

Annual Environmental Report

2023



Downings

D0350-01

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0350-01, Downings, in Donegal in accordance with the requirements of the wastewater discharge licence for the agglomeration. Specified reports where relevant are included as an appendix to the AER.

1.1 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF MEASURES

A summary of any improvements undertaken is provided where applicable.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

The agglomeration is served by a wastewater treatment plant(s)

- DOWNINGS WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 1000, the treatment type is 1 - Primary treatment .

1.3 ELV OVERVIEW

The overall compliance of the final effluent with the Emission Limit Values (ELVs) is shown below. More detailed information on the below ELV's can be found in Section 2.

Discharge Point Reference	Treatment Plant	Discharge Type	Compliance Status	Parameters failing if relevant
TPEFF0600D0350SW001	DOWNINGS WWTP	Treated	Compliant	N/A

1.4 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTING

Assessment / Report

There are no Licence Specific Reports included in this AER.

2 TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT SUMMARY

2.1 DOWNINGS WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - DOWNINGS WWTP

A summary of influent monitoring for the treatment plant is presented below. This monitoring is primarily undertaken in order to determine the overall efficiency of the plant in removing pollutants from the raw wastewater.

Parameters	Number of Samples	Annual Max	Annual Mean
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	6	58	36
COD-Cr mg/l	6	400	246
Suspended Solids mg/l	6	589	233
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	6	149	95
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	6	5.05	2.97
pH pH units	6	8.30	7.77
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	6149	2771

If other inputs in the form of sludge / leachate are added to the WWTP then these are included in Section 2.1.5 if applicable.

Significance of Results:

The annual mean hydraulic loading is greater than the peak Treatment Plant Capacity. The annual maximum hydraulic loading is greater than the peak Treatment Plant Capacity. Further details on the plant capacity and efficiency can be found under the sectional 'Operational Performance Summary'.

2.1.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - TPEFF0600D0350SW001

Parameter	WWDL ELV (Schedule A)	ELV with Condition 2 Interpretation included Note 1	Interim % reduction from influent concentration	Number of sample results	Number of exceedances	Number of exceedances with Condition 2 Interpretation included	Annual Mean	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	0.323	
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	844	
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	76	
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	33	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	0.341	
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	4.37	
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	33	

Parameter	WWDL ELV (Schedule A)	ELV with Condition 2 Interpretation included Note 1	Interim % reduction from influent concentration	Number of sample results	Number of exceedances	Number of exceedances with Condition 2 Interpretation included	Annual Mean	Overall Compliance (Pass/Fail)
Suspended Solids mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	203	
pH pH units	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	7.82	
Nitrite (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	0.050	
COD-Cr mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	252	

Notes:

1 – This represents the Emission Limit Values after the Interpretation provided for under Condition 2 of the licence is applied

2 – For pH the WWDA specifies a range of pH 6 - 9

Cause of Exceedance(s):

Not applicable

Significance of Results:

The WWTP is compliant with the ELVs set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.

2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF0600D0350SW001

A summary of monitoring from ambient monitoring points associated with the wastewater discharge is provided in the sections below. For discharges to rivers upstream (U/S) and downstream (D/S) location data is provided. For other ambient points in lakes, coastal or transitional waters, monitoring data from the most appropriate monitoring station is selected.

The table below provides details of ambient monitoring locations and details of any designations as sensitive areas.

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish Grid Reference	River Station Code	Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish	WFD Ecological Status
Downstream	209435, 438311	CW06007067SH1002	No	No	No	Yes	High
Downstream	209506, 438306	CW06007067SH1001	No	No	No	Yes	High

The results for ambient results and / or additional monitoring data sets are included in the **Appendix 7.1 - Ambient monitoring summary**

Significance of Results:

The coastal/transitional ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.

The WWTP discharge was compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the water quality.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the designated shellfish water quality.

2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - DOWNINGS WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - DOWNINGS WWTP

Treatment efficiency is based on the removal of key pollutants from the influent wastewater by the treatment plant. In essence the calculation is based on the balance of load coming into the plant versus the load leaving the plant. The efficiency is presented as a percentage removal rate.

A summary presentation of the efficiency of the treatment process including information for all the parameters specified in the licence is included below:

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
TP	N/A	N/A	N/A

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
SS	235397	205316	13
TN	N/A	N/A	N/A
cBOD	96455	77275	20
COD	248973	254968	-2.41

Note: The above data is based on sample results for the number of dates reported

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - DOWNINGS WWTP

Treatment capacity is an assessment of the hydraulic (flow) and organic (the amount of pollutants) load a treatment plant is designed to treat versus the current loading of that plant.

