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PRESS RELEASE 13th March 2024

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) welcomes new members.

The Water Forum provides a platform to facilitate stakeholder engagement on water policies and the management of Ireland's waters. This week the Water Forum held its first meeting with 13 new members, who will join the existing 13 members who have been reappointed for a second term. All members of the Forum are nominated by their representative organisations and appointed by Minister Darragh O'Brien, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage. The wide range of organisations and sectors brings diverse views and interests into water management issues. Current members represent agriculture, angling, business, community and voluntary sector, domestic water consumers, education, environment, forestry, recreation, rivers trusts, rural water, social housing, tourism, trade unions and youth.

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) was established in 2018 to provide a platform for stakeholder engagement on all matters relating to water management and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. In this capacity and in accordance with the Water Services Act 2017, the Forum has advisory roles in relation to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Uisce Éireann, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities and the Water Policy Advisory Committee.

The Forum provides a platform for members to discuss and debate various water policies and to develop policy advice which incorporates the views of the range of sectors represented on the Forum. The Forum has an independent Chair, Dr Matt Crowe, who stated that *'I am delighted to welcome our new members and would also like to thank departing members for their time and commitment during their tenure at the Forum. Achieving good water quality, delivery of excellent water services and planning for the future protection of water resources will remain a key focus of the Forum's work.'*

One of the first items on the work agenda for the new Forum is advising on the implementation of Ireland's 3rd River Basin Management plan which will contain measures to protect and restore water quality in rivers, lakes, estuaries and groundwaters. The Forum has a statutory role in advising on water and wastewater services; building resilience in water and wastewater services is essential to address the impacts of climate change, population and economic growth. A particular focus for the Forum's work programme in 2024 will be rural water and wastewater services.

We very much welcome the new members and look forward to their contributions to water management and policy in Ireland.

END

For more information on the Forum see: www.thewaterforum.ie



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Forum membership: [About Us - An Fóram Uisce \(thewaterforum.ie\)](http://www.thewaterforum.ie)

Missing from the attached picture are the Forum members representing Forestry, C&V, Angling and Sustainable Water Network and included in the picture are members of the Forum secretariat.

Note to the Editor

The Water Forum (An Fóram Uisce) was established in 2018 to provide a platform for public engagement on all matters relating to water management in Ireland and the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It consists of 26 members from a wide range of organisations and sectors with an interest in water issues, including agriculture, angling, business, community and voluntary sector, domestic water consumers, education, environment, forestry, recreation, rivers trusts, rural water, social housing, tourism, trade unions and youth.

In accordance with the Water Services Act, 2017, the Forum has advisory roles in relation to the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), Uisce Éireann, (UÉ), the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and the Water Policy Advisory Committee (WPAC).

The Forum is chaired by Dr Matt Crowe.

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