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# National Water Resources Plan

## Phase 2

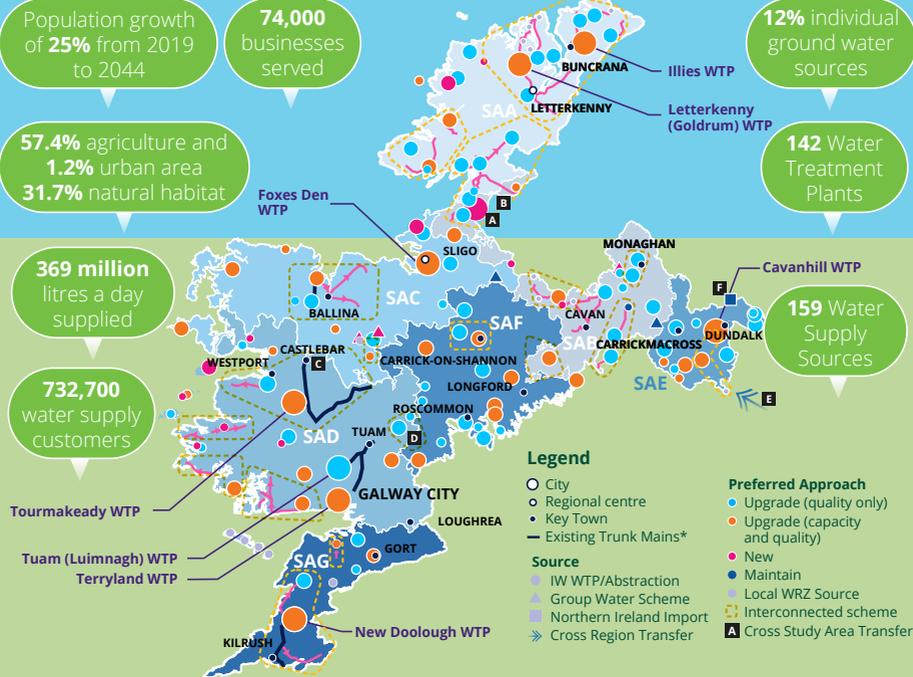
Draft Regional Water Resources Plan  
North West Region  
Consultation



# Regional Water Resources Plan (RWRP) North West Region



The plan will set out how we can **balance the amount of drinking water we can supply with the demand for water that is needed over the short, medium and long term.**



### Key Positive Outcomes of the RWRP North West

- Reducing leakage to **23% of regional demand** through pressure management, active leakage control, find and fix and asset replacement
- We will **improve the level of service** provided to all customers in the Region for all-weather events significantly reducing the risk of outages and water restrictions
- 60% of customers** in the region will obtain the water from an interconnected supply
- Upgrades to **105 existing Water Treatment Plants** in terms of size and barrier performance
- We will provide **12 new WTPs**
- We will decommission **37 WTPs**

Our three pillar approach will ensure we have a safe, secure, reliable and sustainable drinking water supply for everyone



## Introduction

The National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) is Irish Water's 25-year strategic plan for the public water supply in Ireland.

The NWRP allows us to plan for our water supplies in a consistent way and to transform the public water supply in Ireland over the next 25 years. It allows us to identify the needs within our existing supplies and to consider the challenges and opportunities that will arise. These include changing policy and legislation, climate change, environmental sustainability, growth and economic development.

Within the NWRP, we will assess all of the 539 individual supplies that form the national public water supply and develop a clear approach to address the current and future needs across these supplies.

## What is the objective of the National Water Resources Plan?

The objective of the NWRP is to meet our customer and communities' needs over the short, medium, and long term, by ensuring safe, secure, sustainable, and reliable water supplies.



## What is happening now?

As this is the first NWRP, the preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP.

