

27/8

Dear Minister,

I am writing to express my alarm at Uisce Éireann's repeated and severe failures to discharge its statutory responsibilities as Ireland's national water utility. Over the past three years, the organisation has been directly responsible for multiple catastrophic fish kills.

- In May 2023, Uisce Éireann was responsible for a fish kill on the Ballymacraven River in County Clare, where iron sludge from its water treatment plant suffocated approximately 2,000 fish.
- In June 2024, a chemical spill from the Freemount Water Treatment Plant led to the death of tens of thousands of fish in the River Allow, including protected species such as lamprey and salmonids.
- Most alarmingly, the ongoing fish kill on the River Blackwater—described as the most severe in the history of the state—is believed to be linked to the same type of contaminant in the River Allow event. The scale of this disaster verges on ecocide.

This is not just a series of unfortunate accidents. It is a clear pattern of escalating incompetence. The recurrence, increasing severity, and expanding ecological impact of these incidents point to a chronic incapacity in Uisce Éireann's operations and oversight. Each event builds upon the last in a trajectory of disintegrating environmental stewardship and a compounding inability to meet statutory obligations.

The Blackwater fish kill is horrible and shocking, but it is not surprising. A contributing factor to the Ballisodare salmon mortalities in 2024 was a pattern of repeated ammonia breaches from a Uisce Éireann treatment plant—resulting in the death of 900 adult salmon. When the EPA reported 1,295 ELV exceedances in 2023 alone for Uisce Éireann, it becomes clear that fish kills like the Blackwater are not just predictable. They are inevitable outcomes of a utility that discounts environmental risk, fails to enforce standards, and operates with political immunity.

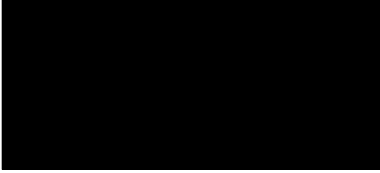
The Blackwater fish kill is the culmination of years of regulatory failure, public body neglect, institutional impotence, and political indifference. When a national utility repeatedly poisons rivers, kills protected species, and breaches environmental law with near impunity, it ceases to be a steward of public resources and becomes a menace to them.

The ecocide of the Blackwater is mirrored in the poisoning of Lough Neagh, where political avoidance ensures that its pollution continues uninterrupted. A larger looming disaster lies in the fatalistic belief that politicians are unwilling to do anything about it. This is not just environmental collapse—it is democratic decay.

Poisoning and putting our rivers and lakes beyond the use of the people is too high a price to pay for political convenience.

So, I ask you directly: What do you propose to do?

Yours sincerely,



Sean Long

From: Suzanne Campion
Sent: Wednesday 27 August 2025 09:50
To: Barry Fox; Sean Long
Subject: FW: River Blackwater Fish kill
Attachments: Letter to the Minister – Environmental Failures of Uisce Éireann.pdf

Dear All,

Letter in just now.

I understand that there is no indication at this stage that Uisce Eireann has caused the event.

Ongoing work re residue sampling may indicate a cause and further investigations.

Kind regards

Suzanne

Suzanne Campion
Deputy CEO

✉ Suzanne.Campion@fisheriesireland.ie • 📱 087 2690183 • 📞 01 8842606 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 D24 CK66



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Inland Fisheries Ireland



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From: Kate Walsh <Kate.Walsh@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 27 August 2025 09:42
To: Suzanne Campion <Suzanne.Campion@fisheriesireland.ie>; Barry Fox <Barry.Fox@fisheriesireland.ie>
Cc: Audrey Ryder <Audrey.Ryder@fisheriesireland.ie>; Caroline Anderson <Caroline.Anderson@fisheriesireland.ie>
Subject: Fw: River Blackwater Fish kill

Good morning both,

FYI re: letter sent to [REDACTED] in relation to recent Blackwater fish kill.

Many thanks,
Kate

Kate Walsh
Administrative Assistant

✉ Kate.Walsh@fisheriesireland.ie • 📱 0873430469 • 📞 01 8842618 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 D24 CK66



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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday 26 August 2025 18:09
To: darragh.obrien@oireachtas.ie <darragh.obrien@oireachtas.ie>

Dear Minister O'Brien,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding Uisce Éireann's repeated failures to meet its statutory environmental responsibilities, culminating in catastrophic fish kills across Ireland's rivers. The most recent incident on the River Blackwater represents not only an ecological disaster but a systemic breakdown in environmental governance.

