

**Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services
Infrastructure Resolution
Programme 2019-2021.**

**Report No 1 of the Expert Panel –
Evaluation of bids received under the multi-annual
programme**

Secretariat to the Expert Panel:

Rural Water Unit - DPI Programme

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

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Membership of the Expert Panel

The membership of the Expert Panel is as follows:

- Mr Tom Barry - Chairperson, former CEO Carlow Co Co, [Core Panel Member],
- Mr Jim Ganley, former Principal Officer Housing Division, DHPLG, [Core Panel Member],
- Mr Noel Byrne, Senior Inspector, Environmental Protection Agency, [Core Panel Member],
- Mr Brian Quinn, Development Manager – Connections and Developer Services, Irish Water, [Core Panel Member],
- Mr Luke Varley, Assistant Principal Rural Water Unit, DHPLG [Information support to Panel], and
- Ms Kara McNulty, Higher Executive Officer, Rural Water Unit, DHPLG, [Secretary to the Panel].

All decisions of the Panel rests with the core panel members. The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) members provide an information support and secretarial role.

The Chair brings extensive expertise to the Panel from management in the local authority sector.

The member, formerly from the DHPLG, brings extensive expertise of management in rural water services and housing provision sectors.

The member from Irish Water brings expertise from their position as Ireland's national water utility with responsibility for providing and developing water and wastewater services throughout Ireland.

The member from the EPA brings expertise from their wide range of functions on the water and environment sector and in particular in relation to regulation of water quality.

The Department's representatives on the Panel provide guidance, advice and the necessary papers for the Panel.

Final decisions on the selection of projects for funding are a matter for the core members of the Panel.

Contents

Contents

General Background.....	4
Background to DPI	6
DPI in the economic upturn or boom of the late 1990s to mid-2000s.....	6
DPI in the economic downturn post 2008	7
Types of DPI estates.....	7
Wastewater DPI estates - The National Taking-in-charge Initiative	8
Drinking water DPI estates.....	14
Current estimated number of wastewater and drinking water DPI estates	16
Commencement of the multi-annual programme	23
Avoidance of future DPI issues	28
Role of the Expert Panel.....	29
Approach by Expert Panel to assessment of local authority bids.....	30
Conclusions and Recommendations	33
Bids recommended for funding	33
Bids recommended for consideration – further information required	35
Bids not recommended for funding.....	36
Potential for further bids under the current multi-annual programme	38
Funding of bids - Co-funding.....	38

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Bond/Surety	A bond or surety is a promise to pay one party a certain amount if a second party fails to meet some obligation. In planning bonds or securities are provided to ensure the satisfactory completion of <i>essential infrastructure of a shared or public nature</i> , especially infrastructure that may be taken-in-charge by the local authority and maintained into the future by that authority.
Demonstration Projects	The first wave, a small number, of projects for investment under the multi-annual programme for Category 3 type wastewater DPI estates. See Framework document for further details.
The Department	The Department of Housing Planning and Local Government or the Department as previously named.
Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure (DPI)	A particular category of housing estate served by standalone water services infrastructure, provided by the developer of the estate – hence called Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure or abbreviated to DPI - which is not connected to the public (Irish Water) water services network. See the Framework document for a more comprehensive definition, description and explanation of DPI.
Development	Two or more houses and includes the provision of new roads, open spaces, car parks, sewers, watermains or drains.
Framework document	The - <i>Framework for the Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme 2019-2021</i> – provides guidance for local authorities on the scope and focus of the new multi-annual programme. It was issued with the bids circular.
Irish Water Capital Investment Plan	The capital projects and programmes that Irish Water plans to progress and deliver during the period of the plan. The plan includes proposed budgets and timelines and the outputs and outcomes that will be delivered for the investment. The current plan is for 2020-2024.
Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)	Agreement between Irish Water and each local authority on the process and working arrangements for the taking-in-charge of residential estates connected to the Irish Water owned or controlled water and wastewater network (excludes DPI that cannot be connected to the public (Irish Water) network).

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Needs Assessment	Periodical process carried out by local authorities by which projects/schemes were subsequently objectively selected for inclusion in each evidence and high level objectives based Water Services Investment Programme.
Taking-in-Charge	The term given to assumption by a local authority of responsibility for the upkeep and maintenance of public services and infrastructure located within the common and public areas in a residential estate. Irish Water will become responsible for the operation and maintenance of water service infrastructure (except in the case of DPI estates which are excluded from the MoU) from the date of taking-in-charge of the estate by the Planning Authority.
Reserved functions	Policy decisions are made by majority resolutions passed by the elected councillors during council meetings. These are reserved for the elected council and are called 'reserved functions'. Examples of reserved functions include, passing an annual budget, housing policy decisions, taking in charge of any road by a local authority.
Water Services Investment Programme	The Exchequer funded investment programme for the provision of major water and wastewater schemes to meet key environmental and economic objectives. It operated up to the end of 2013 after which Irish Water took responsibility for the delivery of public water services.

General Background

Residential developments (“estates”) consisting of two or more dwellings that have been granted planning permission under section 34 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000¹, as amended (“the Act”), may be eligible - depending on the circumstances and/or grant of planning permission conditions - for taking-in-charge.

The taking-in-charge of residential estates by planning/local authorities ie the City and County Councils is provided for under section 180 of the Act (“Section 180”), and procedures for this are initiated under section 11 of the Roads Act, 1993². The taking-in-charge of estates is a reserved function of the elected members of the authority.

Under Sub-section 1 of Section 180 the planning authority is obliged to initiate taking-in-charge procedures where requested by either the developer of the estate or by the majority of owners of the dwellings in the estate. The authority must initiate the process not later than six months after being so requested to do so. However, this is subject to the development being completed to the satisfaction of the authority and in accordance with the planning permission(s) and any attached conditions.

A subset of estates, that are not taken-in-charge, do not have their water services networks – wastewater and/or drinking water - connected to the public (Irish Water) network. Instead these estates rely on ‘developer provided water services infrastructure’ for their water services. This infrastructure, provided by the developer of the estate, is more commonly called DPI.

A new multi-annual funding programme was introduced in 2019 to facilitate the progressive resolution in a sustainable manner of the DPI element of water services in estates to support the taking-in-charge of the estate.

The focus of the new multi-annual programme is on the DPI component of the small subset of estates that are dependent on this form of water services infrastructure for the provision of the water services. Funding associated with the taking-in-charge of non DPI estates remains fully a matter for the local authorities.

The DPI infrastructure consists mostly of wastewater treatment facilities but a small number consist of drinking water services for the estate. They are privately owned facilities.

The majority of DPI estates were constructed in the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s. They are a legacy issue from the two antagonistic economic upturn and downturn features of the Irish

¹ See at this link: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2000/act/30/enacted/en/html>

² See at this link: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1993/act/14/enacted/en/html>

economy of the past three decades. By mid-2010 there was a significant backlog of estates awaiting taking-in-charge.

In 2016 the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government (“the Department”) sought to stimulate a backlog in the process of taking-in-charge residential estates through an initiative called the National Taking-in-charge Initiative (NTICI).

Following the NTICI process the Department published in December 2018 a report – the ***National Taking in charge Initiative Report***³ - with findings and recommendations from the stimulation process. The NTICI report included a recommendation to introduce a multi-annual funding programme to progressively resolve DPI estates in a sustainable way.

In July 2019 the Minister of Housing Planning and Local Government announced⁴ the commencement of a new investment programme – ***the Multi-Annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme 2019-2021***.

The purpose of the multi-annual programme is to progressively facilitate the resolution of DPI estates, in a sustainable manner, to support the taking-in-charge of these estates.

A Circular Letter L1(DPI)01-2019⁵ - ***Residential Estates with Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure – Funding Bids for Multi-annual Developer Provided Water Services Infrastructure Resolution Programme 2019-2021*** - issued by the Department along with the announcement set the bids process for the multi-annual programme in motion.

The circular included a Framework document that provided comprehensive information on the scope and focus of the new multi-annual funding programme. It also gave detailed guidance for local authorities on the completion of bids for projects under the first multi-annual programme.

A bids template incorporating further detailed guidance was provided as part of the bids circular to facilitate local authorities completing the bids in a standardised way.

The Department, jointly with Irish Water, held a presentation/workshop in August 2019 to further inform local authorities on the scope of new multi-annual programme and guide them on the bids process for it.

This document reports on the evaluation of bids received under the multi-annual programme and makes recommendations on projects for funding. This report also considers and makes other recommendations to further stimulate the progressive and sustainable resolution of DPI estates.

³ See at this link: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/other/taking-charge-housing-estates/national-taking-charge-initiative-report-2018>

⁴ See at this link: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/housing/water-services/minister-murphy-announces-commencement-multi-annual-developer-provided-water>

⁵ See at this link: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-services/circular-l1dpi01-2019-residential-estates-developer-provided-water-services>

Background to DPI

The vast majority of residential estates in Ireland obtain their water services from the public (Irish Water) system.

The DPI subset is small subset of the overall number of estates not taken-in-charge – arising from the NTICI process it is estimated that they account for under 15% of estates that are not taken–in-charge.

Most DPI is a legacy water services feature from the 1990s though some residential estates with DPI were constructed in the 1980s.

DPI in the economic upturn or boom of the late 1990s to mid-2000s

The boom or ‘Celtic Tiger’ years of unprecedented sustained and rapid economic growth from the late 1990s to the mid-2000s placed severe strain on public water services infrastructure. In some cases, these infrastructural deficits constrained increases in housing supply which were needed to meet demand. The deficits were also a factor in the escalation of house prices during that period.

Housing affordability and public water services infrastructural deficiencies in the period were seen as adversely affecting the performance of the economy and social cohesion.

The majority of DPI estates were granted permission and constructed in the Celtic Tiger years using a temporary Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP). A small number of DPI estates were granted permission and constructed in those years using a temporary Water Treatment Plant (WTPs) or both a WwTP and a WTP.

This planning approach was followed by the local authorities concerned to enable the development of the housing in these estates. It was done by the authorities in the expectation that the temporary standalone water services infrastructure would be decommissioned when permanent public water services infrastructure caught up to service the rural area in which these estates are located.

Delivery of the permanent enabling public water services infrastructure as envisaged by the local authority was dependent on its eventual inclusion, based on a Needs Assessment process, in the Water Services Investment Programme (WSIP) and its subsequent funding and construction.

In some instances the envisaged infrastructure was not considered to be a priority need for their inclusion in the WSIP for funding. Consequently, the schemes/projects never became part of the WSIP and were, in such cases, never constructed.

Some DPI estates were developed in rural settings where it was never envisaged or intended to extend or develop the public wastewater infrastructure to service such locations. There remains no intent to extend or develop the public wastewater infrastructure to service the majority of such locations.

Some estates served by standalone water services infrastructure in rural areas were never intended (based on the planning conditions) to be taken-in-charge. In this context their WwTPs and/or WTPs were never seen as temporary and never intended to be transferred to the Planning Authority. They are not DPI estates for the purposes of the multi-annual programme.

Other estates with private water services, originally developed as holiday homes, have subsequently had a change of use to be now wholly or a majority principal places of private residence. Accordingly they can now be considered, under the terms of the multi-annual programme, to be DPI estates.

DPI in the economic downturn post 2008

The post 2008 economic downturn saw the businesses of many developers fail and public funding in infrastructure decline. The period also saw resources (both financial and human) available to local authorities to enable them to carry out their role and use their powers under planning and environment legislation reduce.

Importantly, while in some instances – including where the developer failed - reference to the relevant grant of planning conditions attached to these developments will determine whether or not there was any intent to have them taken-in-charge or remain, for their ongoing operation and maintenance, under private third party responsibility.

Wastewater DPI ie WwTPs in particular have already where temporary, or will shortly have, exceeded their useful life and will either require alternative sustainable long-term solutions such as connection of the estates to the public network or where that is not feasible – either for technical or economic reasons - its replacement. Much of the temporary wastewater DPI is not functioning at all or not functioning properly and is poorly maintained giving rise to public health and environmental risks.

While Ireland subsequently, in a short number of years, overcame the economic downturn to develop - even allowing for recent challenges - into a successful sustainable economy much of the DPI estates remain unresolved.

Types of DPI estates

Based on their function - provision of wastewater or drinking water treatment - DPI estates fall in to three types. The three types are:

- **Wastewater only DPI estates:** these make up the vast majority of DPI estates,
- **Both wastewater and drinking water DPI estates:** there are a small number of this type of DPI estate, and
- **Drinking water only DPI estates:** there are a small number of this type of DPI estate.

