



## **Maura Joy - Programme Delivery Manager Ringsend WwTP Upgrade Project**

Maura Joy is an Irish Water engineer and Programme Delivery Manager for the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, one of the largest engineering projects in the country and the recently completed Cork Lower Harbour Main Drainage Project, which was voted Engineers Ireland Engineering Endeavour of the Year 2021

Maura has been passionate about engineering ever since school – a school with a determined head mistress who proactively ensured that the girls who attended her school would have access to honours maths and all the sciences. Maura was inspired by her maths and science teacher who encouraged her to choose engineering as a career path.

Her father was an agricultural contractor and she was happiest when helping him with his machinery and could often be found fixing equipment at all hours. She also babysat for an Irish engineer that had returned home from Saudi Arabia, and, was fascinated and inspired by his stories of dam construction and flood control in the Middle East. This keen interest in problem solving from fixing machinery to maths to construction stories, led Maura to choosing a career in engineering.

Having studied Civil Engineering in UCC, Maura has enjoyed a very varied career in both the UK and Ireland, working for both contractors and local authorities before joining Irish Water in 2013.

For Irish Water she has worked on a number of high profile engineering projects throughout Ireland, saying, “Irish Water is committed to gender equality, which is why we want to inspire girls and young

women to explore engineering career paths particularly within the Water sector. It is fantastic that, here in Irish Water, we have women in prominent leadership positions right across the business.

Maura added, “I am currently Programme Delivery Manager on the Ringsend Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade project, an innovative and strategically important project that will deliver, on a phased basis, the capacity to treat the wastewater for a population equivalent of 2.4 million by 2025. I have always enjoyed working on delivering projects and get satisfaction from starting and finishing a project. All projects are about problem solving, delivering infrastructure for the right reason, the most important reason, protecting health. Remember, water services are the original public health services.”

Maura’s advice for girls leaving school is “Don’t be afraid to do engineering – give it a go. If you enjoy maths and science like I did, it would be fair to say you would have a natural capacity for it. If you are interested in big infrastructural projects, and how things work, you will really enjoy it. It also provides an excellent basis for careers in business, management and industry, so it is a very practical and flexible qualification.”

Irish Water is delighted to promote Engineers Week 2022 with colleagues from across the country sharing stories about their varied careers in the water industry and highlighting the size and scale of the work in safeguarding Ireland’s water and wastewater infrastructure for the future. For further information, please visit <http://www.water.ie/engineersweek>.