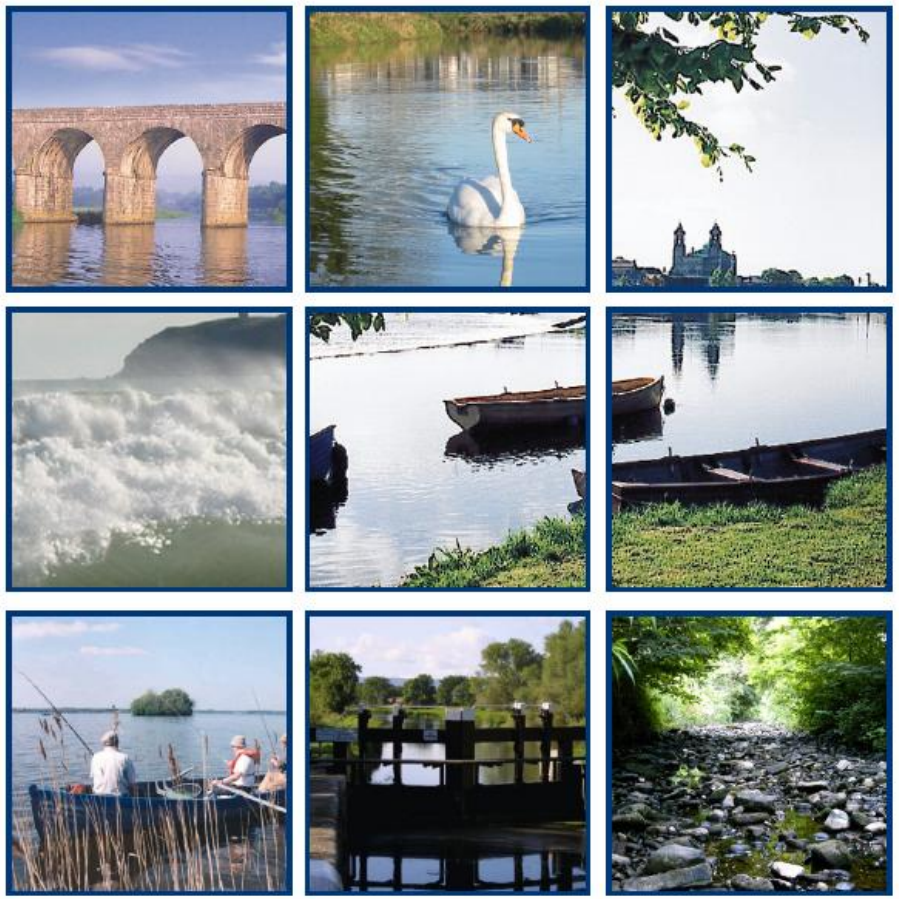


SMR 1 Controls on certain requirements under the EU Water Framework Directive

Patricia Torpey

District Agricultural Inspector

Integrated Controls Division

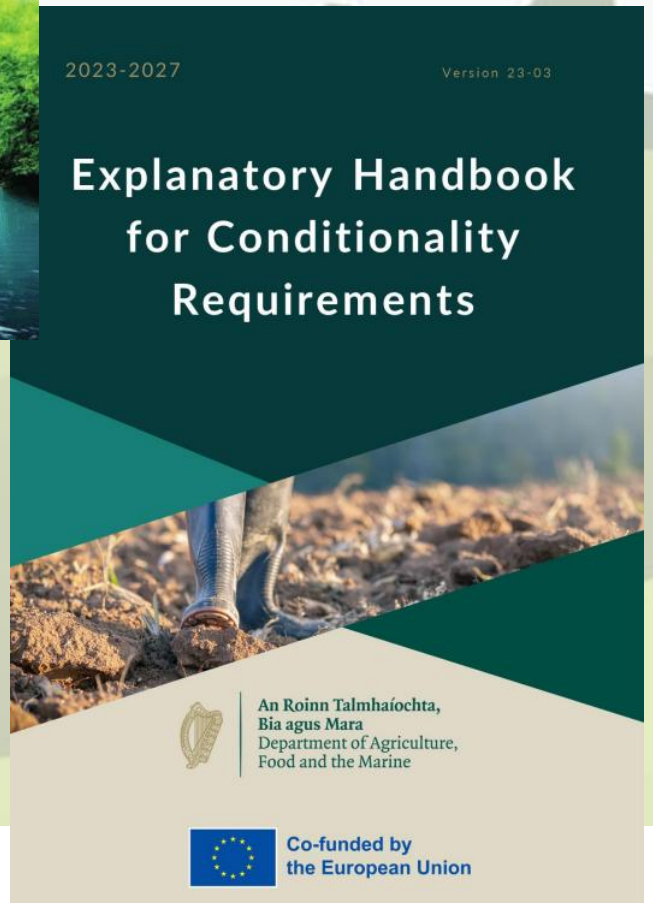