While the number of drinking water DPI estates is a small minority, ie relative to the overall number of DPI estates, it is important that they are resolved as quickly as possible, as if not functioning properly or are poorly maintained it can give rise to public health risks for the water consumers in the homes in these estates.

Wastewater DPI estates - The National Taking-in-charge Initiative

In late 2015 the Department issued a request for local authorities to supply details of housing estates not taken-in-charge – sometimes referred to as legacy estates - in order to draw up a national list.

The collated survey data informed the Department as to the significant extent of estates not taken-in-charge while recognising the legal, financial and operational challenges that taking-in-charge presented for local authorities. The data gathered in the survey included number of dwellings, location etc and if the estate was dependant on DPI to provide its water services.

Many residents in estates that are not taken-in-charge have made significant financial commitment in buying their homes. This adds to the importance of ensuring that public elements such as the provision of roads, open spaces, car parks, and service connections are completed to a satisfactory standard and maintained thereafter by the appropriate authority. Recognising this the Department in April 2016 launched the NTICI.

The purpose of the NTICI was to trial new approaches and working methods in supporting and accelerating overall national and local action on the process for taking-in-charge housing estates. The initiative included the subset of estates depending on DPI to provide their water services.

As most DPI is for the provision of wastewater services, with only a small number of estates dependant on drinking water services DPI the focus of the NTICI was on the former with the latter not addressed to any great extent.

Under the terms of the NTICI, which was underpinned by €10 million in funding, developments subject to valid taking-in-charge applications were eligible for inclusion in the associated call for funding proposals. Ultimately, €7.5 million of the allocated funding was paid to local authorities for 330 developments, containing some 14,930 homes. Of these 31 were DPI estates containing some 1,254 homes.

Just over €3.4 million additional funding was sourced locally mostly by calling on Bonds/Sureties. Significantly, this indicates that just over 31% of the funding used to resolve the estates was sourced locally.

Under the NTICI projects which demonstrated a high level of collaborative problem solving and leveraging of complimentary funding from developer, bond provider, receiver or other sources were given preferential consideration for funding.

As a final step the Department sought updated survey data from local authorities in August 2018. This was for the purposes of ongoing monitoring of progress nationally with taking-in-charge and for completion of a report on the NTICI.

A report – the ***National Taking in charge Initiative Report*** - with findings and recommendations from the processes was published by the Department in December 2018.

The NTICI process found a range of deficiencies associated with DPI WwTPs. Many DPIs were not designed and constructed appropriately or did not use sustainable treatment technologies⁶.

The NTICI process also showed that other DPIs have been abandoned by the developer or the estate management company, are not being operated at all or are not functioning properly or are being poorly maintained. The recent bids process revealed similar situations.

In most circumstances wastewater DPI estates require a discharge licence – commonly called a ‘Section 4’ licence - under the relevant licencing legislation⁷. Both the NTICI process, and the recent bids process, showed that there are instances of DPI estates failing to meet the conditions under the discharge licence while others were not licenced by the local authorities.

As a consequence of the collective issues many DPI estates are giving rise to public health and environmental risks. They need to be progressively and sustainably resolved.

The NTICI report indicated that, based on the survey data compiled in August 2018, DPI estates are located in 24 local authority areas. The remaining seven – mainly the urban - local authorities reported having no DPI estates in their areas.

The NTICI report presented statistics on the position nationally at August 2018 on legacy estates that were not-in-charge, including the subset with DPI, as follows:

- **4,854** estates (including DPI estates) were not taken-in-charge - a **14% reduction** on the position at the end of 2015, and

⁶ Irish Water has produced a position paper entitled ‘*Sustainable Treatment Technologies*’. Examples of such technologies area Integrated Constructed Wetlands, see at this link:

<https://www.water.ie/wastewater/wetlands/> and <https://www.housing.gov.ie/file/2532>

⁷ See at this link: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1977/act/1/enacted/en/html> and <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/1977/si/296/made/en/print>

- **834** estates had DPI mostly wastewater (some 17% of the overall number of estates not taken-in-charge) - a **9% reduction** on the position at the end of 2015.

Further assessment of the data from the August 2018 survey returns indicates that the number of houses in DPI estates is some 13.5% of the total number of houses in estates not taken-in-charge. Therefore, it will be seen that the vast majority of estates, and associated house numbers, that are not-in-charge are not dependant on DPI for their water services.

It is important to note that this is point in time data which is continuously adjusting and requiring update.

To assist in the progressive and sustainable long-term resolution of DPI estates the NTICI process placed the estates into four categories. The categorisation descriptions are given in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Categorisation in NTICI report of wastewater DPI estates	
Category	Category Description
1	Estates in towns and villages where the solution could be to connect to IW network.
2	Estates located in larger towns and villages outside an IW agglomeration network.
3	Estates with <50 units and >5 units located in smaller rural settlements outside IW agglomeration network.
4	Estates with <5 units in rural townlands relying on small scale DPI or septic tanks.

On this basis sustainable resolution of the wastewater DPI estates would be broadly through:

- **Decommissioning (Category 1):** this would involve connecting the estate water services to the Irish Water collection system or to another suitable WwTP (most likely another DPI) enabling the DPI to be decommissioned, or
- **Upgrading or replacement (Category 2, 3 and 4):** this would involve using sustainable treatment technologies either on the same site or another suitable alternative site.

Depending on circumstances, decommissioning may also be possible for some Category 2, 3 and 4 estates eg if there is a sufficient number of them at a settlement location to allow this approach to be technically and economically viable.

In this instance there would need to be clear justification to establish the most sustainable approach - a communal collection system and treatment plant (upgrade of existing or new) or discharge to the Irish Water network - considered on a whole life basis.

The Framework document for the multi-annual programme and the template for the bids followed this categorisation and sustainable resolution approach.

A further desktop analysis of the Category 1 estates was carried out by Irish Water in 2016 to determine the number of estates that could connect to their network.

The analysis indicated that some Category 1 estates could connect to their network immediately. This is as the public infrastructure – both the WwTP and collection system - serving these locations had sufficient reserve capacity and was compliant with their effluent discharge authorisations⁸.

Accordingly, to further enable planning of the progressive and sustainable resolution process of wastewater DPI estates the NTICI sub-categorised the Category 1 estates. The sub-categorisation descriptions are given in Table 2 below.

The sub-categorisation serves as a useful basis for the prioritisation and the timing of intervention under the multi-annual programme.

Table 2 - Sub-categorisation of Category 1 wastewater DPI estates in NTICI report	
Sub-Category	Details of Sub-Categories of Category 1 estates
1A	WwTP (and/or collection system) has sufficient reserve capacity presently to take a connection and is compliant with the waste water discharge authorisation
1B	WwTP (and/or collection system) has insufficient reserve capacity to take a connection but is included in the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan
1C	WwTP (and/or collection system) has insufficient capacity and is not included in the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan.

The NTICI report discussed possible solutions for Category 1-4 estates and the three sub-categories of the Category 1 of estates.

The indicative scenarios for connection to Irish Water for Category 1A, 1B and 1C type wastewater DPI estates are summarised in Table 3 below.

⁸ See at this link: <https://www.epa.ie/licensing/watwaste/wwda/>

Table 3 - Indicative Irish Water connection scenarios for Category 1 wastewater DPI estates		
Scenario	Irish Water has reserve capacity (WwTP & collection network)	Irish Water WwTP and/or collection network upgrading planned¹
1A	Yes	Yes
1B	No	Yes
1C	No	No
Note 1: Listed in Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 for upgrading.		

These indicative connection scenarios for wastewater DPI estates, which fall under Category 1, remains relevant. It served as the informative basis in the Framework document for local authorities for the prospects of success or not of bids and the likely timing of intervention for the resolution of estates under the multi-annual programme.

For DPI estates that fall under Category 1A the situation is relatively straightforward. The enabling Irish Water system, both WwTP and collection network, has sufficient reserve capacity presently and it is compliant with its waste water discharge authorisation. Thus, within this reserve capacity, connection of DPI estates can be accommodated enabling the DPI to be decommissioned.

The Framework document stated that the Department considers Category 1A type wastewater DPI estates to be the priority for bids under the 2019-2021 funding cycle of the multi-annual programme.

For DPI estates that fall under Category 1B and 1C the NTICI report stated that, in the case of Irish Water WwTPs which are close to or marginally over capacity, careful consideration would be required where meeting public health and improved environmental outcomes, which would suggest that connection to the Irish Water infrastructure might be preferable as a solution.

This consideration approach is particularly relevant in the case for DPI estates that fall under Category 1B ie where upgrades to the public system are in train ie upgrade is under way or planned and included under the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2017-2021 (CIP).

The Framework document stated that the Department considers, subject to the above constraints, Category 1B type wastewater DPI estates to be a priority for bids under the 2019-2021 funding cycle of the programme.

The NTICI report stated that Category 1C type wastewater DPI estates were unlikely to be resolved within the medium term as the enabling Irish Water infrastructure would first need to be upgraded.

The Framework document stated that local authorities could submit, evidence supported, bids for funding for Category 1C type wastewater DPI estates if they considered that the exceptional public health and improved environmental needs circumstances outlined above applied.

The small number of DPI estates that fall under Category 2 are located outside the Irish Water networks. The NTICI report says that the preferred solution for these WwTPs, given their relative size, is that they be upgraded as standalone WwTPs that could be expanded, in the future, to serve further development in the village community. Most will need to be decommissioned and replaced with new WwTPs using sustainable treatment technologies.

Alternatively, the solution for Category 2 could, in some cases, be similar to, as outlined for Category 1 above. That is if they are within sufficiently close proximity to an Irish Water network to enable, if technically viable and economically viable, to be connected to the network and the DPI decommissioned.

The NTICI report noted that many of the DPI estates in the Category 3 and 4 will also likely need to be decommissioned and replaced with new WwTPs using sustainable technologies.

The DPI estates in Categories 3 and 4 are not of critical mass in size and are geographically remote from the Irish Water network. Therefore, a connection solution is not expected to be technically or economically viable. The possible exception is that there is a number of them at a location.

Category 3 and 4 type wastewater DPI estates, given their limited size and extensive spatial distribution, present a particular challenge for resolution including future operation and maintenance in perpetuity. Importantly, reference to the relevant grant of planning conditions attached to these developments will determine whether or not there was any intent to have them taken-in-charge or remain under private third party responsibility.

The NTICI report notes that a holistic solution is needed to progressively resolve in a sustainable way these two more complex categories of DPI estates. This will require closer examination of all appropriate options given the dispersed spatial distribution of these estates in smaller rural settlements, townlands and associated hinterlands.

It is not ruled out in the report that site specific cases may arise over time, for various reasons, to allow the connection of these two categories of DPI estates to the Irish Water network. Furthermore, village or cluster treatment which may be managed by Irish Water in time could also emerge, subject to their agreement, as possible future options for sustainable solutions.

The report provided preliminary budget estimates, based on a desktop study, for the sustainable resolution of the 834 wastewater DPI estates at **€293 million**.

The report pointed out that the estimate was indicative and would need to be ascertained based on site specific investigations of a representative sample of individual estates to better inform the policy solutions and resolution costs of a multi-annual funding programme to definitively and sustainably resolve the issues associated with DPI over time.

The report noted that the estimate did not include various planning costs (eg environmental investigations, additional land purchase etc) or more complex upgrading or replacement solutions (eg tertiary treatment, alternative outfalls etc). These issues are relevant to the Category 2, 3 and 4 type wastewater DPI estates.

Furthermore, the capital costs to Irish Water of providing reserve treatment capacity at their WwTPs (ie for plants that do not currently or through their CIP have reserve capacity) to cater for additional loads from DPI estates, have not been included in the estimate. This issue is of relevance to some Category 1 estates only.

Allowing for the above ie planning and other capital costs the report indicates that the preliminary estimate cost of resolution of DPI estates is likely to potentially increase significantly.

Drinking water DPI estates

Drinking water DPI estates were not, due to their small number, addressed in the NTICI report. However, drinking water DPI can for the purposes of the multi-annual programme be categorised in a similar but simpler way as given in Table 4 below.

Table 4 – Categorisation of drinking water DPI estates	
Category	Category Description
A	Estates in or near towns, villages and rural areas where the solution could be to connect to the Irish Water network.
B	Estates located in rural areas outside and too remote from the Irish Water network to be connected to it.

Some of the Category A type drinking water DPI estates can connect to Irish Water networks immediately. This is as the public infrastructure – both the WTP and the distribution

network - serving these locations has sufficient reserve capacity and are currently compliant with their obligations under the Drinking Water Regulations⁹.