Please find attached a letter outlining these failures and calling for immediate and accountable action. I am also sharing this correspondence with other elected representatives, regulatory bodies, and environmental organisations to ensure that this issue receives the attention it urgently demands.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



To Whom It May Concern
Fisheries Ireland

02-09-2025

I wish to raise concerns, anonymously, about a business that may be linked to the recent fish kill on the River Blackwater.

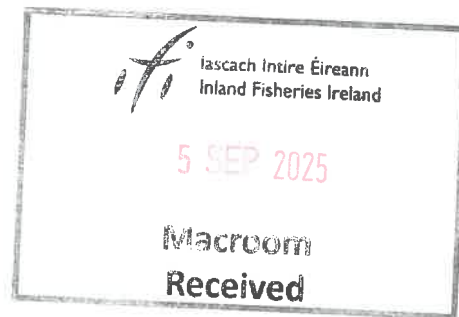


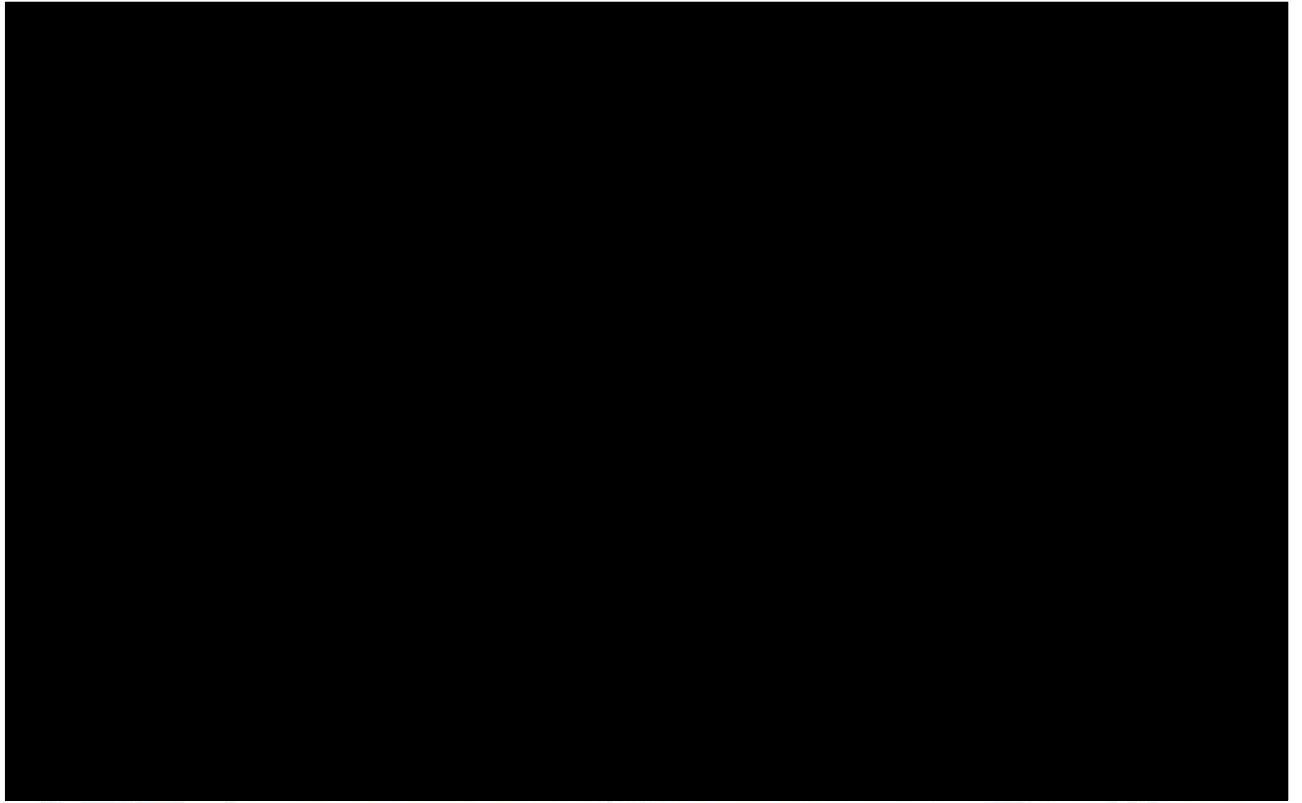
This company has been involved in desludging tanks. Their social media has mostly been taken down, apart from one Instagram post (screenshot attached).

