

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	Drumcondrath
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	2300PUB1005
County	Meath
Site Visit Reference No.	SV28205

Report Detail	
Issue Date	25/10/2023
Prepared By	Lorcan Farrell

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	22/09/2023	Announced	Yes
Time In	10:30	Time Out	12:15
EPA Inspector(s)	Lorcan Farrell		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Daniel Behan, Stephen Brennan, Edward Haythornthwaite, Dermot McCormack. Meath County Council (Working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Conor Grey, Helen McDonnell, Norbert McMahon, Christina Sweeney.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. Uisce Éireann has not complied with the EPA's Regulation 16(1) Direction, issued on 16/04/2021, requiring upgrade of the water treatment plant or replacement from an alternative source such that the drinking water supplied to consumers on Drumcondrath Public Water Supply (PWS) complies with the trihalomethane (THM) parametric value by 30/06/2023.
2. Trihalomethane levels in Drumcondrath PWS continue to breach the 100ug/l parametric value set out in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 as Amended and 2023.

> Introduction

Drumcondrath PWS serves a population of 1,151 (EDEN figure) and is supplied by Drumcondrath (Loughbracken) Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which produces approximately 586 m³/day. The treatment plant sources its water from Lough Bracken and two boreholes located adjacent to the treatment plant. Treatment consists of chlorination prior to filtration for manganese and iron oxidation (borehole water only), pressure filtration (borehole and lake water filtered separately), granulated activated carbon filtration (lake supply only), final water chlorination and fluoridation.

Drumcondrath PWS is on the EPA's Remedial Action List (RAL) for public water supplies due to inadequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium* and elevated levels of THM above the 100ug/l parametric limit set out in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 as Amended and 2023. There have been failures of the THM parametric value detected within the supply dating back to March 2009. An Uisce Éireann RAL action programme with a proposed completion date of 30/06/2026 is in place to address the inadequate treatment of *Cryptosporidium* and the elevated levels of THM within the supply.

The purpose of the audit was to determine progress with the EPA's Regulation 16(1) Direction issued to Uisce Éireann on 16/04/2021 requiring upgrade of the water treatment plant or replacement from an alternative source such that the drinking water supplied to consumers complies with the THM parametric value by 30/06/2023.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The audit consisted of interviews with Uisce Éireann and Meath County Council staff at Drumcondrath WTP.



1. Site Specific Issues

1.1

	Answer
Has Uisce Éireann complied with the Direction by the deadline 30/06/2023?	No
Comment	
<p>1. Uisce Éireann has not complied with the EPA's Regulation 16(1) Direction, issued on 16/04/2021, requiring upgrade of the water treatment plant or replacement from an alternative source such that the drinking water supplied to consumers on Drumcondrath Public Water Supply (PWS) complies with the THM parametric value by 30/06/2023. Uisce Éireann confirmed at the audit that the proposed date of completion of remedial works under the RAL action programme is 30/06/2026 which is beyond the Direction deadline of 30/06/2023.</p> <p>2. Exceedances of the THM parametric value continue to occur in Drumcondrath PWS. Three exceedances have occurred in 2023, the latest of which was from a sample take on 05/10/2023, after the Direction deadline had passed.</p> <p>3. THM exceedances recorded in 2023 were as follows: 124.2ug/l (31/01/2023), 101.2ug/l (20/06/2023) and 103.7ug.l (05/10/2023).</p> <p>4. The scope of works under the RAL action programme was discussed at the audit and includes the development of two new groundwater sources, a new raw water main to connect the new sources to the treatment plant and the upgrade of the current treatment plant.</p> <p>5. Uisce Éireann and Meath County Council confirmed that the new groundwater sources have been established and assessed to be suitable as sources for the upgraded treatment plant, the route of the raw water main connecting the boreholes to the treatment plant has been selected and that the design of treatment plant upgrades has been developed.</p> <p>6. Uisce Éireann confirmed at the audit that statutory processes including planning permission and land acquisition/wayleaves were required for works under the RAL action programme to advance further. No dates were available for when these processes would be completed as they are outside the control of Uisce Éireann. However, Uisce Éireann confirmed that the current proposed date of completion under the RAL action programme of 30/06/2026 remains the best available estimate for the completion of works when compared with projects of similar complexity completed to date. No breakdown of projected delivery timeframes for the remaining phases of the RAL action programme, outside the statutory processes discussed, was available at the audit.</p> <p>7. Information submitted after the audit confirmed that a planning application was lodged with Meath County Council on the 21/08/2023 for the proposed upgrade works however this application was invalidated with Uisce Éireann intending to submit a new application imminently.</p>	

Recommendations

Subject	Drumcondrath - Audit Recommendations	Due Date	24/11/2023
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. Complete the proposed upgrade works under the RAL action programme.2. Submit a breakdown of projected delivery timeframes for the remaining phases of the RAL action programme upgrade works. <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 24/11/2023 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>		