Accordingly, to further enable planning of the progressive and sustainable resolution process of drinking water DPI estates the Category A estates can be further sub-categorised. The sub-categorisation descriptions are given in Table 5 below.

Table 5 - Sub-categorisation of Category A drinking water DPI estates	
Sub-Category	Details of Sub-Categories of Category A estates
A1	WTP and/or distribution network has sufficient reserve capacity presently to take a connection and is meeting its obligations for drinking water quality and quantity
A2	WTP and/or distribution network has insufficient reserve capacity to take a connection but is included in the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan
A3	WTP and/or distribution network has insufficient capacity and is not included in the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan.

The indicative scenarios for the resolution of Category A type drinking water DPI estates by connection to Irish Water network are summarised in Table 6 below.

Table 6 - Indicative Irish Water connection scenarios for Category A drinking water DPI estates		
Scenario	Irish Water reserve capacity (WTP and/or distribution network)	Irish Water WTP and/or distribution network upgrading planned¹
A1	Yes	Yes
A2	No	Yes
A3	No	No

Note 1: Listed in the Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 for upgrading.

⁹ See at this link: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2014/si/122/made/en/print> and <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2017/si/464/made/en/print>

A potential progressive and sustainable resolution for Category B type DPI drinking water estates located in rural areas outside of, and too remote from, the Irish Water network to connect to:

- Connect to an existing group water scheme if available; or
- Form a new group water scheme for the estate and its surrounding community.

The new group water scheme solution can be either focused on the estate or the estate and the wider community near the estate where it is technically and economically viable to develop a distribution network to do so.

Local authorities will need to explore with the estate and the wider community the possibility of it developing a group water scheme in the area as a more sustainable long-term solution for its drinking water supply needs. The local authority can support and assist the community in this process.

Separate grants are available through the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme¹⁰ for the development of new group water schemes.

Current estimated number of wastewater and drinking water DPI estates

An essential starting point for initiating the new multi-annual funding programme is to establish a definitive baseline of the numbers of wastewater and drinking water DPI estates in each local authority.

The baseline will be the key information base against which to monitor progress and effectiveness of the multi-annual funding programme during its implementation over time. At its core it allows measuring 'before and after' activity on the funding programme as it develops and will need to change over time.

After the programme is completed the baseline will contribute to measuring the success of the programme.

Therefore, in parallel to the bids process the Department conducted a high level survey (in Q3 2019) to establish the overall numbers of the three types of DPI estates in each local authority. This was followed by a more detailed survey (in Q4 2019) by Irish Water on behalf of the Department. This more detailed survey sought to establish the details – name of estate, location and house number - of DPI estates in each local authority and on this basis categorisation of the DPI estates.

¹⁰ See at this link: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-services/rural-water-programme/minister-murphy-announces-new-three-year-investment>

The Irish Water survey indicates that, in Q4 2019, there were nationally:

- **534** estates dependent on wastewater DPI water services,
- **13** estates dependant on both wastewater and drinking water DPI water services,
- **19** estates dependant on drinking water DPI water services.

In total the survey, in Q4 2019, indicated that there were nationally:

- **566** estates dependant on DPI water services.

The 566 is just under 68% of the reported position in Q3 2018 (834 in the NTICI report).

The number of DPI treatment facilities is less as a small number of estates depend on the DPI in adjacent estates for their water services.

It is important to note that this is point in time data which is continuously adjusting thus requiring regular updating and validating.

The now reduced number of DPI estates, relative to that in the NTICI report, is due to a number of factors:

- previous misreporting numbers due to local authorities including estates that are outside the definition set for DPI (eg pumping stations only, holiday home and gated community estates etc),
- other errors including cleansing in the 2018 survey data returned under the NTICI process.

The NTICI report listed 24 local authorities with DPI estates. The Q3/Q4 2019 survey by the Department/Irish Water indicates that the number had reduced to 19 local authorities. Figure 1 under shows the distribution of DPI estates across these local authorities.

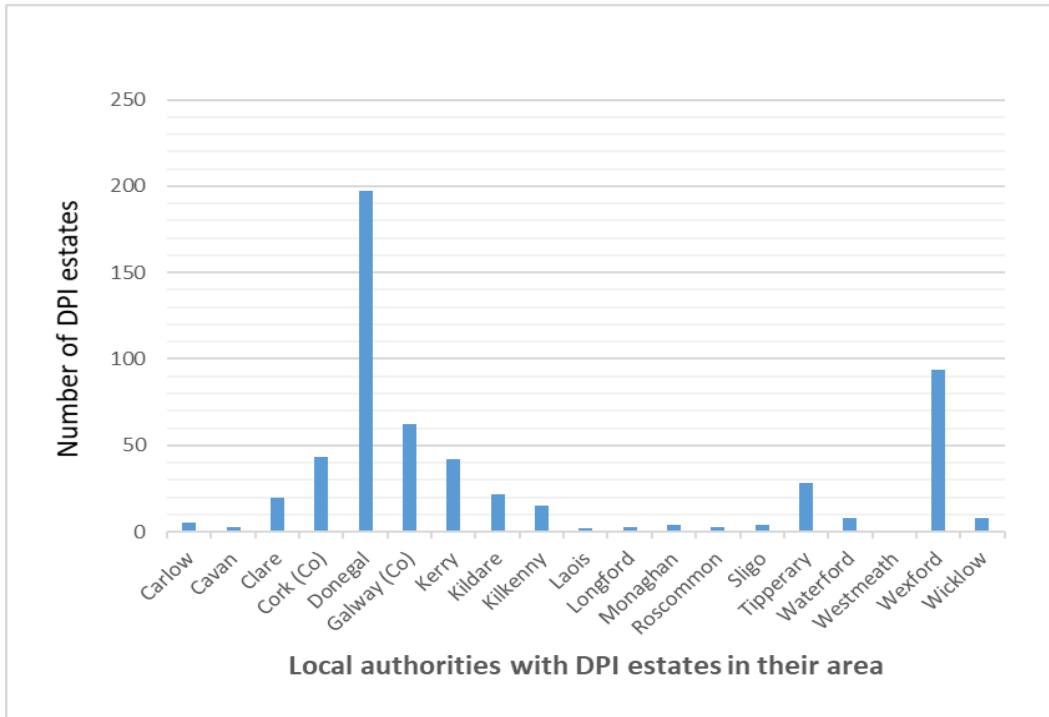
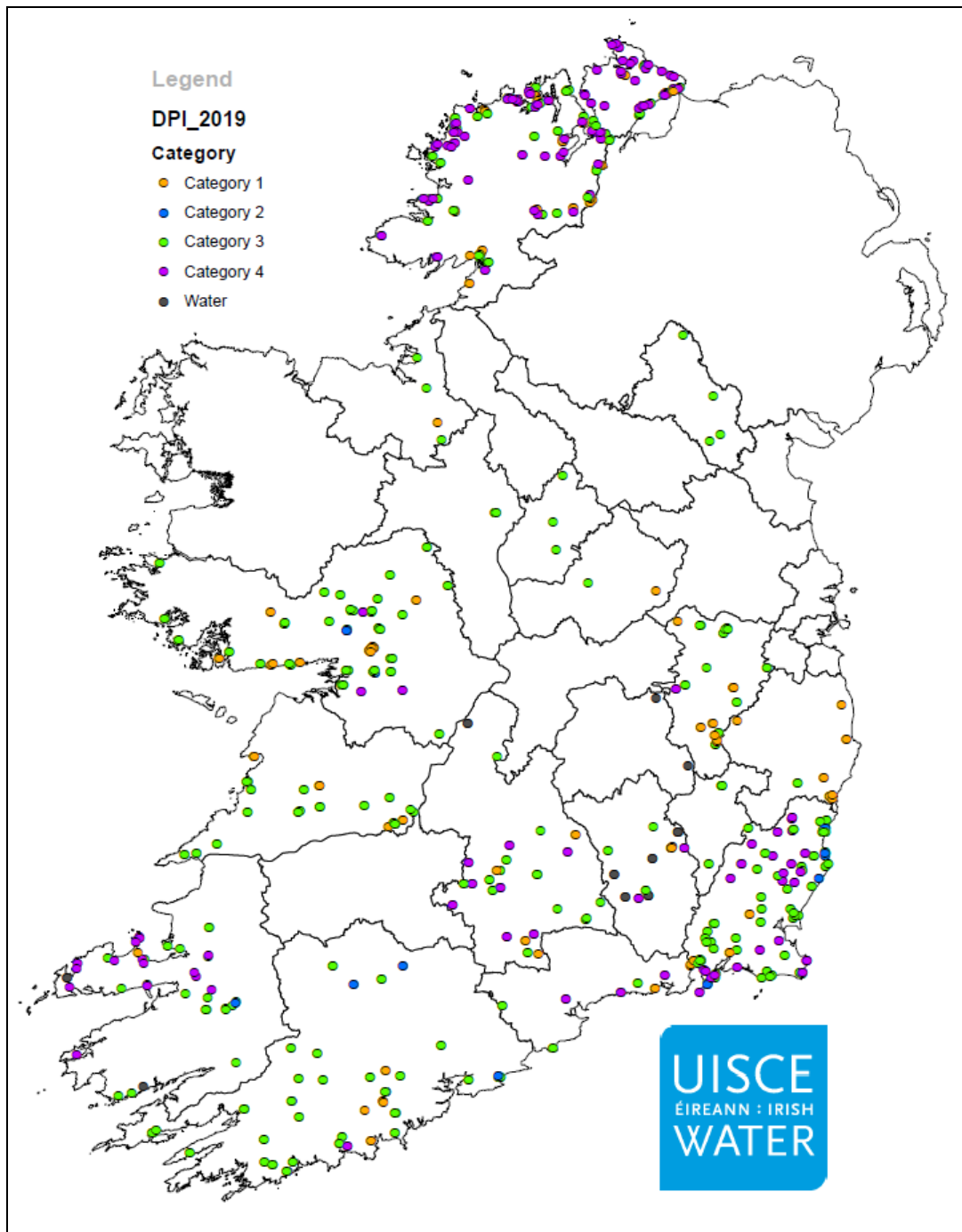


Figure 1 – Distribution of DPI estates by local authority (Source: Irish Water/Department survey Q3/Q4 2019).

Two rural local authorities (Donegal and Wexford) account for just over 50% of DPI estates. Nine rural local authorities (Clare, Cork, Donegal, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Wexford) account for just over 90% of DPI estates. The drinking water DPI estates are concentrated into five rural local authorities (Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois and Tipperary) – Kilkenny has over half of all drinking water DPI estates.

Map 1 below shows the dispersion and concentration of DPI estates across the country.



Map 1 - Dispersion and concentration of the various categories of wastewater and drinking water DPI estates across the country (Source: Irish Water/Department survey Q3-Q4 2019).

This survey allows the development of a greater understanding for further planning the approach to the multi-annual programme based on the distribution of estates and homes within the various categories of the DPI estates.

The numbers of Category 1-4 type wastewater DPI estates and drinking water type DPI estates is tabulated below by housing unit and estate numbers (see Table 6 below).

Table 6 - Numbers of DPI estates based on numbers of housing unit and estates		
DPI Estate Type	Housing units (Number)	Estates (Number)
Wastewater - Category 1	3,142	94
Wastewater - Category 2	1,476	19
Wastewater - Category 3 (See Note 1)	4,958	353
Wastewater - Category 4	237	80
Drinking Water	502	19
Total	10,315	566
Notes		
1. Some estates have drinking water type DPI.		
2. The number of DPI treatment facilities is less as a small number of estates depend on the DPI in adjacent estates for their water services.		

As stated previously in relation to data it is important to note that this is point in time data which is continuously adjusting thus requiring regular updating and validating.

Based on DPI estate numbers nearly two-thirds of DPI estates are Category 3 with Category 1 accounting for 17% of estates (see Figure 2 below).

Based on home numbers just under half of homes are in Category 3 with Category 1 accounting for nearly one-third of homes (see Figure 3 below).

The Irish Water survey showed that there are just over 10,300 homes in DPI estates. This includes just over 700 homes depending on drinking water DPI.

DPI estates are predominantly small estates. Just over 50% of the DPI estates are in estates of 10 or less homes. Nearly 75% of homes is reached before the estates size exceed 20 houses (see Figure 4 below).

Nearly 95% are Category 3 and 4 estates they are located in smaller rural settlements or rural townlands relying on small scale DPI treatment systems including septic tanks.

