

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	Roscrea RWSS (Zone 1 - Mix)
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	2800PUB1009
County	Tipperary
Site Visit Reference No.	SV34787

Report Detail	
Issue Date	23/02/2026
Prepared By	Michelle Roche

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	20/01/2026	Announced	Yes
Time In	10:30	Time Out	14:10
EPA Inspector(s)	Michelle Roche Maeve McHugh		
Additional Visitors			
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Áine Butler, Denis McGrath, Melissa Devane, Shane O'Donnell, Bríd Whelan and Michael O'Shea. Tipperary County Council (working in partnership with Uisce Éireann): Tom Delaney and Pa O'Donovan.		

> Summary of Key Findings

1. Alarms and inhibits have been installed on critical treatment processes at Fanure and Glenbeha water treatment plants to ensure drinking water receives adequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium* before entering the network. These treatment processes include coagulation, flocculation and filtration and UV disinfection.
2. An EPA Direction was issued on 19/11/2024 directing Uisce Éireann to 'Ensure that adequate treatment is in place so that there is not greater than 0 Count/No. per 10 litre of parasites in the Roscrea Public Water Supply by 31st March 2027'. The EPA are satisfied that Uisce Éireann have complied with the Direction by the required date and the Direction was closed on 16/02/2026.
3. Roscrea Regional Public Water Supply was removed from the EPA Remedial Action List in Q1 2026. The supply had been on the Remedial Action List since January 2023 for inadequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium*.
4. Although appropriate alarms and inhibits are in place there was a lack of written procedures in place to support daily operations and incident response.

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 23/03/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the seven recommendations in this audit report.

> Introduction

The Roscrea Regional Public Water Supply (PWS) serves a population of 6,407 and supplies on average 3,300m³/d of water to Roscrea town and the surrounding area. The supply is served by 2 no. water treatment plants (WTPs), Fanure and Glenbeha. Treatment at the Fanure WTP includes coagulation, flocculation, clarification, filtration, and chlorination of the raw water from the Little Brosna River. A spring source at Fanure WTP provides an additional 25m³/hr which undergoes UV treatment and chlorination. Raw water from the 2 no. spring sources at Glenbeha WTP undergoes UV treatment and chlorination.

This audit was undertaken to assess Uisce Éireann's submission to remove Roscrea PWS from the EPA Remedial Action List. Roscrea PWS was added to the RAL in January 2023 under the RAL Category, Inadequate Treatment for *Cryptosporidium*.

> Supply Zones Areas Inspected

The audit inspected both Fanure and Glenbeha water treatment plants with interviews with Uisce Éireann and Tipperary County Council staff. Trend data for the previous 2 months was submitted and examined prior to the audit and live water quality data was examined on the day of the audit.



1. Filtration

1.1

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

Answer

No

Comment

1. Operators could not confirm the depth of filter media in the 3 no. rapid gravity filters during the audit, although it was thought to be approximately 900mm. This is less than the recommended depth of 1000mm-1200mm outlined in the EPA *Water Treatment Manual: Filtration*.

2. Filter upgrades, including replacement of filter media have been approved within Uisce Éireann but work is unlikely to begin any earlier than Q2 2027.

3. Filter turbidity trends showed that the filters were operating effectively as a *Cryptosporidium* barrier at the time of the audit, and for the months of October and November 2025.

Recommendation

1. Measure the depth of media in each filter and ensure a minimum filter media depth of 1000mm-1200mm is maintained in accordance with the EPA *Water Treatment Manual: Filtration*



2. Treatment Process Chemicals

2.1

Are treatment process chemicals appropriately managed and stored?

Answer

No

Comment

1. There were a number of 25 litre drums of sodium hypochlorite stored without a bund at Glenbeha water treatment plant.

Recommendation

2. Ensure that all chemicals are stored in bunded areas capable of containing at least 110% of the volume of chemicals stored therein.



3. Management and Control

3.1

Is there a documented alarm response procedure?

Answer

No

Comment

1. There is no documented procedure for responding to water treatment plant alarms. An incident escalation chart is displayed at both Fanure and Glenbeha water treatment plants but no contact details are displayed.

2. There are no standard operating procedures available for critical water quality treatment processes or for manual plant shutdown or restart.

Recommendation

3. Ensure that there is a documented procedure in place for responding to and escalating all alarms generated at the water treatment plant. The procedure should clearly document the corrective actions and set out delegation of responsibilities.

4. Ensure standard operating procedures are in place for critical water quality treatment processes, including manual shutdown and start up of the water treatment plant.

5. Ensure that all staff are trained and aware of alarm response procedures and standard operating procedures.

3.2

Are dial out arrangements suitable to allow a timely response?

Answer

No

Comment

1. Critical alarms dial out to only one plant operator. There is no cascade in place to ensure critical alarms are not missed if there is an issue with the plant operators phone or ability to respond.

2. Critical alarms for chlorine disinfection contact time and UV treatment are programmed to notify the Uisce Éireann National Operations Management Centre (NOMC) in addition to the plant operator, however alarms on filtration are not linked to the NOMC.

Recommendation

6. Ensure that there is a cascade system for responding to alarms generated at the plant.

3.3

Is continuous monitoring data accessible?

Answer

No

Comment

1. Not all critical monitoring data is remotely available to the plant operator. Trend data from the filters at Fanure WTP is on the county SCADA system and so is available remotely to the operator, however chlorine disinfection and UV trends are linked to the NOMC and not available remotely to the operator.
2. All trend data is captured and recorded on onsite HMI screens at Fanure and Glenbeha water treatment plants.

Recommendation

7. Ensure all critical water quality monitoring data is available remotely to plant operators.



4. Supply on the Remedial Action List

4.1

Do the audit findings support progress made with the Remedial Action List upgrades?

Answer

Yes

Comment

1. Roscrea Regional Public Water Supply had been on the EPA Remedial Action List for inadequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium* since January 2023. Alarms and inhibits have been installed on critical treatment processes at Fanure and Glenbeha WTPs to ensure drinking water receives adequate treatment for *Cryptosporidium* before entering the network. These treatment processes include coagulation, flocculation and filtration and UV disinfection.
2. Roscrea Regional Public Water Supply was removed from the EPA Remedial Action List in Q1 2026.
3. An EPA Direction was issued on 19/11/2024 directing Uisce Éireann to 'Ensure that adequate treatment is in place so that there is not greater than 0 Count/No. per 10 litre of parasites in the Roscrea Public Water Supply by 31st March 2027'. The EPA are satisfied that Uisce Éireann have complied with the Direction by the required date and the Direction was closed on 16/02/2026.

Recommendations

Actions required by Uisce Éireann

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.

Uisce Éireann is responsible for ensuring a clean and wholesome supply of drinking water and should implement the recommendations raised in this report without delay.

Response to Audit Report

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before the date specified in the Summary of Key Findings detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the recommendations in this audit report.

The EPA advises that the findings and recommendations from this report should, where relevant, be addressed at other public water supplies.

Publication of Reports

Audit reports are published to the EPA's website, www.epa.ie, typically 1 month after the audit report is issued to Uisce Éireann.