

Odours from Drogheda waste water treatment plant

Irish Water is responsible for managing the waste water treatment plant at Marsh Road, Drogheda and ensuring it avoids causing nuisance through odours.

The EPA is fully aware through the public and local representatives of serious and ongoing concerns about odours emanating from the treatment plant.

The EPA has issued a formal Direction to Irish Water requiring it to take specific actions to address the odours, including:

- Make sure the treatment plant is operated and maintained at all times to avoid causing nuisance through odours.
- Carry out odour suppressing dosing to reduce septicity within the sewer network which conveys sewage to the treatment plant.
- Carry out weekly monitoring of waste water at various locations in the treatment plant and take corrective actions in the event the monitoring results indicate a potential risk of generating nuisance odours.
- Complete an odour source audit, odour monitoring and odour modelling report to quantify and rank the odour sources for the entire site.

The EPA has carried out evening and night time odour assessments recently within residential areas around the plant, followed by inspections of the plant. We will carry out further assessments over the coming weeks to continue our investigation into the odours and to monitor Irish Water's performance in resolving odours from the plant.

In a follow-up to our recent assessments and site visits the EPA instructed Irish Water to identify the source of the night time odours and to take corrective action to resolve odours from the treatment plant and sewer network. We also instructed Irish Water to improve how it deals with complaints of odours and to be proactive in its engagement with the local community in relation to odours.

Irish Water's resolution of odour issues at Drogheda is a priority for the EPA and we will closely monitor Irish Water's performance against the actions required under the formal Direction.

If you require any further information about Drogheda waste water treatment plant and the actions being taken to resolve odour issues, or if you wish to report an odour complaint, you can contact Irish Water's call centre on 1800 278 278. You can also email Irish Water using the email address operations@water.ie. Reporting odours directly to Irish Water will assist it to promptly follow up and identify the source of odours as they arise.