

Uisce Éireann

Feedback: A Chairde,

Uisce Éireann welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2026-2029.

Uisce Éireann (UÉ) is a publicly funded regulated utility, responsible for providing and developing water services throughout Ireland. Uisce Éireann plays a critical role in enabling the delivery of housing, as well as supporting broader economic growth and development. As the body responsible for the provision and maintenance of essential water and wastewater services, its investment directly underpins sustainable communities and facilitates both residential and commercial expansion.

Development contributions can have a significant impact on the level of funding available to Uisce Éireann to deliver critical infrastructure projects. Given that Uisce Éireann is reliant on public funding, an exemption from development contributions would avoid circular funding mechanisms and would maximise the efficient allocation of public resources.

Where development contributions are deemed necessary for such projects, it is essential that the costs are proportionate, clear and explicitly defined. Greater consistency in the application of contributions across all Local Authorities would assist Uisce Éireann in budgeting and forward planning.

Section 48 (3)(c) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) allows for the payment of a reduced contribution or no contribution in certain circumstances. Section 7.1.3 of the Draft Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities, states that in the making of Development Contribution Schemes, Planning Authorities should consider including a special provision in respect of water sector developments to limit the extent of the contribution.

Having regard to the above, we kindly request that Uisce Éireann developments are listed for an exemption under section 10 of the Draft Development Contribution Scheme 2026-2029.

Yours Sincerely,

Audrey Taylor,

Planning Strategy Manager,

Forward Planning Team

Uisce Éireann