Preventing problems before they arise

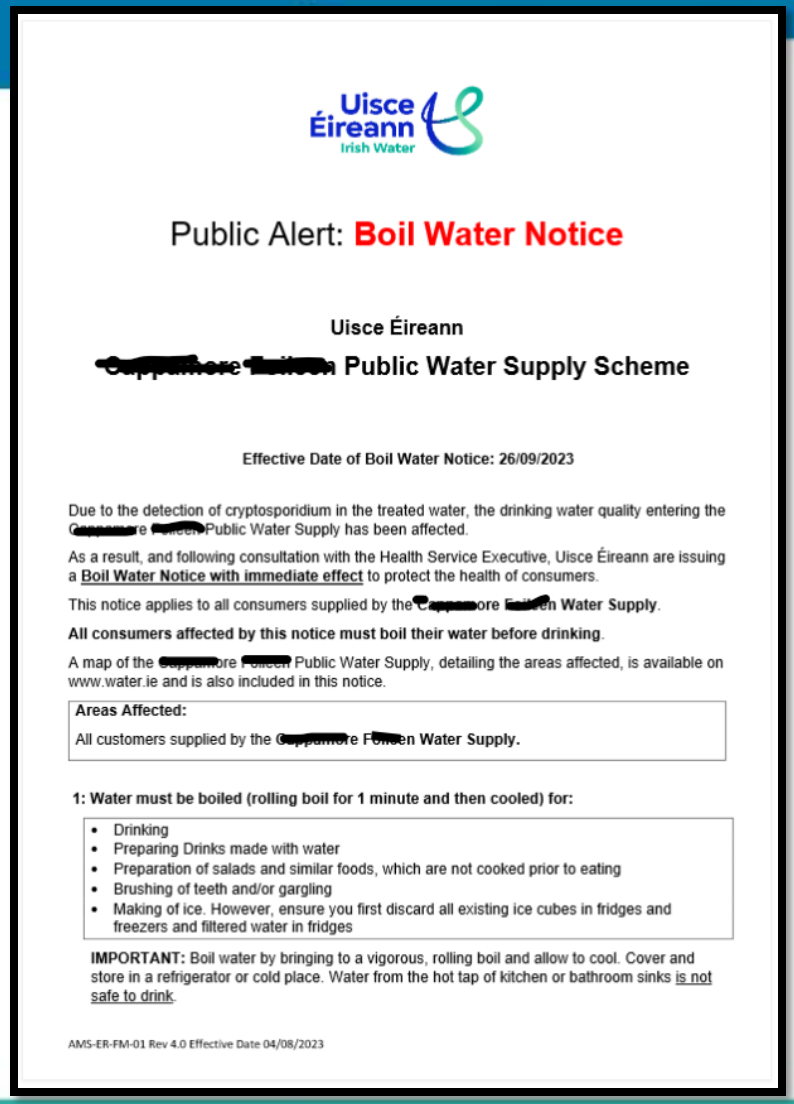
Introducing the Drinking Water Resilience Improvement List

Patrick Chan | EPA

Why This Matters

Safe drinking water is easy to take for granted

- Every home depends on it
- Failures have immediate impact
- Public trust is critical



Uisce Éireann
Irish Water

Public Alert: **Boil Water Notice**

Uisce Éireann

[redacted] Public Water Supply Scheme

Effective Date of Boil Water Notice: 26/09/2023

Due to the detection of cryptosporidium in the treated water, the drinking water quality entering the [redacted] Public Water Supply has been affected.

As a result, and following consultation with the Health Service Executive, Uisce Éireann are issuing a **Boil Water Notice with immediate effect** to protect the health of consumers.

This notice applies to all consumers supplied by the [redacted] **Water Supply**.

All consumers affected by this notice must boil their water before drinking.

A map of the [redacted] Public Water Supply, detailing the areas affected, is available on www.water.ie and is also included in this notice.