These will likely, per the NTICI report, need to be decommissioned and replaced with new WwTPs using sustainable treatment technologies. They are not the main focus of the current multi-annual programme.

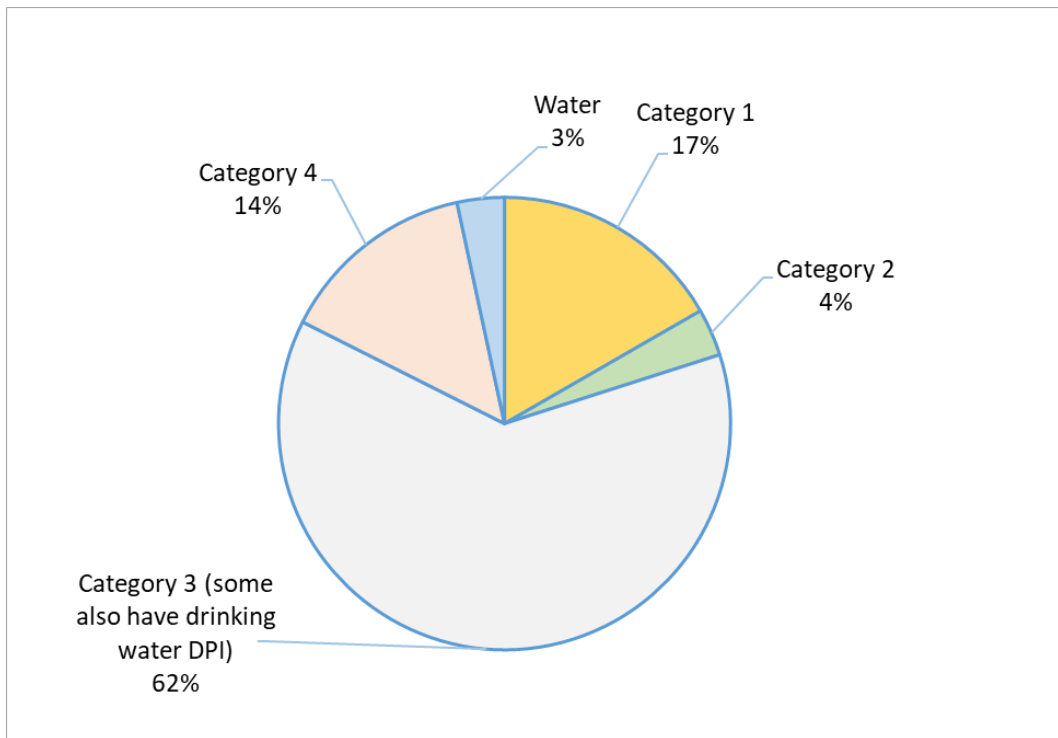


Figure 2 - Breakdown of the various categories of DPI estates based on estate numbers (Source: Irish Water/Department survey Q4 2019).

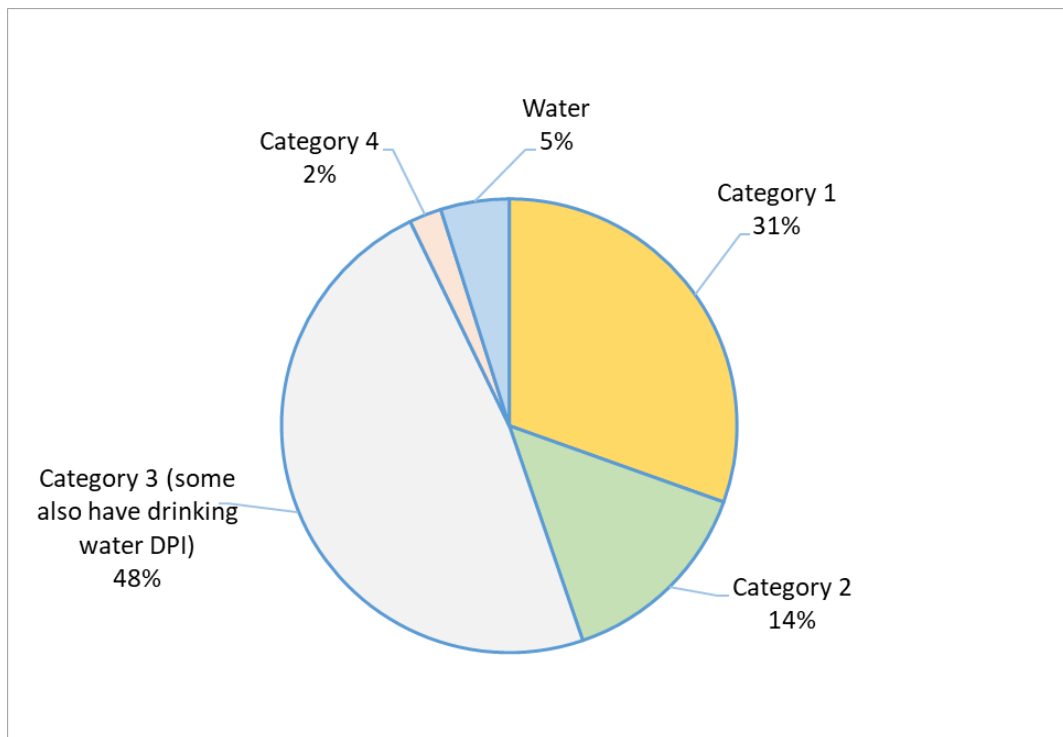


Figure 3 - Breakdown of the various categories of DPI estates based on home/housing unit numbers (Source: Irish Water/Department survey Q4 2019).



Figure 4 - Breakdown of the numbers of estates based on estate size (Source: Irish Water/Department survey Q4 2019).

Commencement of the multi-annual programme

The funding bids circular letter issued by the Department concurrent with the announcement set in train two processes:

- Local authorities were invited to submit their bids for the funding of projects for the resolution under the multi-annual programme of DPI estates in their functional areas, and
- A pilot study to be carried out by Irish Water on a sample of existing DPI estates to develop optimum solutions for these estates.

The bid processes enabled the commencement of funding the progressive sustainable resolution, on a priority basis, of DPI estates to enable the taking-in-charge of the estate. The criteria for funding was set out in the Framework which was issued with the bids circular.

The quantum investment required to resolve DPI estates is currently uncertain. A previous desktop study, as part of the NTICI report, indicated that a sum of over €290m could be required. Site specific investigations are needed to identify issues, sustainable solutions and to prepare more robust estimates.

Given the magnitude of the potential funding liability to sustainably resolve DPI estates the Department considered it prudent to carry out a pilot study to assess the existing infrastructure in a reflective sample – by size, category and local authority - of DPI estates.

In addition to assessing the existing infrastructure, their associated constraints, management arrangements in place and licencing etc the study will propose the most suitable resolution or sustainable treatment option and the associated costs of implementing.

Irish Water are coordinating the study – to be undertaken on their behalf by a consulting engineer - on 67 or just over 12.5% of wastewater DPI estates. Irish Water will be responsible for the inspection, assessment and evaluation of the water DPI. Irish Water plan to commence the pilot study in early Q3 2020 (the start has been delayed from starting earlier due to Covid-19). The study will be completed in early 2021.

The study outputs will provide the Department, Irish Water and the other stakeholders with a better understanding of the technical, environmental, and legislative requirements to sustainably resolve DPI estates and inform future capital and operational investment budgets. Taken together the current multi-annual programme and the study will inform the process of developing the scope and focus of the next multi-annual funding programme.

Reflecting the above the route to the progressive sustainable resolution of DPI estates is set out in Figure 5 as a roadmap for progressive sustainable resolution of DPI estates.

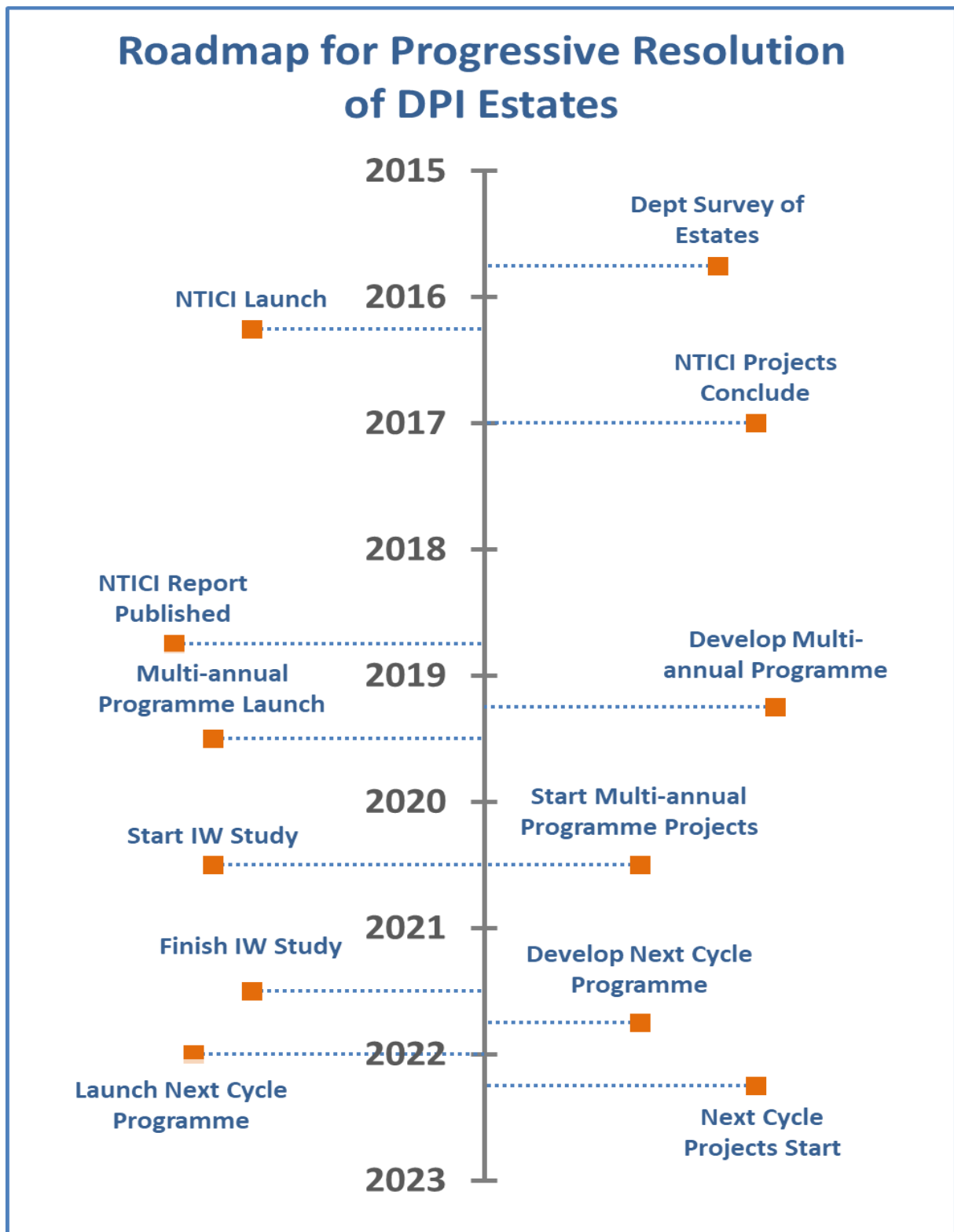


Figure 5 – Roadmap for the Progressive Sustainable Resolution of DPI Estates.

The key inputs to the development that will guide strategic decisions on investment under the next cycle multi-annual programme are expected to come from the knowledge gained from progressing the projects under the multi-annual programme. This includes in particular:

- the first wave of demonstration projects for investment under the multi-annual programme for Category 3 type wastewater DPI estates, and
- the Irish Water study.

The inputs/outputs are set out visually at Figure 6 below.

