

COUNTY DONEGAL NON-DOMESTIC METERING PROJECT
INFORMATION NOTE

A) Background

The EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) requires that member states recover the costs of water services in accordance with the “polluter-pays principle”. The National Water Services Pricing Policy (NWSPP) seeks to address the requirements of the Water Framework Directive by ensuring that:

- (i) All non-domestic water customers are metered before the end of 2006, and
- (ii) Non-domestic customers are charged the full economic cost of water supply and wastewater services on the basis of their metered usage of those services.

This applies to every Local Authority in the Country.

B) Proposed County Donegal Non-Domestic Water-Metering Service

In order to implement the NWSPP, Donegal County Council is undertaking the County Donegal Non-Domestic Metering Project. The Project will cover all public water supplies in County Donegal, including areas covered by Bundoran, Letterkenny and Buncrana Town Councils. The Project will involve the metering and billing of all non-domestic customers, approximately 10,000 in number. The installation of 10,000 meters will involve works on footpaths and road verges throughout the County.

A primary objective of the Project is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date metering service. The central data and information system will allow better management of meter reading data, which will facilitate efficient Revenue Collection, improved Customer Service and response to queries. It will also provide opportunities for improved Water Conservation.

The billing frequency will vary depending on the volume of water used. Customers who are connected to the public sewer will also be billed for sewerage services.

At present, a number of non-domestic customers are not metered but are billed on a fixed-charge basis. Also, some of the existing meters have reached the end of their useful life and will need to be replaced.