

Local Authority Monitoring Programme Audit Report

Under the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023*, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervisory authority in relation to all local authority’s monitoring functions of regulated private drinking water supplies. This audit was carried out to assess the performance of Kildare County Council in carrying out its 2023 compliance monitoring programme of regulated private supplies in its functional area.

The audit process is a sample of the performance of a local authority in carrying out its monitoring functions of regulated private drinking water supplies.

Audit Detail	
Date of Audit	09/10/2024
Local Authority	Kildare County Council
Representing the Local Authority	Chris Galvin, Killian Harte, Marian Higgins, Michael Seery.
Representing the HSE	Margaret Byrne.
EPA Inspectors	Derval Devaney, Lisa Noone, Michelle Roche.

Report Detail	
Audit Specification	2023 Regulated Private Drinking Water Supply Compliance Monitoring Programme and Regulated Private Drinking Water Supply Register
Issue Date	09/12/2024
Prepared By	Derval Devaney, Inspector, EPA

> Report Main Findings and Recommendations

The audit of Kildare County Council's 2023 Compliance Monitoring Programme found the Council was fulfilling its roles and responsibilities as the supervisory authority of private water supplies. Kildare County Council was continually updating its Register of Private Water Supplies and was actively enforcing the private water supply sector including providing advice and guidance and inspection of those supplies failing to meet drinking water quality standards. Kildare County Council also regularly communicated with the HSE regarding supplies of concern. There were, however, some improvements identified during the audit for action as follows:

1. The Private Supply Register was incorporated into the Compliance Monitoring Programme and should be a standalone document.
2. There was a lack of pre-determined sampling locations and dates selected by Kildare County Council, to ensure samples are spatially and temporally distributed and representative of the water supply zones throughout the year.
3. Kildare County Council did not monitor all private water supplies at their required frequencies for Group A and Group B parameters. Sampling for Group A parameters was not undertaken for 22% of regulated private water supplies and sampling for Group B parameters was not undertaken for 82% of regulated private water supplies.

> Introduction

Each local authority is required under Regulation 13 of the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)* to establish a Compliance Monitoring Programme and monitor all Private Water Supplies in its functional area, other than exempted supplies, to determine whether they comply with the standards and other requirements of the Regulations.

This audit was carried out in accordance with Regulation 30(3) of the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)*, to assess the performance by Kildare County Council of its statutory functions in relation to the monitoring of regulated Private Water Supplies to ensure the provision of clean and wholesome drinking water.

Prior to the audit, the EPA assessed the 2023 compliance monitoring returns, submitted to the EPA by Kildare County Council, to identify any areas of discrepancy between the required number of samples to be taken and analysed and that reported to EPA. Kildare County Council staff were interviewed to ascertain the principles and methodology for establishing its Private Supply Register and Compliance Monitoring Programme.



1.1

	Answer
Does the Private Supply Register contain all that is required by Regulation 14(5) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ?	Yes
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Kildare County Council's Private Water Supply Register was merged with its annual Compliance Monitoring Programme. For the purposes of meeting the requirements of Regulation 14(5) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023</i> the Register should be maintained as a standalone document.2. Kildare County Council's Private Water Supply Register contains 80 regulated private water supplies, made up of 21 public group water schemes (PUGs), 5 private group water schemes (PRGs), and 54 small private supplies (SPS; supplies serving a commercial or public activity such as hotels, crèches, schools, and restaurants, etc.).3. Kildare County Council carries out regular reviews of its Private Supply Register. During 2023 Kildare County Council wrote to premises which may operate a small water private water supply to obtain details to satisfy Regulation 14(5) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023</i>.4. Kildare County Council maintains a record of its communications with private water suppliers and potential private water suppliers and has a process to indicate when details pertaining to each private water supply was last updated in its Register.	



2.1

	Answer
Have sampling locations been pre-determined for each water supply zone as required by Regulation 13(6) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ?	No
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Sampling locations were not randomly selected and pre-determined by Kildare County Council at the start of 2023 and were not entered into the 2023 Compliance Monitoring Programme.2. The Health Service Executive (HSE) undertook the sampling of private supplies on behalf of Kildare County Council in 2023.3. The locations for sampling during 2023 were selected by the HSE based on the sampler's knowledge of the water supply zone.4. Sample analysis is contracted out to a laboratory for accredited analysis.	

2.2

	Answer
Are sampling locations evenly distributed for each water supply zone and do they represent the quality of water throughout the year as required by Regulation 13(8) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ?	No
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The sampling locations within a water supply zone were not always evenly distributed.2. For example, Pumphouse Narraghmore was used as the sampling location for four of the five compliance samples taken on the Narraghmore/Lipstown PRG during 2023. Also, the Military Camp The Curragh PRG was sampled for compliance purposes four times during 2023. The supply serves a national school and a housing estate, yet these premises were omitted from the 2023 compliance sampling. Instead, repeat samples were taken at Centra Shop and at the Fire Station on this supply.3. The pre-determined compliance plan did not contain the timing (date/month) that sampling is to take place, to ensure sampling events are evenly spread throughout the year.4. The sample location is not recorded (e.g. a Grid reference/GPS location /Eircode) once sampling is complete. This should be incorporated into the sampling process to ensure sample locations can be mapped electronically to verify an even distribution of samples within the water supply zone.5. Kildare County Council has mapped all PUG and PRG Water Supply Zones and the location of SPSs throughout the county.	

