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	Tinahely Regional Supply
Organisation	Uisce Éireann
Scheme Code	3400PUB1013
County	Wicklow
Site Visit Reference No.	SV34933

Report Detail

Issue Date	01/10/2026
Prepared By	Sarah O'Connor

Site Visit Detail

Date Of Inspection	02/09/2026	**Announced**	No
Time In	13:16	**Time Out**	14:20
EPA Inspector(s) **Additional Visitors**	Sarah O'Connor Sean O'Leary		
Company Personnel	Uisce Éireann: Joseph Moran, Robbie Confrey, Jessica Evans, Eoghan Forristal, Redmond Cody, Thomas Brennan, Noel Doody, Mark O'Keeffe, Wayne Byrne.		

Summary of Key Findings

1. The audit noted that no continuous turbidity monitor was installed on the final treated water to verify water quality prior to entry into the distribution network.

2. Filter backwashing at the water treatment plant is undertaken manually by site personnel.

Uisce Éireann should submit a report to the EPA on or before 02/11/2026 detailing the actions taken and planned, with timescales, to close out the three recommendations in this audit report.

Introduction

The Tinahely Public Water Supply (PWS) supplies an average of 1133 m3/day of water, serving a population of approximately 3750 people. Raw water is abstracted from the River Derry located at the rear side of the Water Treatment Plant (WTP), with treatment consisting of coagulation, pH correction, clarification, RGSF, fluoridation and disinfection. Treated water is stored in four on-site reservoirs.

The audit was undertaken to assess Uisce Éireann's performance in producing clean and wholesome water with a focus on operations at the WTP.

Supply Zones Areas Inspected

Treatment processes on-site were inspected as part of the audit.

1. Operational Audits 2026

		Answer
1.1	Is there a documented alarm response procedure?	No

Comment

1. Uisce Éireann confirmed that there were no documented site specific incident response and incident escalation process.

Recommendation:

1. Ensure that (i) a formal documented site-specific incident response and incident escalation process is in place at the treatment plant and (ii) provide training to relevant staff (including relief and temporary staff) on the requirements of the response procedure.

		Answer
1.2	Are suitable plant shutdowns/inhibits in place to prevent the entry of inadequately treated water entering the distribution network?	No

Comment

1. The audit noted that no continuous turbidity monitor was installed on the final treated water to verify water quality prior to entry into the distribution network.

Recommendation:

2. Install a continuous turbidity monitor at the final water and ensure that appropriate warning alarms and plant shutdowns are in place in order to verify performance of the filtration and disinfection barriers.

		Answer
1.3	Are treatment processes examined during the audit operating satisfactorily?	Yes

Comment

1. Automatic backwash is possible but is not currently used at the water treatment plant.

Recommendation:

3. In accordance with the EPA Water Filtration Manual consider activating an automatic backwash trigger for headloss, turbidity or time.

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.