

Northern Ireland Water
Westland House
40 Old Westland Road
Belfast
BT14 6TE

Tel: 08457 440088

northern ireland
water



Delivering what matters

Briege Tyrie
Utility Regulator
Queens House
14 Queen Street
Belfast
BT1 6ED

BY EMAIL

31 January 2019

Dear Briege

Draft Corporate Strategy 2019 - 2024

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to comment on the Utility Regulator's draft Corporate Strategy 2019-24.

I enjoyed participating in the workshop in June 2018 when the Utility Regulator was beginning the process of developing its draft strategy and I know my colleague Caroline McGale found the briefing on 16 January 2019 informative.

We are supportive of the three new strategic objectives that have been identified both from the perspective of the regulated water utility in Northern Ireland as well as the single largest electricity consumer. 'Enabling 21st century networks' and 'Enabling security of supply and a low carbon future' particularly resonate as we refresh our own company strategy and prepare our PC21 Business Plan.

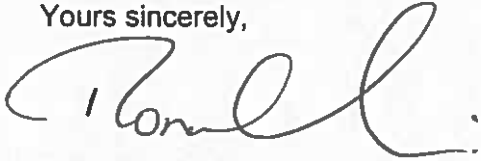
The draft Corporate Strategy makes several references to the Department for Infrastructure's Long Term Water Strategy in terms of leakage, water quality and security of supply. We would emphasise that NI Water can only deliver against the Long Term Water Strategy if it is adequately funded.

The absence of the Northern Ireland Executive and the shortfall in government funding in PC15 is putting significant pressure on the regulatory model for water and sewerage services. As we develop our plans for PC21 including the Belfast Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan, we see significant challenges ahead for our industry which will require a change of approach.

We look forward to engaging with the Utility Regulator and other stakeholders in developing our PC21 proposals and working together to secure funding to underpin a thriving population, a growing economy and a flourishing environment in Northern Ireland.

I trust that you find these comments helpful. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Ronan Larkin
Director of Finance and Regulation

cc Caroline McGale