Presentation outline

WFD

- How is it implemented ?
- Abstractions legislation

WFD and Conditionality

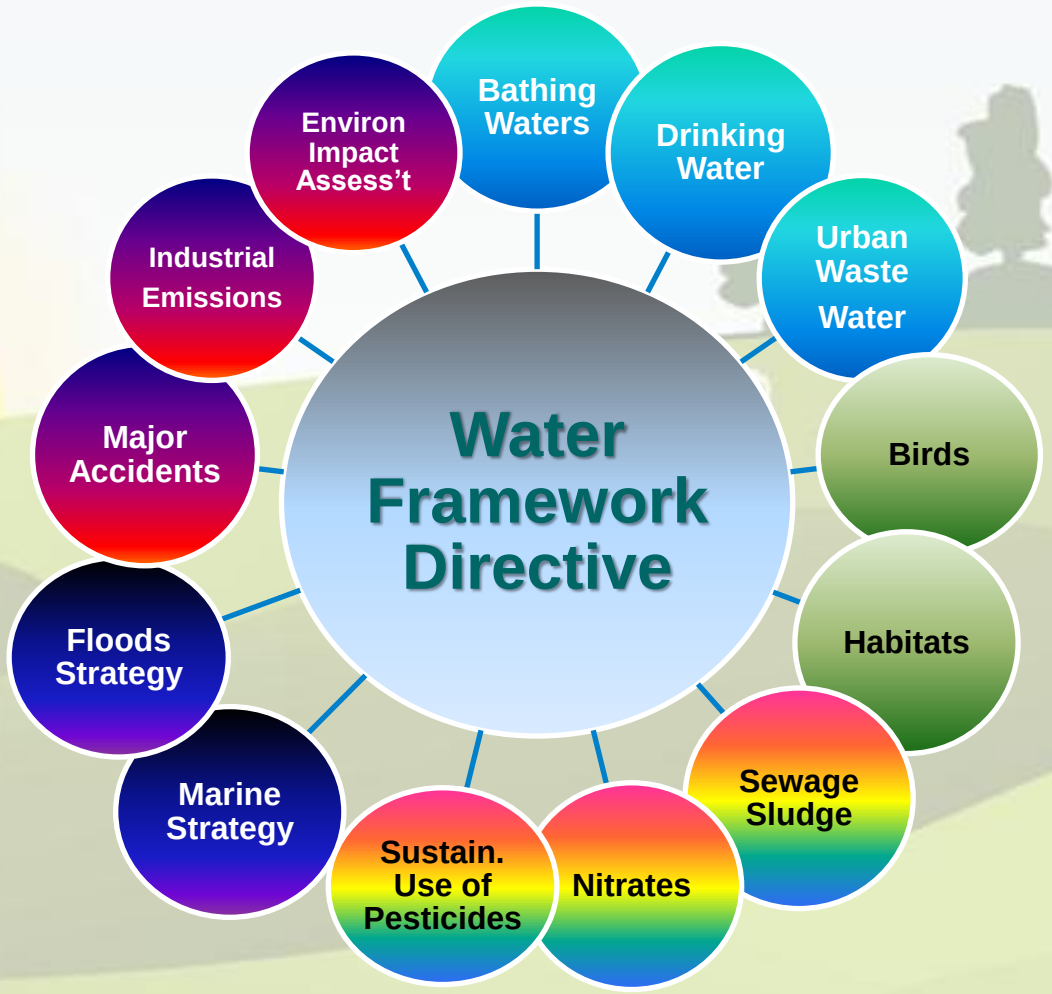
- How is WFD linked to Conditionality ?
- What SMR 1 controls are in place ?



