

# Competent authorities for the Shannon International River Basin District



Background Document for the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan in accordance with Annex 1 of the Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a framework for the Community action in the field of water policy. (Water Framework Directive)

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## Introduction

This document sets out the competent authorities for the Shannon International River Basin District in accordance with Annex 1 of the Water Framework Directive.

## Name and address of the competent authority

The names and addresses of the competent authorities for the Shannon International District are as follows:

### Republic of Ireland

Cavan County Council,  
Courthouse,  
Farnham Street,  
Cavan,  
County Cavan.

Clare County Council,  
Aras Contae an Chlair  
New Road,  
Ennis,  
County Clare

Cork County Council Headquarters,  
County Hall,  
Cork.

Galway County Council,  
Po Box 27,  
Aras an Chontae,  
Prospect Hill,  
Galway

Kerry County Council,  
Rathass,  
Tralee,  
County Kerry

Laois County Council,  
Áras an Chontae,  
Portlaoise,  
County Laois.

Leitrim County Council,  
Aras an Chontae,  
Carrick on Shannon,  
County Leitrim

Limerick City Council,  
City Hall,  
Merchants Quay,  
Limerick City.

Limerick County Council,  
County Hall,  
Dooradoyle,  
Limerick.

Longford County Council,  
Jack Kilgallen,  
Great Water Street,  
Longford.

Mayo County Council,  
Seamus Granahan,  
Aras an Chontae,  
The Mall,  
Castlebar,  
County Mayo

Meath County Council,  
County Hall,  
Navan,  
County Meath.

North Tipperary County Council  
Civic Offices,  
Limerick Road,  
Nenagh,  
County Tipperary

Offaly County Council,  
Áras an Chontae,  
Charleville Road,  
Tullamore,  
County Offaly.

Roscommon County Council,  
The Courthouse,  
Roscommon,  
County Roscommon

Sligo County Council,  
County Hall,  
Riverside,  
Sligo.

South Tipperary County Council,  
Main Office  
County Hall,  
Emmet Street,  
Clonmel,  
County Tipperary.

Westmeath County Council,  
Bishopsgate Street,  
Mullingar,  
County Westmeath.

Environmental Protection Agency,  
PO Box 3000,  
Johnstown Castle Estate,  
County Wexford.

**Northern Ireland**  
Department of the Environment,  
Northern Ireland  
River House  
High Street  
Belfast  
Northern Ireland  
BT1 2AW



## **Legal status of Competent Authorities**

The competent authorities in Ireland for the Water Framework Directive are set out in the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003).

(<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2003/en/si/0722.html>).

### **The Environmental Protection Agency**

The Environmental Protection Agency is an independent public body established under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 (which can be found at the following link <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/1992/en/act/pub/0007/index.html> )

### **The Local Authorities**

The Local Authorities were established under the Local Government Acts, 1925 to 2001, (which can be found at the following link: <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/acts.html> )

### **Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland (DOENI):**

The Department of the Environment was established under Article 3 of the Ministries (NI) Order 1973 No. 2161 (N.I. 24). The Departments (NI) Order 1999 (N.I. 1) repealed the Ministries (NI) Order 1973 but contained a saving in Article 3 (3) providing for the continuing in existence of the Department of the Environment. DOENI is the competent authority for coordinating Water Framework Directive implementation. The following three Departments are also responsible for exercising their relevant functions to ensure compliance with the Directive: the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD), the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) and the Department for Regional Development (DRD).

## **Responsibilities of competent authorities**

### **Republic of Ireland**

Under the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) the relevant local authorities are responsible for the establishment of environmental measures and the making of the river basin management plans.

The European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) also identifies the Environmental Protection Agency as competent authority for co-ordinating measures by local authorities. Their responsibilities include reporting to Europe and other specified functions (including responsibilities in relation to Environmental Objectives, Characterisation, Abstraction of Drinking Water, Point and Diffuse Sources, Programme of Measures and the making of the River Basin Management Plans). The Environmental Protection Agency also has supervisory responsibilities in relation to the Water Framework Directive monitoring programme.

For more details on the responsibilities of the competent authorities in Ireland please see the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (<http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2003/en/si/0722.html>).

## **Northern Ireland**

The duties of the competent authority in Northern Ireland, the Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland are set out in the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 544). These regulations were made under section 2(2) European Communities Act 1972 c.68. The Department of the Environment, Northern Ireland is responsible for carrying out the analysis required for characterisation, monitoring, identifying waters used for the abstraction of drinking water, and establishing a register of those waters and other protected areas. The Department has to prepare proposals for environmental objectives and programmes of measures for each river basin district, and prepare the public draft river basin management plans. The Department must also ensure public participation in preparation of the river basin management plan and make certain information required under the Framework Directive is accessible to the public. For more details on the responsibilities of the competent authority in Northern Ireland please see the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 (S.R. 2003 No. 544) (<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/sr/sr2003/20030544.htm>).

## **Membership**

In accordance with the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations, 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) Limerick County Council acts as lead local authority in the Shannon International District. Limerick County Council acts as the co-ordinator for all the relevant local authorities unless the Minister has appointed another authority to act as co-ordinating authority.

The other relevant authorities that are co-ordinated by Limerick County Council in the Shannon International River Basin District are:

Cavan County Council  
Clare County Council  
Cork County Council  
Galway County Council  
Kerry County Council  
Laois County Council  
Leitrim County Council  
Limerick City Council  
Longford County Council  
Mayo County Council  
Meath County Council  
North Tipperary County Council  
Offaly County Council  
Roscommon County Council  
Sligo County Council  
South Tipperary County Council  
Westmeath County Council

## **International relationship**

Only a very small portion of the Shannon International River Basin District lies in Northern Ireland consequently the drafting on the river basin management plan for the Shannon District has been led by the Republic of Ireland. Full consultation has been maintained with the authorities in Northern Ireland, who are represented on the Shannon District's Steering Group.

The legislation that transposed the Water Framework Directive in both jurisdictions puts responsibility on the competent authorities to take appropriate action to secure co-ordinated implementation of the Directive.

A North / South WFD Co-ordination Group on Water Quality which meets generally on a bi-monthly basis was set up to ensure the co-coordinated approach to the implementation of the Directive. This group is comprised of officials acting on a non-statutory basis drawn from:

- The Department of the Environment (DOENI) and its Agency, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA);
- The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ireland; and
- Other government departments, their agencies and relevant organisations, North and South, with responsibility for implementation of the Directive.

A joint North / South project promoted by the Co-ordination group and supported by funding under INTERREG IIIA was established to facilitate co-ordinated implementation and delivery of technical tasks required by the Directive. The project (the "NS SHSARE Project") was led by Donegal County Council (in Ireland) on behalf of the competent authorities in both national jurisdictions.

## **Contact point for the Shannon International River Basin District**

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