DOWNINGS WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m ³ /day) - As Constructed	1026
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	342
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m ³ /day)	6149
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m ³ /day)	2770.75
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	1000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) ^{Note1}	2126
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	0
Will the capacity be exceeded in the next three years? (Yes/No)	Yes

Nominal design capacities can be based on conservative design principles. In some cases assessment of existing plants has shown organic capacities significantly higher than the nominal design capacity. Accordingly plants that appear to be overloaded when comparing a collected peak load with the nominal design capacity can be fully compliant due to the safety factors in the original design.

2.1.5 SLUDGE / OTHER INPUTS - DOWNINGS WWTP

'Other inputs' to the waste water treatment plant are summarised in table below

Input type	Quantity	Unit	P.E.	% of load to WWTP	Included in Influent Monitoring (Y/N)?	Is there a leachate/sludge acceptance procedure for the WWTP?	Is there a dedicated leachate/sludge acceptance facility for the WWTP? (Y/N)
There is no Sludge and Other Input data for the Treatment Plant included in the AER.							

3 COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS

3.1 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY

A summary of complaints of an environmental nature related to the discharge(s) to water from the WWTP and network is included below.

Number of Complaints	Nature of Complaint	Number Open Complaints	Number Closed Complaints
1	Water Pollution	0	1

3.2 REPORTED INCIDENTS SUMMARY

Environmental incidents that arise in an agglomeration are reported on an on-going basis in accordance with our waste water discharge licences. Where an incident occurs and it is reportable under the licence, it is reported to the Environmental Protection Agency through their Environmental Data Exchange Network, or in some instances by telephone. Some incidents which arise in the agglomeration are recorded by Uisce Éireann but may not be reportable under our licence for example where the incident does not have an impact on environmental performance.

A summary of reported incidents is included below.

3.2.1 SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
There were no reportable incidents in 2023.			

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2023	0
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2023	0
Explanation of any discrepancies between the two numbers above	N/A

4 INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSESSMENTS AND PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS

4.1 STORM WATER OVERFLOW IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION REPORT

A summary of the operation of the storm water overflows and their significance where known is included below:

4.1.1 SWO IDENTIFICATION

WWDL Name / Code for Storm Water Overflow (chamber) where applicable	Irish Grid Ref. (outfall)	Included in Schedule of the WWDL	Significance of the overflow(High / Medium / Low)	Assessed against DoEHLG Criteria	No. of times activated in 2023 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2023 (m3)	Monitoring Status
TBC	210673,438620	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Monitored
SW002	209532,438303	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Monitored
TBC	-,-	Yes	Low Significance	Not yet Assessed	Unknown	Unknown	TBC

Any TBC SWO(s) were identified as part of the on-going National SWO programme and will be updated in subsequent AER(s) once the information is confirmed.

SWO Summary	
How much wastewater discharge by metered SWOs during the year (m3)?	Unknown
Is each SWO identified as not meeting DoEHLG Guidance included in the Programme of Improvements?	No
The SWO Assessment included the requirements of relevant of WWDL schedules?	Yes

SWO Summary

Have the EPA been advised of any additional SWOs / changes to Schedule C3 and A4 under Condition 1.7?

Unknown

4.2 REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE AND PROPOSALS BEING DEVELOPED TO MEET THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS.

4.2.1 SPECIFIED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY

A wastewater discharge licence may require a number of reports on specific subject areas to be prepared for the agglomeration in question. These reports are submitted to the EPA as part of the Annual Environmental Report. This section provides a list of the various reports required for this agglomeration and a brief summary of their recommendations.

Specified Improvement Programmes (under Schedule A and C of WWDL)	Description	Licence Schedule	Licence Completion Date	Date Expired? (N/NA/Y)	Status of Works	Timeframe for Completing the Work	Comments
D0350-SIP:01	Upgrade/expansion of the existing primary WWTP to accommodate the maximum loading from the agglomeration. The Upgrade works shall include inlet screens followed by at least appropriately sized primary settlement capacity.	C	31/12/2013	Yes	Not Started		Capital works not funded in RC3. Capital works funding post 2024 will be contingent on the project being included in the 2025-2029 investment period
D0350-SIP:02	Upgrading of storm water overflows to comply with the criteria outlined in the DoECLG 'Procedures and	C	31/12/2013	Yes	Not Started		

Specified Improvement Programmes (under Schedule A and C of WWDL)	Description	Licence Schedule	Licence Completion Date	Date Expired? (N/NA/Y)	Status of Works	Timeframe for Completing the Work	Comments
	Criteria in relation to Storm Water Overflows, 1995'.						