In Phase 1 of the Framework Plan, we set the standards we would like our supplies to achieve and processes we will follow to address needs across our supplies. Following public consultation in early 2021, the Framework Plan is now complete and can be found at [www.water.ie/nwrp](http://www.water.ie/nwrp)

In Phase 2 of the NWRP, we summarise the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identify the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, we will deliver Phase 2 as four Regional Water Resources Plans:

- Regional Water Resources Plan: North West
- Regional Water Resources Plan: South West
- Regional Water Resources Plan: South East
- Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands

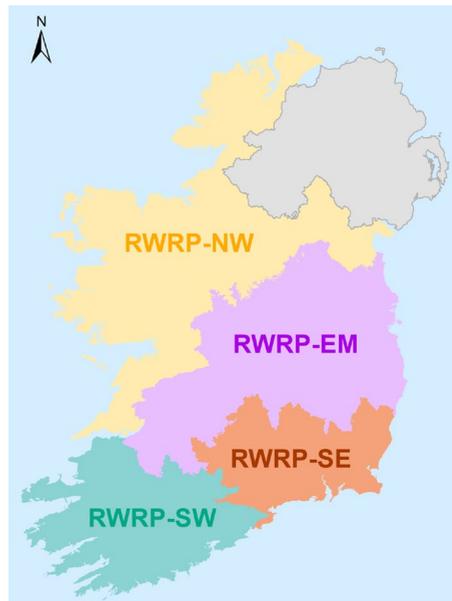


Figure 1. Regional Areas of the NWRP

Each of the four draft RWRPs and associated environmental reports will have their own public consultation phases, which will be carried out over the course of 2021/2023.

As part of each Regional Plan, we will:

- Apply the Framework methodology to the water supplies in the region
- Develop regional solutions for all water supplies within these areas

The first draft Regional Water Resources Plan for the Eastern and Midlands Region (draft RWRP-EM) was issued for consultation on 14th December 2021 and closed on 8th April 2022. Following a technical review of all submissions received in response to the consultation, the RWRP-EM and associated environmental reports were updated and adopted on 30 September 2022.

The second RWRP launched for public consultation was the South West Region (draft RWRP-SW). A twelve-week consultation on the draft RWRP-SW and associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement took place from 1 June 2022 to 24 August 2022. Following that process, all submissions will be taken into consideration and responses to the issues raised will be summarised in a Consultation Report, which will be published later in 2022.

Current progress on both the RWRP-EM and RWRP-SW is available at: <https://www.water.ie/projects/strategic-plans/national-water-resources/rwrp/>

At the end of Phase 2 the outcome of the four plans will be combined and prioritised collectively.



