

Site Visit Report

The site visit process is a sample on a particular day of an installation's compliance with some of its licence conditions. Where non-compliance against a particular condition has not been reported, this should not be construed to mean that there is full compliance with that condition of the licence.

Instructions and actions arising from the visit shall be addressed, or where applicable noted, by the licensee in order to ensure compliance, to improve the environmental performance of the installation and to provide clarification on certain issues.

The licensee shall take the actions specified to close out the non-compliances and observations raised in this Site Visit Report.

The licensee may also be requested to provide a response to the Environmental Protection Agency (hereafter referred to as the Agency) in relation to the site visit report findings.

Licensee	
Name of Installation	Cork city
Licensee	Irish Water
Licence Register No.	D0033-01
CRO Number	
Site Address	Cork
Site Visit Reference No.	SV21591

Report Detail	
Issue Date	22/12/2021
Prepared By	Brian Coffey

Site Visit Detail			
Date Of Inspection	10/12/2021		
Time In	10:40	Time Out	11:45
EPA Inspector(s)	Brian Coffey		
Additional Visitors			

Licensee Personnel and Role	Irish Water: Niall O'Riordan Claire Cremin Kieran Fay Northumbrian Water (under contract to IW): Pat Bradley Ella Stack Gavin Fitzgerald
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> Summary

"This site inspection was conducted at Cork City waste water treatment plant (WWTP) on 10 December 2021 to check compliance with the waste water discharge licence and to investigate the cause of reported odour issues at the plant during 2021.

Effluent monitoring results in 2021 complied with the emission limit values (ELVs) in the licence with the exception of the Total Nitrogen (TN) ELV.

Ferric dosing is now installed and operating at the WWTP which has resulted in full compliance with the Total Phosphorus ELV since January 2021.

> Site Areas Inspected

Cork City WWTP

> Documents Inspected

The following documentation was submitted by Irish Water on 8 December 2021 via e-mail. They were assessed prior to the site visit & discussed during the virtual previsit meeting on 8 December 2021.

- WWTP effluent data;
- Ambient sample results;
- Complaints Log; and
- WWTP Maintenance Log.

> 1. General

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
1.1	Have you recorded emission limit value breaches in the last 12 months, to date?	Yes		
Comment / Action Required				
The Cork City WWTP has experienced ongoing TN ELV breaches, 19 in 2021 (19.2, 12.7, 20.6, 19.7, 16, 14.3, 23, 26, 28, 36, 22, 19, 17, 23, 23.1, 23, 21, 22 and 20mg/L Vs TN ELV of 10mg/L)				
Irish Water stated that the current infrastructure on site is unlikely to be able to achieve the required effluent quality level for TN of 10mg/L.				
Irish Water is required to ensure the WWTP is operated in compliance with the Cork City WWDL at all times. Where compliance cannot be achieved with the current infrastructure, Irish Water should expediate the necessary upgrade of the WWTP or seek alternative solutions.				
In previous years there were recurring total phosphorus ELV breaches but with the installation of ferric dosing, the WWTP has been fully compliant since February 2021.				



2. Site Specific Issues

2.1

	Answer	Condition Number	Non Compliance	Observation
Odour issues in 2021	Checked			
Comment / Action Required				
<p>A number of odour complaints were received in late 2020 and early 2021 regarding the Cork City WWTP which were thought to be related to the sludge building upgrades that were taking place at this time. The works were delayed due to covid restrictions early in Q1 2021.</p> <p>The final stage of works related to the sludge building, specifically the installation of new odour abatement technology, took place in June 2021. These works involved fitting the large stacks over the sludge drier with new media thus improving odour abatement at the site.</p> <p>The odour abatement equipment appeared to be working effectively on the day of the site visit.</p>				

FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS

The licensee is required to complete the actions outlined in this site visit report within the specified timeframes. Where required, the licensee shall also respond to actions specified in Compliance Investigations and/or submit a response to this site visit report via the EDEN system. The licensee shall maintain a documentary evidence, for review by the Agency, that the prescribed actions were completed within the required timeframe.

(i) Compliance Investigations

The Agency may generate a Compliance Investigation through the EDEN system and issue instructions and actions to the licensee. The licensee will receive notification when an instruction or action is issued and the licensee must respond to the actions within the Compliance Investigation within the specified timeframe.

(ii) Response to Site Visit Report

Where the licensee is requested to (or wishes to) respond to the Agency in relation to this site visit report, the licensee may select the 'Make a Response' link on the actions taken by the licensee to address the issues raised in this site visit report and the target completion dates. This Licensee Public Response provides the licensee with an opportunity to inform both the Agency and the public about the implementing of actions set out in the Agency site visit report. The response must be submitted **within 30 calendar days** of the issue date of this site visit report.

(iii) Publication of Reports

The site visit report will be made available for public viewing via the Agency's Licence Enforcement Access Portal (LEAP), within one day of the issue date. The Site Visit Report and the Licensee Public Response will also be published on the Agency's website, www.epa.ie, 60 calendar days after the site visit report issue date (on the Licence Details Page for the relevant licence).

Please note that licensees are required to comply with the conditions of the licence at all times, and where non-compliance occurs, compliance must be restored within the shortest possible time. These actions will be verified during subsequent Agency visits. Please quote the above Inspection Reference Number in any correspondence in relation this Report.