

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	South West Regional PWS
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	1900PUB1056
County	Limerick
Site Visit Reference No.	SV33223

Report Detail	
Issue Date	04/11/2025
Prepared By	Orla Harrington

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	16/10/2025	Announced	Yes
Time In	09:50	Time Out	11:00
EPA Inspector(s)	Orla Harrington		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Tommy Roche, Ted Ahern, Dominic Hayes, Anthony Donnelly.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. Uisce Éireann has addressed a number of the recommendations from the previous EPA audit of South West Regional Public Water Supply carried out on 23/01/2023, covering completion of upgrade works to the chlorination disinfection system, drinking water source protection and the provision of critical alarms and inhibits. However, other recommendations relating to protozoal log treatment requirement at the plant remain outstanding.
2. The protozoal log treatment requirement for the spring sources has not yet been defined by Uisce Éireann. Uisce Éireann is carrying out monthly *Cryptosporidium* monitoring at the water treatment plant and there have been no detections to date.

> Introduction

South West Regional Public Water Supply (PWS) serves a population of approximately 4,336 people. Water is abstracted from four spring sources (referred to as the Tobergal Springs) at two locations approximately 150m southwest of the water treatment plant. The combined raw water is gravity fed to the plant where pipes split the flow prior to entry. The raw water undergoes disinfection by chlorination and treated water is then piped to Gurranes and Mountplummer before distribution. Raw water is piped to Castlemahon which augments the Newcastle West PWS.

The audit was undertaken to follow up on progress of the recommendations from the previous EPA audit in January 2023.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The spring sources and areas of the water treatment plant were inspected to assess works carried out by Uisce Éireann based on the findings of the previous EPA audit.



1. Management and Control

1.1

Has the protozoal compliance log treatment requirement been identified for the water treatment plant?

Answer

No

Comment

1. On the 22/11/2022 the EPA was notified of the detection of *Cryptosporidium* (0.01/10L) in the treated water at South West Regional water treatment plant from a sample taken on the 16/11/2022.

2. The spring sources that supply the plant are treated via chlorination only. As chlorination does not provide an adequate form of treatment or barrier to the parasite *Cryptosporidium*, following the EPA's audit on 14/12/2022, Uisce Éireann commenced *Cryptosporidium* sampling at the plant in line with *Uisce Éireann's Rationale for Determining the Frequency of Cryptosporidium in Public Water Supplies*. The sampling has not shown any detections of *Cryptosporidium* to date.

3. Uisce Éireann advised that limited raw water sampling has been completed at this source to date. Raw water monitoring will resume in Quarter 1 2026 and this data will be used to determine the protozoal log treatment requirement.

1.2

Have the recommendations from the previous EPA audit been satisfactorily addressed?

Answer

No

Comment

1. The previous EPA audit report, from an audit carried out on 23/01/2023, contained six recommendations, most of which were reported by Uisce Éireann as completed and were verified during this inspection.

2. Recommendations linked to the protozoal barrier remained during the audit.

Log Credits: (i) confirm the protozoal log treatment requirement for the spring sources following completion of sanitary survey; (ii) provide details on how the protozoal log deficit will be addressed and (iii) ensure Cryptosporidium monitoring is undertaken as per Uisce Éireann's Rationale for Determining the Frequency of Cryptosporidium Monitoring in Public Supplies until the protozoal log deficit is addressed.

Uisce Éireann has not identified the protozoal compliance log treatment requirement for the plant. Uisce Éireann will continue to monitor monthly for *Cryptosporidium* until any log deficit is addressed. This recommendation has been included in this report for ease of reporting and tracking.

Recommendations

Subject	South West Regional PWS -Audit Report	Due Date	05/12/2025
Action Text	<p>Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the following recommendations without delay.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. (i) Confirm the protozoal log treatment requirement for the spring sources following completion of the sanitary survey; (ii) provide details on how the protozoal log deficit will be addressed and (iii) ensure <i>Cryptosporidium</i> monitoring is undertaken in accordance with the <i>Uisce Éireann Rationale for Determining the Frequency of Cryptosporidium in Public Water Supplies</i>.2. Inform the HSE of the absence of a protozoal barrier at the South West Regional water treatment plant. <p>Actions required by Uisce Éireann</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 05/12/2025 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the above recommendations.</p> <p>The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this audit report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies.</p>		