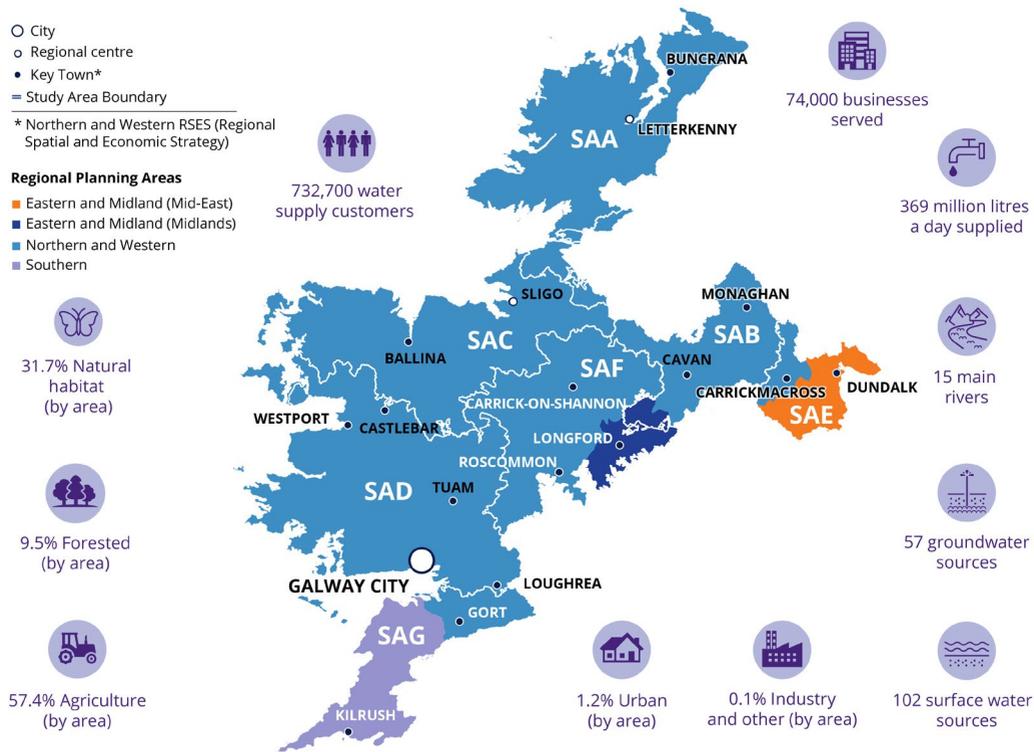


Figure 3. Key characteristics of the North West Region

- 58% of the WRZs are in supply Deficit, which means they do not have the capacity to meet current or future needs
- 97 of the 142 Water Treatment Plants need some form of investment to reduce risk to water quality
- Levels of service across the North West Region are below the standard we are aiming to achieve. Until we reach our target level of service, there is a higher risk of interruptions to supply
- Some of our water abstractions may be unsustainable

## How do we review this in our draft regional plan?



## What are the issues in the Region?

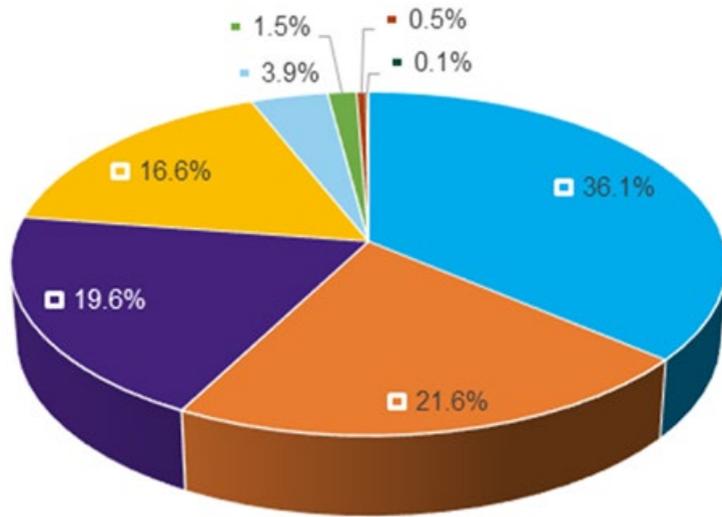
In the North West Region, there are 142 Water Treatment Plants that feed water into 119 stand-alone water supplies known as water resources zones (WRZs). These WRZs provide water to all the cities, towns, villages, and rural properties in the region that are connected to the public water supply.

When we viewed these supplies using the Irish Water risk factors we set out in the Framework plan, we identified the following needs, which must be addressed as part of the draft RWRP-NW:

Within the Plan we identify solutions to address these needs under three pillars, Use Less (water conservation), Lose Less (leakage reduction) and Supply Smarter (sustainable water supplies).

As part of the draft RWRP-NW, we reviewed 1,355 unconstrained options and developed 811 feasible options to address the needs we identified in the Region.

These feasible options included an extensive list of option types, including, groundwater and surface water sources, reservoirs and water transfers.



- Surface Water (293)
- Rationalisation (175)
- Groundwater (159)
- Transfer (135)
- Upgrade WTP (WQ only) (32)
- Desalination (12)
- Cross Study Area Supply (4)
- Network improvements (1)

We then assessed these to develop a preferred approach for each of the water supplies.

## What is the outcome of our plan?

The development of the draft RWRP-NW has for the first time allowed Irish Water to collectively assess needs across all of the 119 water supplies in the region, in terms of quality, quantity, reliability and sustainability. The regional plan allows us to consider local options to resolve identified needs within individual supplies and also larger regional options that can address needs across multiple supplies.

The preferred approach for the region, once delivered, involves:

- Merging supply systems within the region to form 17 larger interconnected Water Resource Zones, reducing the number of Water Resource Zones in the North West Region from 119 to 78.
- Upgrading 105 existing Water Treatment Plants to reduce water quality risks across all WRZs.
- Increasing the capacity of 45 (of the remaining 105) Water Treatment Plants to address the current supply deficit and to meet forecast growth.
- Interconnecting supplies via 733 kilometres of trunk mains.
- Development of 12 new Water Treatment Plants.
- Eventual decommissioning of 37 Water Treatment Plants.
- Reducing leakage to 23% of regional demand through pressure management.

