

Local Authority Monitoring Programme Audit Report

Under the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023*, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the supervisory authority in relation to Local Authority’s monitoring functions of regulated private drinking water supplies. This audit was carried out to assess the performance of Sligo County Council in carrying out its 2024 compliance monitoring programme of regulated private supplies in its functional area.

The audit process is a sample of the performance of a local authority in carrying out its monitoring functions of regulated private drinking water supplies.

Audit Detail	
Date of Audit	16 th July 2025
Local Authority	Sligo County Council
Representing the Local Authority	Jim Molloy (closing meeting only), Kieran O’Gorman, Enda Killoran, Sharon Mc Keon.
EPA Inspectors	Derval Devaney (lead auditor), Lisa Noone (auditor).

Report Detail	
Audit Specification	2024 Regulated Private Drinking Water Supply Compliance Monitoring Programme and Regulated Private Drinking Water Supply Register
Issue Date	12 th September 2025
Prepared By	Derval Devaney, Inspector, EPA

> Summary of Key Findings

The audit of Sligo County Council's 2024 Compliance Monitoring Programme found the Council was actively fulfilling its roles and responsibilities as the supervisory authority of private water supplies. Sligo County Council also regularly communicates with the HSE and water supplier regarding monitoring results and supplies of concern.

Nonetheless, the audit identified some areas of improvement for which Sligo County Council should take appropriate action, as outlined below:

1. Sligo County Council has identified a list of potential small private supplies (SPSs) serving vulnerable groups - such as crèches, schools, and nursing homes – but has yet to make contact with them to confirm their supply source and ensure inclusion in the Private Supply Register for monitoring, if warranted.
2. Data recorded in Sligo County Council's register was not accurately aligned with the information maintained on the EPA's EDEN system.

> Introduction

Each Local Authority is required under Regulation 13 of the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)* to establish a Compliance Monitoring Programme and monitor all Private Water Supplies in its functional area, other than exempted supplies, to determine whether they comply with the standards and other requirements of the Regulations.

This audit was carried out in accordance with Regulation 30(3) of the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)*, to assess the performance by Sligo County Council of its statutory functions in relation to the monitoring of regulated Private Water Supplies to ensure the provision of clean and wholesome drinking water.

Prior to the audit, the EPA assessed the 2024 monitoring returns submitted to the EPA by Sligo County Council to identify any areas of discrepancy between the required number of samples to be taken and analysed, and that reported to EPA. Using a questionnaire as a guide, Sligo County Council staff were interviewed to ascertain the principles and methodology for establishing its Private Supply Register and Compliance Monitoring Programme.



Register of Private Drinking Water Supplies

1.1

	Answer
Does the Private Supply Register contain all that is required by Regulation 14(5) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ?	Yes
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sligo County Council has 25 regulated private water supplies on its current Register, made up of 4 public group water schemes (PUGs), 13 private group water schemes (PRGs), and 8 small private supplies (SPS; supplies serving a commercial or public activity such as hotels, crèches, schools, and restaurants, etc.). The register lacked details on the raw water sources for PUGs, listing only the name of the originating public water supply instead. 	

1.2

	Answer
Is the Private Supply Register maintained and kept up to date as required by Regulation 14(7) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ?	Yes
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Sligo County Council updates its register when new supplies are identified or when details of existing supplies - such as volume or treatment type - change. The Council also recognises the need to identify and register additional developments that may fall under the Drinking Water Regulations. The EPA contacted Sligo County Council on 03/10/2024 via a letter to the Director of Services stating that the number of SPSs registered in County Sligo is low when compared to other local authority areas of a similar size, and that it should take proactive steps to identify and register each SPS in its functional area. Sligo County Council has identified 44 creches and pre-schools and 7 nursing homes which could potentially be SPSs within its functional area. These additional potential SPSs, which are not on the register and which the EPA deem to be serving vulnerable populations, have yet to be contacted by Sligo County Council to determine their source of supply. Sligo County Council intends to give priority to these premises for inclusion in the register, where warranted. Sligo County Council also during 2024 identified other potential commercial SPS, such as wedding venues, which it has been in contact with to determine their source of supply. Sligo County Council's website has a dedicated webpage regarding regulated private water supplies; what defines them and what steps are to be taken to add them to their Register. An annual public notice is also published in local newspapers by Sligo County Council to highlight the requirement for regulated supplies to be included in the register for compliance monitoring. 	



