

# BUNCRANA TOGETHER

## A-Z OF METER OBJECTION



### Most Important First Steps

- Step 1 Get Active - don't assume others will do it.
- Step 2 Get organised – locally form anti water charge groups/committees in each estate /road/area. Go to your neighbours, arrange a meeting, exchange phone numbers and devise a strategy what you will do when Irish Water come.
- Step 3 Contact local Buncrana Against Irish Water or Buncrana Together.  
Email [buncranatogether@gmail.com](mailto:buncranatogether@gmail.com) or phone 0749361828.
- Step 3 Do a survey of your area find out who wants a meter or water charges and who doesn't
- Step 4 This is most important - **Put Up A Notice** in your front window clearly visible from your front. Take a photo of it. You will get one on our facebook page Buncrana Together or from any activist.
- Step 5 Only you can help yourselves. All it takes is a few
- Step 6 Be civil at all times. Do not get provoked but protect yourselves
- Step 7 Be aware of location of your stopcock/boundary box and the mains.
- Step 8 Your stopcock/boundary box is your property. No one has a right to touch it without your consent
- Step 9 You have a constitutional right to peacefully assemble

### When Irish Water/Contractors Come To Your Area

- Step 1 Stop them at the entrance to your estate, road
- Step 2 You have a right to refuse them entry. Irish Water then must apply to the District Court
- Step 2 Call others to help you. This should have been arranged in your strategy
- Step 3 Your boundary box/stopcock is your property. Refuse anyone permission to tamper with it.  
Stand on it if necessary
- Step 4 Keep repeating all the statements below. If an Garda Siochana come repeat all your rights stated below. Stall as much as you can. You have a right to peacefully assemble and An Garda Siochana must uphold this. An garda may invoke the Public Order Act. Question this. If they insist and threaten to arrest you, you can then move. By this time the estate should be organised. We can not stop residents peacefully assembling even under the threat of arrest but be warned you could be arrested. There is a the legal question of whether Irish Water have a right to enter private estates, those not taken over by local authority. Refuse them entry to your estate. If you are on a private estate you must tell them that and say Irish Water have no right to enter or touch your property.
- Step 5 Insist to An Garda Siochana that it is a civil matter between you and Irish Water. Repeat all the things below.

### If Irish Water Enter Your Estate

- Step 1 Stop them putting up barriers. Gather around your stopcock/boundary box or the location of the mains. Remember your right to peacefully assemble, to protect your property etc. Stand on your boundary/stopcock. This is your property. Have a car parked over it or as near to it as possible. I do not believe a resident has been arrested for protesting in this way but there is the possibility that you could be. We do not think this will happen because we feel that they do not want to test it. The owner of the property has a lot of rights
- Step 2 If barriers are put up and if you can get inside them then do. Inside barriers becomes a work place. It is not public. Irish Water will have to go to court to get an injunction against you. This is a civil matter between you and Irish Water. The gardai can not touch you. To date no resident has been taken to court. All court cases to the best of our knowledge has been taken against activists and not residents.

Step 3 Be peaceful, respectful but be firm and ask questions

Step 4 Take photographs/videos. If you have photographs or videos of criminal acts do not put them up on the web because they could be used in a court

### **Irish Water Must Inform You**

*N/B This is not always happening. We believe this is illegal. It is on Irish Water brochures and an Garda Siochana website.*

Irish Water have to inform householders when they are coming to the area : 2 weeks in advance, then 2 days in advance when they will come to your house then they will knock on your door to inform you that they will be starting.

### **Statements To Use To Question Irish Water or Garda**

This is a peaceful assembly

This is a civil matter between us and Irish Water

They must have identification and have relevant documentation, permits

They can not enter your property, do not let them

We do not want meters

We did not ask for meters

We do not want a contract with Irish Water

We have already paid for our water

If we filled in an application form we signed it under duress, we deem it null and void under EU legislation

Meters are being installed against our will

The stopcock is our property, the home owners have rights of property up to and including the stopcock

Irish Water are trespassing on our property

Smart meters are a danger to our health

Smart meters are an invasion of our privacy

An Garda Siochana should respect rights of property and residents rights to protect our property.

### **Questions to Ask Irish Water and Sub-Contractors**

A Copy of the Road Certificate obtained by the contractor from the council, dated and signed by the council engineer.

Documentation that grants permission to restrict and/or block access to my address.

A contractors Method Statement outlining the methods schedule and duration of any works to be carried out.

A current company Health and Safety Statement.

Copies of Safe Passes and Trade Certificates of the personnel in the operation.

Copies of the Certification of Competence for the operators of heavy machinery/mechanical excavator.

How will the smart meter work, on what network will it transmit, who will have access to the data it sends?

Do you have an up-to-date health and safety report on the smart meter you are planning to install on/near my property?

A signed statement from the contractor and/or his agent declaring unequivocally that I bear no responsibility, now or in the future for any mechanical/electronic device that may be installed adjacent to my property

**NO CONTRACT**

**NO CONSENT**