	Answer
Was the required compliance monitoring for regulated private supplies undertaken during 2023 as required by Regulation 13(5) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ??	No
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kildare County Council's 2023 Compliance Monitoring Plan did not include the water supply's treatment type, to inform if parameters are required to be monitored under the Group A or Group B compliance monitoring frequency. The 2024 Compliance Monitoring programme however was updated to include this information on treatment type. 2. Kildare County Council's 2023 Compliance Monitoring Plan did not set out the correct number of Group A and Group B compliance samples to be taken for regulated private water supplies. 3. Kildare County Council had several shortfalls in their 2023 compliance monitoring. For example: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) There were 130 Group A sample events during 2023. This resulted in an estimated Group A sampling shortfall of 22%. b) Every regulated private water supply in Kildare County Council's functional area was due to have one Group B sample taken during 2023. Monitoring of Group B parameters was only carried out in 14 out of the 80 Private Water Supplies. This resulted in a shortfall of 66 Group B samples in Private Water Supplies as a whole in 2023. c) Kildare County Council carried out significant work during 2023 to identify private water supplies and added 11 additional PUGs to its Register during 2023. It stated it only had the capacity in 2023 to carry out one compliance (Group A) sample for each of those newly added supplies. d) Taste and Odour results were not submitted to the EPA during 2023 for any private water supply. The HSE sampler undertakes this test out at the time of sampling, and it was not tested or reported by the accredited laboratory during 2023. 4. Kildare County Council stated that the number of Group A and Group B samples had significantly increased in the 2024 sampling programme. And the 2025 sampling programme will show a further increase in monitoring, that plans to meet the required number of compliance samples to be taken in accordance with the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023</i>. 	



3.1

	Answer
Was 2023 data for Private Water Supplies reported accurately to the EPA (on EDEN) as required by Section 58 of <i>The EPA Act 1992 to 2007</i> ?	No
Observation	
<p>1. Information provided by Kildare County Council to the EPA via the EDEN portal does not reflect what is recorded in the Private Supply Register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) EDEN documents 69 regulated private supplies under the remit of Kildare County Council. Kildare County Council's 2023 Register differs, listing 80 regulated private supplies. Kildare County Council advised that the discrepancy was due to Kildare County Council's work to identify additional regulated supplies in its functional area during 2023 and EDEN would be updated in 2025 to reflect this work.b) The volume of water supplied differed slightly between the two datasets for some supplies e.g., EDEN data suggests that Bishopstown PUG supply volume is 43 m³/day, however Kildare County Council's 2023 Register states a daily volume of 32 m³/day.c) Population is recorded for all Private Water Supplies in data submitted to EDEN, however this data has not been updated in several years by Kildare County Council. Kildare County Council is currently carrying out a review of this data and has written to SPSs to verify populations served.d) The type of treatment was absent for 26 private water supplies in EDEN, e.g. Bishopscourt PUG and Lodge Park PRG. And treatment was incorrect for some supplies listed in EDEN (for example, Broadford National School has UV and an Iron and Manganese filter, but EDEN records show a softener as the only form of treatment).e) Lodge Park was listed as a PUG on Kildare County Council's 2023 Register but as a PRG on EDEN. <p>2. Some parameters' monitoring categories (Group A and Group B) were incorrectly categorised on the 2023 compliance monitoring returns submitted to the EPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Some parameters were categorised incorrectly as a Group A parameter. For example, nitrite was classed as a Group A parameter for Bishopstown PUG. As this supply does not have chloramination treatment, nitrite should be monitored as a Group B parameter and categorised as such in EDEN.b) Some parameters (e.g. E. coli, coliform bacteria, and turbidity) were categorised as both Group A and Group B parameters in EDEN, when they are a Group A parameter only (for example in the case of monitoring for Narraghmore/Lipstown PRG).	



2023 Monitoring Programme Audit Recommendations

Kildare County Council is responsible for undertaking compliance monitoring of regulated private drinking water supplies and should implement the following recommendations without delay:

1. Record, as a standalone document, all relevant information pertaining to each active Private Water Supply for the purposes of the register required by *14(5) of the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)*. Continue to ensure that the register is accurate, up-to-date, and appropriately maintained in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations. Continue to ensure documentation relating the upkeep of the Register is maintained.
2.
 - a) Specify the sampling locations in the predetermined Compliance Monitoring Programme in accordance with *Regulation 13(6) of the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)*. Ensure sampling locations chosen represent the entire water supply zone as accurately as possible;
 - b) Specify when sampling is to take place (day/month) in the predetermined Compliance Monitoring Programme;
 - c) The spread of sample days, timing, and location of samples within a monitoring programme should be as wide as possible to ensure that compliance samples are representative of water quality consumed throughout the year as required by *Regulation 13(8) of the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)*.
3. Review the temporal and spatial distribution of sampling for compliance monitoring of Public and Private Group Water Schemes. A formal and structured method of assessment should be developed and implemented by Kildare County Council. The process should include documenting sampling locations during each sampling event and mapping the locations within the water supply zone annually.
4.
 - a) Ensure that all regulated private supplies are monitored for compliance for the required Group A and B parameters at their required frequencies in accordance with the requirements of the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)*;
 - b) Taste and odour results should be included in the accredited analysis submitted to the EPA annually.
5. Ensure data on regulated private water supplies entered into the EPA's database, EDEN, is accurate, correctly categorised and updated annually. The results of all Group A and Group B compliance samples required to be taken should be uploaded to EDEN to ensure there is no annual shortfall in compliance monitoring.