

**INSPECTORS REPORT ON A WASTE WATER DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHORISATION APPLICATION**

To:	Frank Clinton, Programme Manager, ELP
From:	Aoife Loughnane/ Loretta Joyce Environmental Licensing Programme
Date:	19 th September 2014
Re:	Application for a Waste Water Discharge Certificate of Authorisation from Irish Water for the Kilronan Cottages agglomeration, Inis Mór, Co. Galway, Reg. No. A0522-01.

Application Details	
Schedule of Discharge Authorised:	Discharges from agglomerations with a population equivalent less than 500
Certificate of Authorisation Application Received:	23 rd August 2012
Regulation 25(c)(ii) Notice issued:	27 th February 2013
Information under Regulation 25(c)(ii) received:	24 th March 2014
Submissions Received:	None

This application relates to the Kilronan Cottages agglomeration on Inis Mór, the largest of the Aran Islands in County Galway. The application was originally made by Galway County Council and subsequently transferred to Irish Water on 1st January 2014 under the Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013.

The Kilronan Cottages agglomeration currently has a population equivalent (p.e.) of 76. The agglomeration is served by one waste water treatment plant (WWTP) which provides primary treatment. The WWTP consists of a septic tank which was designed to cater for 9 houses (one of which is enlarged as a B&B).

The WWTP discharges to ground via a percolation area. The groundwater body, Inishmore (IE_WE_G_0068), was classified as good status in 2007 – 2009.

There are no designated or protected areas (i.e., drinking water abstractions, bathing waters, shellfish waters, salmonid waters or *Margaritifera margaritifera*) downstream of the discharge from the agglomeration. Condition 3.4 of the Recommended Certificate of Authorisation (RCoA) states that the discharge(s) from the waste water works shall not cause a deterioration in the status of the receiving groundwater body.

Based on the certificate of authorisation application, there is currently inadequate treatment in place for the agglomeration. The current WWTP discharges to ground via

a percolation area which is not functioning properly. The applicant proposes to develop an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) to treat waste water from the agglomeration. Condition 3.3 of the RCoA requires the provision of an ICW within 12 months of the date of grant of the Certificate. The ICW shall be designed and constructed in accordance with DoECLG guidance on ICWs, and shall satisfy the requirements of Condition 3.4 of the RCoA.

Condition 3.4 states that within six months the authorisation holder shall identify appropriate improvements to the wastewater works, including a waste water treatment system necessary to ensure all discharge(s) from the agglomeration contribute towards achieving at least good status in accordance with the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and/or the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010.

A screening for Appropriate Assessment was undertaken to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge and the conservation objectives of the site, if the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. In this context, particular attention was paid to:

- Inishmore Island SAC (site code 000213), located approximately 130 m north-east of Kilronan Cottages WWTP discharge; and
- Inishmore SPA (site code 004152) located approximately 1.8 km east of Kilronan Cottages WWTP discharges.

The Agency considered, for the reasons set out below, that the activity is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site as a European Site and that it can be excluded on the basis of objective scientific information, that the activity, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site, and accordingly the Agency determined that an Appropriate Assessment of the activity is not required.

It has been determined that the activity does not have the potential for significant effects on a European Site due to:

- the discharge is not directly into a designated site;
- the receiving groundwater body is currently at good status, and
- the RCoA requires the CoA Holder to operate the waste water works in accordance with best practice to ensure that the discharge does not cause environmental pollution or a deterioration in the status of the receiving groundwater body.

Submissions

No submissions were received on this CoA application.

Recommendation

I recommend that a Final Certificate of Authorisation be issued subject to the conditions and for the reasons as set out in the attached Recommended Certificate of Authorisation.

Signed

Aoife Loughnane

Loretta Joyce

Aoife Loughnane/Loretta Joyce
Inspectors
Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use