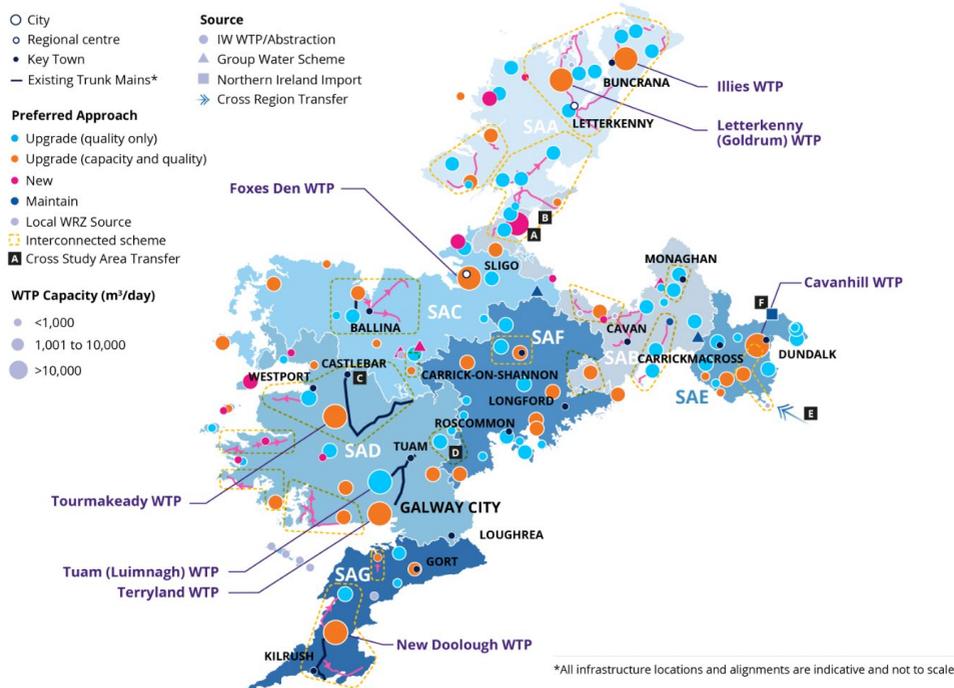


Figure 4. Regional Preferred Approach

- All Water Resource Zones will be resilient with improved environmental sustainability.
- Customer benefits in terms of increased reliability and reduced occurrence of outages across our supplies.
- Customer benefits in terms of reduced water quality risk and the instances of boil water notices.
- Improved resilience, with 60% of the population supplied via sources with impounding storage or aquifer storage that will allow us to better manage seasonal variation in water availability and drought events.
- Sources that are more environmentally sustainable and allow us to adapt to climate change and align with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Habitats Directive.
- Improved operational control across our water supplies, and ability to react to adverse events.
- Improved efficiency of our distribution networks in terms of leakage, pressure and strategic storage.
- Ability to facilitate growth and economic development.

## What does this mean for consumers in the region?

The preferred approach will provide the best overall outcome for the region, particularly in relation to environmental, ecology and resilience outcomes. This will result in:

- Improved performance across all of the water supplies in terms of quality and quantity. Strategic transformation from the existing fragmented supply to a more resilient and sustainable interconnected supply. All 105 of the remaining/new water resources zones in the North West Region will be able to provide improved reliability and meet a minimum 1 in 50 Level of Service during normal, dry, drought and winter conditions.



## How can I get involved?

Irish Water is now seeking feedback on the public consultation for the draft RWRP- North West and associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement.

A thirteen-week consultation will run from the 22 November 2022 to 21 February 2023, during which time the draft RWRP North West and associated environmental reports can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.water.ie/rwrp/north-west> or at your local authority's planning office or County Library (depending on the local authority) during their normal opening hours.

This is your opportunity to feed into the process of how we identify the issues and determine what the opportunities are for water supply in your area. We are also seeking your feedback on how we will develop options to address any problems identified, before applying them to specific areas and options.

All submissions will be taken into consideration and responses to the issues raised will be summarised in a Consultation Report, which will be published on <https://www.water.ie/rwrp/north-west>

Individual submissions will be reported anonymously and feedback from organisations will be attributed to them.

