

# 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	
<b>Name of Installation</b>	Midleton
<b>Organisation</b>	Uisce Éireann
<b>Scheme Code</b>	0500PUB2406
<b>County</b>	Cork
<b>Site Visit Reference No.</b>	SV35082

Report Detail	
<b>Issue Date</b>	31/03/2026
<b>Prepared By</b>	Regina Campbell

Site Visit Detail			
<b>Date Of Inspection</b>	26/03/2026	<b>Announced</b>	Yes
<b>Time In</b>	10:00	<b>Time Out</b>	12:00
<b>EPA Inspector(s)</b>	Regina Campbell Patrick Chan		
<b>Additional Visitors</b>			
<b>Company Personnel</b>	Uisce Éireann: Criona Doyle Cork County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Billy Horgan		

## > Summary of Key Findings

1. There is no residual chlorine monitor in operation after contact time to verify that contact time has been achieved. A new disinfection system was installed in Quarter 2 2024. However on the day of the audit this system was not operational.
2. There are no high turbidity inhibits operational on the individual filters at Midleton water treatment plant. The filters at the water treatment plant are not operated in accordance with the guidance provided in the EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration in order to verify the protozoal barrier and to prevent the entry of inadequately treated water into the supply. *Cryptosporidium* monitoring is ongoing in the supply and there have been no detections to date.
3. The Drinking Water Safety Plan assessment of Midleton Public Water Supply by Uisce Éireann has commenced.

**Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 30/04/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the four recommendations in this audit report.**

## > Introduction

The Midleton Public Water Supply (PWS) supplies an average of 2,855 m<sup>3</sup>/day of water, serving a population of 8,793 people. The source of the supply is the Owenacurra River. Treatment consists of coagulation, flocculation, rapid gravity filtration, fluoridation and chlorination. The primary focus of the audit was to review part of the Drinking Water Safety Plan Assessment of the supply being undertaken by Uisce Éireann.

## > Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The coagulant dosing pump, clarifier tanks, rapid gravity filters and the chlorine dosing system at the water treatment plant were inspected.



## 1. Management and Control

	Answer	
1.1	Are instrument calibrations within date?	No
<b>Comment</b>		
The stickers on the PACL dosing pumps showed that the next service was overdue.		
<b>Recommendation:</b>		
1. Confirm that all dosing pumps have been serviced and ensure the service sticker is up to date and displayed on each pump.		

	Answer	
1.2	Have the recommendations from the previous EPA audit been satisfactorily addressed?	No
<b>Comment</b>		

The following recommendations from the previous EPA audit undertaken on 06/03/2024 have not been adequately addressed:

i) *Previous Recommendation: Implement turbidity alarms and shutdowns to ensure that the plant operates in accordance with the turbidity log performance criteria as outlined in the EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration to demonstrate that there is an effective protozoal barrier at the plant*

Update: At the audit it was noted that the turbidity shutdowns at the plant are not as outlined in the EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration in order to demonstrate that there is an effective protozoal barrier in operation. Turbidity levels after each filter were satisfactory during the audit. There is a turbidity alarm (0.3 NTU with 600s delay) on each filter and a turbidity alarm (0.8 NTU with 300s delay) and shutdown (1.0 NTU with 300s delay) on the final water. *Cryptosporidium* monitoring is undertaken at the plant and there have been no detections to date.

ii) *Previous Recommendation: Install a continuous chlorine residual monitor after contact time to verify contact time is achieved.*

Update: Uisce Éireann had previously informed the EPA that the monitor had been installed under the Disinfection Programme in Quarter 2 2024. However this system was not operational at the audit. There is a chlorine monitor with alarm and shutdown located after the dosing point which samples from within the contact tank, close to the inlet.

ii) *Previous Recommendation: Install automatic backwashing of the 3 no. individual filters based on turbidity, headloss, and time.*

Update: Uisce Eireann said in the latest update received that these works will be carried out under the water treatment programme and that an update on timeframes will be provided once available.

#### **Recommendations:**

2. Implement turbidity alarms and shutdowns to ensure that the plant operates in accordance with the turbidity log performance criteria as outlined in the EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration to demonstrate that there is an effective protozoal barrier at the plant.

3. Continue to monitor for *Cryptosporidium* as per the Uisce Éireann Rationale for Determining the Frequency of *Cryptosporidium* in Public Water Supplies until the required alarms and inhibits have been put in place at the water treatment plant.

4. Confirm that there is an operational continuous chlorine residual monitor after contact time with appropriate alarms and inhibits.

## Recommendations

### **Actions required by Uisce Éireann**

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.

**Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the recommendations raised in this report without delay.**

### **Response to Audit Report**

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before the date specified in the Summary of Key Findings detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the recommendations in this audit report.

The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies.

### **Publication of Reports**

Audit reports are published to the EPA's website, [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie), typically 1 month after the audit report is issued to Uisce Éireann.