

N.I. Water Framework Directive Stakeholder Forum

Significant Water Management Issues Exercise



Thank you for taking the time to complete this short exercise. Your answers will help us to form a better understanding of stakeholder views on significant water management issues within Northern Ireland. A map of the River Basin District (RBD) and International River Basin Districts (IRBDs) in Northern Ireland is attached for information and identification purposes.

Name (CAPs Please):

Organisation:

Email / Telephone:

Interest in WFD:

Catchment of Particular Interest:

1. Please list the **top 5 significant water management issues** facing Northern Ireland. Against each issue write a priority score of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the highest priority and 5 the lowest).

Describe in brief the issue and priority of concern, for instance, whether it is a specific policy issue such as absence of water abstraction controls, nitrate/phosphorus controls or a general concern, for example, lack of co-ordination within Government. State whether the problem is at river basin or community level.

Issue

Priority

2. Do you think the whole of Northern Ireland faces the same significant water management issues, or are there significant differences, between River Basin Districts, or between urban/rural areas, for example?

3. How should these issues be addressed?

4. Are there **barriers** that prevent these issues from being addressed?

Please provide examples of possible solutions, such as increase community (local) participation, increased education and media coverage including making the public more aware of the real cost of providing drinking water and connection to sewer, suggestions as to reorganisation of existing structures for more effective delivery of services.

Barriers:

Possible solutions:

5. Please list what you consider to be other significant water management issues.

Any further comments

Introduction to Significant Water Management Issues Exercise

At least two years before the beginning of each river basin planning period (i.e. by 22 December 2007 for the first planning round) the Department of Environment has to publish, for each river basin district, a summary of the significant water management issues which it considers arise for consideration in that district¹.

The summary must be published for consultation for a period of 6 months and should set out, for the river basin district, the main pressures and impacts which will need to be addressed in the River Basin Management Plan.

The main purpose of the summary is to highlight the significant issues and help to engage those who may be affected by river basin planning in the process. With this aim in mind the Department is seeking to involve those likely to be affected by the RBMP in the development of the summary of significant water management matters.

The Environment and Heritage Service is building upon the work carried out on identifying pressures and impacts on the water environment in Northern Ireland, through the process of further characterisation. This process, coupled with monitoring programmes, will provide scientific information upon which to base the summary of significant water management issues.

In addition to scientific information, other aspects must be taken into account, such as social, economic and governmental issues. Over the next 6 months, the Department will be gathering initial stakeholder views on the significant water management issues facing Northern Ireland. This exercise is the first stage in gathering this information.

October 2005 – January 2006	Initial stakeholder views
November 2005 – March 2006	Initial governmental views
October 2005 – March 2006	Initial phase of further characterisation
January 2006 – March 2006	Follow-up to stakeholder exercise
March 2006 – June 2006	Initial comparison of views against characterisation results
June 2006 – June 2007	Further information – stakeholders, government, monitoring
April 2007 – June 2007	Public awareness raising
December 2007	Publication of SWMI report – 6 months consultation

Please return completed exercise, by 16th January 2006, to:

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¹ Regulation 13(1)(b) of the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003.

