

# **Water & Sewerage Services Bill**

## **Presentation to CRD 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

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# Water & Sewerage Services Bill

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### **Agenda**

1. Extension of Subsidy
2. Combining water resource management plans and drought plans
3. Power to remove or relax duty to install water meters
4. Sustainable Drainage Systems
5. Refusal of surface water connection
6. Connection of drains etc. to public sewers: adoption agreements
7. Questions

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### 1. Extension of Subsidy

- Current authority to pay subsidy expires 31 March 2016
- Subsidy is currently 76% (£282m) of income in 15/16
- Without extension beyond March 2016 NI Water will not be in a position to continue as a going concern.

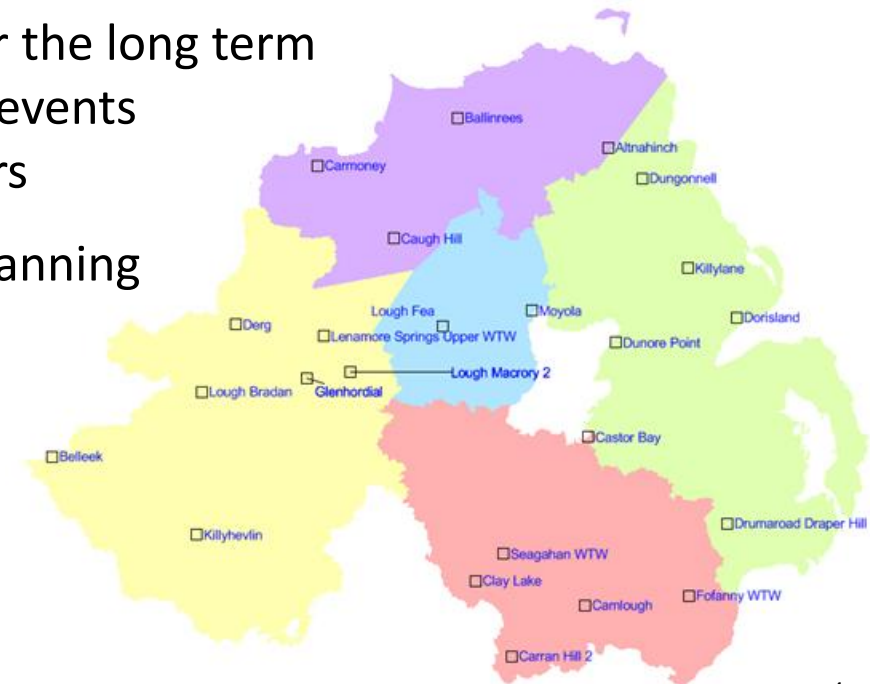
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## Presentation to CRD 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### 2. Combining water resource management plans and drought plans

#### Proposed legislation

- Incorporates latest thinking from Environmental Regulators
- Extends the Water Resource Management Plan:-
  - Balances supply & demand over the long term
  - Responds to short term critical events
  - Focuses on protecting customers
- Aligns WR&SR Plan with business planning process
- NI Water supports the move to an integrated planning process



## Water & Sewerage Services Bill Presentation to CRD 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

3. Power to remove or relax duty to install water meters
  - Proposal to provide NIW with the power to remove or relax its duty to install water meters on domestic properties that are connected to the network for the first time.
  - This currently has a budgetary impact of approx. £138k per year
  - Currently these meters are neither read or used in any way for billing purposes

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## Presentation to CRD 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### 4. Sustainable Drainage Systems

- Amendments extend NI Water's power to enter into agreements about adoption of sewerage systems to include sustainable drainage systems.
- Confers a power for NI Water to require the construction of sustainable drainage systems as a condition of agreeing to adopt a drain or sewer. The current power to adopt SuDS in the form of "hard engineering" solutions.
- It is not envisaged that NIW will adopt "soft engineering" solutions as these will remain the responsibility of the private property owner, the developer or subsequently the management company.
- These systems will collectively reduce the quantity of storm water entering the sewer network and also control its flow to the downstream system to mitigate against flooding

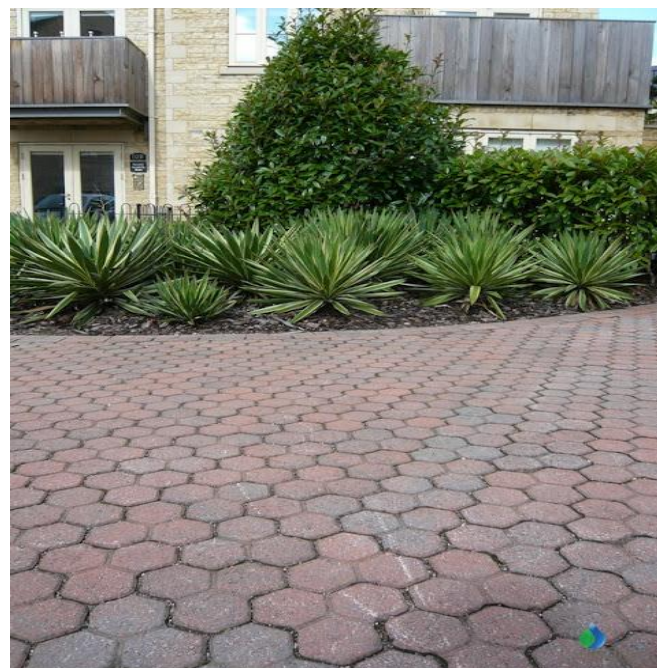
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Hard engineered SuDS –  
Attenuated Flows to be fitted with  
Flow Control Equipment  
Discharging to a watercourse



Soft engineered SuDS – Rain  
Gardens and Permeable Paving  
No connection to a public sewer  
network



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### Presentation to CRD 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

#### 5. Refusal of surface water connection

- Under amendments NI Water will have the power to require a Developer to discharge the separated storm water from his site to a water course
- If a suitable water course is not available, the developer may apply for a connection to a suitable storm sewer.
- To achieve either of these two options, the developer may have to requisition a storm sewer.
- Only in certain circumstance if none of these options are available, can the Developer seek to connect to a public foul sewer, conditions will apply.
- Provides a further ground for refusal of a surface water connection to the public sewer network, on the basis that there is a suitable alternative means of dealing with the surface water or could reasonably be provided.



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6. Connection of drains etc. to public sewers: adoption agreements
  - Proposal to mandate developers to enter into an article 161 agreement as a condition of an Article 163 (approval to connect to a public sewer) before NIW will consider adopting any sewerage infrastructure.
  - Currently developers may enter into an agreement, but this change now makes it mandatory. Mandatory agreements will be accompanied by a bond security.
  - This will improve the quality of the infrastructure that NIW is being asked to adopt in that it must be constructed to a standard in accordance with the “Sewers for Adoption (1<sup>st</sup> edition)”
  - NIW will not allow a connection to the public sewer unless all of the infrastructure is to this standard

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## Presentation to CRD 14<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### **7. Questions**