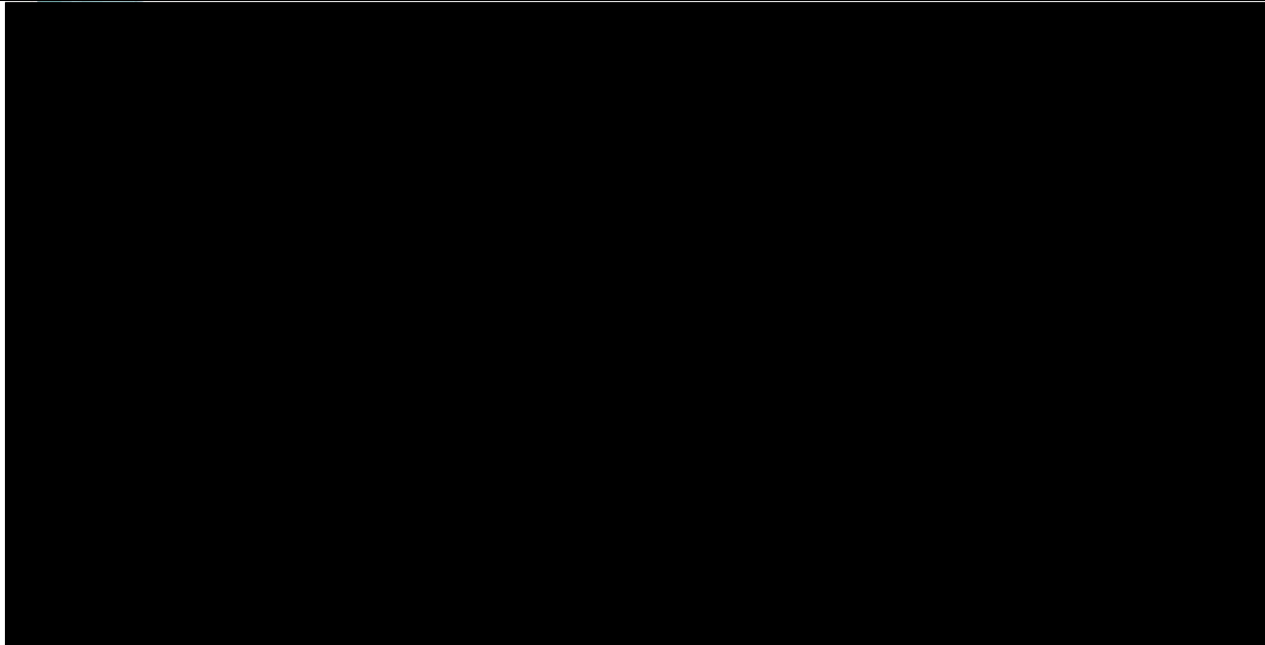
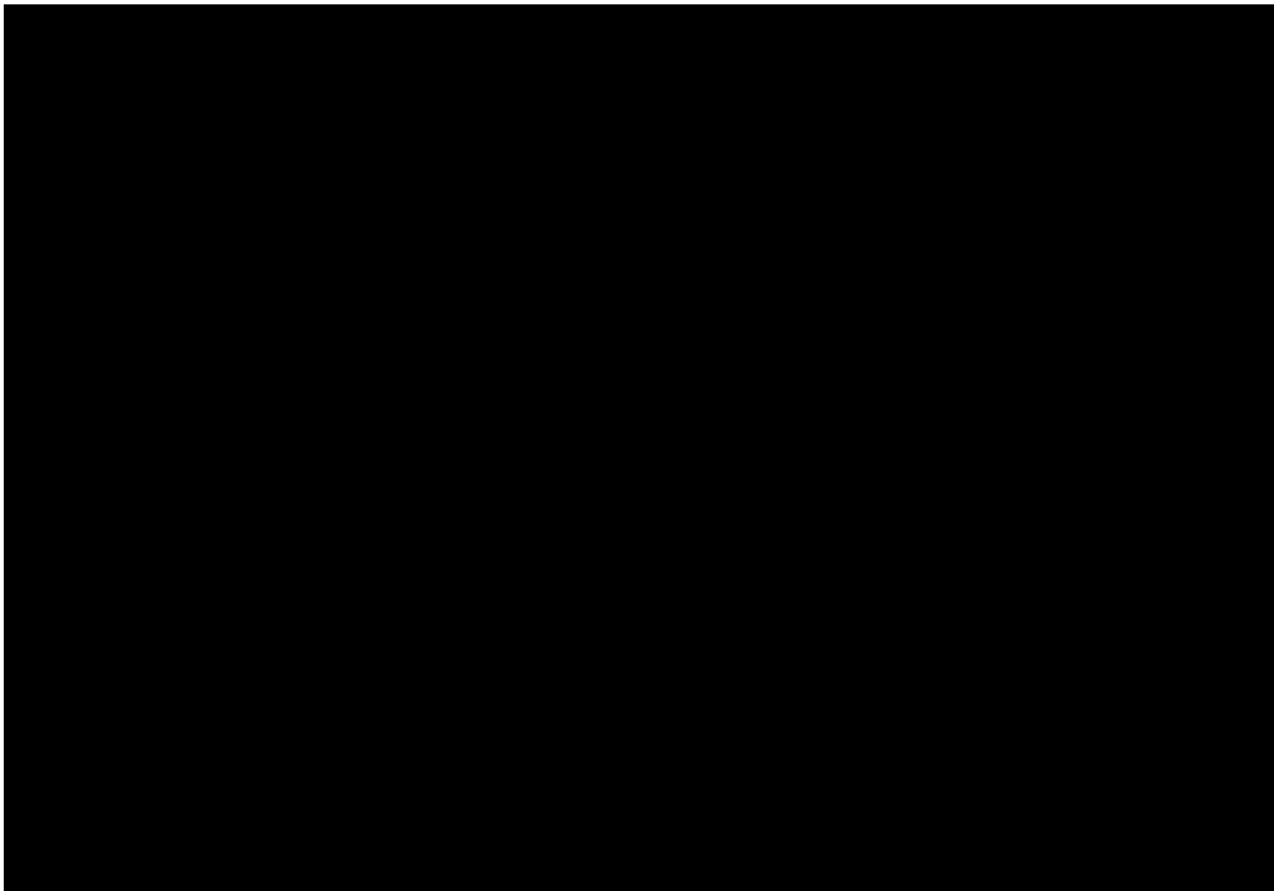
Looking at EPA maps and Google Maps of their old location, there is a desludging truck visible from the road and a track leading down to a stream. The EPA maps also show that the stream flows toward the River Blackwater. There is also a concrete area and track connecting to the stream (screenshot attached).