Areas Affected:

All customers supplied by the [redacted] **Water Supply.**

1: Water must be boiled (rolling boil for 1 minute and then cooled) for:

- Drinking
- Preparing Drinks made with water
- Preparation of salads and similar foods, which are not cooked prior to eating
- Brushing of teeth and/or gargling
- Making of ice. However, ensure you first discard all existing ice cubes in fridges and freezers and filtered water in fridges

IMPORTANT: Boil water by bringing to a vigorous, rolling boil and allow to cool. Cover and store in a refrigerator or cold place. Water from the hot tap of kitchen or bathroom sinks is not safe to drink.

AMS-ER-FM-01 Rev 4.0 Effective Date 04/08/2023

The Remedial Action List (RAL)

We've made real progress

- Fewer supplies with failures
- Strong compliance levels
- Increased investment

- **But…**

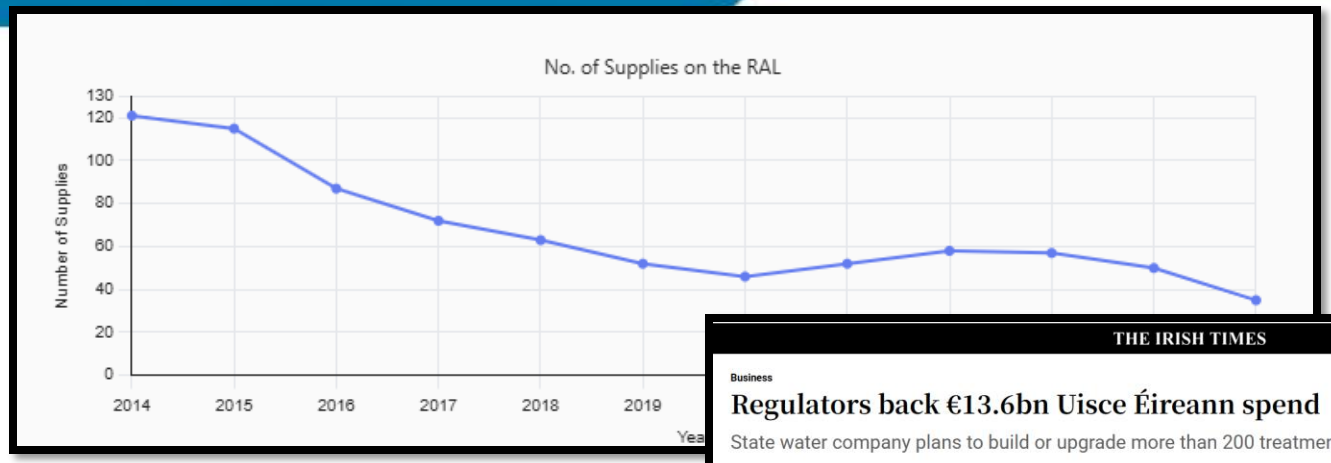


Table 2.1. Sample compliance rates in public supplies

99.8%	Microbiological parameters
99.7%	Chemical parameters
99.5%	Indicator parameters


THE IRISH TIMES

Business

Regulators back €13.6bn Uisce Éireann spend

State water company plans to build or upgrade more than 200 treatment

Uisce Éireann workers laying pipes. Regulators propose approving the company's plans to spend almost €14 billion over five years. Photograph: Uisce Éireann

