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EPA Ref: EPAC- 1325

06/06/2025

Re: EPA response to the consultation on WMO Regulations on Early Warning Systems

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation on the *WMO Regulations on Early Warning Systems*.

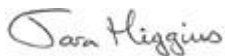
The EPA recognises that the development and implementation of robust early warning systems for weather-related events are essential components of modern environmental governance. These systems are particularly critical in the context of a changing climate, where the frequency, intensity, and unpredictability of extreme weather events are increasing, as highlighted in Ireland's Climate Change Assessment.

Early warning systems serve as a frontline defence in mitigating the environmental consequences of severe weather events and support the Agency's broader mandate to monitor environmental conditions, identify emerging risks, and respond proactively to signs of environmental stress or degradation. The integration of early warning systems into national emergency planning frameworks enhances the EPA's ability to contribute to a coordinated, cross-sectoral response which should ensure that environmental considerations are embedded in emergency preparedness and response strategies, thereby helping to safeguard critical natural resources such as water quality, air standards, and biodiversity.

In this context, the EPA welcomes the proposed WMO regulations and acknowledges its critical importance in addressing the environmental challenges it seeks to mitigate. As the statutory body mandated to oversee environmental protection in Ireland, the EPA recognises the need to be actively involved in implementation of the regulations at national level to provide expert guidance, ensure regulatory coherence, and uphold the EPA's responsibilities under national legislation.

The EPA looks forward to continued collaboration with Met Éireann and all relevant stakeholders in the development and implementation of the WMO Regulations on Early Warning Systems. The Agency remains available to discuss any aspect of this submission and to contribute its expertise to ensure that the final regulatory framework is both effective and aligned with Ireland's environmental protection goals.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tara Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr Tara Higgins
Programme Manager
Office of Evidence and Assessment