2.1

	Answer
Have sampling locations been pre-determined for each water supply zone as required by Regulation 13(6) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ?	Yes
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Compliance Monitoring Programme for the year is determined by Sligo County Council and finalised as early as possible in the preceding year. 2. The sampling locations and type of sample (Group A/Group B) are pre-determined by Sligo County Council in advance of sampling. 3. Throughout 2024, the monthly sampling schedule was sent to the contracted samplers in advance to facilitate planning and coordination. 	

2.2

	Answer
Are sampling locations evenly distributed for each water supply zone and do they represent the quality of water throughout the year as required by Regulation 13(8) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ?	Yes
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The audit found that 2024 compliance samples were well distributed throughout the year. For Group Water Schemes, sampling covered multiple locations within each supply zone - including schools - to ensure vulnerable populations were included, which was noted as a positive action. 2. Sligo County Council has mapped all PUG and PRG Water Supply Zones and the location of the SPSs currently on its register. Some have yet to be mapped electronically, which Sligo County Council is progressing with the aim to be complete by the end of 2025. 3. During sampling events, the sample location is recorded, and more recently, the Eircode is also captured. Sligo County Council has mapped the 2024 compliance sampling locations, with plans to integrate this data and the water supply zones into iMaps. This will enable Sligo County Council to overlay sampling points with water supply zone boundaries to verify even spatial distribution across each zone. 4. Samplers are provided with hardcopy maps of the Group Water Scheme Water Supply Zones. 	

2.3

	Answer
Was the required compliance monitoring for regulated private supplies undertaken during 2024 as required by Regulation 13(5) of the <i>European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)</i> ??	Yes
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The audit, which reviewed a select number of supplies, did not identify shortfalls in the 2024 compliance monitoring programme. 	



3.1

	Answer
Was 2024 data for Private Water Supplies reported accurately to the EPA (on EDEN) as required by Section 58 of <i>The EPA Act 1992 to 2007</i> ?	No
Observation	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Some information provided by Sligo County Council to the EPA via the EDEN portal regarding private supplies differed to that which was in the register:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The volume of water supplied, and population served differed slightly between the two datasets for some supplies e.g., EDEN data suggests that Geevagh Highwood PRG supply volume is 730 m³/day and population 1,463, however the register contains a volume of 484.8 m³/day and a population of 606,b) Treatment type was omitted for the PUGs and referred to the public water supply (PWS) name instead. For example, the treatment type for Kilglass PUG was listed “as per Lough Easkey PWS”. And some SPSs had no treatment documented in EDEN.2. The parameters’ monitoring categories (Group A or Group B) for some supplies were incorrectly categorised on the 2024 compliance monitoring returns submitted to the EPA. For example, the Group B parameters were categorised incorrectly on EDEN as a Group A parameter.	



2024 Monitoring Programme Audit Recommendations

Sligo County Council is responsible for undertaking compliance monitoring of regulated private drinking water supplies and should implement the following recommendations without delay.

Private Water Supply Register

1.
 - a) Prioritise contacting the potential SPSs identified - such as crèches, schools, and nursing homes – serving vulnerable populations, to ensure their inclusion in the register if relevant.
 - b) Continue to record and retain ongoing documentation relating to the maintenance of the register and the identification of new supplies.
 - c) Ensure that the register is accurate, current, and properly maintained, and that it records all relevant information for each Private Water Supply in accordance with Regulation 14(5) of the *European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. No. 99 of 2023)*.

Compliance Monitoring Programme Review

2. Carry out an annual review of the temporal and spatial distribution of compliance monitoring sampling for both Public and Private Group Water Schemes using a structured assessment method, to ensure the requirements of *Regulation 13(8) of the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 (S.I. 99 of 2023)* are being met.

This process should include the continued documentation of sampling locations during each sampling event, with annual mapping of these locations within the respective water supply zones, and a commitment to maintaining and enhancing the Council's electronic mapping of Group Water Schemes' water supply zones.

EDEN Database

3. Ensure:
 - a) information on regulated private water supplies entered into the EPA's database, EDEN, is accurate, reflects the list of regulated supplies on the LA's register and continues to be updated annually, and
 - b) Group A and Group B parameters are tagged correctly on EDEN.