

Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU),
The Exchange,
Belgard Square North,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

4th February 2026

**Re: CRU Draft Determination on Uisce Éireann's revenues for Revenue Control 4
(2025-2029)**

To whom it concerns,

Cork Chamber welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the public consultation on the Commission for Regulation of Utilities' (CRU) public consultation on the draft determination on Uisce Éireann's revenues for Revenue Control 4 (2025 – 2029).

Cork Chamber represents 1,200 members together employing 130,000 people throughout the city, metropolitan area and county. Our vision is to lead a transforming and ambitious Cork city and county, and our purpose is to unite, represent and support our members and community. At Cork Chamber, our direction is guided by our formal pledge to uphold the UN SDGs, five of which have been identified as priority areas by the Chambers Ireland network. Cork Chamber has also recently been appointed an SDG Ambassador by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.

Our advocacy is shaped by the views and priorities of our partners, and is informed by our continuous engagement with members, our Board and key stakeholders in Cork city and county.

Critical utilities, such as water, wastewater and electricity, play a vitally important role in facilitating and enabling growth and development, both demographic and economic.

We recognise the importance of sufficient investment in our water and wastewater services to ensure that infrastructure is maintained to a high level and upgraded where necessary to adequately serve existing domestic and non-domestic customers, as well as to facilitate the timely connection of critical new developments, both housing and industrial. Investing in the water network's climate resilience is increasingly important too to mitigate the impact of more frequent extreme weather events on supply.

Given the population growth projected in the Cork region in the coming years, it is vital that additional lands are unlocked in the city region to facilitate this growth and further economic expansion. Consideration should be given to classing Cork as a priority growth

area under Revenue Control 4. Greater alignment across local authorities, developers and providers of critical utilities, such as water, is crucial to facilitate and encourage a plan-led, sustainable approach to urban growth.

With respect to the existing water and wastewater network, the need for investment to facilitate network upgrades is clear in many areas. In Cork city, recurring issues with water discolouration have been well documented, and continue to have a considerable negative effect on local businesses and communities, resulting in health concerns and uncertainty.¹ Such ongoing concerns risk having a negative impact on Cork's competitiveness, particularly the region's ability to attract investment and talent. Ensuring that these concerns are mitigated insofar as possible, and that these mitigation measures are communicated widely and effectively, is critical to protecting and enhancing Cork's reputation as a location with reliable, safe and clean water services.

Uisce Éireann has undertaken a number of welcome steps to mitigate this issue over the past year, including an extensive flushing programme around the city and enhanced communications with customers. However, it is crucial that investment in Cork's water network continues to ensure further improvements to water quality, particularly as the number of new connections continues to grow.

Planned investments in vital projects like the Cork Wastewater Strategy² are particularly welcome in this regard, as are plans for wastewater upgrades in key urban centres around County Cork, such as Kinsale, Fermoy and Midleton. Cork Chamber values its ongoing engagement with Uisce Éireann and looks forward to continued engagement as development of the Cork Wastewater Strategy progresses.

We welcome the CRU's proposal to approve significant funding of €13.6 billion for Uisce Éireann for 2025 to 2029 under Revenue Control 4. As population growth and industrial development continues apace, it is vital that allowed revenues for operational costs, as well as critical capital expenditure to facilitate essential infrastructure investments, increases proportionately.

While an increase in allowed revenues is required, this should be proportionate with the need to protect and support economic competitiveness. In 2025, Cork Chamber made a submission to the public consultation on the non-domestic water tariff framework³, underlining the importance of giving due consideration to the multitude of external pressures on Irish business at present and supporting increased capital allocations for Uisce Éireann, rather than an undue increase in tariffs for non-domestic users. Given the CRU's subsequent decision to increase the non-domestic tariff framework by 9.8%, it is critical that any further increases in the cost burden on non-domestic users are mitigated

¹ RTÉ, [Expert raises public health concerns about Cork water quality](#)

² Uisce Éireann, [Draft Cork Wastewater Strategy](#)

³ Cork Chamber, [Uisce Éireann's Non-Domestic Tariff Framework](#)

insofar as possible. In this regard, Cork Chamber looks forward to continued engagement regarding the CRU's ongoing consultation on Uisce Éireann's Non-Domestic and Trade Effluent Tariff Framework.

Given the importance of delivering on ambitions to improve water quality in existing supply and enhance readiness to accommodate housing and other development, the 39 outcomes and outputs set out by the CRU for Uisce Éireann's Revenue Control 4 funding are welcome. The inclusion of targets across key areas such as new and upgraded water treatment plants and additional network capacity are welcome, as well as the proposed customer service benchmarks, alongside strong governance and monitoring metrics.

Multi-annual funding certainty and planning timelines are critical to realising the more resilient water and wastewater network required for planned housing and economic growth around the country. It is critical that Uisce Éireann's Revenue Control 4 plans remain closely aligned with national policy frameworks, such as the National Planning Framework and National Development Plan, as well as local development plans. The planned update to Uisce Éireann's Revenue Control 4 Investment Plan to reflect the ambitions of the revised National Development Plan is welcome in this regard.

Cork Chamber looks forward to the publication of the CRU's Final Determination for Revenue Control 4 in Q2 2026, and will continue to engage proactively with both the CRU and Uisce Éireann with respect to investment plans for water and wastewater in the Cork region as a key enabler of population and economic growth.

Yours sincerely,



Conor Healy

CEO