

Almost 4,000 homes using 30 times more water than normal every day due to leaks

Uisce Éireann says 37pc of all treated water is lost despite progress on repairs

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Almost 4,000 households have each been using a massive 10,000 litres of drinking water a day, latest leak investigations by Uisce Éireann show.

The 3,990 properties were collectively going through 42 million litres of water daily, about 30 times the amount expected with normal consumption.

A further 32,500 properties were using a total of 47 million litres a day – about four times the norm.

The figures are the latest made public by Uisce Éireann and only cover the first half of 2022 but they give an indication of the massive water losses happening daily due to leaks.

These are only the leaks detected by the utility's alarm system, which signals when water flow to metered properties

runs significantly above normal.

Uisce Éireann is still trying to reach agreement with the water regulator, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), on a methodology for accurately assessing the full extent of all such "customer-side" leaks.

The bodies agree there are challenges evaluating and addressing leaks on private property but the CRU has been pushing Uisce Éireann to finalise a format so that the full extent of the problem is known.

The issue has been raised after it emerged the Cabinet is considering a request from Uisce Éireann to progress the next stage of its controversial water supply project for Dublin.

It is proposed to take 300 million litres of water daily from the River Shannon and pipe it 170km across the country to help shore up the greater Dublin area's stretched supply.

Uisce Éireann needs around €75m in state funding to finalise the designs and prepare the project's planning application.

At least another €1.5bn would be needed to build it. Opponents of the project argue the money should be put into fix-



Uisce Éireann wants to take 300 million litres of water daily from the River Shannon and pipe it 170km to the greater Dublin area. Photo: Stock image

ing the chronic leaks in public mains and on private property instead.

About 37pc of all treated water is lost to leaks, an improvement on the 2018

figure of 46pc when the national leakage reduction programme was set up.

However, while Uisce Éireann says it is on target to reduce leakage to 25pc

nationally and 20pc in Dublin by 2030, those figures apply to public-side leaks.

"Uisce Éireann is working with the CRU to approve a methodology to measure customer supply leakage nationally," the utility said.

"Uisce Éireann provided its first submissions regarding customer supply pipe leakage in December 2022.

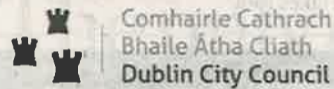
"The CRU is currently reviewing this data and will provide an update in future reports."

The CRU said it had engaged with Uisce Éireann throughout last year "to clarify aspects of the calculation and reporting methodology".

"CRU has recently (February 2024) received further updates from Uisce Éireann on its approach," it said.

Uisce Éireann insists that even if all leaks were fixed, the water saved would still not secure an adequate supply for Dublin, given the pace of growth of the population and the economy.

The utility said last week there may have to be a toss-up between water connections for new housing or industrial developments in the region in the next few years because a sufficient supply could not be guaranteed.



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

AN TACHT UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2000 (ARNA LEASÚ) NA RIALACHÁIN UM PLEANÁIL AGUS FORBAIRT, 2001 (ARNA LEASÚ) – CUID 8

Iarratasóir: Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, an Rannóg Cultúir, Áineasa agus Seirbhísí Eacnamaíochta, Oifigí na Cathrach, Bloc 4, Urlár na Talún, Cé an Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Láithreán: Banc Newcomen, 16 Sráid an Chaisleáin, Baile Átha Cliath 8

Togra: De bhun na riachtanas a bhaineann leis an méid thuasluaite, tugtar fógra leis seo i dtaca le forbairt atá beartaithe ar 16 Sráid an Chaisleáin, foirgneamh ar a dtugtaí Banc Newcomen (Déanmhas Cosanta). Is éard a bheidh san fhorbairt –

- Athchóiriú a dhéanamh ar Bhanc Newcomen (ar a dtugtaí Oifigí na Rátaí roimhe seo), ar Déanmhas Cosanta é (Tag. Uimh. 2050), agus páirt-athrú a dhéanamh ar úsáid chun áiteanna ilchuspóireacha, saoráid don fhoireann agus do chuairteoirí, agus oifigí do Chomhairle Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath agus tionónta amach anseo a sholáthar. Áireofar leis na hoibreacha seo fabraic stairiúil a chaomhnú agus a dheisiú, agus uasghráduithe ginearálta a dhéanamh chun ceanglais maidir le sábháilteacht ó dhóiteán agus le hinrochtaineacht a chomhlíonadh.
- An t-ardaitheoir ceithre stór a tógadh san fhíchiú haois agus an staighre ag aghaidh thiar Bhanc Newcomen a scartáil.
- Ardaithéoir cúig stór nua agus staighre nua ag aghaidh thiar Bhanc Newcomen a thógáil, rud a sholáthraíodh rochtain ar an íoslach.
- Céimeanna cloiche nua a shuiteáil lena bhfuil rochtain rampa don bhealach isteach ar Shráid an Chaisleáin san áireamh d'fhonn rochtain uilíoch agus pábháil choisithe fhadaithe a sholáthar, agus áit páirceála inrochtana ámháin a athlonnú.
- Cuid den íoslach ag Sráid an Chaisleáin a oscailt agus soilse pábhála iarann teilgthe nua a bhfuil pánaí glónraithe acu a shuiteáil.