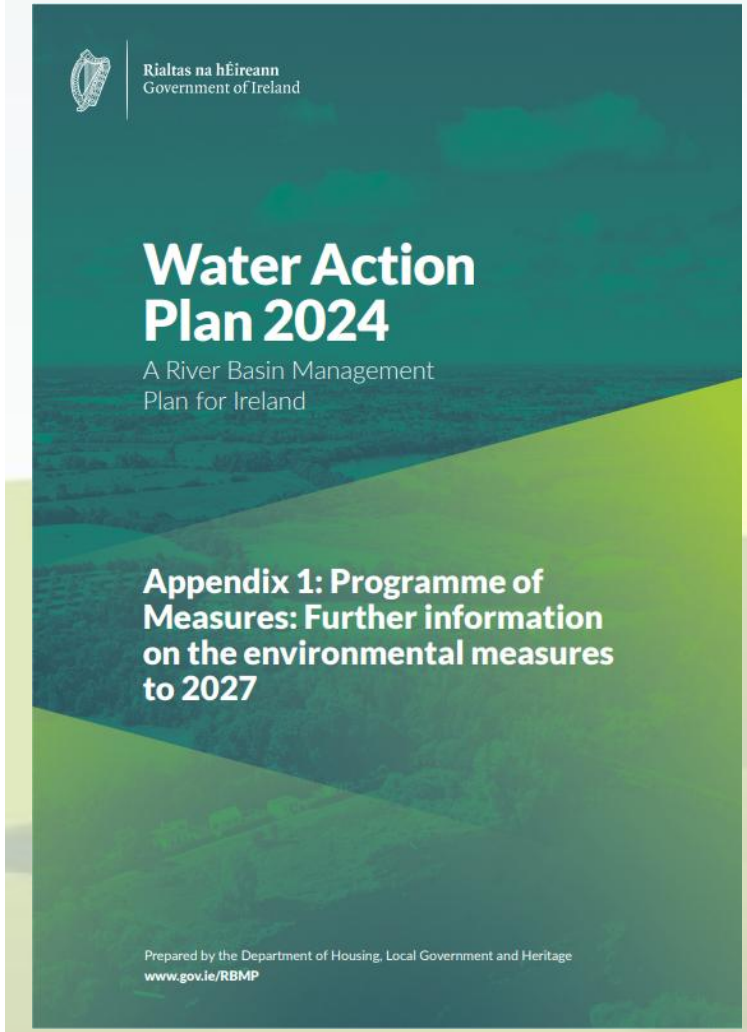
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC

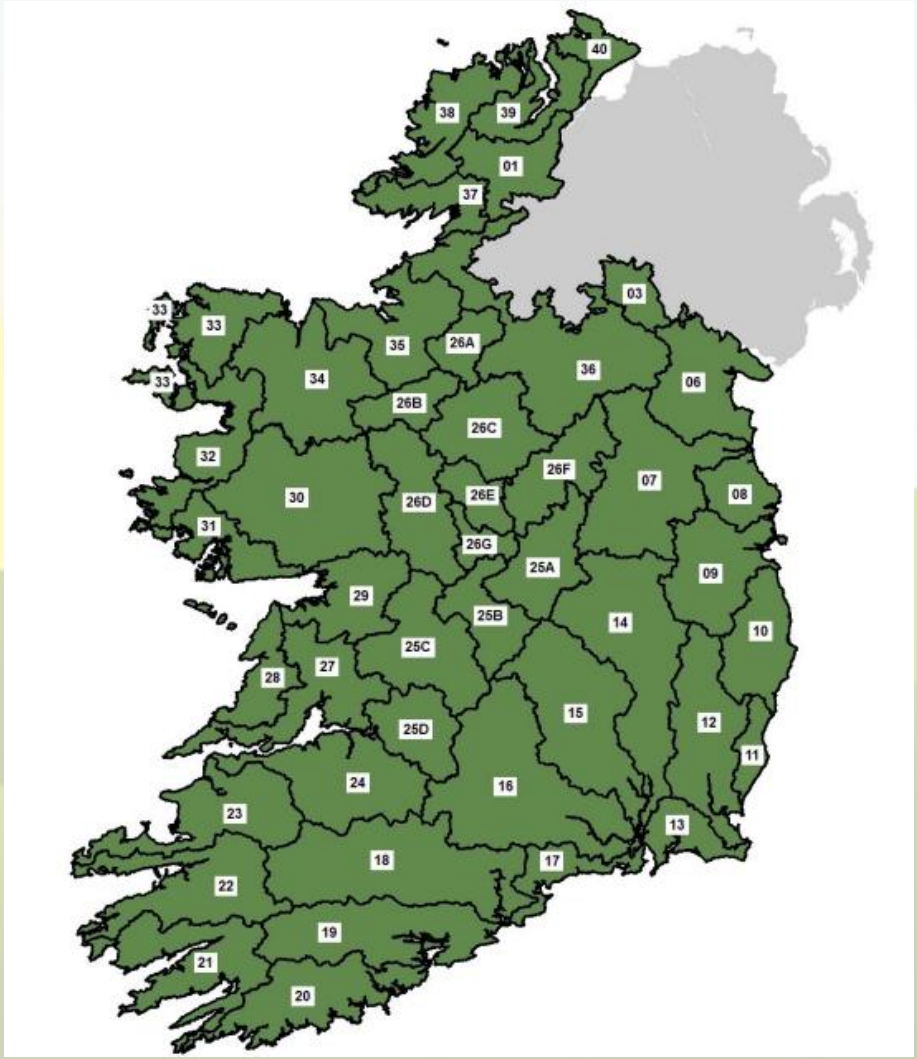
WFD = EU Water policy

- All EU Waters – rivers, lakes, transitional, coastal, groundwaters
- All water related EU legislation within framework
- Achieve 'good status' by 2027



WFD - Implementation





- 70,273 km^2
- 46 catchment management units
- 4,842 waterbodies
  - 2,429 rivers
  - 224 lakes
  - 80 transitional
  - 45 coastal
  - 16 canals
  - 121 groundwaters

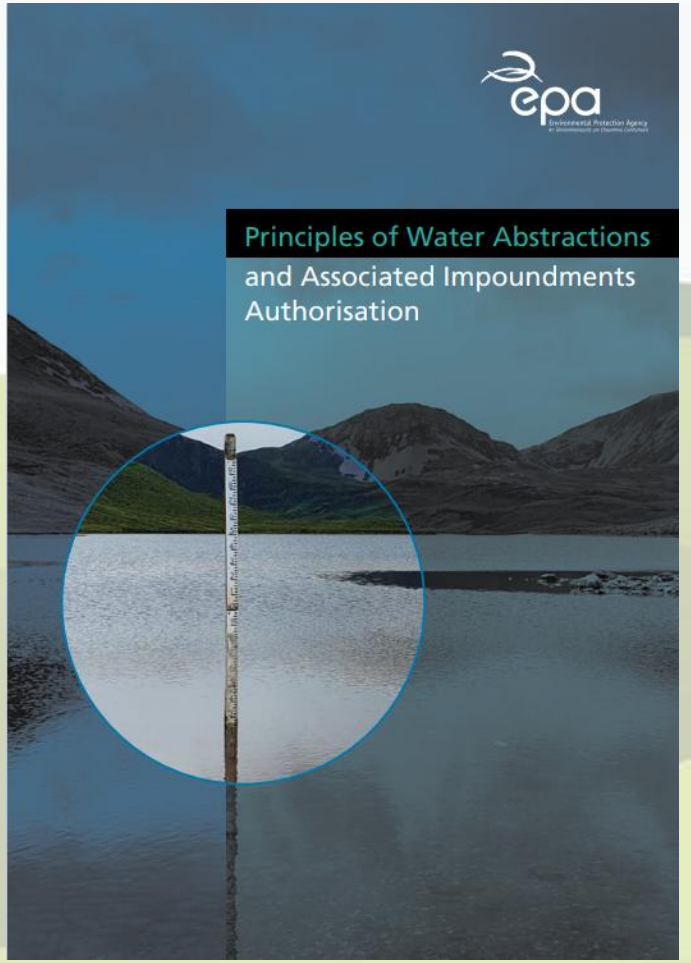
Abstractions Legislation

Regulating water abstractions is important to ensuring sustainable use and management of water resources and environment

Giving legal effect to WFD requirements:

