

# River Shannon Protection Alliance

26 Monaleen Park  
Castletroy  
Limerick

26-11-13

Mr. Eamonn Murtagh  
Manager – Water  
Commission for Energy Regulation  
The Exchange  
Belgard Square North  
Tallaght  
Dublin 24

Dear Mr. Murtagh,

We note that CER will have regulatory responsibility and oversight for the newly established Irish Water, and that you are seeking submissions and views from stakeholders and interested parties in this regard. The River Shannon Protection Alliance (RSPA) would wish to participate in this process, and would hope that our views and opinions would be taken into account as you develop relevant policies.

The RSPA was established with the expressed objective of promoting the protection and sustainable management of the River Shannon, as our name implies, and all of the fresh water resources of Ireland. We participated in the Consultative Process prior to the formation of Irish water, and submitted our proposal to the relevant body. Our recommendations related to the structure, governance, and financials which we believed should inform the development of policies for the emerging Water Utility, and we attach copy herewith.

We attach the copy because we think the principles underlying the recommendations would be relevant to, and should be incorporated into the regulatory process, and would ask you to view them in that context. You will note that we do not venture into specifics of operational and organisational aspects of the company as that is a matter for the executive. For instance, we do not state in numerical terms, what pricing and charges to consumers should be, making it clear instead the elements (extraction, treatment, delivery, but not the water itself) on which charges should be based. Similarly, we would hope that CER would have regard to general principles we put forward, when formulating the specifics of its regulatory policies.

We welcome the opportunity to participate in these critical deliberations, and we would be happy to add to or expand on any aspect of our contribution, if required.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Siney.

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