# 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** | Mountrath PWS |
| **Organisation** | Uisce Éireann |
| **Scheme Code** | 1600PUB1054 |
| **County** | Laois |
| **Site Visit Reference No.** | SV32988 |

## Report Detail

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|---|---|
| **Issue Date** | 10/10/2025 |
| **Prepared By** | Lisa Noone |

## Site Visit Detail

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Date Of Inspection** | 10/09/2025 | **Announced** | Yes |
| **Time In** | 10:30 | **Time Out** | 11:55 |
| **EPA Inspector(s)** <br><br> **Additional Visitors** | Lisa Noone | | |
| **Company Personnel** | Uisce Éireann: Linda Doran, Maria Lloyd <br> Laois County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Tom O'Carroll, Declan Carroll, Brendan Garry | | |

## Summary of Key Findings

1. Knocks Water Treatment Plant serving Mountrath Public Water Supply was operating satisfactorily at the time of the audit.

2. The site specific incident escalation flowchart on display at the plant requires updating.

## Introduction

Mountrath Public Water Supply (PWS) supplies an average of 500m3 of water per day from Knocks Water Treatment Plant, serving a population of approximately 2,000 people. Raw water is abstracted from two boreholes, one of which is located on site at the treatment plant. Treatment consists of chlorination, with treated water stored in an off-site reservoir.

The audit was undertaken to assess Uisce Éireann's performance in producing clean and wholesome water with a focus on the alarms and inhibits in place at the WTP and the procedures in place to ensure appropriate oversight of treatment processes.

## Supply Zones Areas Inspected

All treatment processes at Knocks WTP were inspected as part of the audit.

## 1. Alarms, Inhibits & Oversight Audits 2025

|  |  | **Answer** |
|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | Is there a documented site specific incident response and incident escalation process? | Yes |

| **Comment** |
|---|
| 1. The Uisce Éireann incident escalation flowchart was displayed at the WTP.<br><br>2. The flowchart included a site-specific trigger level of 0.5 mg/l for chlorine residual post-contact time (Ct). This value was not consistent with the Ct calculation established for Knocks WTP, and therefore does not reflect the operational parameters for the site.<br><br>3. Site-specific contact information was also not up-to-date. |

|  |  | **Answer** |
|---|---|---|
| 1.2 | Are there appropriate procedures covering verification of alarms and inhibits status following maintenance or other work on site? | No |

## Recommendations

| Subject | Mountrath PWS Audit Recommendations | Due Date | 10/11/2025 |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Action Text** | **Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendations without delay.**<br><br>1. Ensure that the Uisce Éireann Incident Communication Response Guidance Form displayed at the WTP contains site specific information including contacts for escalation and relevant site specific trigger levels protecting critical processes at the WTP.<br>2. Develop a procedure and deliver appropriate training covering the verification of alarms/shutdowns status following maintenance or other works completed at the treatment plant. This procedure should clearly document the corrective actions and set out delegation of responsibilities.<br><br>**Actions required by Uisce Éireann**<br><br>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.<br><br>Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before the above due date detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the above recommendations.<br><br>The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this audit report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies. | | |