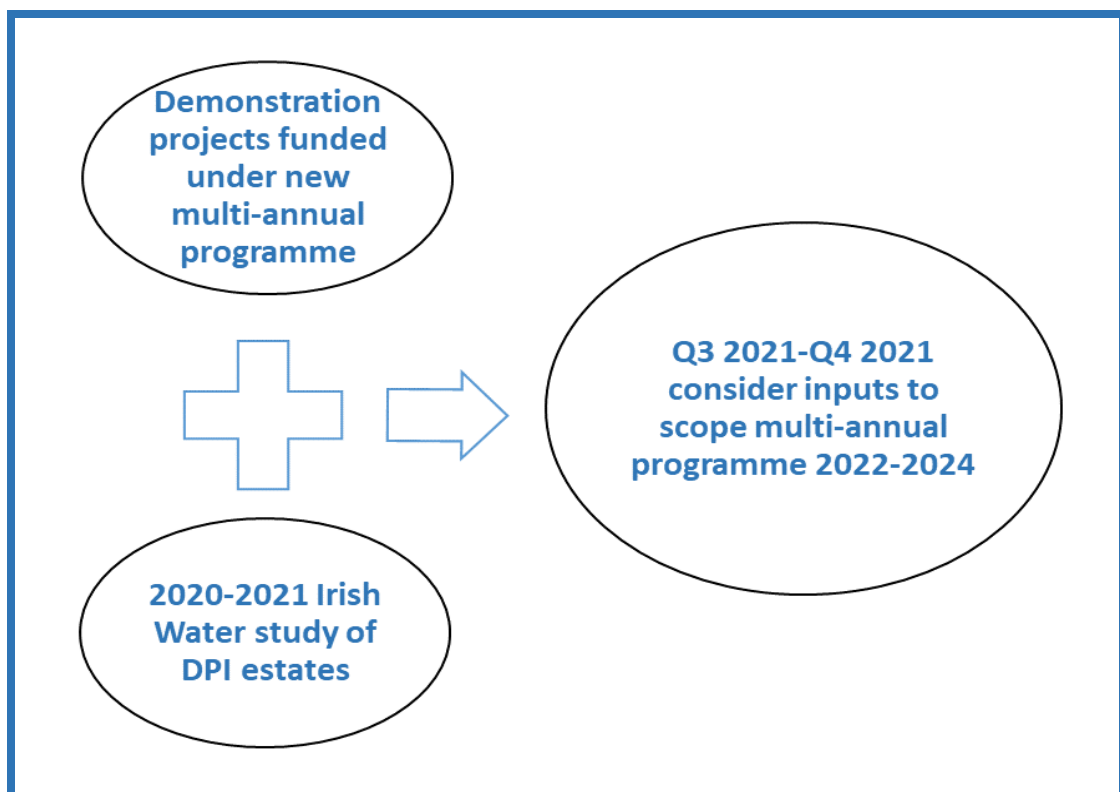


Figure 6 – Inputs from demonstration and other projects under the new multi-annual programme and Irish Water study into developing the next multi-annual programme 2022-2024.

Funding available under the multi-annual programme for the funding cycle 2019-2021

The National Development Plan (NDP)¹¹ commits to investment over the next 10 years (from 2018-2027) in public infrastructure including public water infrastructure.

The Plan includes provision of €41 million for the period 2018-2021 to deal with legacy water services issues. Of this amount €31 million is earmarked to fund the new multi-annual programme to facilitate the progressive resolution of the water services infrastructure component of housing estates with DPI in a sustainable manner to support the taking-in-charge of the estate.

In May 2018 the Government published the first **Water Services Policy Statement 2018-2025**¹² which, among other things, is reflective of a new era of governance, oversight and accountability for the delivery of water services.

The Statement identifies high level objectives and priorities for the delivery of water services over the period to 2025. The Statement recognises the need for water services investment by the Department to resolve legacy water services issues including DPI.

The progressively increasing funding available from the Exchequer via the Department for the multi-annual programme for 2020 and 2021 is set out in Table 7 below.

Table 7 – Funding available from the Department under the multi-annual programme 2019-2020		
2019	2020	2021
€6 million	€8 million	€12 million

The funding earmarked for 2019 was not realised as the NTICI process, which enabled the commencement of the development of the multi-annual programme, was not concluded until the publication of the report in December 2018.

The funding from the Department under the programme is, based on the framework document, limited to a contribution or co-financing towards the overall funding needs to

¹¹ See at this link: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/07e507-national-development-plan-2018-2027/>

¹² See at this link: <http://www.housing.gov.ie/water/water-services/minister-murphy-launches-water-services-policy-statement-2018-2025>

provide sustainable solutions to resolve the DPI component of water services infrastructure in these type of estates.

Potential routes to progressively resolving DPI estates from funding streams under the multi-annual programme

The Department, on behalf of the Government, has prepared and published the National Planning Framework (NPF)¹³ under Project Ireland 2040, the overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic and cultural development of our country.

Since 1 January 2014, Irish Water has statutory responsibility for all aspects of public water services planning, delivery and operation at national, regional and local levels.

Irish Water brought forward proposals for a Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, as part of its Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 submitted to the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, which will support a number of the National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes under the NPF.

The Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme is intended to provide water and wastewater growth capacity in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in its Capital Investment Plan to 2024. Irish Water will work with local authorities across the country in ensuring the investment is made where it is needed most, aligned to core strategies. Irish Water is currently advancing its proposals on this programme.

In addition to the support the Capital Investment Plan gives to sewerred locations in urban and rural Ireland, Irish Water is also prepared to support local authorities who wish to seek funding for un-sewerred villages through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund of the National Development Plan.

¹³ See at this link: <http://npf.ie/>

Avoidance in future of current DPI type issues

The purpose of the multi-annual programme is to progressively resolve legacy ie existing DPI estates in a sustainable way. The purpose is not to enable or facilitate the provision of new development. However, there will be instances where the new development will occur in the future at the general location of the DPI estates.

There is a general presumption that new development will be focused into areas that are serviced by public water supply and wastewater collection networks.

The Department has issued draft guidelines - ***Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities***¹⁴ - to Planning Authorities. The Guidelines provide best practice guidance to actively manage the interface between the planning and development functions provided by planning authorities and the delivery of public services by Irish Water.

The Guidelines are issued under section 28 of the Act. This requires Planning Authorities to have regard to them in carrying out their functions.

It is important that planning authorities continue to deliver a framework for proper planning and sustainable development at city and county levels that is consistent with the national and regional spatial planning policy.

It is the policy of Irish Water to facilitate connections to their networks, where spare/headroom capacity exists, in order to maximise the use of existing infrastructure and reduce additional investment costs.

The key messages from the guidelines include (emphasis added):

*“Planning authorities must continue to deliver a framework for proper planning and sustainable development at city and county level that is consistent with the national and regional planning policy. Set within this context, **the quantum, location and distribution of planned new development, must have regard to the capacity of public water services and seek to make efficient use of and maximise the capacity of existing and planned water services infrastructure**”.*

In relation to new development the Guidelines state (emphasis added) that:

*“There is a general presumption that development will be focused into areas that are serviced by public water supply and wastewater collection networks. Alternative solutions such as private wells or waste water treatment plants should not generally be considered by planning authorities. **Irish Water will not retrospectively take over responsibility for developer provided treatment facilities or associated networks, unless agreed in advance**”.*

¹⁴ See at this link: <https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/guidelines/irish-water/draft-water-services-guidelines-public-consultation>

Set within this context, the quantum, location and distribution of planned development must have regard to the capacity of public water services and seek to make efficient use of and maximise the capacity of existing and planned water services infrastructure. This is at the core of what the draft Guidelines are intended to achieve.

Role of the Expert Panel

The Expert Panel has a number of key roles in relation to the multi-annual programme. The Panel plays a central role in reviewing bids proposals and in making recommendations for funding of individual projects.

In particular, the Panel has an overarching, governance and oversight function in relation to the programme. Allied to this, it is envisaged that the Panel will continue to meet throughout the lifecycle of the programme in reviewing progress and in making observations and recommendations to the Department and to the Minister. This is expected to add an additional level of dynamism to the programme as it proceeds.

In addition to expertise, the Panel brings independence, openness and transparency to the bids evaluation process which is done on a national prioritised basis. The role of the Panel is of critical importance in the implementation of the programme and in assuring that decisions are informed by considerations of efficiency, effectiveness and value for money.

Sequentially the role of the Panel for the multi-annual programme is as follows:

- a). Examine proposals from local authorities for funding for projects under Categories 1-4 of the multi-annual programme and make recommendations to the Department for funding. The criteria for evaluation of the proposals for each of the categories is set out in the Framework document issued with the bids circular.
- b). Monitor the implementation of the projects selected for funding.
- c). In the event of projects not proceeding as planned to make recommendations on reordering of implementation, and if necessary, to propose alternative or additional projects.
- d). Conduct a post project evaluation of projects and make recommendations for future project selection/conditions and evolution of the multi-annual programme approach.
- e). To highlight any issues arising from the implementation of the Programme for consideration by the Department.

Therefore, the first task of the Panel is to examine and report (this report) to the Department with its recommendations on the proposals submitted under the new multi-annual programme. The Department provides a secretariat function for this.

In the interests of openness and transparency copies of the Panel's reports, which include the evaluation approach and criteria used to recommend or not recommend projects for funding under the programme, will be made available on the Department's website.

As the projects get underway the Panel will over the course of the programme monitor its implementation and conduct post project reviews in the context for the roadmap and inputs for the next multi-annual programme as set out at Figures 5 and 6 above.

The Panel reaches particular conclusions and makes recommendations in relation to additional projects for the current multi-annual programme in the conclusions and recommendations below.

Approach by Expert Panel to assessment of local authority bids

By the deadline for receipt of bids all 19 local authorities with DPI estates had submitted bids. In total some **331** bids were submitted.

The Department conducted an initial screening of all applications. This was done in context of the scope of the multi-annual programme. The bids material provided comprehensive definition, description and explanation of DPI. Despite this a number of local authorities included bids for locations that are not DPI.

These bids were for locations such as for: hotels, holiday homes, caravan parks and gated communities etc. When the Department brought it to the attention of the authorities concerned these bids were not DPI they were withdrawn.

A number of bids submitted individually were for the same village/settlement location. These were bundled or grouped together to form a single demonstration project. This arose mostly with demonstration projects ie Category 3 type wastewater DPI estates.

A number of local authorities submitted multiple bids for Category 3 estates. This was despite the bids material limiting this to a maximum of two bids per local authority. When this was brought to the attention of the authorities concerned some adhered to the terms ie withdrew the excess bids, some reduced their excess numbers while others made no changes.

Finally, a small number of other bids were withdrawn for other reasons: active construction sites; were anticipatory of taking-in-charge requests in the future ie were not seeking funding at this point etc.

For the remaining bids clarifications were sought by the Department where apparent errors, anomalies, inadequate or no information etc was found. Local authorities generally responded to these queries – though after multiple reminders in a number of cases.

Arising from the above process **131** validated bids remained for examination by the Expert Panel. These were across 18 local authorities (down from the 19 authorities that originally submitted bids).

The main focus of this funding cycle of the multi-annual programme was on Category 1 type wastewater DPI estates. By comparing the list of bids to the databases of DPI estates (Q3/Q4 survey) it was noted that a considerable number of Category 1 estates were not included in the bids representing nearly two-thirds of homes (see Figure 7 below).

This suggests that significant inroads can be made by the multi-annual funding programme further focusing on resolving Category 1 type DPI estates. Addressing has dual gains - to the water environment and the considerable number of homes in these estates. However, considerable numbers of potentially sustainably resolvable Category 1 estates were not included in the bids. This report returns to this issue later in its conclusions and recommendations.

Progressively resolving Category 1 type wastewater DPIs, which are in many cases poorly functioning and poorly maintained giving rise to public health and environmental risks, can eliminate their unsustainable co-existence in wastewater agglomerations alongside public (Irish Water) infrastructure.

This approach can be used to its fullest while, as intended in the Framework document, the necessary information is being developed on the more complex Category 2, 3 and 4 type DPI estates. The necessary information is being built up through the study being carried out by Irish Water on DPI estates to enable the programme to turn to resolving these estates in the next funding cycle. The Panel will consider this further later in this report.

The assessment criteria for project selection for recommendation by the Panel are set out in the Framework document. As part of the selection process, the Panel may seek further information or request clarification meetings with authorities bidding for funding for short-listed projects where this would assist in the work of the Panel.

Importantly the Framework document emphasised that proposals that demonstrate a high level of collaborative problem solving and prospects of providing enduring sustainable solutions merit preferential consideration - an example of this would be a proposal aimed at resolving a number of DPI estates in a village.

Also the Framework document emphasised that proposals for projects were expected to leverage complimentary funding from developers, bond providers, receivers (where relevant) local authorities or other sources.

