

# Get the facts - Spread the word!

## 1) What do the Government concessions mean?

Everyone will receive a bill for either €40 or €65 every 3 months until the end of 2018 with the possibility of claiming back an annual €100 conservation grant. However, once the cap is lifted in 2019 the average bill will rise to around €200 per person per year adults and children alike

## 2) But won't we face penalties?

No one will face any fines until after the next general election. Fines of €30 or €60 per household after 15 months of non payment and after binning 5 bills are not a lot to risk. If enough people refuse to pay, either this Government or the next Government will be forced to scrap them

## 3) Can't Revenue just take the money?

No, Revenue are not involved and Irish Water can't take it from your wages / benefits / pension

## 4) Can they reduce my water pressure?

No. The Government has withdrawn the threat of turning down the water pressure of those who don't pay

## 5) Will non-payment affect my credit rating? Can I be taken to court?

Non-payment is not a criminal offence. It has no affect on your credit rating or your ability to get Garda clearance for jobs. Court cases are possible but unlikely in the lifetime of the Government due to their fear of a backlash in the run-in to an election

## 6) Can my landlord force me to pay?

No. The Charge is between the tenant and Irish Water, at the moment landlords have no role besides informing Irish Water of who lives at the address. The Government want to give landlords powers to take arrears from tenants deposits and councils the power to increase rent to cover arrears and/or fines. A strong boycott is needed to give confidence to tenants to stand firm and to make it difficult for landlords and councils to use those powers

## 7) But I've already registered - does that put me in a more vulnerable position?

Absolutely not. The registration process was an exercise in Irish Water getting accurate billing information and awarding 'free allowances' before the government then changed the whole scheme. Irish Water have a fair idea who we all are in any case so don't feel disadvantaged having registered

## 8) How can we make sure non-payment is strong enough to win?

Hundreds of thousands of people have already decided not to pay. One recent poll said 30% plan not to pay with a further 24% saying either "I Don't Know" or "It Depends". If we can build an active non-payment campaign, those who are unsure can be given confidence to join the boycott. A majority not paying will make the charges unworkable and can sink the Government

**Help build non-payment - what you can do today**

