

EIA Screening Determination

The Agency has, as part of its consideration of the Waste Water Discharge Authorisation (WWDA) review application referenced below, determined whether the application should be made subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The determination, and the main reasons for the determination, are detailed below.

Application Details:

Reg No.	D0427-02
Applicant Name:	Uisce Éireann
Location of agglomeration:	Coachford, Co. Cork
Authorisation Type	Waste Water Discharge Licence
Authorisation Application Date:	19 December 2023
Date of EIA Screening Determination:	19 February 2024

EIA Screening Determination:

There is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the proposed development comprising or for the purposes of a waste water discharge and EIA is not required for the authorisation to which the above application relates.

This determination has been made following an examination of the nature, size and location of the development, having considered the information provided by the applicant and having regard to the requirements of Regulation 18(10)(a) of the European Union (Waste Water Discharge) Regulations 2007 to 2020.

The following features of the development and/or the measures provided by the applicant and envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment of the development are as follows:

1. Provision of a 120m³ storm water storage tank.
2. Stormwater overflows designed to comply with the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Procedures and Criteria in Relation to Storm Water Overflows', 1995 criteria.
3. The provision of measures for preventing unintended discharges including duty/standby pumps at the inlet pumping station, an alarm system, backup generator, emergency response plan and operation and maintenance procedures.
4. Training of operators and flow monitoring.

The main reasons and considerations, with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Schedule 7 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, on which this determination is based are as follows:

1. The limited scale of the waste water discharges from the wastewater treatment plant. The wastewater treatment plant is designed to a population equivalent (p.e) of 1,600 which is significantly below the 10,000 p.e mandatory threshold for EIA.
2. Domestic wastewater is the main contributor to the waste water treatment plant and is readily biodegradable.
3. The potential effects of the waste water discharges, on WFD status and environmental objectives will be considered and should a review waste water discharge licence be granted for the agglomeration, controls and emission limit values will be set in the licence to contribute to meeting the objectives for the receiving waterbody.
4. The development incorporates measures to avoid and prevent significant effects.
5. The nearest drinking water abstraction point is 9.3km downstream of the discharge locations at Inniscarra Water Treatment Plant and there are no designated bathing waters or designated shellfish waters in the vicinity likely to be affected by the discharges.
6. There are no existing waste water discharges from permitted projects within the vicinity of the proposed waste water discharge.

Submissions on a WWDA review application can be made before an authorisation is granted. Information on the public participation process is available on the Agency's website at www.epa.ie.

Mark Dwyer

Date: 19/02/2024

Mark Dwyer

Office of Environmental Sustainability