

Draft Determination Response

Paul,

The Utility Regulator's standard approach to NI Water's Business Plan is outdated and detrimental to Northern Ireland's economy and economic growth.

Proposing an 11.9% reduction in NI Water's Capital Investment, while not as draconian as previous determinations, fails to deliver what Northern Ireland's economy actually needs to evolve or perhaps even thrive.

Following decades of underfunding NI Water should not be burdened by Utility Regulator statements like "begin to address the lack of capacity in wastewater systems". This simply means that it will take decades further too even approach 21st century standards of infrastructure and non-infrastructure in Northern Ireland.

NI Water has delivered years of improved efficiencies through Capital Works Contractor Frameworks therefore it's about time the Utility Regulator fully backed NI Water's Business Plan in order to begin to drive Northern Ireland's economy forwards and upwards.

Planning Application denials because of "No Drains No Cranes" will only result in economic stagnation or more likely real world contraction.

In the interests of a struggling economy it is about time the Utility Regulator stepped up to the plate and fully backed NI Water's Business Plan.

Regards

Mr McMullan