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	Culdaff
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	0600PUB1118
County	Donegal
Site Visit Reference No.	SV34851

Report Detail

Issue Date	03/11/2026
Prepared By	Veronica Boland

Site Visit Detail

Date Of Inspection	29/09/2026	**Announced**	Yes
Time In	10:00	**Time Out**	11:40
EPA Inspector(s) **Additional Visitors**	Veronica Boland		
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Diarmuid Feeney, Fionnuala Dunbar, Geraldine Friel, Hugh Kerr, Paul Strawbridge.		

Summary of Key Findings

1. The audit found that the Culdaff water treatment plan (WTP) was operating well on the day. The Culdaff WTP is scheduled for a plant upgrade due to commence in November 2026.

2. The groundwater boreholes were not capped to ensure adequate protection, in accordance with *EPA Advice Note No. 14: Borehole Construction and Wellhead Protection.*

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before the 03/12/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the 3 recommendations in this audit report.

Introduction

The Culdaff PWS distributes an average of 556m3/day of treated water, serving a population of approximately 1,288 people including the Three Glens group water supply. The raw water is sourced from two groundwater boreholes located at the Culdaff water treatment plant (WTP). Treatment of the combined water consists of pressure filtration and chlorination disinfection prior to distribution to the network.

The audit was undertaken to assess Uisce Éireann's performance in producing clean and wholesome water with a focus on operations.

Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The Culdaff WTP treatment processes and the two groundwater boreholes.

1. Source Protection

		Answer
1.1	Is the abstraction source(s) adequately protected against contamination?	No

Comment

1. The two boreholes supplying the Culdaff PWS are located onsite at the WTP. The borehole heads are below ground level. They are not capped in accordance with the requirements of the *EPA Drinking Water Advice Note 14: Borehole Construction and Wellhead Protection*.
2. There is a trial well on the new site, located beside the existing WTP, which is not yet in operation. This borehole will be brought into operation with the proposed WTP upgrade (see section 2.1).

Recommendation:

1. Ensure that all boreholes are capped, sealed and maintained in accordance with *EPA Advice Note No. 14: Borehole Construction and Wellhead Protection*.

2. Disinfection

		Answer
2.1	Is there adequate chlorine contact time before the first connection?	No

Comment

1. The WHO recommended minimum chlorine contact time is 15mg.min/l. As there is no final water storage reservoir/tank at the Culdaff WTP, chlorine contact time is to be achieved in the common main and tributary mains leading from the WTP to the wider network. Whilst a minimum effective contact time is achieved 15.75 mg.min/l, one section (the common main) falls short of the minimum required contact time of 15mg.min/l. Uisce Éireann advised at the audit that a full upgrade of the Culdaff WTP is due to commence in November 2026. The upgrade will include installation of a containerized filtration unit, UV disinfection (protozoal barrier), chlorine disinfection upgrade and treated water storage tank on site with capacity to provide 8 hours storage.

Recommendation:

2. Progress the upgrade of the Culdaff WTP.

3. Operational Audits 2026

		Answer
3.1	Is there a suitable monitoring frequency for residual chlorine in the network with records available?	No

Comment

1. Records reviewed of results for residual chlorine in the network indicated compliant results, however monitoring throughout the network is only carried out once a week.

Recommendation:

3. Ensure that monitoring of residual chlorine is undertaken several times a week at different points of the network to include network extremities.

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, typically 1 month after the audit report is issued to Uisce Éireann.