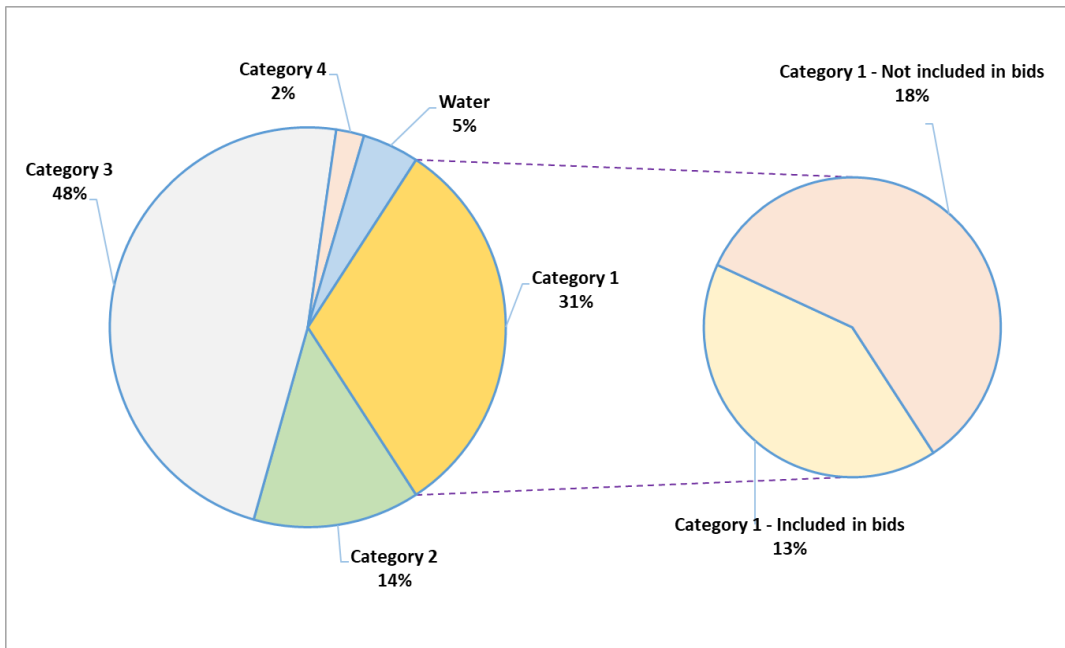


Figure 7 - Breakdown of the share of bids to non-bids for Category 1 type DPI estates based on home/housing unit numbers (Source: Irish Water/Department survey Q4 2019).

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Expert Panel carefully considered all of the validated bids for consideration and the outcome conclusions and recommendations are set out on this below.

The conclusions and recommendations on the validated bids fall into three areas:

- Bids recommended for funding,
- Bids recommended for consideration – further information required, and
- Bids not recommended for funding.

As the funding being recommended under the process falls considerably short of the funding available under the multi-annual programme the Panel considered and reached conclusions on the:

- Potential for further bids under the current multi-annual programme.

Finally, the Panel set out its conclusions and recommendations on the shared or co-funding of bids.

Bids recommended for funding

The bids circular, in particular the Framework document, the templates and the workshop held by the Department/Irish Water clearly set out the first, and the main, focus for funding under the current multi-annual programme. This focus was on Category 1A and 1B type wastewater DPI estates ie that can be resolved by connecting to the Irish Water network enabling their DPI to be decommissioned.

Also the bids process encouraged local authorities to, as a priority, take a similar approach with the small number of drinking water DPI estates that could similarly be resolved by connecting to the Irish water network enabling their DPI to be decommissioned.

In general bids of these two types are recommended by the Panel for funding - some conditionally.

In total 25 bids for 26 DPI estates are recommended for funding across 10 local authorities. Their funding will enable the resolution of the DPI serving 944 homes (some 9.2% of all homes nationally that are depending on DPI for their water services).

Three, of the 25 bids being recommended for funding, are for or include drinking water DPI. These are located across three local authorities. Their funding will enable the resolution of

the DPI serving 53 homes (some 7.4% of homes that are depending on drinking water DPI for their water services).

Funding approval will enable resolution of the related DPI in each estate in a sustainable way by connecting the water services on the estates concerned to the public (Irish Water) network. This will enable decommissioning of DPI at each location that is:

- variously not maintained, has fallen into disrepair and in some cases non-functional; and
- at one estate (small) it will end the situation of the residents receiving water that is on a 'Do Not Drink' notice and allow them to receive good quality drinking water from Irish Water.

For three bids across three local authorities the estates concerned, excluding the water services, are already taken-in-charge. The normal, and preferred approach, is for all services in estates to pass into public charge at the same time. The irregular approach followed by the local authorities for these three estates occurred in the years soon after the establishment of Irish Water.

The funding, will facilitate connecting the water services in these estates to the public (Irish Water) network and their DPI to be decommissioned. It will allow the situation for these estates to be regularised and the estate services including water services to be fully in public charge.

After Irish Water was established agreements were put in place, based on a Memorandum of Understanding, between Irish Water and each local authority on the process and working arrangements for the taking-in-charge of residential estates connected to the Irish Water owned or controlled water and wastewater network.

Moving forward the Panel is strongly of the view that local authorities must not, by undertaking partial taking in to public charge, either:

- circumvent the mutual co-operation process set out in the agreed Memorandum of Understanding, or
- leverage pressure on the multi-annual programme to prioritise such DPI estates over other estates.

For eight of the estates the local authority had not, at the time of the bids, submitted a valid taking-in-charge application. The local authorities will need to resolve this before any work commences (funding under the programme is to enable the taking-in-charge of estates).

The estimated cost, based on the submissions, of the works to sustainably resolve the DPI by connection of the estate water services to Irish Water and decommissioning of their DPI is **€4.90 million**. Taking into account local contributions (Security/Bond and other local

funding to be sourced by the local authority) the recommended funding to be provided is **€3.36 million**.

The conclusions and recommendations of the Panel on the basis of shared or co-funding is set out below.

Recommendation: The bids listed in in Appendix A are recommended for funding under the multi-annual programme some conditionally as recorded against the relevant bid in the table.

Bids recommended for consideration – further information required

The bids circular, in particular the Framework document, the templates and the workshop held by the Department/Irish Water clearly set out the second focus, and the approach being taken for it, for funding under the current multi-annual programme. This second focus was on a small number of Category 2 and 3 type wastewater DPI estates for consideration as suitable demonstration projects for funding in the current funding cycle.

The objective of the demonstration projects is to build on the knowledge already gained from the NTICI process to provide greater certainty for future multi-annual funding measures.

The Framework document limited local authorities to making a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 type wastewater DPI estates. This approach struck a balance between the bids process providing a sufficient number of potential demonstrations for the Panel to recommend a small number for approval while at the same time avoiding local authorities preparing and submitting proposals with little or no prospects of success.

For Category 4 type wastewater DPI estates the Framework document stated that local authorities were not being asked for bids for them in the current funding cycle except where they arise in settlements with Category 2 or 3 type wastewater DPI estates.

This approach for Category 3 and 4 type wastewater DPI estates was on the basis of the likely limited public health and/or water environmental impact of the small-scale treatment systems in the category and the need to develop further knowledge on this category of DPI estates.

The use of the demonstration projects along with the outcome of the Irish Water study will allow for the development of appropriate longer term approaches and protocols and will inform approaches for funding in future programmes. The roadmap at Figure 5 and the inputs at Figure 6 above sets this out.

After examination of the Category 2 and 3 type wastewater DPI estate bids the Panel focused on bids for four locations across three local authorities that have a number of DPI estates at each location. The four locations are considered by the Panel to have most potential for consideration as demonstration projects. However, further information is required on each.

The four locations involve wastewater DPI serving some ten estates – some of the locations have DPI estates that are not listed in the bids - with at least 480 homes (some 4.6% of all homes nationally that are depending on DPI for their water services).

It should be possible for the three local authorities to compile the further information required and return it to the Department within three months for its consideration by the Panel.

The estimated cost of the works to resolve the DPI is unknown at this point. This is as it was either not provided in the bids or the resolution is likely to differ significantly to that indicated in the bids.

Recommendation: The bids listed in Appendix B require further information, as set out for each, to enable the Panel to consider them further for funding.

Bids not recommended for funding

The Framework document stated that local authorities could submit, evidence supported, bids for funding for Category 1C type wastewater DPI estates if they considered that the exceptional public health and improved environmental needs circumstances outlined in the document applied.

Several local authorities made bids for Category 1C type wastewater DPI estates with no, or limited, supporting evidence that would enable the Panel to consider the bids for funding. This is despite these authorities being asked by the Department to provide such supporting evidence. In these circumstances it was not possible for the Panel to properly consider them for recommendation for funding for their resolution.

Some bids for drinking water DPI estates proposed connection of the estate water services to the public (Irish Water) mains where there was no reserve/spare capacity in the public supply to enable this to happen.

The Panel considers these bids to be premature for consideration for funding under the current multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before they can be recommended by the Panel for funding their resolution.

The Framework document stated that local authorities were limited, under the current funding cycle, to making a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 type wastewater DPI estate.

A small number of local authorities made multi-bids in excess of the two bid limit. In doing so these authorities created unnecessary work for both themselves and the Panel as these proposals had little or no prospects of success.

In the interests of complying with the terms of the bids process, bids in excess of two, could not be considered for recommendation for funding by the Panel. However, some guidance is given in each case to enable local authorities to consider for their future sustainable resolution.

Several bids in all categories were made involving proposals to pump effluent from estates over long distance to the public (Irish Water) network. A significant number of these bids involve relatively small estates. Bids for several tens of thousands per house was not unusual with the highest over €150,000 per house.

These high unit cost bids were not financially viable or not value for money (and their technical viability ie pumping low volumes of untreated waste water over long distances was open to question). None of these bids justified in any way their high unit cost resolution approach.

On this basis these bids had no prospects of being recommended by the Panel for funding. These high unit cost bids were not limited to one authority, it occurred across a number of local authorities.

A small number of bids for wastewater DPI estates proposed connection of these estates to the public (Irish Water) system. However, Irish Water confirmed during the examination of the bids that they had no assets at the location. The Panel considers these bids to be premature for approval for funding under the multi-annual programme pending long-term responsibility for enabling WwTP being resolved.

It is important to note, as stated in the NTICI report, Category 3 and 4 treatment systems, given their limited size and extensive spatial distribution, present a particular challenge for resolution including future operation and maintenance in perpetuity. Reference to the relevant planning permission conditions attached to these developments will determine whether or not there was an intent to have them taken-in-charge or remain under private third party responsibility.

The roadmap at Figure 5 above sets out the route to the progressive resolution of the DPI in estates, in a sustainable manner, to support the taking-in-charge of the estate.

Recommendation: The bids listed in Appendix C are not recommended for funding under the multi-annual programme. The reasons for this are recorded against each bid.

Potential for further bids under the current multi-annual programme

In May this year Irish Water circulated¹⁵ local authorities with a register of '**Settlements with Waste Water Discharge Authorisations - Wastewater Treatment Capacity**'.

The register, which is intended for planning authorities in carrying out their function, will also be of assistance to authorities in deciding on the potential of further Category 1 type wastewater DPI estates for sustainable resolution of their DPI.

The Panel, using the database of DPI estates compiled in Q3/Q4 2019 in conjunction with the register, examined the potential for the resolution of further Category 1 type wastewater DPI estates.

Based on this examination the Panel noted that it appears to be possible for nearly 30 Category 1 type wastewater DPI estates across at least seven local authorities, which were not included in the bids, to have their DPI resolved by their connection to the public (Irish Water) system. Just over 700 homes are involved or potentially 7% of homes that are dependent on DPI for their water services.

Their non-inclusion in the bids appears to be a lost opportunity by the local authorities concerned to resolve the DPI in these locations under the current multi-annual programme. While there may be other impediments for some of these locations it would be a matter for the local authority to lead on resolving them.

The Panel has developed a focus approach at Appendix D as a basis for local authorities to establish the potential for, and extent of, further Category 1 type wastewater DPI estates. When completed and returned to the Department it will enable consideration to be given to the potential for further funding under the current multi-annual programme.

Recommendation: Local authorities should be asked to examine the potential for further Category 1 type wastewater DPI estates for resolution through funding by following the focus approach at Appendix D.

Funding of bids - Co-funding

Both the bids circular and the Framework document made it clear that funding from the Department under the multi-annual programme will be limited to being a contribution or co-financing towards the overall funding needed to provide sustainable solutions to resolve the DPI component in residential estates.

¹⁵ Irish Water letter dated 28th and 29th April to Directors of Services Planning Services.

The Department stated in both documents that it expected local authorities to harness further funding from a variety of other sources including: from the developer, bond provider, liquidator (if relevant), the local authority itself, synergies with Irish Water (through their Capital Investment Plan) or any other accessible and available sources to progressively resolve DPI issues in a sustainable way.