Limitations of the RAL

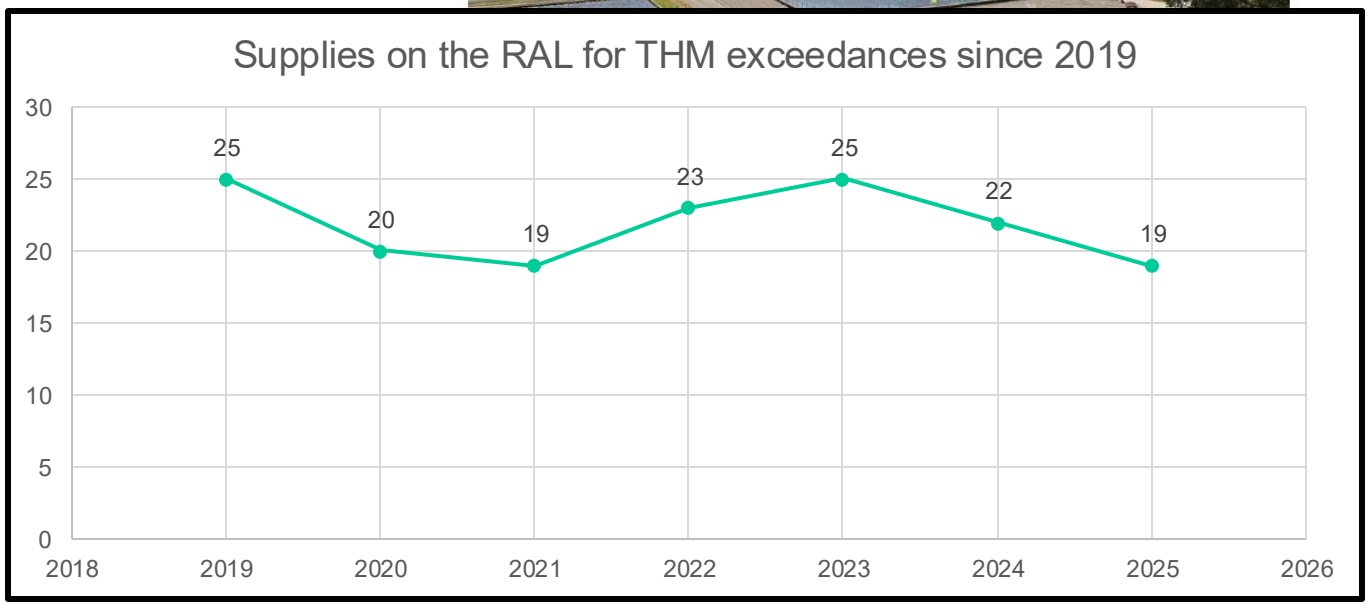
We've been reacting to problems

- Supplies identified after compliance failures
- Supplies identified after EPA audits
- Hard to show real progress as supplies are continuously added and removed

IRELAND

Serious incidents at water treatment plants put almost 900,000 people at risk

07/10/2022 - 07:14 AM



Moving to a Proactive approach

We need to prevent problems before they happen

- Use better data from the drinking water safety plan risk assessments

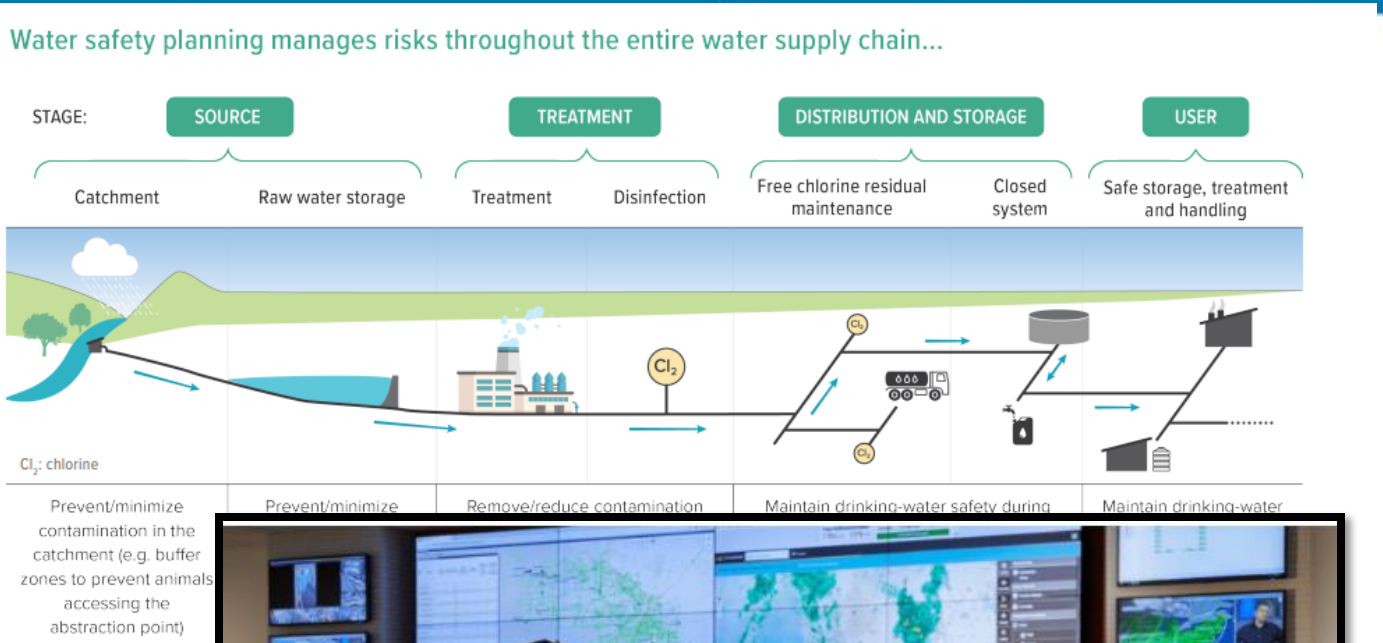
- Focus on resilience, we can see data on supplies that are compliant, but they have vulnerabilities

