

# DON'T PAY WATER CHARGES!



# STOP WATER SERVICE PRIVATISATION!

[www.waterchargesnonpayment.com](http://www.waterchargesnonpayment.com)

## A message from Trade Unions Against Water Charges:

Dear Householder

You will have seen the Government's guide and ads about new water charges. Don't be fooled by their spin that average bills will be £100.

Don't be fooled either by the 'Reduced Tariffs' and phasing with claims of bills as low as £30.

The phasing is just for two years. After that, everybody will have to pay in full, irrespective of hardship caused. Once they get us used to paying, charges will go through the roof. The way to stop this happening is through a mass non-payment campaign.

We have already been paying for water and sewerage services through the regional rates. Imposing charges makes us pay twice.

The Government says our Water Service must be completely "self-financing." But the real purpose of water charges has nothing to do with "self-financing." The purpose is to provide a revenue flow for a privatised company. The result will be that you, the consumer, pay for the years of neglect - while the Treasury walks away.

In Britain, even with Treasury millions pumped in to smooth the path to privatisation, consumers have seen charges rocket, with massive profits going to the private shareholders. Here, where they have no electoral mandate whatsoever,

the Government plans to privatise water, and leave ordinary people to pick up the bill.

The opposition to water charges has created unprecedented unity in every community. The way to put the unity into practice is through a united refusal to pay. We urge you to get involved in your local non-payment campaign.

Already, tens of thousands of people have pledged to refuse to pay. The legal position is clear –

- Non-payment is NOT a criminal offence.
- The water company CANNOT turn off your domestic supply.

Neither can they just dock your wages or benefits. They would have to take every individual non-payer separately through the Small Claims Court. If there's enough of us, they'll find it impossible.

Many people have been hesitating about whether or when to pay. We now confidently urge everyone to join us in an outright non-payment campaign. A private company won't be able to handle a concerted campaign of non-payment. And the Treasury won't be able to walk away from a service as fundamental as water.

## **We can win this campaign**

**Together we can defeat this arrogant  
Government.**

**Pledge today not to pay. Please display  
the poster overleaf in your window.**

**Issued by Irish Congress of Trade Unions - Trade Unions Against Water Charges  
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