Tá an láithreán suite taobh istigh de 'Chrios Leasa Ailtireachta' chun críocha Sheirbhís na Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta. Tá an láithreán san áireamh taobh istigh de Limistéar Caomhantais Ailtireachta (LCA) mar a shainmhínítear é i bPlean Forbartha Chathair Bhaile Átha Cliath 2022-28.

Rinneadh scagadh maidir le Measúnacht Chúil faoi Threoir um Ghnáthóga (92/43/CEE) ar an togra. Tá measúnacht ar phriacail tuile, measúnacht seandálaíochta agus measúnacht tionchair maidir le holdhreach ailtireachta uilmhaithe mar thaca leis na tograí seo.

Féadfar Pleananna agus Mionsonraí na forbartha atá molta a iniúchadh, nó a cheannach ar tháille nach mó ná an costas réasúnach a bhaineann le cóip a dhéanamh ar feadh tréimhse **4 seachtaine ón 04/03/2024**, le linn uaireanta oscailte poiblí ag oifigí Chomhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, An Cuntar Poiblí, an Roinn Pleanála agus Forbartha Maoine, Bloc 4, Urlár na Talún, Oifigí na Cathrach, an Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, Luan – Aoine 9.00r.n. go 4.30i.n.

Tar éis réamhscrúdú a dhéanamh, tá sé socraithe ag an Udarás Áitiúil nach dócha go mbeidh tionchar suntasach ag an bhforbairt atá molta ar an gcomhshaoil, agus mar sin, níl gá le Measúnacht Tionchair Timpeallachta.

Is féidir aighneacht nó tuairim maidir leis an bhforbairt mholta, a bhaineann le pleanáil cheart agus forbairt inbhuanaithe den cheantar ina mbeadh an fhorbairt suite a dhéanamh, i scríbhinn, leis an mBainisteoir Feidhmiúcháin, an Rannóg Pleanála agus Forbartha Réadmhaoine, Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath, Oifigí na Cathrach, an Ché Adhmaid, Baile Átha Cliath 8, roimh 4.30pm ar an 18/04/2024. Is féidir aighneachtaí a dhéanamh ar líne ar <https://consultation.dublincity.ie>.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED) PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 (AS AMENDED) – PART 8

Applicant: Dublin City Council, Culture, Recreation and Economic Services Department, Civic Offices, Block 4, Ground Floor, Wood Quay, Dublin 8.

Location: Newcomen Bank, 16 Castle Street, Dublin 8

Proposal: Pursuant to the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given of a proposed development on 16 Castle Street, the former Newcomen Bank (Protected Structure).

The development will consist of –

- Refurbishment of Newcomen Bank (formerly the Rates Office) which is a Protected Structure (Ref. No. 2050), and part change of use to provide multi-purpose spaces, visitor and staff facilities, and offices for Dublin City Council and future tenants. Works will include conservation and repair of existing historic fabric, and general upgrades to meet fire safety and accessibility requirements.
- Demolition of the existing twentieth century four storey lift and stair structure to the west façade of Newcomen Bank.
- Construction of a new five storey lift and stair structure to the west façade of Newcomen Bank, which will provide access to the basement.
- Installation of new stone steps with ramped access to the Castle Street entrance for universal access and extension of the pedestrian paving, with relocation of one accessible car parking space.
- Basement areas at Castle Street to be opened up and new cast iron pavement lights with glazed inserts added to the area.

The site is located within a 'Zone of Archaeological Interest' for the purposes of the National Monument Service. The site is also included in an ACA, an Architectural Conservation Area as defined in the Dublin City Development Plan 2022-28.

The proposal has undergone Appropriate Assessment Screening under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). A flood risk assessment, archaeological assessment and an architectural heritage impact assessment have been prepared in support of these proposals.

Plans and Particulars of the proposed development may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy for a period of **4 weeks from 04/03/2024**, during public opening hours at the offices of **Dublin City Council, Public Counter, Planning and Property Development Department, Block 4, Ground Floor, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, Monday – Friday 9.00am to 4.30pm.**

The Local Authority has concluded following a preliminary examination that there is no real likelihood of the proposed development having significant effects on the environment and therefore an EIA is not required.

A submission or observation in relation to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made, in writing, to the **Executive Manager, Planning and Property Development Department, Dublin City Council, Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, before 4.30pm on 18/04/2024.** Submissions may be made online at <https://consultation.dublincity.ie>

Part 8