- Uisce Éireann must improve the resilience of supplies to address these vulnerabilities

Introducing Drinking Water Resilience Improvement List

The Drinking Water Resilience Improvement List

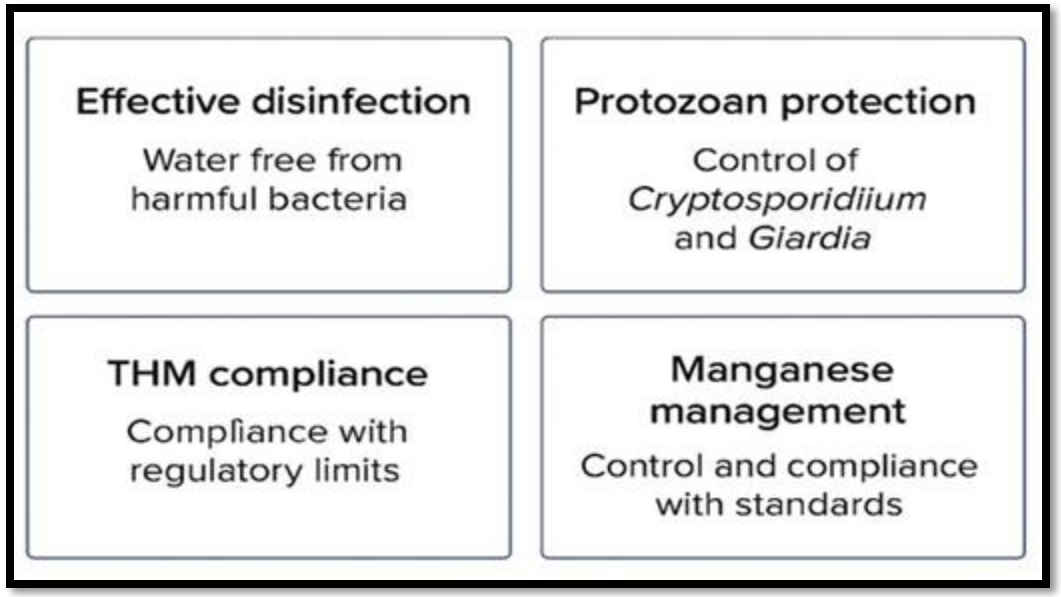
- Identifies systems that are vulnerable before failure *occurs*
- Focused on drinking water quality only



What Drinking Water Resilience Improvement List focuses on

- **4 key resilience areas**

- Disinfection
- Protozoan protection
- Persistent THM formation
- Manganese



From reacting to preventing

Old approach:	New approach:
Fix problems	Prevent problems
Focus on failure	Focus on addressing risk to prevent failures
Shorter-term	Longer-term

