. We are surprised that there has been no significant improvement in this area over recent years and would request your co-operation in this regard.

Information Update Request: Position at 30th June 2005

The enclosed simplified questionnaire is designed for easy completion and return. Authorities are invited, where you consider it necessary or helpful, to provide a commentary with the completed questionnaire to provide further relevant information and/or clarifications regarding your non-domestic metering programme. The questionnaire should be returned to the Department by Friday 22 July 2005. An electronic version of the return may be forwarded to Mr. Emmet Fahy, e-mail: emmet_fahy@environ.ie (☎ 01 8882165)

Is mise le meas,

Liam Gleeson
Water Services Policy Section,
Water and Natural Heritage Division.

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

ANNEX 1

**UNIVERSAL NON-DOMESTIC METERING QUESTIONNAIRE
REPORT ON PROGRESS TO 30 June 2005**

You are asked to complete all of the following questions 1 to 9 and to forward your response to the Department by Friday 22 July 2005:

Question 1: Is your non-domestic metering programme (a) contract documents stage; (b) at tender stage; (c) meter installation stage or (d) Other (describe)

Reply 1: _____

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Question 2: When will metering installation (give month/year) be commenced by your authority?

Reply 2: _____

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Question 3: When will meter installation (give month/year) be concluded?

Reply 3: _____

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Question 4: How many non-domestic customers are there in your administrative area?

Reply 4: _____

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Question 5: How many non-domestic customers are directly charged for their water services provision?

Reply 5: _____

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Question 6: How many non-domestic customers are now metered (at end June 2005) ?

Reply 6: _____

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Question 7: How many non-domestic customers will be metered at the end of 2005?

Reply 7: _____

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Question 8: How many non-domestic customers will be metered at the end of 2006?

Reply 8 _____

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Question 9: Will the Government's non-domestic metering deadline be achieved in your administrative area? (answer Yes or No).

Reply 9: _____

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To be signed by Director of Services, Water Services: _____
Sanitary Authority _____