

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	Newport RWSS
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	2800PUB1004
County	Tipperary
Site Visit Reference No.	SV32624

Report Detail	
Issue Date	10/07/2025
Prepared By	David O'Malley

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	11/06/2025	Announced	Yes
Time In	13:20	Time Out	14:20
EPA Inspector(s)	David O'Malley		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Denis McGrath, Pierce Faherty. Tipperary County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Matt O'Leary.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* were detected in the final treated water from samples taken at the Newport public water supply on 08/04/2025 and the 23/04/2025 both at (0.006 count/no. per 10L). Following consultation with the HSE, follow up sampling was undertaken and both samples subsequently came back clear. The cause of the *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* detection has not been identified following investigations undertaken.
2. The air blowers in the rapid gravity filters were not operating correctly on the day of the audit.
3. The rapid gravity filters did not have fixed media level rulers installed.

> Introduction

Newport Regional Public Water Supply (PWS) supplies a population of 7,451 with a volume of approximately 3,144m³/day (2024 EDEN figures). Raw water is abstracted from the Mulkear River. Treatment includes raw water pH correction, coagulation (aluminium sulphate and polyelectrolyte), clarification, rapid gravity filtration and chlorination. Treated water (chlorinated) from O’Gormans Well Water Treatment Plant (WTP) is mixed with the treated water from the Newport Regional (WTP) at the Cully Reservoir where fluoridation takes place.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The audit consisted of a review of the incident response and the main water treatment processes at the water treatment plant.



1. Incident Management

1.1

Was the incident suitably alerted to the plant operators, escalated and managed in order to maintain water quality and protect public health?

Answer

Yes

Comment

Incident 1:

The EPA was notified on 11/04/2025 of a *Giardia* exceedance (0.006 count/no. per 10L) in a sample taken of the final water at the Newport Water Treatment Plant (WTP) on 08/04/2025. Uisce Éireann consulted with the HSE in relation to the exceedance. It was decided to resample the treated water for *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium* and to continue to monitor the operation of the plant. Sampling results taken on 14/04/2025 were clear for *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*.

Uisce Éireann reported that there were no issues at the WTP on the day of the exceedance. A review of rapid gravity filters (RGF) turbidity trends indicated that the treatment processes were operating normally during the time leading up to the detection and on the day of the audit.

Incident 2:

The EPA was notified on 28/04/2025 of a *Cryptosporidium* exceedance (0.006 count/no. per 10L) in an investigative sample taken of the final water at the Newport WTP on 23/04/2025. Uisce Éireann consulted with the HSE in relation to the exceedance. It was decided to resample the treated water for *Cryptosporidium* and *Giardia* and to continue to monitor the operation of the plant. Sampling results taken on 30/04/2025 were clear for *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*.

Uisce Éireann reported that there were no issues at the WTP on the day of the exceedance. A review of the RGF's turbidity trends indicated that the treatment processes were operating normally during the time leading up to the detection and on the day of the audit.



2. Filtration

2.1

Are the filters designed and managed in accordance with EPA guidance?

Answer

No

Comment

1. Uisce Éireann informed inspector that they are not currently measuring the depth of sand in the RGF's. Fixed media level rulers have been ordered for each of the RGF's.

2.2

Was there visual indication that the filters were operating effectively?

Answer

No

Comment

1. Organic material was observed on the surface of the RGF's. Plant management informed inspector that the RGF air blowers were not working correctly. Organic material was removed from RGF's on 13/06/2025.



3. Management and Control

3.1

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

Answer

No

Comment

Outstanding recommendations from previous audit at Newport PWS on 13/11/2024:

1. Confirm (i) the protozoal log treatment requirement for the O'Gorman's Well source (ii) confirm how any protozoal log treatment deficit for the Newport WTP and O'Gorman's Well WTP will be addressed following the completion of the alarm and inhibit review.

Progress Update: A Source and Sanitary Survey has been completed on the O'Gorman's well supply. The source for this supply has been deemed to have a 3-Log treatment requirement. (ii) A Source and Sanitary Survey has been completed. The source for this supply has been deemed to have a 3-Log treatment requirement. An assessment will be undertaken to assess if there is a log treatment deficit including an alarm and inhibit review of the plant. Should a deficit exist this will be communicated to Uisce Éireann Asset Planning for consideration of appropriate remedial measures. Timeframe for completion: Ongoing.

2. Progress the upgrade works for the bulk chemical storage areas (aluminium sulphate and caustic soda) at Newport WTP.

Progress Update: UÉ will ensure that upgrade works for the bulk chemical storage areas (aluminium sulphate and caustic soda) are progressed at Newport WTP. The upgrade works are due to commence onsite in 2027.

Recommendations

Subject	Audit Recommendations	Due Date	12/08/2025
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. Provide a timeframe for air blower repair in the rapid gravity filters and ensure organic material is removed on an on-going basis.2. (i) commence media depth recording of rapid gravity filters and (ii) provide update of installation of fixed media level rulers.3. Confirm (i) the protozoal log treatment requirement for the O’Gormans Well source (ii) confirm how any protozoal log treatment deficit for the Newport WTP and O’Gormans Well WTP will be addressed following the completion of the alarm and inhibit review.4. Progress the upgrade works for the bulk chemical storage areas (aluminium sulphate and caustic soda) at Newport WTP. <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 12/08/2025 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>		