

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	Inishere
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	1200PUB1025
County	Galway
Site Visit Reference No.	SV34858

Report Detail	
Issue Date	06/08/2026
Prepared By	Mary Grimes

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	16/06/2026	Announced	Yes
Time In	12:00	Time Out	14:40
EPA Inspector(s)	Mary Grimes Sean O'Leary		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Leo O'Shea, Peadar O'Conghaile, Brendan Hynes, Siobhán Sheridan		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. There is a new primary source for raw water in the supply as well as changes in treatment processes. The primary source is from a lake (Leac Cranail) with a secondary source from a borehole in the vicinity of the water treatment plant (WTP).
2. There was no verified protozoal barrier in place. Monthly cryptosporidium monitoring was being carried out.
3. There was only a duty UV unit in place with no UV validation certificate available at the time of the audit.

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before the 30/08/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the 13 recommendations in this audit report.

> Introduction

The Inishere public water supply (PWS) supplies an average of 154m³/day of treated water, serving a population of 325 people. There are two raw water sources for the drinking water treatment plant (WTP). The primary water source is from a lake, (Leac Cranail). The secondary water source is from a borehole in the vicinity of the WTP.

Treatment at the WTP consists of pre-treatment through a pressurised multi-media filter, followed by UV treatment and chlorination.

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 the primary and secondary water sources.



1.1

	Answer
Is the abstraction source(s) adequately protected against contamination?	No
Comment	
1. The EDEN website states that the raw water source is from 6 boreholes. The pre-audit information that was provided stated the same, however, at the time of the audit Uisce Éireann stated that the primary raw water source had changed and was from a lake source (Leac Crannail). Reverse Osmosis is no longer part of the treatment process. 2. Water for treatment from Leac Crannail is directed to an open concrete holding basin from where it is pumped to holding tanks at the water treatment plant. Uisce Éireann advised that this new primary source of water supplies in the region of 90% of the water for Inishere. 3. An agricultural cattle crush is located adjacent to the holding basin and pipework associated with the raw water was not adequately fenced off from livestock. 4. The secondary water source is a groundwater source from the vicinity of the water treatment plant. This source is in a limestone area and is affected by the seawater. Uisce Eireann advised that the top layer of this water is used where the non salinated water collects. This source is prone to flooding in bad weather and the surrounding area is submerged in water. Uisce Éireann stated that the second source is being phased out due to high salinity and poor return during dry periods. 5. Uisce Eireann indicated that the water supply is not able to deal with the demand for water in peak and busy seasons. To counteract this, water is tankered in from Spiddal PWS. Recommendation: 1. Ensure that all information on EDEN for Inishere is up to date e.g. water sources and treatment processes. 2. Ensure abstraction sources are adequately protected against contamination. 3. Ensure pipework at primary source is securely protected from livestock. 4. Investigate the feasibility of enhancing the water supply to address the lack of resilience of the supply to cope with water demands at all times.	



2.1

Is there a documented alarm response procedure?

Answer

No

Comment

1. There was no documented site specific alarm procedure in place at the water treatment plant setting out how alarms should be responded to and acted on, in order to protect water quality and public health.

Recommendation:

5. Put in place a site specific documented procedure at the WTP for: (i) responding to and escalating all alarms generated at the water treatment plant and, (ii) verifying alarms and inhibits status following maintenance or other work at the WTP. The procedure should clearly document the corrective actions and set out delegation of responsibilities. WTP should be adequately staffed and all relevant staff must be trained on the documented alarm response procedures.

2.2

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

Answer

No

Comment

1. On the day of the audit the final water turbidity inhibit set point was set at 3.0 NTU for 3 mins. The plant operator changed this setting on the day to 1.0 NTU.

Recommendation:

6. Ensure that the final water turbidity monitors are set in accordance with the *EPA Water Treatment Manual: Filtration*.

2.3

Are suitable controls in place to prevent accidental or unauthorised changes to alarm or inhibit settings?

Answer

No

Comment

1. There were no passwords required to access WTPs controls.

Recommendation:

7. a) Ensure suitable controls are in place to prevent accidental or unauthorised changes to alarm or inhibit settings. b) Maintain a record of all changes to alarms and inhibit settings which should be available for inspection.

2.4

Are critical treatment processes operational?

Answer

No

Comment

1. At the time of the audit, Uisce Éireann advised that the Reverse Osmosis treatment process had not been in use since January 2025 and was no longer being used at the plant due to the change of the new raw water supply. This information was not provided prior to the audit and was not reflected in the plant schematic provided.

Recommendation:

8. Submit an updated plant schematic to include all active processes and the change in water supply.

2.5

Are instrument calibrations within date?

Answer

No

Comment

1. On the day of the audit, Instrument calibrations were not within their calibration date e.g Turbidity monitor, pH monitor. Uisce Éireann stated that the calibrations for all monitors are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.

Recommendation:

9. Ensure all plant monitors are calibrated in accordance with manufacturers instructions, and clearly labelled to show the date of calibration and the next 'calibration due by' date.

2.6

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

Answer

No

Comment

1. Uisce Éireann advised that a source and sanitary survey was not carried out on the new raw water source (Leac Crannail), to determine the protozoal log treatment required.

2. There is one duty UV unit at the WTP i.e no standby unit in place.

3. A copy of the UV validation certificate was not available at the audit to confirm the validation criteria for the UV unit or verify that the UV unit was being operated within the validation criteria range.

Recommendations:

10. Carry out a source and sanitary survey on the new raw water source. Confirm the protozoal log treatment requirement for the plant and how any log treatment deficit, if exists, will be addressed.

11. Ensure monitoring for Cryptosporidium is carried out, as per Uisce Éireann's Rationale for Determining the Frequency of Cryptosporidium in Public Water Supplies, until a verified protozoal barrier is in place that addresses the log treatment requirement.

12. Submit a copy of UV validation certificate.

13. Install a standby UV disinfection unit with automatic switchover in place at the treatment plant in the event of failure of one of the UV disinfection units.

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.