

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	Inisboffin PWS
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	1200PUB1024
County	Galway
Site Visit Reference No.	SV34781

Report Detail	
Issue Date	27/02/2026
Prepared By	Donal Howley

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	28/01/2026	Announced	Yes
Time In	12:30	Time Out	14:55
EPA Inspector(s)	Donal Howley Veronica Boland Mary Grimes		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Aidan Day, Leo O'Shea, Nicky Faherty, Tom Doherty, Patrick Navin, Vincent McGrath, Pearse Scanlon Coffey (operating under contract to Uisce Éireann): Daniel Brady		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. The Inisboffin Public Water Supply (PWS) was on the EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL) under the category "EPA Audit Observation – Treatment and Management Issues".
2. Uisce Éireann has carried out upgrade works at the Inisboffin Water Treatment Plant (WTP) including the installation of a manganese removal unit and submitted supporting documentation and monitoring results to the EPA for consideration of removal from the RAL.
3. While it was noted that the manganese removal unit had been installed at the treatment plant, it was not in operation on the day of the audit or since the end of November 2025. The supply was subsequently marked as "Complete awaiting verification of the action programme effectiveness" on the updated RAL.

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 27/03/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the recommendations in this audit report.

> Introduction

The Inisboffin PWS serves a resident population of 185 (seasonally variable due to tourism). The raw water for this supply is extracted from Lough Fawna. Treatment processes in place include pH adjustment, coagulation, flocculation, clarification and filtration within a DAFF unit and disinfection by chlorination and UV treatment.

The Inisboffin PWS is on the EPA's RAL since 30/09/2022 under the category "EPA Audit Observation – Treatment and Management Issues". The purpose of the audit was to verify completion of RAL upgrade works as part of the EPA's assessment of the suitability of the supply for removal from the RAL with particular focus on upgrade works at the water treatment plant for the removal of manganese and to ensure compliance with the manganese parametric value.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

Treatment processes upgraded under RAL were inspected on-site, along with supporting information on controls and monitoring results.



1. Supply on the Remedial Action List

	Answer
1.1 Do the audit findings support progress made with the Remedial Action List upgrades?	Yes
<p>Comment</p> <p>1. The purpose of the audit was to assess the suitability for removal from the EPA’s RAL under the category “EPA Audit Observation – Treatment and Management Issues” with particular focus on upgrade works at the water treatment plant for the removal of manganese and to ensure compliance with the manganese parametric value.</p> <p>2. The audit confirmed that upgrade works including installation of a manganese removal unit (4 pressure filters) in May 2025 had been completed. The unit was commissioned and brought into operation on 1st September 2025. Monitoring results submitted by Uisce Éireann for September and November 2025 indicated compliance with the parametric value for manganese, with raw water manganese levels ranging from 8.0 - 47.0 ug/l and all treated water manganese results < 2.0 ug/l.</p> <p>3. At the time of the audit the manganese removal unit was not in operation. Uisce Éireann representatives advised that it had not been in operation since the end of November 2025 and that it was turned off at that time to facilitate changes to be made to monitoring equipment, which had not been completed as of the time of the audit.</p> <p>5. Uisce Éireann advised at the audit that once the monitoring equipment changes were completed the manganese removal unit would be brought into operation on a continuous basis and that Uisce Éireann staff would subsequently be operating it, when the contractor completed the works.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <p>1. Uisce Éireann should bring the manganese removal back into operation and operate it on a continual basis.</p> <p>2. Uisce Éireann is requested to provide a further report to include (i) details of periods of operation of the manganese removal unit since the audit; and (ii) review of monitoring data since the audit and their comparison with monitoring results for periods prior to the upgrade works including previous periods of elevated manganese levels. This should review should consider available data for both raw and treated water in these periods.</p> <p>3. Uisce Éireann should ensure that all staff involved in the operation of the Inisboffin WTP following completion of the works/contractor handover, are fully trained on the operation of the manganese removal unit and that appropriate standard operational procedures are in place and records maintained (e.g. checks to unit, backwashing, filter media change).</p>	

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.