



DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT SECTION

ADVICE NOTE No. 1

**Guidelines for the Discharge of  
Trade Effluent to a Sewer**

*Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977*  
*Local Government (Water Pollution) (Amendment) Act, 1990*

*This document is issued for guidance only. It does not purport to be a legal interpretation of legislation.*

## ***APPLICATION FOR LICENCE TO DISCHARGE TRADE EFFLUENT TO A SEWER***

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### **1. GENERAL**

Under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 and 1990, a licence is required for the discharge of any trade effluent (see definition below) or other matter (other than domestic sewage or storm water) to a sewer. It is an offence to make any such discharge to a sewer except under and in accordance with a licence. The licensing system applies to all existing discharges as well as new ones.

### **2. WHO TO APPLY TO**

The application should be made to the Council in which the sewer is vested or by which it is controlled. In other words, if the sewer is vested in or controlled by Donegal Co. Council, application should be made to:

**EXECUTIVE SCIENTIST,  
CENTRAL LABORATORY,  
THE KUBE,  
MAGHERANAN,  
LETTERKENNY  
Co. DONEGAL.**

### **3. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED**

A LICENCE APPLICATION SHOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE FOLLOWING: -

- (a) A completed Application Form. (The form must be completed fully and accurately).
- (b) Three copies of plans and such other particulars as are necessary to describe the premises,
- (c) drainage system and any works, apparatus or plant from which the effluent or other matter is to be discharged. Point of discharge should be shown on 1/2500 Ordnance Survey Map
- (d) The Application fee is €380.00. The statutory two-month period for consideration of your licence application does not commence until Donegal County Council receives a full application including fee.

### **4. TRADE EFFLUENT**

- (a) “**Trade Effluent**” means effluent from any works, apparatus, plant or drainage pipe used for the disposal to waters or to a sewer of any liquid (whether treated or untreated) either with or without particles of matter in suspension therein, which is discharged from premises used for carrying on any trade or industry (including mining), but does not include domestic sewage or storm water.
- (b) “Trade” includes agriculture, aquaculture, horticulture and any scientific research or experiment.

In completing your application form you should refer to the Local Government (Water Pollution) Regulations, 1978 & 1992, copies of which are available from the Government Publications Office, Sun Alliance House, Molesworth St., Dublin 2. ([www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie)).

## **5. EXEMPTED DISCHARGES**

A licence is not required for the discharge to a sewer of domestic sewage or storm water.

## **6. LEGAL**

*These notes are for guidance only and do not purport to be a legal interpretation of the provisions concerned.*

The EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC was adopted in December 2003 and places an obligation on the Council to achieve “good water quality status” for all waters within our jurisdiction by 2015.

Similarly, the Phosphorus Regulations S.I. 258/1998 requires an incremental improvement in water quality.

The Irish Water Pollution Acts (1977 & 1990) and Regulations govern the regulation of discharges to watercourses, groundwaters and sewers.

Copies of relevant legislation & Statutory Instruments are available on the [www.irishstatutebook.ie](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie) website.