

# A draft regulatory framework for Aquatic Leisure facilities in Ireland

## Public Meeting

Water Safety Ireland is hosting a Public Meeting to seek the views of the Public on a draft regulatory framework for Aquatic Leisure facilities in Ireland.

The meeting takes place at the Heritage Hotel, Killenard Nr. Portarlington, Co Laois on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> of September.

Registration at 1030 – Commences at 1100. Lunch will be provided to those who register with Water Safety Ireland's National Office 091-564400 by Close of Business on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> of September. Please ask for Jocelyn.

It is envisaged that the day will be broken down in to two parts. First part in the morning will deal with the operation and management of swimming pools and the second part in the afternoon will deal with the design.

### Background:

Following the inquest on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2017 in to the tragic fatal drowning of Ronan Kennedy at the Red Barn Quality Hotel in Youghal on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2015, the Dublin Coroner made two crucial recommendations to the former Minister for Housing, Planning, Community & Local Government, Simon Coveney, T.D.

1. That there should be a dedicated lifeguard on duty at all times at swimming pools and that the lifeguard should not be a person engaged in other supervisory duties.
2. To recommend to the relevant Minister that a dedicated water safety inspectorate is required to formulate regulations and ensure their implementation.

Minister Coveney tasked Water Safety Ireland (WSI) to review best practice in other European countries with a view to informing the development of an appropriate regulatory framework for Ireland. This can be a legacy that will turn this tragic drowning in to a positive regulatory framework that will help prevent similar tragedies in the future, to be known as Ronan's Regulations.

Details of the public consultation are available at:

<http://www.iws.ie/fileupload/advice/Swimming/Pool%20Safety/Public%20Consultation%20Document%20170519.pdf>

### **Media Enquiries to:**

Water Safety Ireland, The Long Walk, Galway

LoCall 1890-420.202 [www.iws.ie](http://www.iws.ie); Tel: 091-564400 Fax: 091-564700

Mobile: **John Leech**: 087- 6789600;