

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-000117/25  
to the Commission  
Kathleen Funchion (The Left)  
(14 January 2025)**

*Subject:* Remedial action

Can the Commission confirm if it is aware that no remedial action has been taken regarding the progression of a sewerage scheme in the agglomeration of Gweedore, County Donegal despite an infringement procedure being removed in 2017 as a result of assurances to the Commission from Irish Water (Uisce Éireann) that remedial action would be prioritised?

Submitted: 14.1.2025

**Answer given by Ms Roswall on behalf of the European Commission  
(11 March 2025)**

The Commission does not have updated information on the situation in Gweedore (Gaoth Dobhair).

The Commission's claim regarding the failure by Ireland to ensure that Gweedore is provided with appropriate waste water collecting systems and treatment in compliance with Articles 3 and 4 of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive <sup>(1)</sup> was dropped during the pleading stage before the Court of Justice of the European Union in Case C-427/17.

This was because Ireland argued that the settlement of Gweedore was too dispersed to qualify as an agglomeration under the directive and that the population equivalent (p.e) of Gweedore fell below the 2 000 p.e. threshold of the directive.

Ireland further explained that regardless of its assessment that these EU obligations did not apply, separate works were planned in Gweedore to upgrade waste water infrastructure for a part of the area known as Bunbeg/Derrybeg.

The Commission has not further enquired about the situation in Gweedore as there is no legal basis in the directive to do so. Whilst the revised Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive <sup>(2)</sup> adopted in November 2024 will extend the waste water collecting and treatment obligations to smaller agglomerations above 1 000 p.e., this obligation only comes into force as of 1 August 2027.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Council Directive 91/271/EEC of 21 May 1991 concerning urban waste-water treatment, OJ L 135, 30.5.1991, p. 40-52.

<sup>(2)</sup> Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast), OJ L, 2024/3019, 12.12.2024.