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Reg No: P0690-02

17<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Ms Cope,

I refer to your Section 99E notice dated 6th of May 2015 regarding an application from C & F Automotive Limited, Collinstown, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath for an Industrial Emissions Licence review (P0690-02).

A number of issues require further exploration in order to progress a response from Irish Water in relation to the Section 99E consent request.

### Background

Irish Water (IW) has inherited a situation whereby C & F Automotive Ltd is connected to the sewer (outfall pipe) downstream of the Collinstown WWTP (D0485-01). IW understands that this situation arose due to a collapse/deterioration of C & F's own outfall pipe to the Yellow River and their subsequent difficulty to secure access to adjacent lands to repair their outfall pipe or lay a new outfall pipe through which they could discharge their effluent.

C & F are currently discharging their trade effluent via the connection to IW's outfall pipe at manhole 12. A paper copy of an agreement with Westmeath County Council (WCC) to permit this sewer connection does not appear to exist as it may have been a verbal understanding which went undocumented and hence any associated terms attached to any such agreement are unclear.

As it currently stands, IW are obliged under Condition 3 of the Waste Water Discharge Licence (D0485-01) for the Collinstown agglomeration to comply with ELVs set out in Schedule A of the licence. This requires complying with applicable ELVs at the primary discharge point (SW001) which is located at the end of the outfall pipe discharging to the Yellow River. C & F are discharging to this same outfall pipe downstream of the Collinstown WWTP and hence IW cannot provide any further treatment of C & F's effluent. However, IW is currently responsible for the 'combined' discharge achieving licensed Emission Limit Values at the primary discharge point.

In the absence of any confirmation of the nature and detail of the sewer connection agreement, Irish Water cannot accept any open ended liability for the 'combined' discharge as IW has no direct control of the C & F portion of the discharge.

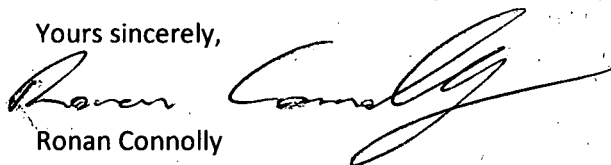
## Proposed Options

1. IW wishes to investigate the option of the primary discharge point in respect of compliance monitoring of the Collinstown WWTP discharge being moved upstream of the C & F discharge point. Were this option accommodated, IW could grant consent to the C & F discharge to the IW sewer at emission limit values as proposed in their current Industrial Emissions Licence review.
2. If Option 1 is not possible, IW will be obliged to recommend that any discharge from C & F can only be accepted where IW is not held liable for the C & F discharge, and any additional monitoring costs are met by C & F. Accordingly it would be necessary that:
  - Any discharge standards imposed on IW, under Waste Water discharge Licence D0485-01, in respect of the combined discharge, reflect the aggregated requirements of each individual licensed consent.
  - Sampling associated with D0485-01 and at the C & F discharge point will be required to be carried out simultaneously in order apportion responsibility to either party which contribute to the combined effluent were a non-compliant discharge (at SW001) detected.
  - Costs for any required sampling, to the extent that it exceeds the requirement for a single discharge from the IW WWTP, would be met by C & F.
  - In the event that the operation of these arrangements is not considered by IW to provide sufficient protection to IW, the permission may be revoked subject reasonable notice.

As Option 2 is both cumbersome and restrictive on C & F, IW's preferred option is Option 1.

IW wishes to engage with the EPA on this matter in order to arrive at an agreed solution.

Yours sincerely,



Ronan Connolly

Environmental Policy and Licensing Support,  
Asset Management,  
Irish Water