

Site Visit Report

Under the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023*, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervisory authority in relation to Uisce Éireann and its role in the provision of public drinking water supplies. This audit was carried out to assess the performance of Uisce Éireann in providing clean and wholesome water to the public water supply named below.

The audit process is a sample of the performance of a water treatment plant and public water supply on a given date.

Water Supply Zone	
Name of Installation	Cork Harbour and City
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	0500PUB3401
County	Cork
Site Visit Reference No.	SV31971

Report Detail	
Issue Date	01/04/2025
Prepared By	Paul Buckley

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	04/03/2025	Announced	Yes
Time In	12:00	Time Out	13:15
EPA Inspector(s)	Paul Buckley David Price (Intern)		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Claire Hurley, Killian Twomey, Ciarán Connolly. Cork County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Jimmy Thompson, Mary Hickey, Gavin Falvey, Pauline McAree.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. The Inniscarra water treatment plant is well operated and managed on a day to day basis
2. The audit found that a number of the recommendations from the previous audit have not been fully completed to date.
3. Upgrade works at the Inniscarra water treatment plant are progressing.

> Introduction

The Cork Harbour and City Public Water Supply (PWS) serves a population of 133,127 with an average output of 61,791 m³/day (EPA EDEN figures).

Raw water is abstracted from the River Lee at the Inniscarra Lake. Treatment at the Inniscarra Water Treatment Plant (WTP) includes coagulation, flocculation, clarification, filtration, disinfection, final pH correction, fluoridation and sludge treatment.

The audit was carried out as part of the EPA's routine assessment of large scale public water supplies and to assess progress with the recommendations from the previous audit undertaken by the EPA on 14/12/2023.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The audit included an inspection of the water treatment plant and the assessment of the operation and management of the plant.



1. Management and Control

1.1

Have the recommendations from the previous EPA audit been satisfactorily addressed?

Answer

No

Comment

The following recommendations from the previous audit, undertaken on 14/12/2023, have not been completed and have been included in this audit report to track progress:

(i) Install automatic switchover between duty and standby dosing pumps for the coagulant dosing stage and the coagulant aid dosing stage.

(ii) Ensure the automatic filter backwashing system is linked to the turbidity alarm setpoint.

(iii) Ensure regular cleaning of the settlement tanks is undertaken and confirm when the planned repair works to the collection channels in Tanks No. 3 and No. 4 have been completed.

Recommendations

Subject	EPA Audit Report Cork Harbour and City PWS - 04032025	Due Date	01/05/2025
Action Text	<p>Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendation(s) without delay.</p> <p>1. Ensure the following audit recommendations from the previous audit are addressed: (i) ensure there is automatic shutdown of the dosing pumps for the coagulant and coagulant aid in the event of failure of one of the dosing pumps and explore the feasibility of installing automatic switchover between the duty and standby dosing pumps; (ii) ensure the automatic backwashing is linked to the turbidity alarm setpoint to ensure that the filtration stage meets the criteria specified in the EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration; and (iii) ensure regular cleaning of the settlement tanks is undertaken and confirm when the planned repair works to the collection channels in Tanks No. 3 and No. 4 have been completed.</p> <p>Actions required by Uisce Éireann</p> <p>During the audit, Uisce Éireann representatives were advised of the audit findings and that action must be taken by Uisce Éireann to address the issues raised.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 01/05/2025 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the above recommendations.</p> <p>The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this audit report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies.</p>		