



21 March 2024.

Tomorrow is United Nations World Water Day, which is an annual observance coordinated by UN-Water. World Water Day promotes the right to water for citizens across the world and the theme for this year's observance is 'Water for Peace'.

Here in Ireland, you will be aware that following the decision by the Government to transfer the delivery of our public water services to Uisce Eireann, the Unions negotiated protections for our water services members, including no forced transfers to Uisce Eireann and protections of earnings under the Water Services Framework discussions chaired by the Workplace Relations Commission, as well as time for those workers to either voluntarily transfer to Uisce Eireann, or remain with their Local Authority along with their protected earnings.

In addition, the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. published it's 'Wider Policy Document' along with the Framework, which contained a commitment by the Minister to support a referendum on the ownership of our public water services. We understand from the Department that the preparatory work on the Water Referendum has now been done and only requires a decision by Government to issue the date for the Water Referendum.

Accordingly, we are requesting your party to mark the occasion of World Water Day by calling on both the Minister and An Taoiseach to honour their promises to the Irish people and for the Government to put this Water referendum at the earliest opportunity. If the referendum on the United Patents Court takes place in June 2024, we are firmly of the view that the referendum to forever enshrine the public ownership of water into the constitution should occur at the same time. It is a position consistently supported by the Irish people.

Yours sincerely

Liam Berney  
Congress Industrial Officer