

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	Lobinstown
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	2300PUB1058
County	Meath
Site Visit Reference No.	SV29687

Report Detail	
Issue Date	13/02/2024
Prepared By	Lorcan Farrell

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	07/02/2024	Announced	Yes
Time In	11:35	Time Out	12:10
EPA Inspector(s)	Lorcan Farrell		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Jamie Blacoe, Joseph Moran. Meath County Council (Working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Willie Fay, Helen McDonnell, Joe McDermott, Norbert McMahon.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. The audit found that Lobinstown Water Treatment Plant (WTP) was operating satisfactorily on the day of the audit.
2. A communications issue is preventing the transmission of trended information between the treatment plant and the county SCADA system.

> Introduction

Lobinstown Public Water Supply serves a population of approximately 45 people and is supplied by Lobinstown WTP which produces approximately 12-13 m³/day depending on demand. These figures are not reflective of the supply population or volume noted on the EPA EDEN website. The treatment plant sources its water from a single borehole with treatment consisting of UV disinfection only.

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 treatment plant and the procedures in place to ensure appropriate oversight of treatment processes.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The audit included a site tour of Lobinstown WTP.



1. Alarms, Inhibits & Oversight Audits 2024

	Answer
1.1	Were online monitors within their calibration dates?
	No
Comment	
1. The turbidity monitor in place at the treatment plant was not within its calibration date by a small margin. Meath County Council confirmed that servicing of the turbidity monitor was due to take place imminently.	

	Answer
1.2	Are plant performance trends accessible remotely?
	No
Comment	
1. Plant performance trends are available on the HMI at the treatment plant. However, communication issues specific to Lobinstown WTP prevent the transmission of trended information from the HMI to county SCADA system. Meath County Council confirmed that the issue has been escalated to Uisce Éireann for resolution under the Uisce Éireann Disinfection Programme. No timescales were available for when the issue would be resolved.	
2. Plant performance trends are not available to operational staff remotely due to the communications issue between the treatment plant and county SCADA. Meath County Council confirmed that when the communications issue is resolved operational staff will have access to trended data remotely via phone.	
3. Meath County Council confirmed that dial-out of alarms and inhibits at the treatment plant are unaffected by the communications issue between the treatment plant and county SCADA.	

Recommendations

Subject	Lobinstown Audit Recommendations	Due Date	13/03/2024
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. Resolve the communications issue between Lobinstown Water Treatment Plant and the county SCADA system to ensure that operational and supervisory staff have remote access to plant performance trends to assist in the protection of treatment barriers.2. Service the turbidity monitor in place at the treatment plant.3. Update EDEN with the correct population and volume distributed for the supply. <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 13/03/2024 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>		