The Panel noted, in its evaluation of the bids, that there was a limited responsiveness from local authorities on this requirement. Some local authority bids did not engage at all on the matter, others did so to a limited extent.

All funding programmes need to treat public funds with care, and to ensure that the best possible value for money is obtained whenever public money is being spent or invested. The use of co-funding, in the appropriate circumstances, is part of this process.

The Panel considered similar co-funding arrangements, in particular the NTICI and the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme in reaching its recommendations.

The approach ensures that:

- there is a reasonable and equitable approach to leveraging complimentary funding from sources such as developers, bond providers, receivers (where relevant) local authorities or other sources for the resolution of the DPI in the development,
- the integrity of the public infrastructure is ensured and acceptable service levels are achieved for the residents of the estate,
- there is reasonable and equitable share between use of central and local/private funding.

Recommendation: Bids recommended should be limited to funding of up to 75% of the cost of the works. Funding in excess of this should only be considered in exceptional circumstances where full justification is provided and in such cases limited to funding of up to 85% of the cost.

Appendices

Appendix A - Bids recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme.

Appendix B – Bids requiring further examination by local authorities to enable the Expert Panel to consider them for funding under the multi-annual programme.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme.

Appendix D – Framework for establishing the potential for, and extent of, further DPI estates for consideration by the Department for funding under the current multi-annual programme.

Appendix A - Bids recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Location	Estimated Cost (€)	Approved Funding (€)	Conditions (where relevant)
Cork	Ard Carrig	Skibbereen	43,665	32,749	
Cork	The Hawthorns	Skibbereen	49,569	37,177	
Cork	Cois Na hAbhainn	Clonakilty	26,138	19,603	
Cork	Castlewoods	Old Chapel Bandon	130,000	55,000	
Donegal	Dromore Park	Killygordon	509,880	382,410	
Donegal	Beechwood Park	Convoy	16,500	12,375	
Donegal	Stone Park	Glenties	10,500	7,875	
Donegal	Doonan Court	Donegal Town	61,000	45,750	
Donegal	St. Judes Court & Hazelwood Drive	Lifford	325,476	244,107	See Note 1
Galway	Cluain na Cathrach	Athenry	220,063	165,047	
Galway	Lorro Gate	Athenry	325,063	243,797	
Kerry	Birch Hill	Killarney	205,479	154,109	
Kerry	Old Killarney Village	Killarney	329,972	247,479	
Kildare	The Paddocks	Ballitore	125,314	93,986	
Kildare	Lios an Ri	Clogharinka	158,988	119,241	See Note 2
Laois	Killenard Lodge	Killenard	65,516	49,137	
Waterford	The Cloisters	Ardmore	442,800	168,000	See Note 3
Waterford	Newtown Park	Tramore	350,000	150,000	See Note 3
Westmeath	Killucan Manor	Rathwire	127,933	95,950	See Note 4
Wexford	Kyle Close	Oulart	107,153	80,365	See Note 5
Wexford	Gleann na gCaor	Monageer	302,878	227,159	
Wexford	Mountain View	Ballindaggin	208,016	156,012	See Note 6
Wexford	Cois Cuan	Arthurstown	152,475	114,356	See Note 1
Wicklow	Garden Village	Kilpedder	422,300	316,725	
Wicklow	Rath Luain	Dunlavin	184,300	138,225	
			4,900,978	3,356,634	
Note 1	Approval is conditional on advancement by Irish Water of the upgrading of the enabling public sewerage scheme (commissioning of wastewater treatment plant) before the estate is allowed to discharge to the Irish Water network.				
Note 2	Irish Water require direct connection of the estate to their network - they will not be utilising the estate source.				

Appendix A - Bids recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

Note 3	There appears to the Panel to be other synergies including route options that the LA can consider for resolution of the DPI in this estate. The LA should note that any upgrading to the public network to facilitate future development is a matter for Irish Water – these costs will not be funded by the Department. The LA should consider the options and cost savings that gives most equitable sharing of the cost burden to the State.
Note 4	There appears to the Panel to be other synergies including route options that the LA can consider for resolution of the DPI in this estate. The LA should consider the options and cost savings that gives most equitable sharing of the cost burden to the State.
Note 5	The cost of relocating water mains from rear to front of houses is outside of the scope of the programme, is a matter for the LA, and will not be funded.
Note 6	There appears to the Panel to be other synergies and route options that the LA can consider including resolution of the DPI in Mountain View and the adjacent Rathpark estate as a single project. The LA should consider the options and cost savings. The LA should note that Irish Water have indicated that there is limited reserve capacity in the public system for both estates. Therefore, the LA should speedily examine the options and costs.

Appendix B – Bids requiring further examination by local authorities to enable the Expert Panel to consider them for funding under the multi-annual programme.

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Carlow	The Grannary and Killerig Lodges (Grange)	<p>The Panel is not prepared to recommend approval of significant funding for separate standalone wastewater treatment and disposal based solutions for the DPI estates in the village when other more sustainable solutions may be available. The Panel is concerned that the works as proposed may become redundant if connection of the estate networks to the nearest Irish Water network is a sustainable and value for money option when considered on a long-term basis. The Panel recommends that the local authority, instead of carrying out the works as proposed in the bid, examine through a desk study the needs, options and estimated costs on a whole life basis of collecting and discharging wastewater from the estates, with an allowance for the village area, to the Irish Water wastewater network. This should be compared to the alternative of a single standalone solution in the village. Layout drawings should be provided. The study should be done in consultation with Irish Water. The study, which is considered to be within the scope of the local authority to prepare, should be completed within three months and submitted to the Department for its referral to the Panel for their further consideration of ways of achieving sustainable and cost effective resolution of the DPI at this location. The local authority should engage with the Department on the study before it is commenced.</p>
Clare	Castlebank (Ardnacrusha)	<p>The Panel recommends that the local authority examine through a desk study the needs, options and estimated costs on a whole life basis of collecting and discharging wastewater from the estates, with an allowance for the village area, to the Irish Water wastewater network. This should be compared to the alternative of a single standalone solution in the village. Layout drawings should be provided. The study should be done in consultation with Irish Water. The study, which is considered to be within the scope of the local authority to prepare, should be completed within three months and submitted to the Department for its referral to the Panel for their further consideration of ways of achieving sustainable and cost effective resolution of the DPI at this location. The local</p>

Appendix B – Bids requiring further examination by local authorities to enable the Expert Panel to consider them for funding under the multi-annual programme.

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		authority should engage with the Department on the study before it is commenced.
Cork	Gleann Alainn, Cluain Na Croise, Cul Na Greine and Lissagroom Meadows (Crossbarry	The Panel is not prepared to recommend approval of significant funding for separate standalone wastewater treatment and disposal based solutions for the DPI estates in the village when other more sustainable solutions may be available. The Panel is concerned that the works as proposed may become redundant if connection of the estate networks to the nearest Irish Water network is a sustainable and value for money option when considered on a long-term basis. The Panel recommends that the local authority, instead of carrying out the works as proposed in the bid, examine through a desk study the needs, options and estimated costs on a whole life basis of collecting and discharging wastewater from the estates, with an allowance for the village area, to the Irish Water wastewater network. This should be compared to the alternative of a single standalone solution in the village. Layout drawings should be provided. The study should be done in consultation with Irish Water. The study, which is considered to be within the scope of the local authority to prepare, should be completed within three months and submitted to the Department for its referral to the Panel for their further consideration of ways of achieving sustainable and cost effective resolution of the DPI at this location. The local authority should engage with the Department on the study before it is commenced.

Appendix B – Bids requiring further examination by local authorities to enable the Expert Panel to consider them for funding under the multi-annual programme.

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Cork	Rooskagh Valley (Shanagarry)	<p>The Panel recommends that the local authority examine through a desk study the needs, options and estimated costs on a whole life basis of collecting and discharging wastewater from the estates, with an allowance for the village area, to the Irish Water wastewater network. This should be compared to the alternative of a single standalone solution in the village. Layout drawings should be provided. The study should be done in consultation with Irish Water. The study, which is considered to be within the scope of the local authority to prepare, should be completed within three months and submitted to the Department for its referral to the Panel for their further consideration of ways of achieving sustainable and cost effective resolution of the DPI at this location. The local authority should engage with the Department on the study before it is commenced.</p>

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Carlow	Inchappoka (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Clare	Cois na Sionna (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Clare	Breaffa Crescent and Woodbine Heights (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Clare	Lios Aird (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Clare	Hurdlestown Meadows (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Clare	Rinevalla View AKA Radharc Rinn an Bhile (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Clare	Riverdale (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Cork	Kilmore Woods (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as issues with the responsibility in the long-term for the enabling sewerage scheme needs to be resolved before funding approval can be recommended.
Cork	Leighmoney More and Woodside (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Cork	Churchfield (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as issues with the responsibility in the long-term for the enabling sewerage scheme needs to be resolved before funding approval can be recommended.
Donegal	Lennon Grove and Meadowvale	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Donegal	Coylin Court and Radharc an Chuain	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Donegal	Sessiagh Park	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Donegal	Sheskinatinney Bridge	The LA should re-examine the proposal for a more cost effective solution, or synergies available, leading to a significantly reduced cost proposal which may be submitted to the Department for further consideration.
Donegal	Doonan	The LA should re-examine the proposal for a more cost effective solution, or synergies available, leading to a significantly reduced cost proposal which may be submitted to the Department for further consideration.
Donegal	Wilson's Creek	The LA should re-examine the proposal for a more cost effective solution, or synergies available, leading to a significantly reduced cost proposal which may be submitted to the Department for further consideration.
Donegal	Riverbank Avenue	The bid cost is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive and not affordable for this programme. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Donegal	An Gleann Amhain	The bid cost is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive and not affordable for this programme. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Donegal	Lisfannon Heights	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended. There is no objection to, as proposed in the bid, the LA installing and maintaining a temporary treatment unit and percolation area in the estate at its own cost until enabling Irish Water infrastructure is in place.
Donegal	The Pines (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Donegal	Cara Bay, Dunailainn, Culdaff Manor, Stoney Wood and Clara Meadow (Demonstration	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
	Project)	perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Galway	Caislean Ri	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Galway	Páirc na Rí/Boithrín na Ri	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Galway	The Willows An Saileachan	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Galway	Ballygurraune South	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Galway	Dun Ard, Ballymore Lane, Gleanntan na hAbhainn, Sli Na gCapall, Blackberry Way, Cuil na hAbhainn, Killora Court and Garrai an Droichaid (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Galway	Castlegrounds, Cloch Chora, Garrai Glas, An Dunan, Caislean Cuirte, Rockley Court and Brocklodge (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Galway	The Granary, Cois na hAbhainn, Cnoc na gCaor and Radharc an Mhuilinn (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Kerry	Lispole Holiday Homes (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as issues with the responsibility in the long-term for the enabling sewerage scheme needs to be resolved before funding approval can be recommended.
Kerry	Lighthouse Village	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Kerry	Strand Road	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of the enabling public sewerage scheme needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Kerry	Pairc Chuimin	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Kerry	Mountain View	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Kerry	Lough Ernie	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Kerry	Tomies Close, The Orchard and Coolmagort Avenue (Demonstration Project)	The bid cost is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive and not affordable for this programme. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Kildare	Allen Court (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Kildare	Moorhill Wood (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Kildare	Mountrice Mill (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Kildare	Red Hills Park (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Kildare	Kilmurray Brook (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Kildare	The Close (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Kildare	Ballagh Wood (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Kildare	The Village (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Kilkenny	White's Castle	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval for funding in the absence of, as advised by Irish Water, reserve capacity in the enabling public supply for this proposal. However, the Department will consider providing funding for the proposal once reserve capacity becomes available to supply the estate.
Kilkenny	Archersfield	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval for funding in the absence of, as advised by Irish Water, reserve capacity in the enabling public supply for this proposal. However, the Department will consider providing