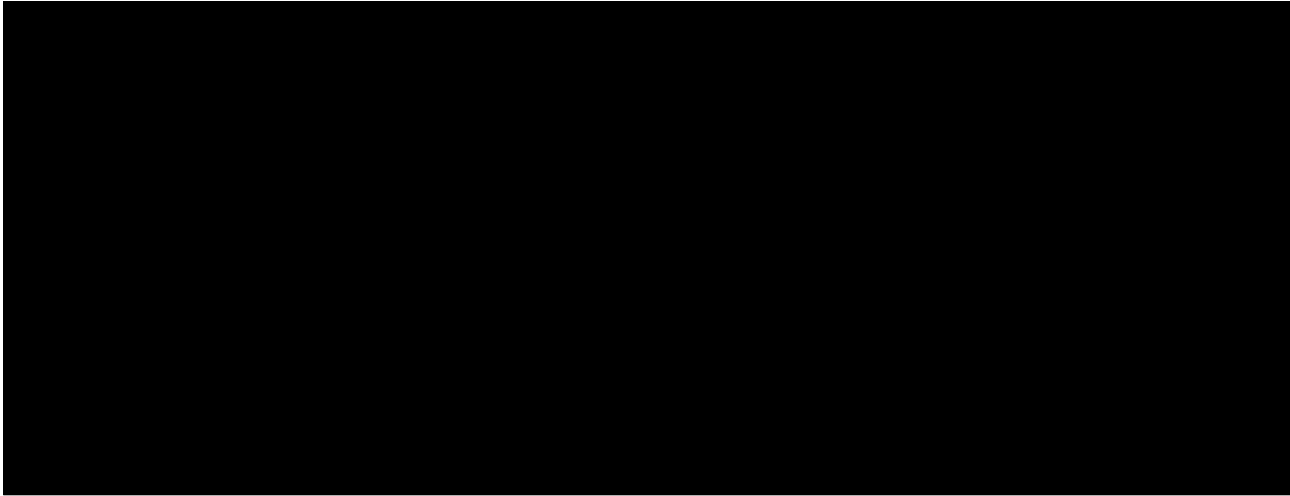
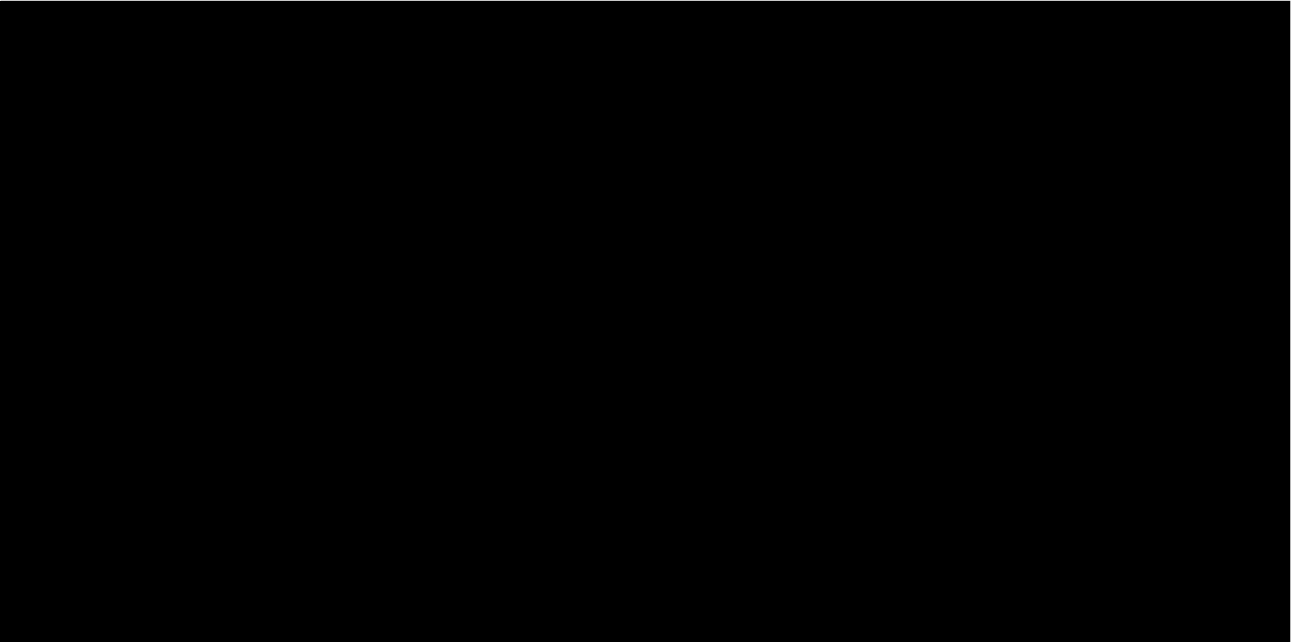
I believe this may be worth investigating further.