Feedback received outside the scope of the draft RWRP-NW and the associated environmental reports will not be considered as part of this public consultation process and will not be reported on. Any feedback in relation to in-flight Irish Water projects, or in reference to any other area of the Irish Water business should be sent directly to those project teams,

unless applicable to how they are included in the RWRP-NW. Information on Irish Water projects and contact details can be found on [www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

In line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) effective from 25 May 2018, Irish Water's updated Privacy Notice, is available to view online at [www.water.ie/privacy-notice](http://www.water.ie/privacy-notice)

## Have your say

Any member of the public wishing to make a submission can do so by email or post by **21 February 2023** as follows:

Email: **nwrp@water.ie**  
Post: **National Water Resources Plan,  
Irish Water, P.O. Box 13216,  
Glenageary, Co. Dublin**  
Freephone: **1800 46 36 76**

A dedicated helpline is available for anyone who would like to discuss any aspect of the consultation prior to making a submission. Freephone: 1800 46 36 76

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## Scope of the Consultation Questions

In order to help members of the public or organisations in making a submission, and to ensure clarity on the scope of what we would like consultees to consider in their feedback, Irish Water is inviting submissions on the following questions. However, this is just an aide and all submissions received in response to the consultation will be considered.

1. In section 2 of the draft RWRP-NW, we set out information on the current situation in the Region in respect of population growth and economic development and how we considered this in our water resource planning approach. Do you have any comments on this?
2. Within the North West region, we consider 119 water supplies (Water Resource Zones) represented across 7 Study Areas. Do you have any comments on the Study Areas?
3. Section 3 of the draft RWRP-NW and each of the technical appendices 1-7 outline the need in terms of water quality, quantity, sustainability and resilience across the region and in each of the Study Areas. Do you have any comment on the need (deficit)?
4. Sections 4, 7 and 8 of the draft RWRP-NW and the technical appendices 1-7 set out solutions we can undertake to address some of these needs in the interim, while we develop the preferred approaches. Do you have you any comments on this?
5. Section 6 and the technical appendices 1-7 of the draft RWRP-NW summarise our process for developing options to address the needs in the NW Region. Do you have any comments on this process?
6. Section 7 sets out how we identify our Preferred Approach to addressing the need at WRZ and Study Area level. Each of the technical appendices for Study Areas 1-7 (A-G) and the Environmental Review for Study Areas 1-7 (A-G) set out how the Preferred Approach has been identified in more detail. Have you any feedback on this?
7. The draft RWRP-NW looks at a range of solutions to meet the need in a WRZ or Study Area. These solutions are not limited by distance, therefore, some solutions for the WRZ or Study Area will involve transfers from outside the relevant WRZ or Study Area. Have you any comments on the Regional Preferred Approach?
8. Do you have any comments on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), which accompany the draft RWRP-NW?
9. We have produced an RWRP Consultation Roadmap. Do you have any comments on this?
10. How would you like Irish Water to communicate with you as the RWRPs progress?

