

UISCE ÉIREANN
COMPULSORY PURCHASE (PORTLAOISE WASTEWATER
TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE) ORDER, 2025

On 1st January 2014 all functions conferred on water services authorities by the Water Services Act 2007 (other than excluded provision and section 22) were transferred to Uisce Éireann by section 7(1) of the Water Services (No 2) Act 2013. Consequently, Uisce Éireann has powers, duties and functions vested in it by the Water Services Act, 2007 to make proper provision for water services as defined in the Water Services Act, 2007. In this regard, Uisce Éireann is responsible for the provision and development of water services, including the collection, treatment and discharge of Urban Wastewater.

Submitted:

Engineer's Report dated July 2025 from Michael Tinsley, Senior Portfolio Manager connected with the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project being carried out by Uisce Éireann who is carrying out the functions of a Water Services Authority for the purposes of the Water Services Act, 2007.

The project consists of the upgrading and expansion of the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant to meet future requirements, both in terms of capacity to provide for the growth of Portlaoise, and also in terms of the future need to achieve higher discharge standards to protect water quality in the River Triogue. Following the proposed upgrade of the plant, it will be able to cater for wastewater flows from Portlaoise up to the year 2051. The capacity of the upgraded plant will be 45,480 population equivalent (PE).

The main objectives of the project are:

- To provide adequate treatment capacity to facilitate the continued economic growth of Portlaoise for the next 25 years
- To improve the standard of wastewater treatment prior to discharge to the River Triogue, in order to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive

Confirmation:

Having considered the said report, I am satisfied that the lands, permanent wayleaves, rights of way, temporary construction rights and temporary working areas detailed in the Schedule attached to the said report are necessary implementation for the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project.

In addition, the project has been included in Uisce Éireann's Water Services Strategic Plan 2050 (WSSP 2050) and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024, and sufficient resources are available to finance the proposed acquisition of these lands, permanent wayleaves, rights of way, temporary construction rights and temporary working areas and the implementation of the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project.

I am satisfied that all reasonable alternatives have been fully considered and that these lands, permanent wayleaves, rights of way, temporary construction rights and temporary working areas are necessary for the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project and suitable for the purpose for which they are required. I am also satisfied that Uisce Éireann needs to invoke the Compulsory Purchase Order procedure to acquire the lands, permanent wayleaves, rights of way, temporary construction rights and temporary working areas required as it is unlikely that all of same can be acquired by agreement with the relevant Landowners with full title or otherwise in a timely fashion. A routing report from TMW Consulting Engineers has been provided in this regard.

Having considered the said report, **I HEREBY CONFIRM** that the lands, permanent wayleaves, rights of way, temporary working areas and temporary construction rights as referred to above and detailed in the Schedule attached to the report and accompanying maps:

- (a) be acquired compulsorily by Uisce Éireann;
- (b) for the purposes of carrying out the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project;
- (c) for the purposes of performing its functions under the Water Services Act, 2007; and
- (d) in the interests of the community and for the other reasons outlined more fully in the report.

I am satisfied that all reasonable alternatives have been fully considered and that these lands, permanent wayleaves, rights of way, temporary construction rights and temporary working areas are necessary for the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project and suitable for the purpose for which they are required. I am also satisfied that Uisce Éireann needs to invoke the Compulsory Purchase Order procedure for the lands, wayleaves, rights of way, temporary working areas and temporary construction rights required as it is unlikely that all of same can be acquired by agreement with the relevant Landowners with full title or otherwise in a timely fashion and that adequate financial provision has been made by Uisce Éireann to finance the proposed acquisition of these lands, permanent wayleaves, rights of way, temporary construction rights and temporary working areas and for the implementation of the Portlaoise Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project.

Having reviewed a planning report from TMW Consulting Engineers I am satisfied that the proposed Compulsory Purchase Order is in order from a sustainable development perspective and is in the community interest and is required to assist Uisce Éireann in fulfilling its duties and functions under the Water Services Act, 2007. I am satisfied that the proposal is compliant with:

- The most recent Laois County Development Plan (2021 – 2027)
- The most recent Planning Guidelines for the Midland Region, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) 2019-2031; and
- The most recent Local Area Plan, the Portlaoise Local Area Plan 2024-2030

I am of the opinion that it would be appropriate to effect the acquisition under Section 76 and the Third Schedule of the Housing Act, 1966 as extended by Section 10 of the Local Government (2) Act, 1960 (as substituted by Section 86 of the Housing Act, 1966 and as amended by Section 6 and the Second Schedule of the Roads Act, 1993) and the Planning and Development Acts, 2000 – 2015 and as applied to Uisce Éireann by Section 93 of the Water Services Act, 2007, as amended.

I FURTHER CONFIRM that a Compulsory Purchase Order as aforesaid be prepared in the prescribed form and once prepared, I confirm that the seal of Uisce Éireann may be affixed to the said Order and maps referred to therein and be signed by me and countersigned by the Company Secretary of Uisce Éireann, that the necessary notices be served on the owners, reputed owners and occupiers and where necessary posted on the lands, that notice of the making of the Order be published as prescribed in the **Leinster Express** and that the Order and said maps are to be deposited for inspection in the prescribed manner at the following locations:

- (i) Laois County Council
Áras an Chontae,
JFL Ave.,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois.
R32 EHP9

and

- (ii) Portlaoise Library,
23 Lower Main Street,
Portlaoise,
Co. Laois,
R32 N7EP

and that the Company Secretary is hereby assigned the duties of signing all notices connected with the said Compulsory Purchase Order on behalf of Uisce Éireann and that the Order be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála for confirmation,

Dated this 21 day of July 2025

SIGNED: _____

CEO, Uisce Éireann

Being the person duly authorised by the Board of Directors
of Uisce Éireann to give this confirmation