

Provision of economic advice in relation to the Northern Ireland water sector

Date: 2005

Client: Strategic Investment Board (SIB) Ltd, UK

Country / Region: UK

The Northern Ireland Water Service (NIWS) is currently an Agency of the Department of Regional Development (DRD), and is controlled and financed by central Government. Recently however, the Government announced a reform process designed to see the NIWS become self-financing by 2008/09 in order to secure the funding necessary to support needed long-term investment, improve quality, meet the requirements of the EU Directives, and to promote efficiency and economy in the industry.

CEPA staff is advising the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) on how to ensure that the water reform strategy is effective, efficient and meets its stated goals, particularly with respect to the removal of the need for government subsidy. To this end, CEPA is collaborating with SIB and key stakeholders to ensure that the emerging consensus of the reform process is:

- supportive of the NIWS in its transformation into a 'GoCo' and in achieving self-financing status as quickly as reasonable;
- has minimal risk of additional subsidy requirements; and
- is consistent with delivering a high quality service compliant with the relevant EU Directives at minimal cost.

Links:

- Strategic Investment Board Ltd (SIB), UK
- Northern Ireland Water Service (NIWS), UK