## RWRP North West Public Consultation Roadmap

### Screening of the draft RWRP-NW

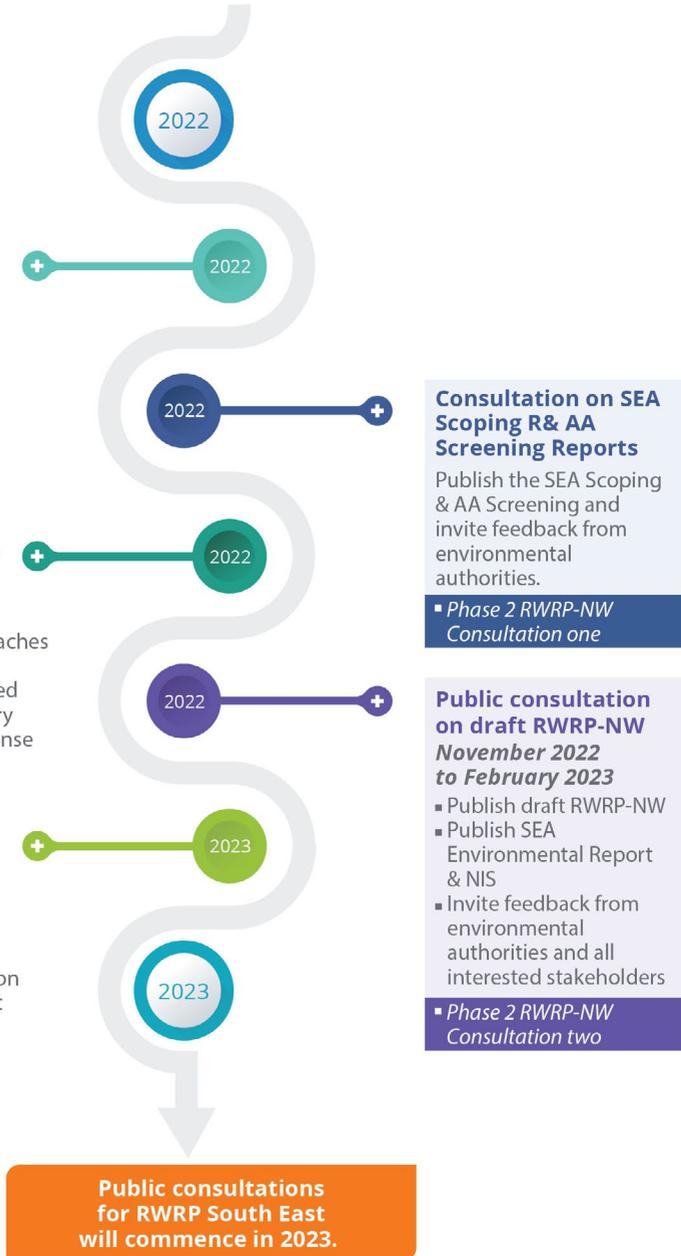
- Assessment of the RWRP-NW undertaken resulting in a decision to undertake an SEA & AA.

### Prepare draft RWRP-NW

- Apply NWRP methodology to the Study Areas
- Determine Preferred Approaches for each water supply
- Determine Regional Preferred Approaches where necessary
- Update documents in response to consultation one

### Finalise RWRP-NW Q2 2023-Q4 2023

- Update and publish final RWRP-NW
- Publish the SEA Statement
- Publish the AA Determination
- Publish Consultation Report



### Consultation on SEA Scoping R& AA Screening Reports

Publish the SEA Scoping & AA Screening and invite feedback from environmental authorities.

Phase 2 RWRP-NW Consultation one

### Public consultation on draft RWRP-NW November 2022 to February 2023

- Publish draft RWRP-NW
- Publish SEA Environmental Report & NIS
- Invite feedback from environmental authorities and all interested stakeholders

Phase 2 RWRP-NW Consultation two

## Next Steps

- Once the public consultation period has concluded, all feedback received during public consultation will be reviewed by the National Water Resources Plan team and all relevant feedback will be incorporated into the Post Consultation Report and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final Regional Water Resources Plan North West.
- The remaining Regional Water Resource Plan South East will be consulted on in the same way, comprising both non-statutory screening and scoping consultation with environmental authorities, followed by statutory public consultations in 2023.
- The submissions and observations received from the public consultation outlined above will be taken into consideration before adopting all four RWRPs. Once the complete NWRP has been finalised, comprising the Framework Plan and the four Regional Water Resources Plans, they will be treated as a unified single plan.



# Contact details

To make a submission on the RWRP North West or for further information please contact:

Email: [nwrp@water.ie](mailto:nwrp@water.ie)

Web: [www.water.ie/nwrp](http://www.water.ie/nwrp)

Freephone: **1800 46 36 76**

**National Water Resources Plan,  
Irish Water,  
P.O Box 13216,  
Glenageary, Co. Dublin**

## General Irish Water queries

9am-5.30pm, Mon-Fri

Telephone: **Callsave 1850 448 448 or +353 1 707 2824**

Minicom: **LoCall 1890 378 378** (for hearing impaired customers with their own minicom equipment).

Please note that the rates charged for 1850 (Callsave) and 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary across different service providers. Calls made using mobiles may be more expensive.

This publication is available in Braille, on CD and in large text format on request by calling **1850 448 448**.

