

Site Visit Report

Under the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 as amended, the Environmental Protection Agency is the supervisory authority in relation to Irish Water and its role in the provision of public water supplies. This Audit was carried out to assess the performance of Irish Water in providing clean and wholesome water to the visited public supply.

The audit process is a sample on a given date of the facility's operation. Where a finding against a particular issue has been reported this should not be construed to mean that this issue is fully addressed.

Water Supply Zone	
Name of Installation	Charlestown PWS
Organisation	Irish Water
Scheme Code	2200PUB1010
County	Mayo
Site Visit Reference No.	SV20162

Report Detail	
Issue Date	30/03/2020
Prepared By	Michelle Roche

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	04/03/2020	Announced	Yes
Time In	12:30	Time Out	13:30
EPA Inspector(s)	Michelle Roche Daryl Gunning		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Irish Water: Pat O'Sullivan and Tommy Kearney. Mayo County Council: Eileen Cavanagh, Brian Conmy, Eddie Munnelly, Deirdre Beattie and Sean Forkan.		

> Summary of Key Findings

- 1) The Charlestown water treatment plant was operating effectively at the time of the audit. Disinfection controls and alarms were both adequate and being adhered to.
- 2) Network chlorine residual monitoring is carried out approximately once every two weeks. Irish Water should increase the frequency of network chlorine residual monitoring to every 2-3 days in order to detect any potential drinking water quality issues in the distribution network, as early as possible.
- 3) The Charlestown reservoir had a significant amount of moss and weed growth on the roof of the reservoir. Irish Water should ensure the reservoir roof is cleaned and maintained free of vegetation growth in order to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir and ensure roots do not introduce a pathway for contamination into the reservoir.

> Introduction

The Charlestown public water supply is sourced from a piped spring source which is gravity fed to the Charlestown water treatment plant. The raw water is disinfected with sodium hypochlorite and pumped to the reservoir. The supply provides approximately 700m³/day to the Charlestown area and a number of small public group water schemes. The Charlestown supply is also currently providing an additional 250m³/day to Ballaghy in County Sligo. The additional volume supplied to Ballaghy is allowing approximately 460 people to be excluded from a boil water notice on the Lough Talt supply in County Sligo.

The audit was carried out as a routine audit to assess the performance of Irish Water in providing clean and wholesome drinking water in the Charlestown public water supply.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The landscape where the spring source is piped, the chlorination treatment and the reservoir were inspected as part of the Charlestown public water supply audit.



1. Source Protection

		Answer
1.1	Is the abstraction source(s) adequately protected against contamination?	Yes
Comment		
<p>The Charlestown source is a spring source from a sand and gravel aquifer. The spring is piped via an enclosed pipe through the sand and gravels directly into the water treatment plant. There were no obvious signs of surface water ingress into the raw water source.</p> <p>Raw water monitoring results taken twice a month during 2018 and 2019 were inspected during the audit. E. coli is rarely detected in the raw water, and any detections have been less than 4 MPN/100ml. Cryptosporidium has never been detected in the raw water. Mayo County Council will continue to sample the raw water twice a month into the future.</p>		



2. Reservoirs and Distribution Networks

2.1

Are reservoirs adequately inspected and maintained?

Answer

No

Comment

The reservoir was cleaned internally in June 2019. On the day of the audit a significant amount of moss and weeds were growing on the roof of the reservoir. The top of reservoir should be kept clear of vegetation in order to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir and ensure no contamination can enter the treated water.

Recommendations

Subject	Charlestown Audit Recommendations	Due Date	30/04/2020
Action Text	<p data-bbox="272 342 533 376">Recommendation(s)</p> <ol data-bbox="300 456 1433 898" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="300 456 1433 607">1. Irish Water should continue their raw water monitoring programme for the spring source, including E.coli and Cryptosporidium monitoring. Irish Water should investigate any detections of E.coli in the raw water. Irish Water should notify the EPA and HSE of any detections of Cryptosporidium in the raw water, given that there is no treatment barrier for Cryptosporidium at Charlestown water treatment plant.<li data-bbox="300 629 1433 779">2. Irish Water should review the network chlorine residual monitoring programme to ensure that the frequency and sample locations are sufficient to verify that at least 0.1mg/l free residual chlorine is present at the extremities of the distribution network, for adequate disinfection of the water supply. Irish Water should aim to monitor network chlorine residuals every 2-3 days.<li data-bbox="300 801 1433 898">3. Irish Water should ensure that the roof of the reservoir is cleaned and maintained free of vegetation growth to protect the structural integrity of the reservoir and ensure that roots do not introduce a pathway for contamination of the reservoir. <p data-bbox="272 976 810 1010">Follow-Up Actions required by Irish Water</p> <p data-bbox="272 1032 1433 1093">During the audit, Irish Water representatives were advised of the audit findings and that action must be taken as a priority by Irish Water to address the issues raised.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1122 1433 1155">This report has been reviewed and approved by Aoife Loughnane, Drinking Water Team Leader.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1178 1433 1238">Irish Water should submit a report to the Agency on or before 30th April 2020 detailing how it has dealt with the issues of concern identified during this audit.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1261 1433 1321">The report should include details on the action taken and planned to address the various recommendations, including time frame for commencement and completion of any planned work.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1350 1433 1411">The EPA also advises that the findings and recommendations from this audit report should, where relevant, be addressed at all other treatment plants operated and managed by Irish Water.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1440 1433 1500">Please quote the Action Reference Number in any future correspondence in relation to this Report.</p>		