What This Means

- **For everyone here**

- Regulators → clearer oversight

- Uisce Éireann → proactive investment plann

- Government → stronger investment cases

- Public → safer water

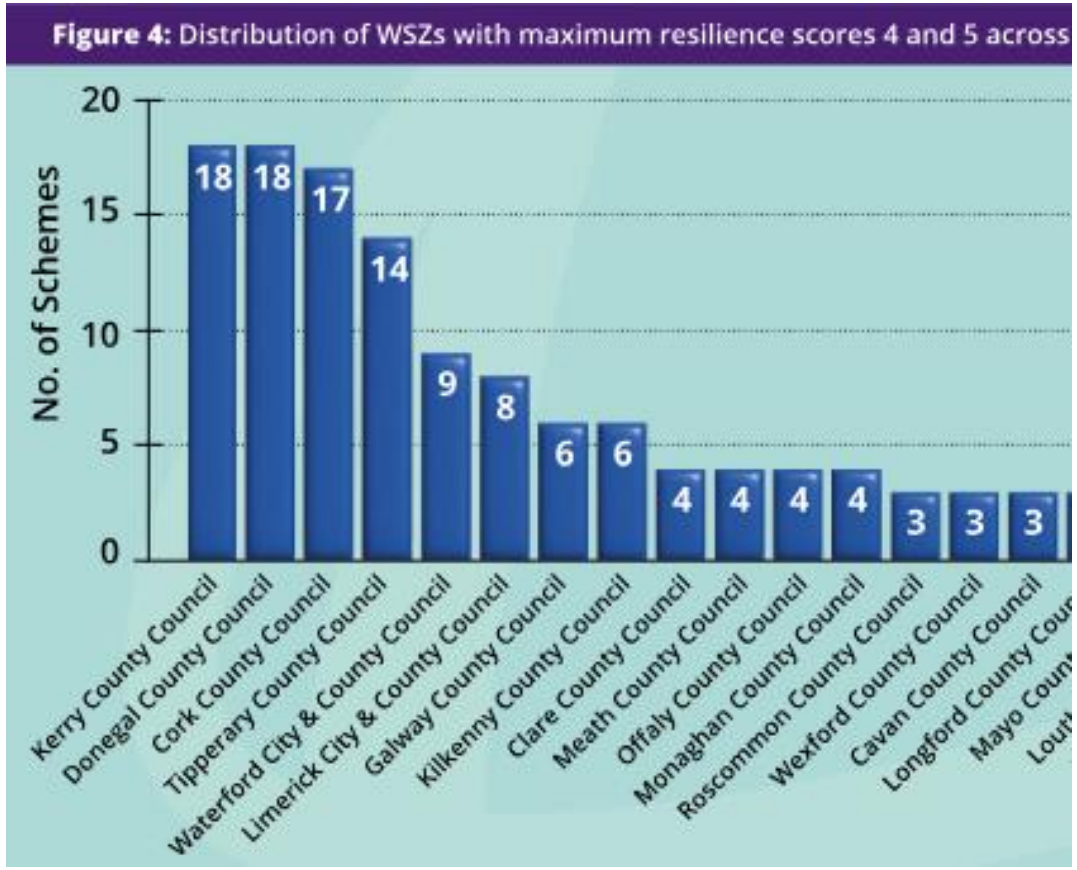
What Happens Next

- **Rolling out in 2026**

• Drinking Water Resilience Improvement List will replace the RAL

• 120–140 supplies identified with vulnerabilities and will be ranked as low resilience or very low resilience

• Ongoing DWSP risk assessments will refine the list over time



Closing

Safe water shouldn't depend on reacting to failure

Our goal: Resilient drinking water supplies that consistently produce good quality water.

Reduce the risk of issues escalating

More confidence in our public water supply

Thank you

Patrick Chan | EPA