



**Irish Water Scientist Aphra Leavy celebrates Science Week 2020
The science of water and wastewater**

For Aphra Leavy, science is about improving our everyday lives as she explains her role as a Water and Wastewater Optimisation Manager with Irish Water.

Aphra holds degrees in Agricultural Science (UCD) and Civil Engineering (University of Ulster) and a post graduate diploma in Environmental Protection (Sligo IT). Her job is to ensure the water and wastewater treatment plants across the country are working efficiently and are compliant with regulatory standards.

Speaking about her job, she says, “Every day is different and brings a new challenge. Every treatment plant is different and there are so many water and wastewater processes involved. I see myself and my team as problem solvers – We analyse treatment processes and implement measures to optimise the operation of the plant whether it be wastewater or water treatment.”

“In terms of wastewater, we treat approximately 1.6 billion litres of wastewater every single day returning treated effluent safely to the environment. Every time we improve the quality and efficiency of our wastewater treatment processes we are helping to safeguard the environment.”

Speaking about why science interested her as a career, Aphra said, “I have always been more interested in science and maths subjects rather than languages. I love solving problems, finding the root cause and coming up with solutions”

Aphra highlighted that, “The treatment of drinking water is complex and we treat 1.9 billion litres every single day through a complex treatment processes making it safe for use. This water is used for drinking, cooking, washing, bathing, industry – we use water in so many ways. Water is precious and we all have a role to play in conserving water by only using what we need.”