

UISCE ÉIREANN COMPULSORY PURCHASE
(Askeaton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project) ORDER, 2026

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 wastewater services, including the collection, treatment and discharge of treated wastewater.

Submitted:

Engineers Report dated July 2026 from Portfolio Manager Paul Fallon (Delivery), Uisce Éireann, connected with the Askeaton 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.

Askeaton's current wastewater collection and treatment infrastructure consists of a combined sewerage system, which gravitates to the Existing Abbey View Wastewater Pumping Station and is then pumped via rising main to the Existing Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The existing Wastewater Treatment Plant, constructed in the 1940s, consists of a single Imhoff Primary Settlement Tank, with no secondary treatment. The existing sludge drying beds are not operational. The existing infrastructure is not meeting emission limit Values (ELVs), in turn causing River water pollution, which is negatively impacting the environmental status of the River Deel.

The existing Abbey view Wastewater Pumping Station does not have appropriate pump capacity for future wastewater/ stormwater loads, a stormwater overflow facility and lacks stormwater storage. The existing network discharges upstream via 2 network Storm Water Overflows at Askeaton Square and Askeaton Market Square. The Wastewater Pumping Station currently receives all flows within the agglomeration boundary, except the Lismakeera housing estate, which is served by a small package plant, Lismakeera Developer-Provided Infrastructure (DPI). It's planned to divert Lismakeera DPI flows to the proposed Abbey view wastewater Pumping station. All Combined sewer flows to existing Wastewater Treatment Plant and Lismakeera DPI have been directed to the Deel River/Estuary after treatment, which is currently classified as moderate water quality and located upstream of Special Area of Conservation (SACs).

The Project aims to provide and improve the wastewater infrastructure in Askeaton to meet regulatory requirements and align with national policy for current and future (25 years post-commissioning) requirements of the agglomeration up to 2055. Regulatory requirements include the cater of the Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL) and Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD) criteria for effluent quality, treatment level, and Storm water overflow/Emergency Overflow Spill limits. National Policy Objectives and National Strategic Outcomes include eliminating untreated discharges, optimizing wastewater infrastructure for the long term, protecting and restoring the water environment, and managing wastewater sludge sustainably through

the implementation of the proposed Askeaton Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project.

The proposed Askeaton Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), proposed Abbey view Wastewater Pumping station (WwPS) and associated network/ other upgrades are being advanced under Uisce Éireann's Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, which supports local growth, compliance with water quality regulations, and achievement of the National Planning Framework's objectives.

Askeaton is currently served by the existing Abbey View Wastewater Pumping Station, which receives all flows within the agglomeration boundary, except for the Lismakeera housing estate, which is served separately by the small Lismakeera DPI . All discharges (from Two storm overflows (SWOs) from Askeaton Gravity Network, the existing WWTP, and the Lismakeera DPI) are directed to the Deel River/Estuary, currently classified as moderate water quality and located upstream of designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

The existing WWTP, which provides only primary treatment via an Imhoff tank, has a design capacity of 550 Nos of Population Equivalent (PE)—well below the actual load of 1,570 PE. It does not meet the requirements of the current Wastewater Discharge Licence (WWDL, D0315-01) and fails to comply with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (UWWTD), which requires secondary treatment for agglomerations of 2,000 PE or more.

The proposed scheme will deliver:

1. A new WWTP with secondary treatment and sludge management with a bigger wastewater treatment capacity to match the future demand.
2. A new WwPS with stormwater storage capacity, addressing current deficiencies.
3. Gravity Network upgrades to eliminate uncontrolled discharges and modification of storm overflows.
4. Single venue for the Wastewater treatment in Askeaton
5. Water Quality Improvement in River Deel

This will ensure regulatory compliance, protect water quality, and provide capacity to support the town's growth and future development. The main objectives and elements of the project are as follows: -

1. Construction of a new WwTP (2,800 P.E) at Moig South, Askeaton, will address the current operational deficiencies at the existing plant and ensure that Askeaton has sufficient wastewater treatment facilities to cater for the 25-year (2055) projected growth in the Askeaton agglomeration.
2. Construction of a proposed WwPS at Abbey View, integrated with a proposed Storm Water Storage Tank (1,680m³) (with a Dual Function Overflow pipeline to the River Deel and an outfall headwall) which will help to minimise the frequency of sewer overflows to the River Deel to cater for the future 25-year (2055) design flows and construction of a new Storm Water Storage Tank (1,680m³).
3. Construction of a new rising main to transfer flows from the new WwPS to the new WwTP site.

4. Proposed Askeaton gravity network upgrade works which will reduce the blockages/ surcharging of manholes as the pipe capacities have been increased in the required sections.
5. Demolition and/or decommission of the existing WwTP, existing WwPS, existing Rising main, and the Lismakeera DPI, including pipe diversion, along with other network assets made redundant by works.

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 for the implementation of the Askeaton WWTP Upgrade Project.

In addition, the project has been included in Uisce Éireann's Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme Investment Plan/Overall Strategy, 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 Askeaton 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 Askeaton 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 Nicholas O'Dwyer is noted 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 Askeaton 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 Askeaton 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 Askeaton Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.

Having reviewed a report from Portfolio Manager Paul Fallon (Delivery), Uisce Éireann, 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 Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) Development Plan 2022-2028, particularly those relating to the protection of water quality, the need to provide adequate wastewater infrastructure for current and future populations, and compliance with environmental regulations.
- The most recent Planning Guidelines for the National and Regional Policy Alignment, including delivery of essential wastewater infrastructure aligns with the National Planning Framework (NPF), Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), and the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme.
- The Local Area Plans of LCCC, including local planning priorities for sustainable growth, environmental enhancement, and protection of water bodies, including the Deel River and the Shannon Estuary.

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 Limerick Leader and that the Order and said maps are to be deposited for inspection in the prescribed manner at the following locations:

(i) Colville house, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01 NP86

and

(ii) Rathkeale Library, Áras Seán Finn, New Line Road, Rathkeale, Co. Limerick, V94 HK1V.

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 7 day of July 2026

SIGNED: _____

CEO, Uisce Éireann

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