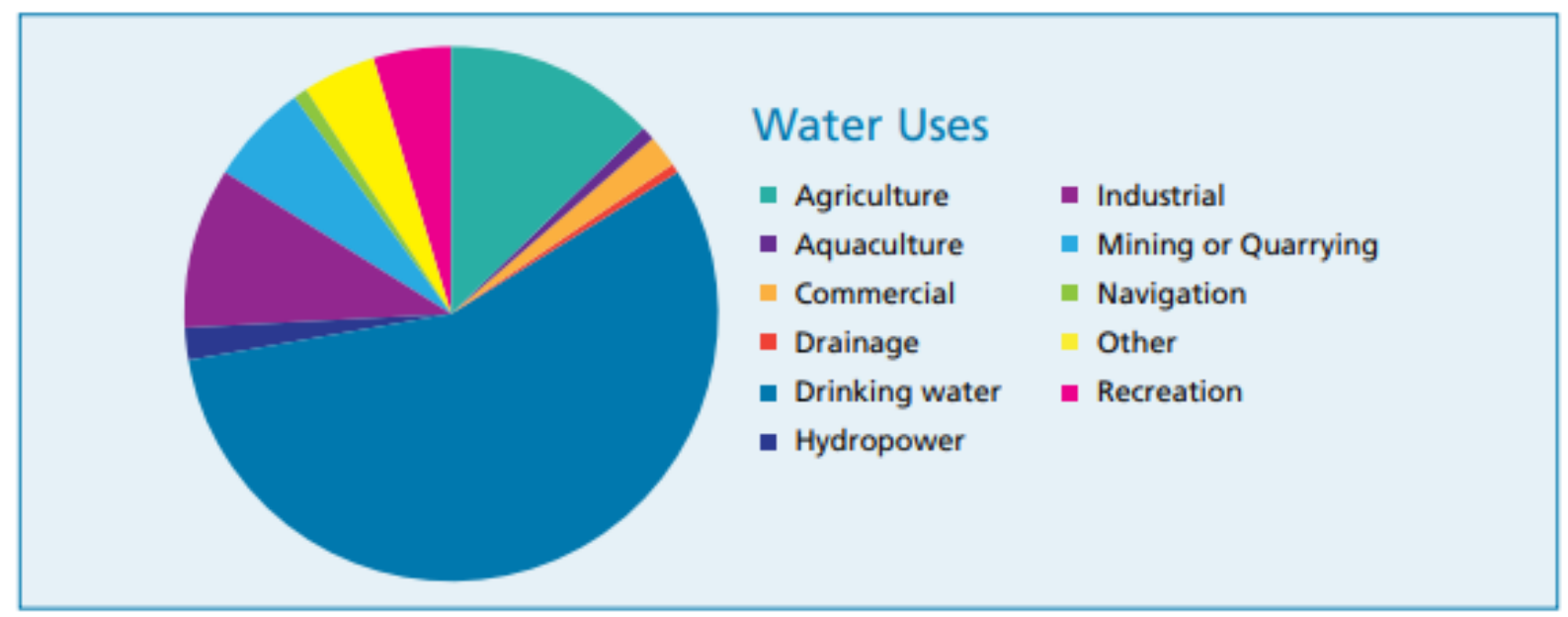
- Water Environment (Abstractions and Associated Impoundments) Act 2022

- Water Environment (Abstractions and Associated Impoundments) Regulations 2024



Water abstraction use

Water abstraction is the removal of water from a river, lake, stream, spring, groundwater well or borehole for any purpose, e.g. domestic wells, agriculture, industry



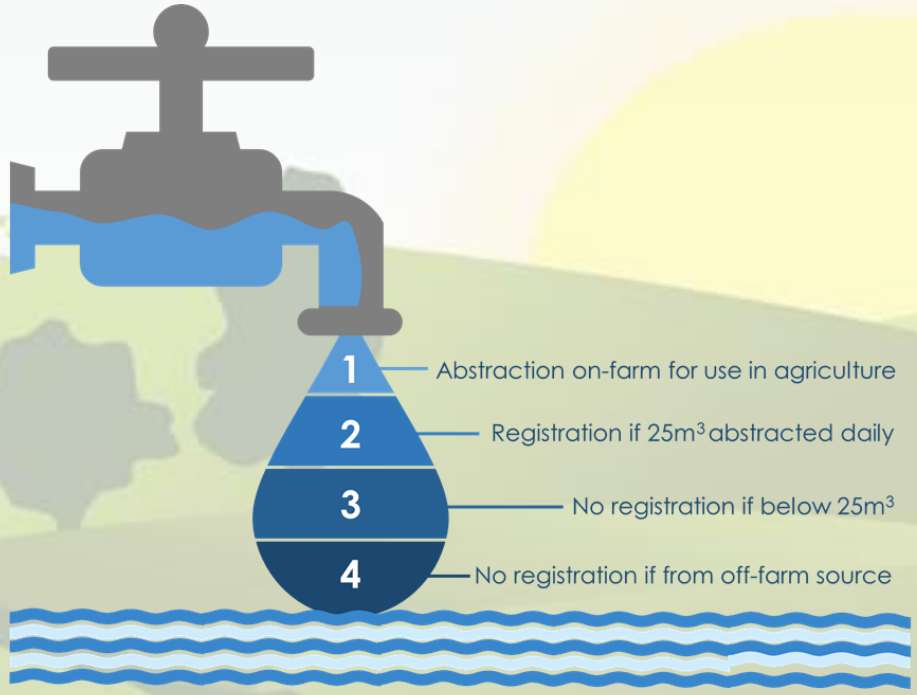
Registered Abstractions:

Agriculture – 13%

Drinking Water – 56%

Abstraction Registration

SMR 1 applies to water abstraction on-farm for use in agriculture
No registration if off-farm source, e.g. public water supply



Band 1: Less than 25m³/day	
Band 2: 25 – 1,999m³/day	Register
Band 3: 2,000m³/day or more	License

Register online: EPA EDEN website

- Name, address, location/Eircode, source, purpose
- Abstractions Register available through the EPAs LEAP online portal

Calculating water abstraction use

	A	B	C	D
7	Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
8	**Agriculture[i]**	Fill in numbers in yellow cells in this column only	**Water use sub-totals (litres/day)**	**Water use sub-totals (m^3/day)**
9	**1. Cattle**	Number of animals	litres/day	m^3/day
10	- Dairy - 125 litres / day per animal	200	25000	25
11	- Growers, Beef Cows, Heifers, Bulls, Beef Store Cattle - 35 litres / day per animal		0	0
12	- Calves - 20 litres / day per animal		0	0
13	**Total Water use - Cattle**		**25000**	**25**
14				
15	**2. Sheep**	Number of animals	litres/day	m^3/day
16	- Ewes - 5 litres / day per animal	0	0	0
17	- Lambs, Adult Sheep - 3.5 litres / day per animal	0	0	0
18	- Lambs (< 1 year) - 1.8 litres / day per animal	0	0	0
19	**Total Water use - Sheep**		**0**	**0.000**
20				
21	**3. Pigs**	Number of animals	litres/day	m^3/day
22	**4. Poultry**	Number of animals	litres/day	m^3/day
23	**5. Horses**	Number of animals	litres/day	m^3/day
24	**6. Crop Irrigation**	Hectares	litres/day	m^3/day
25	**7. Horticulture**	Meters (of table)	litres/day	m^3/day
26				
27	**Total agricultural volume**		**#REF!**	**#REF!**
28				

www.epa.ie

How will I know if I use more than 25 m^3 per day ?

- ***Flow meter***
- ***EPA Calculator***

25 m^3 per day looks like:

- ***200 dairy cow farm***
- ***42 household housing estate***
- ***150 bath-tubs***

WFD and CAP Conditionality

Controls

- ***SMR 1 – Water Abstraction Register***
- SMR 2 – Protection of water from pollution by nitrates/phosphates
- SMR 3 – Conservation of Wild Birds
- SMR 4 – Conservation of Natural Habitats
- SMR 7 – Proper and safe use of Plant Protection Products
- SMR 8 – Sustainable use of Plant Protection Products

SMR 1 Farm Inspections

Where is on-farm water coming from?

- A non-public groundwater abstraction, e.g. private well or borehole ?
- A surface water feature present on the holding, e.g. river, lake, reservoir, etc. ?

How much water is being abstracted daily?

- < 25 m^3/day - no action required
- ≥ 25 m^3/day

Is the agricultural holding registered on the EPA abstraction register?

- > 25 m^3/day and < 35 m^3/day - CLT
- ≥ 35 m^3/day – 1% sanction

Abstractions at multiple locations from same source – register all abstractions together.

Abstractions at unconnected farms – each abstraction needs to be registered separately

Take Home Messages

National legislation:

- Legal effect to EU WFD obligations
- Applies to abstraction of water for any purpose
- Register water abstractions ≥ 25 m^3 per day
- No registration if off-farm source or ≤ 25 m^3 per day
- Integrated into CAP 2023-2027 under SMR 1 of Conditionality

DAFM SMR 1 inspection involves :

- Determining the source of on-farm water abstraction
- Checking if private on-farm water abstraction is ≥ 25 m^3/day
- Checking registration with the EPA Abstractions Register

Thank You