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The Committee Clerk
Room 247
Parliament Buildings,
Ballymiscaw,
Stormont,
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 7th August 2015

Dear Committee Clerk

RE: ENVIRONMENTAL BETTER REGULATION BILL CONSULTATION

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Environmental Better Regulation Bill consultation document, published on 22nd June 2015 for public consultation.

NI Water is of the view that the existing regulatory system has grown unnecessarily complex and time-consuming for business. We welcome and support the aims of the Environmental Better Regulation Bill (the Bill) in protection and improvement of the environment and introduction of a more streamlined and effective regulatory system for businesses and regulators.

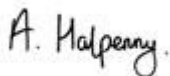
The Bill will introduce a simpler, clearer, more effective and flexible system of permitting that is easier to understand. NI Water is in a unique position as regards the significant number of regulated assets and consequently the number of permits, consents and licenses held by the company, so it is anticipated that there will be a benefit to the company in terms of regulatory burden.

NI Water is a Government Owned Company, with Non-Departmental Government Body Status. We are fully regulated and subject to challenging economic and environmental targets. We welcome that the underlying policy

intention aligns with the Government priority of growing a sustainable economy and investing in the future and the links to “Building a Prosperous and United Community”. We look forward to working with the environmental regulator to develop opportunities for business prosperity commitments, to unlock economic opportunities to deliver our core services of the provision of a high quality drinking water and safely return the wastewater to the environment, as efficiently as possible.

In conclusion, NI Water views the protection of the environment as a major priority for the company and invests significant resources and measures to safeguard it. As such, NI Water recognises the vital role environmental governance plays in protection of the environment and welcomes the initiatives proposed in The Bill to simplify this process, whilst continuing to protect and improve the environment.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Halpenny". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

ANGELA HALPENNY
Head of Environmental Regulation