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		funding for the proposal once reserve capacity becomes available to supply the estate.
Kilkenny	Brookfield	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval for funding in the absence of, as advised by Irish Water, reserve capacity in the enabling public supply for this proposal. However, the Department will consider providing funding for the proposal once reserve capacity becomes available to supply the estate.
Kilkenny	An Choill Rua	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Kilkenny	Ogenty	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Kilkenny	Whitehall	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Kilkenny	Abhainn Ri (Demonstration Project)	The bid cost is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive and not affordable for this programme. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Laois	Bruach na hAbhann	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Longford	Sli Corglass (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Longford	Rath Na Carraige (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Longford	Radharc an Choill AKA Woodlands Park (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Monaghan	Sliabh Dubh (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Monaghan	Drumakelly (Demonstration Project)	The bid is based on a proposal to connect to the public network involving pumping effluent over a very long distance to the public network at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive and not affordable for this programme. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Monaghan	Forth View (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Monaghan	Oisin Vale and Oisin Brian (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Roscommon	Scramogue Manor and The Rookery (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Sligo	Ballincar Heights (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel considers the bid, a high cost study, for a location with a single limited sized DPI estate where the LA has already produced detailed engineering reports/drawings giving the solution and is not considered to be value for money. Furthermore, any proposal is premature pending the advancement by Irish Water of the enabling public collection system (Rosses Point connection to Sligo Main Drainage).
Sligo	Riocht na Sí (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel considers the bid, a high cost study, for a location with a single limited sized DPI estate and not value for money. Furthermore, the LA has not clearly displayed that this particular location is DPI under the terms of the Framework document issued with the bids request. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Sligo	Corradoo Cottages (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel considers the bid, a high cost study, for a location with a single limited sized DPI estate and not value for money. Furthermore, the LA has not clearly displayed that this particular location is DPI under the terms of the Framework document issued with the bids request. The

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Sligo	Drumroe	The Expert Panel considers the bid, a high cost study, for a location with limited sized DPI estate is not value for money and is premature pending the upgrading by Irish Water of the likely enabling public collection system (Castlebaldwin SS). Furthermore, the LA has not clearly displayed that this particular location is DPI under the terms of the Framework document issued with the bids request.
Tipperary	Castle Court	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval for funding in the absence of, as advised by Irish Water, reserve capacity in the enabling public supply for this proposal. However, the Department will consider providing funding for the proposal once reserve capacity becomes available to supply the estate.
Tipperary	Slievardagh (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Tipperary	Townsfild	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of the enabling public sewerage scheme needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Tipperary	Rocksprings	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as issues with the responsibility in the long-term for the enabling sewerage scheme needs to be resolved before funding approval can be recommended.
Tipperary	An Cúirt and Inis Grove (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Tipperary	Lios Dualla and Rathclogh (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Tipperary	Dun n'Or (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Tipperary	Cnoc Na gCaiseal	The LA should re-examine the proposal for a more cost effective solution, or synergies available, leading to a significantly reduced cost proposal which may be submitted to the Department for further consideration.
Tipperary	Oak Grove (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Tipperary	Brookfield (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Tipperary	Hayfield Manor	Proceeding with the study (funded by the bond) is a matter for the LA.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Westmeath	Forest View (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Wexford	Beechfields	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Wexford	Skuna Bay, Skuna Hill and Greenacres (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Wexford	River Glen and Blakes Glen, Ballinamorrhagh, Ravens Point and Sea Vista (Demonstration Project)	The bid is based on a proposal to connect to the public network involving pumping effluent over a very long distance to the public network at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive and not affordable for this programme. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Wexford	The Brambles (Demonstration Project)	The Expert Panel noted, in the course of examining the bid, that there is a significant amount of development in the close vicinity of this bid location. Accordingly, the authority is advised to explore with the development and the wider community the possibility of it developing a group water scheme in the area as a more sustainable long-term solution for its water supply. The community should be supported and assisted in this process by the authority. Separate grants are available through the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme for the development of new group water schemes.
Wexford	Ban Aiteann, Barronsfield, Grange Lawn and Rathroe Meadows (Demonstration Project)	The bid is based on a proposal to connect to the public network at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive and not affordable for this programme. The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Wexford	An Tardan, The Meadows and Birchwalk (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Wexford	Ban Na Cheile (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. Additionally, the bid is premature for submission under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before resolution would be viable.
Wexford	Mill Haven (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Wexford	Meadow Park (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive.
Wexford	The Willows	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.
Wexford	Meadowbrook (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive.
Wexford	Bellview Court (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive.
Wexford	Radharc na Bhfanaithe (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Wexford	Waterside Close (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive.
Wexford	An T-Oilean, Baile Tiobraid and Millford (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes.
Wexford	Abbey Court (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		<p>forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive. Additionally, the bid is premature for submission under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before resolution would be viable.</p>
Wexford	The Village (Demonstration Project)	<p>The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. The Panel noted in its preliminary examination of the bid that it is based on a proposal to develop a project, for the connection of development in the Ballymoney area to the public Courtown/Gorey collection system for effluent disposal. However, the Panel noted that the vast majority of development in the Ballymoney area is gated, commercial holiday home or other commercial type development which is not DPI for the purposes of the multi-annual programme. Therefore, a resolution for such effluent generated in the Ballymoney area cannot be funded under the multi-annual DPI programme. In addition to this, per Irish Water, there is no reserve capacity in the public system and there are no plans to upgrade it at this time. It is a matter for Wexford Co Co to consider how it wishes to resolve the issue outside of the multi-</p>

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme		
County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		annual programme.
Wexford	Ard a Bhealach (Starvehall) (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive.
Wexford	Hillview (Ballinaboola) (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. Additionally, the bid is premature for submission under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before resolution would be viable.

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
Wexford	Ban Milis (Demonstration Project)	<p>The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive. Additionally, the bid is premature for submission under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before resolution would be viable.</p>
Wexford	Grange Court (Demonstration Project)	<p>The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estates. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However, the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a</p>

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive. Additionally, the bid is premature for submission under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before resolution would be viable.
Wexford	Stonebrook	The Expert Panel concluded that there is no clear indication in the bid that this is DPI. Additionally, the bid even if it is DPI is premature for submission under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before resolution would be viable.
Wexford	The Grange (Demonstration Project)	The bid was not examined in detail by the Expert Panel as the bids process limited local authorities to, under the current funding cycle, make a maximum of two bids for demonstration projects for Category 3 legacy DPI estate. Local authorities are asked to note that the forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature. A review of the study outcome will guide the development of future multi-annual DPI programmes. However the Expert Panel noted that the bid is based on a proposal to connect over a long distance to the public network (the merits of doing this being technically open to question) at a cost that is considered by the Panel to be, based on the unit cost, excessive.
Wexford	Deerpark View	The Expert Panel noted, in the course of examining the bid, that there is a significant amount of development in the close vicinity of this bid location. Accordingly, the authority is advised to explore with the development and the wider community the possibility of it developing a

Appendix C – Bids not recommended by the Expert Panel for funding under the multi-annual programme

County	Estate Name	Expert Panel Conclusions, Observations and Recommendations
		group water scheme in the area as a more sustainable long-term solution for its water supply. The community should be supported and assisted in this process by the authority. Separate grants are available through the Multi-annual Rural Water Programme for the development of new group water schemes.
Wicklow	Hazel Hill (Demonstration Project)	The forthcoming study by Irish Water, referred to in the bids circular, on a sample of DPI estates nationally is expected to provide detailed information and costings to guide on appropriate options to achieve the best solutions for capital investment, operation and maintenance in perpetuity of DPI estates of this nature for use in future planning of DPI programmes.
Wicklow	Riverview Heights	The Expert Panel considers the bid to be premature for approval under the current funding cycle of the multi-annual programme as upgrading by Irish Water of their enabling infrastructure needs to be advanced before funding approval can be recommended.

Appendix D – Framework for establishing the potential for, and extent of, further DPI estates for consideration by the Department for funding under the current multi-annual programme.

Background

The new multi-annual funding programme was introduced to progressively facilitate the resolution in a sustainable manner the DPI element of water services in housing estates to support the taking-in-charge of the estate. The focus of the first programme is to resolve DPI estates by their connection to Irish Water where it is viable to do so.

The funding approvals now made under the multi-annual programme arising from the first bids process will be a good start to progressively resolve in a sustainable way the DPI in over 500 estates that are dependent on this type of infrastructure for the provision of their water services.

The first bids process has revealed that there is potential for the current multi-annual programme to facilitate the resolution in a sustainable manner the DPI element of water services in housing estates to support the taking-in-charge of further estates that were not included by local authorities in their bids. This refers to Category 1A and 1B type wastewater DPI estates and possibly Category A1 and A2 type drinking water DPI estates¹⁶ that were not included in the first bids submissions.

Approach for local authorities to further progress the resolution of these DPI estates

In May this year Irish Water circulated¹⁷ to local authorities a register of wastewater treatment capacity in settlements with Waste Water Discharge Authorisations. The register of wastewater treatment capacities will be of assistance to local authorities in deciding on the potential of further Category 1 type wastewater DPI estates for sustainable resolution of their DPI by connection of the estate water services network to the Irish Water network and the decommissioning of their DPI.

It is the policy of Irish Water to facilitate connections to their networks, where spare/headroom capacity exists, in order to maximise the use of existing infrastructure and reduce additional investment costs. It is important to note that the headroom capacities in the register is point in time data which is continuously changing ie in some cases some or all of the stated reserve/headroom capacity may already be used by Irish Water to facilitate new connections.

¹⁶ See Tables 2, 3, 5 and 6 in the report of the Expert Panel on the first bids process for details of these categories and their potential for resolution.

¹⁷ Irish Water letter dated 28th and 29th April 2020 to all Directors of Services (Planning Services).

The register addresses reserve/headroom capacities in the wastewater treatment plants only – it does not address network constraints eg due to network prone to flooding etc.

The remaining drinking water DPI estates, that were not part of the first bids process, are relatively few in number and most are in the areas of two local authorities. Details of their water treatment capacities are being dealt with on a case by case basis to assist local authorities in deciding on the potential of further Category B type water DPI estates for sustainable resolution of their DPI by connection of the estate water services network to the Irish Water network and the decommissioning of their DPI.

Local authorities should now review their outstanding Category 1A and 1B type wastewater and Category A1 and A2 type drinking water DPI taking account of the above. The following action plan approach is suggested – it applies to both wastewater and the small number of drinking water DPI estates:

- **Focus 1** – DPI estates for which local authorities have valid taking-in-charge applications. It should be possible for all or some of these DPI estates to be considered by the authority for resolution within the timeframe of the current multi-annual programme,
- **Focus 2** – DPI estates for which local authorities do not have valid taking-in-charge applications. It should be possible for, with local authority leadership and taking a pro-active approach, to bring a significant number of these DPI estates forward quickly to Focus 1 status allowing them to be considered by the authority for full resolution or at least to the commencement of their resolution within the timeframe of the current multi-annual programme.

In addition, local authorities should commence planning now for the next multi-annual funding cycle for the other outstanding estates in the above categories where reserve/capacity is not currently available but where Irish Water has plans under their CIP 2020-2024 to upgrade their WwTPs or provide a new plant for the first time in a small number of cases at these locations.

Irish Water generally provide sufficient spare capacity in their plants, which are being upgraded or new for the first time, to accommodate new connections including DPI within their catchment area.

The locations of the plants in the CIP can also be found in the register issued in May last. Therefore, a further element of the action plan for the relevant DPI estates is:

- **Focus 3** – DPI estates for which local authorities do not have valid taking-in-charge applications. It should be possible for, with local authority leadership and taking a pro-active approach, to plan now for bringing, at the appropriate time, a significant amount of the remaining numbers of these DPI estates, ie those not addressed

under Focus 1 and 2, forward to Focus 1 status allowing them to be considered by the authority for full speedy resolution under the next multi-annual programme.

The three focus areas, the first two in particular, should be considered by local authorities and acted upon concurrently not consecutively.

Conclusions

Following the above approach will enable the next multi-annual programme to more fully focus on resolving the remaining Category 1 type DPI estates and take a targeted approach to resolving Category 2, 3 and 4 type estates.

The focus on Category 2, 3 and 4 estates under the next multi-annual programme will be informed by the pilot study currently underway by Irish Water to assess the existing infrastructure in a reflective sample – by size, category and local authority - of DPI estates.

Importantly, reference to the relevant grant of planning conditions attached to these developments will determine whether or not there was any intent to have them taken-in-charge or remain under private third party responsibility. This will determine their eligibility for funding.

Progressively resolving these wastewater DPis, in many cases poorly functioning and poorly maintained giving rise to public health and environmental risks, can eliminate their unsustainable co-existence in wastewater agglomerations alongside public (Irish Water) infrastructure.

The format of the return by local authorities should be as follows:

Estate Name	Estate Location	Number of Houses	Group (Focus 1 or Focus 2)	Estate Category (1A, 1B, A1 or A2)	Comments useful information