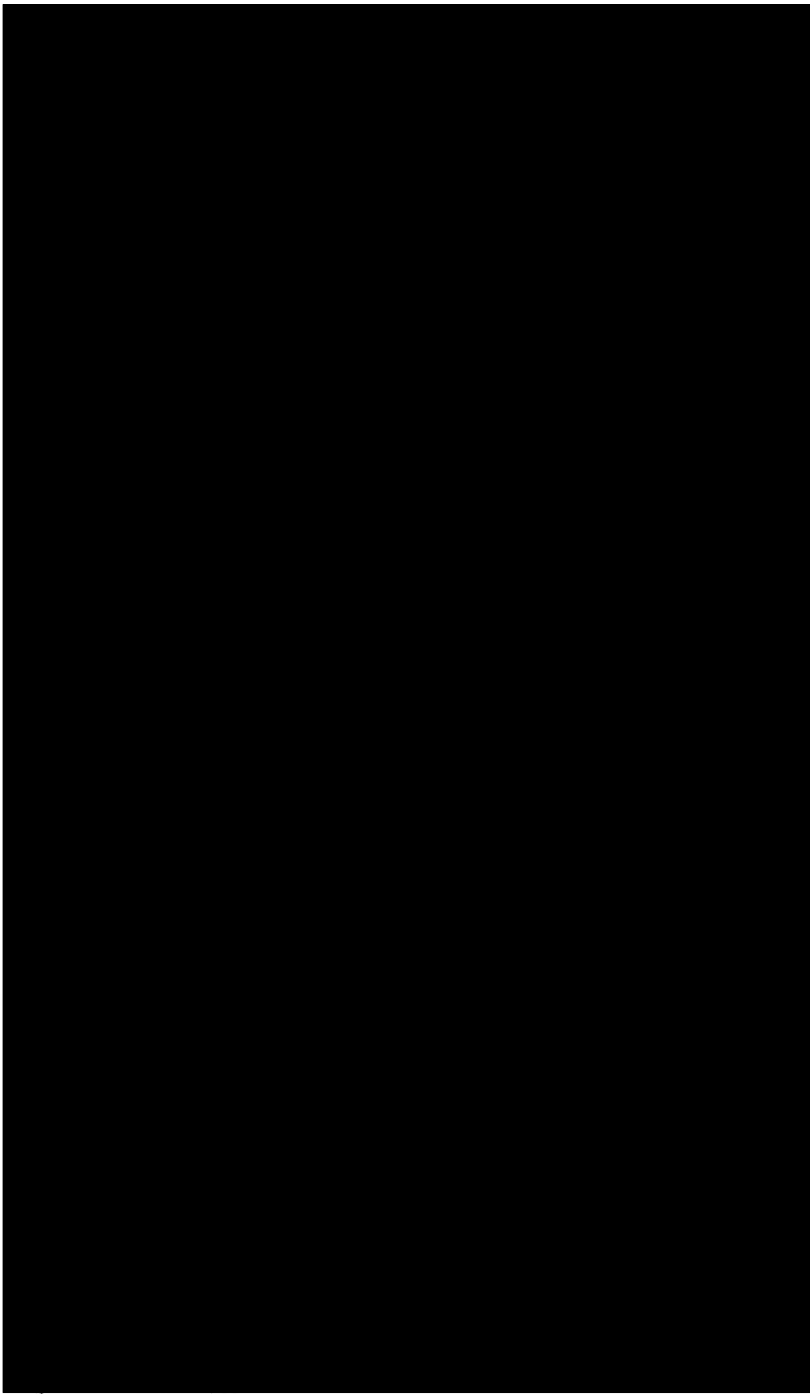
Yours sincerely,
Anonymous











Sean Long

From: Ger Barry <Ger.Barry@CorkcoCo.ie>
Sent: Friday 5 September 2025 18:38
To: Pamela McDonnell; Sean Long
Subject: RE: Euthanasia of my dog

Sean, Pamela,

This query has been referred by CCC Environment to DAFM as it relates to animal health/welfare. The matter can be raised at our Interagency on Monday if a response is not received by then.

Regards & thanks,

Ger

From: Pamela McDonnell <P.McDonnell@epa.ie>
Sent: Friday 5 September 2025 14:37
To: Sean Long <Sean.Long@fisheriesireland.ie>; Ger Barry <Ger.Barry@CorkcoCo.ie>
Subject: RE: Euthanasia of my dog

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Thank you Sean. I believe Cork County Council are looking into this one.

Kind regards
Pamela

From: Sean Long <Sean.Long@fisheriesireland.ie>
Sent: Thursday 4 September 2025 16:31
To: Pamela McDonnell <P.McDonnell@epa.ie>; Ger Barry (GBarry@██████████) <Ger.barry@corkcoco.ie>
Subject: FW: Euthanasia of my dog

Hi both,
Please see below received this afternoon – you might pass on to the right people please.
In brief the writer is attributing the death of her dog to a water quality issue 10th August at Killavullen.
I will acknowledge and advise that I've passed it to the appropriate authorities.
Regards
Sean

Sean Long
River Basin District Director
✉ Sean.Long@fisheriesireland.ie • ☎ +353 (0)26 41222 • 🌐 www.fisheriesireland.ie • 🏠 P12 X602



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beolín / hotline
0818 34 74 24

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Open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week

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Our confidential phone number is 0818 34 74 24, which is open 24 hours a day / 7 days a week.

