

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	Rathmullen PUB
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	0600PUB1053
County	Donegal
Site Visit Reference No.	SV34846

Report Detail	
Issue Date	25/06/2026
Prepared By	Mary Grimes

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	05/06/2026	Announced	Yes
Time In	10:00	Time Out	11:48
EPA Inspector(s)	Mary Grimes Veronica Boland		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Martin Cullen, John Gallagher, Joe Gallagher, Geraldine Friel, Thomas Gibbons Brendan Gaffey Donegal County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): James Mc Hugh		



Summary of Key Findings

1. There was no combined filtered water turbidity monitor with appropriate alarms and inhibits installed at the WTP.
3. There is no shutdown in place for the turbidity filters at the WTP.

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before the 26/07/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the 2 recommendations in this audit report.



Introduction

The Rathmullen Public Water Supply (PWS) produces approximately 781 m³/day of treated water and serves a population of 498 people. The raw water source is from Gort Lough. Treatment at the WTP consists of pre-treatment pH correction, coagulation, flocculation, clarification, (CFC), pressure filtration, chlorination and post treatment pH correction. A source and sanitary survey was carried out and a log treatment requirement of 3 is assigned to the Rathmullan WTP.

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

Treatment processes and chemical storage.



1.1

Are suitable plant shutdowns/inhibits in place to prevent the entry of inadequately treated water entering the distribution network?

Answer

No

Comment

1. There are two pressure filters onsite with a turbidity monitor on both. Uisce Éireann staff advised that the turbidity monitors on these filters were giving false readings on site and did not have the shutdown enabled. Uisce Éireann also advised that these monitors were scheduled to be replaced.

Recommendation:

1. Progress the installation of the Turbidity monitors and install appropriate shutdowns/inhibits.

1.2

Is the plant suitably managed and controlled to maintain the designed log credit on each treatment stage?

Answer

No

Comment

1. In order for the plant to maintain a 3 log credit requirement, appropriate filters including a combined filter, with inhibits and shutdowns, need to be in place and in operation. In this regard, Uisce Éireann confirmed that monthly cryptosporidium monitoring is being carried out, i.e. in the absence of a verified protozoal barrier.

Recommendation:

2. Install a continuous turbidity monitor with appropriate alarms and inhibits on the combined filtered water to verify that the plant operates in accordance with the log credit approach as set out in the *EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration*.

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.