



Global Leakage Summit

EU Leakage Legislation – Irelands Experience

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Overview



- Implementing the EU leakage legislation in Ireland
 - Timelines
 - Legal requirements
 - Next steps
- The role of the EPA in regulation of the Irish water sector
- Current and future challenges for Ireland



EU Drinking Water Directive



- Revised Drinking Water Directive
 - Directive (EU) 2020/2184
- Transposed into Irish Law on 7th March 2023
 - European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations
 - S.I. No. 99 of 2023
- Many new provisions – including on leakage



EU Directive – Key Timelines



Jan 2026

Water suppliers shall undertake an assessment of leakage levels and evaluate the potential for leakage reduction.

Jan 2028

The European Commission will review member state assessments, determine a Union average leakage rate and set a leakage threshold.

Jan 2030

Suppliers with leakage levels above the threshold are required to submit an action plan for reducing water loss to the CRU and the EPA. On approval by the EPA, it shall be transmitted to the European Commission.

EU Leakage Requirements (1)



- EU Water suppliers assess their water levels
- Take account of public health, environmental, technical and economic considerations
- Units for EU reporting - NRW/Km, ILI as per Directive not used
- Reporting template agreed
- Includes volume lost from point of abstraction –voluntary submission
- Submit both assessments by 12th January 2026



EU Leakage Requirements (2)



- Commission are assessing the submissions from all MS and Norway
- Will calculate an EU average leakage threshold value by 12th January 2028
 - Threshold is not a legislative limit value
 - Method of calculation is under discussion
- By 12th January 2030, at the latest, MS with leakage levels above the threshold must submit an action plan
- Plan must outline measures to be taken to reduce their leakage rate



EU Leakage Requirements (3)



- MS with leakage levels below the threshold do not require an EU action plan to reduce the water leakage rate
 - High level of ambition necessary
- Support from Commission, EU Member State Expert group and National leakage sub-group
- EU leakage levels vary across the MS
- Focus of media attention, heightened by summer drought and Dublin water supply project



EU level Implementation – Next Steps



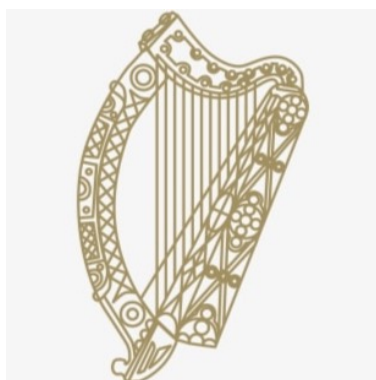
- Commission to calculate the Threshold value
- Based on the EU average leakage rate from the MS assessments
- Calculation method is under active discussion at EU level
- Draft delegated Act to issue – in September
- Finalised Act by January 2027
- A group of MS including Ireland will submit action plans by January 2029



Irish Implementation



- EPA responsible for Environmental, technical and Public Health aspects
- Commission for Regulation of utilities (CRU) is responsible for economic aspects
- Ireland currently holds the Presidency of the EU



**Ní neart go cur
le chéile**

Strength
with unity

Thank you