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From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday 4 September 2025 15:58

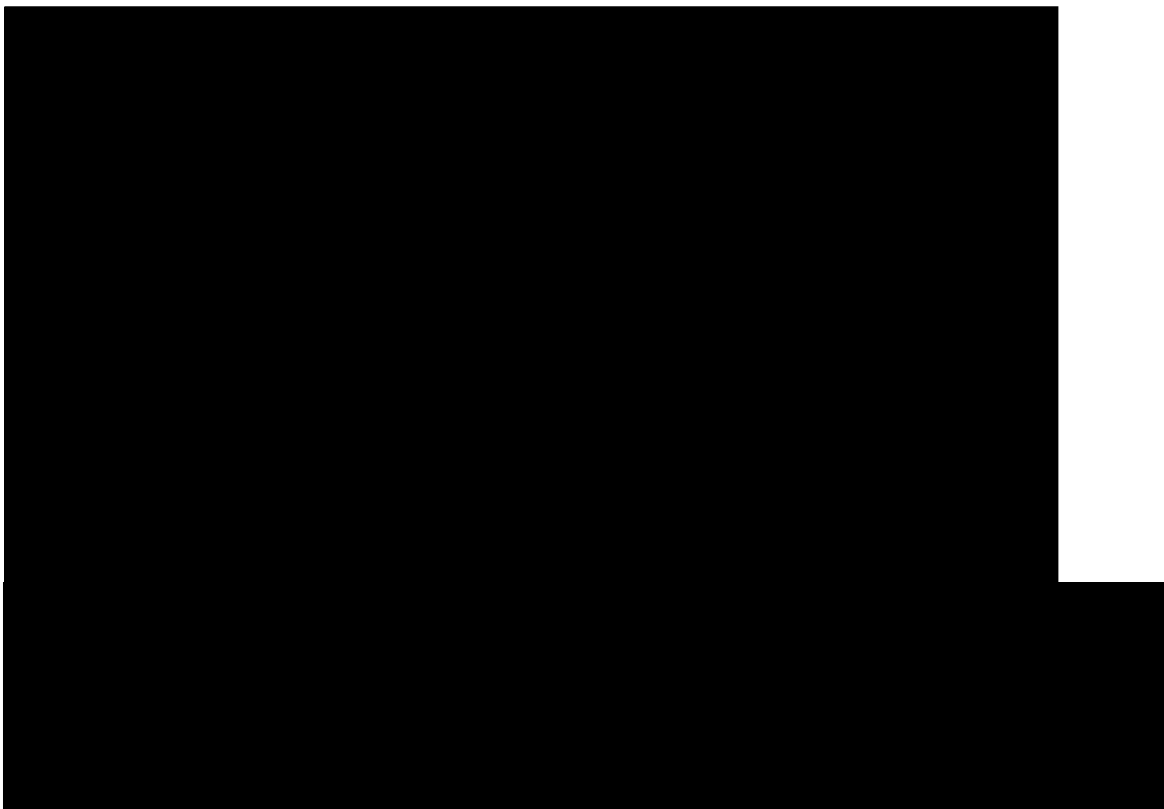
To: info <info@fisheriesireland.ie>

Subject: Euthanasia of my dog

Hello my name is [REDACTED] I'm from a same village in co cork [REDACTED] Which was effected by pollution "kill in the river" that's killed 50,000 fish along with a lot of other animals I know the company has been named [REDACTED] [REDACTED] I'm writing today to get so information on who to contact in my distressed state! On the 10th of August 2025 I took my pure bread healthy I might add as a horse for a walk along [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as he played and drank the water as he always done (no public announcement was made to stay out of the water at this time) a public notice didn't come into effect till August 13th 2025 pure and utter negligence! I'd to euthanize my best friend my shadow all because of this kill in the river he displayed signs of poisoning the vet couldn't explain and his kidneys failed along with his heart! Now you could imagine the trauma and the stress and anxiety this has caused me that I ended up getting serve panic attacks! [REDACTED] was my protection part of ky family killed my negligence this country lets big companies get away with because there back pockets are lined to stay hush hush! Someone needs to take reasonability for my beautiful healthy [REDACTED] death anyone in the area would tell how much that dog was cared for and loved and looked after by me he was my life! People might say it's just a dog but it's not its family! Look forward to hearing from you

Regards

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone





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