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Public Meeting: Lead in Our Water in Phibsborough

Dear Resident,

I am writing to invite you to our public meeting to discuss water quality in Phibsborough.

 **Tuesday 25th November @ 7pm**

 **Scouts Hall, Phibsborough**

In recent months, I have become aware that there appears to be an issue in our community which raises serious public health concerns.

Since December 2024, researchers from UCD and DKIT conducted two rounds of sampling in the Phibsborough area. The first sample tested 45 homes and the second sample tested 76 homes, which included the original 45. The testing was conducted in a HSE run lab.

Across 76 homes, two out of every three homes in the sample were found to have lead in their tap water above the legal limit of 10ug per litre.¹

Where? It's important to say that there was no pattern of concentration in particular areas. Furthermore, high lead levels were found in some households who have replaced their pipes in recent years.

Why? The cause for the high level of lead is not clear - whether it is the private pipes into homes or the public pipe system. We have asked Irish Water to comprehensively test the wider Phibsborough area.

Please turn over >

¹ Under EU Drinking Water Directive 2020/218, the legal lead level in water is halved to 5ug/L. Ireland must comply with this by 2036.

Possible impact: There is no safe level of lead in water and high levels of lead are harmful particularly for children under the age of 6, pregnant women, and immunocompromised individuals.

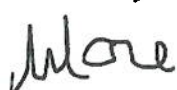
Irish Water tell us that they plan to commence orthophosphate dosing in the water supply in 2027 to reduce lead levels in the water. While this is welcome, it is totally unacceptable that residents would have to wait for two years to knowingly access safe drinking water. Residents should have information now about the quality of their own water supply.

I am very conscious that this news will cause alarm among some households.

While we push Irish Water to comprehensively test the area, some households may wish to get their own water quality checked.

At the public meeting on Tuesday night, we will have Dr Jeremy Auerbach provide more information along with myself and a medical doctor to discuss the results. We need to impress on Irish Water the strong local desire to get the area tested and to ensure that speedier action is taken.

Yours Sincerely,



Marie Sherlock TD

Other information about replacement of pipes

Dublin City Council Lead Pipe Replacement Grant: to cover part of the cost of replacing pipes within homes. It is administered by Dublin City Council, it is non-means-tested grant and there is a maximum grant of €5000. www.dublincity.ie/housing/advice-people-who-own-their-home/grants-homeowners/lead-pipe-replacement-grant

Irish Water Customer Opt-In Lead Pipe Replacement Scheme: to replace lead pipes on the public side. The service is free of charge - www.water.ie/help/water-quality/lead-in-drinking-water