A summary of the status of any other improvements identified by under Condition 5 assessments- is included below.

4.2.2 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Improvement Identifier	Improvement Description / or any Operational Improvements	Improvement Source	Expected Completion Date	Comments
No additional improvements planned at this time.				

4.2.3 SEWER INTEGRITY RISK ASSESSMENT

The utilisation of multiple capital maintenance programmes and the outputs of the workshops with the Local Authority Operations Staff held under the programme can be used to satisfy the requirements of Condition 5 regarding network integrity. Improvement works identified by way of these programmes and workshops will be included in the Improvements Summary Tables 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.

5 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTS

A wastewater discharge licence may require a number of reports on specific subject areas to be prepared for the agglomeration in question. These reports are submitted to the EPA as part of the Annual Environmental Report. This section provides a list of the various reports required for this agglomeration and a brief summary of their recommendations.

Licence Specific Report	Required by licence	Included in this AER
D0350-01-Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	No

6 CERTIFICATION AND SIGN OFF

6.1 SUMMARY OF AER CONTENTS

Parameter	Answer
Does the AER include an Executive Summary?	Yes
Does the AER include an assessment of the performance of the Waste Water Works (i.e. have the results of assessments been interpreted against WWDL requirements and or Environmental Quality Standards)?	Yes
Is there a need to advise the EPA for Consideration of a Technical Amendment/Review of the Licence?	N/A
List reason e.g. additional SWO identified	N/A
Is there a need to request/advise the EPA of any modification to the existing WWDL with respect to condition 4 changes to monitoring location, frequency etc	N/A
List reason e.g. changes to monitoring requirements	N/A
Have these processes commenced?	N/A
Are all outstanding reports and assessments from previous AERs included as an appendix to this AER	No

I certify that the information given in this Annual Environmental Report is truthful, accurate and complete:

Signed: Date: 18/09/2024

This AER has been produced by Uisce Éireann's Environmental Information System (EIMS) and has been electronically signed off in that system for and on behalf of ,

Eleanor Roche

Head of Environmental Regulation.

7 APPENDIX

Appendix
Appendix 7.1 - Ambient monitoring summary

Downings 2023 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish Grid Reference	EPA Feature Coding Tool code	Receiving Waters Designation (Y/N)				WFD Status
			Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish	
Downstream Monitoring Point 1	209435, 438311	CW06007067SH1002	No	No	No	Yes	High
Downstream Monitoring Point 2	209506, 438306	CW06007067SH1001	No	No	No	Yes	High

Ambient Impact Assessment Table

Parameter Name	Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS (Mean)
BOD mg/l	CW06007067SH1002	2.5	4
Ammonia (as N) mg/l	CW06007067SH1002	0.685	
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	CW06007067SH1002	0.02	0.06
BOD mg/l	CW06007067SH1001	2.5	4
Ammonia (as N) mg/l	CW06007067SH1001	0.600	
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	CW06007067SH1001	0.02	0.06

Downings D0350-01 Ambient Monitoring Summary

Month	Category	Entity	Station	Date	Ammonia (as N)	BOD	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N)	Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	Orthophosphate	pH	ChlorophyllII2
March	Coastal Water Body	Sheephaven Bay	Downings - Point 1	29-Mar-23	0.65	3	0.66	97.4	<0.02	7.6	<4
May	Coastal Water Body	Sheephaven Bay	Downings - Point 1	11-May-23	0.72	2	0.69	104.2	<0.02	8	<4
May	Coastal Water Body	Sheephaven Bay	Downings - Point 2	11-May-23	0.56	2	0.55	101.7	<0.02	8	<4
March	Coastal Water Body	Sheephaven Bay	Downings - Point 2	29-Mar-23	0.64	3	0.67	98.6	<0.02	7.7	<4

									Parameter	Enterococci	E Coli	Feacal Coliforms	Visual Inspection
									Max.	100	250		--
Category	Entity	Station	Sample Template	Sample Reference	Sample Date	Sample Time	Reason	Comments	Analyst Conclusion	cfu/100mls	MPN/100mls	MPN/100mls	Descriptive
Bathing Waters	Downings	Downings	DCC Blue Flag Beach Monitoring	232501940	20-June-2023	08:20	Compliance	-	-	36	226	187	Nothing Observed
Bathing Waters	Downings	Downings	DCC Blue Flag Beach Monitoring	232502385	18-July-2023	09:45	Compliance	-	-	8	30	20	Nothing Observed
Bathing Waters	Downings	Downings	DCC Blue Flag Beach Monitoring	232502639	15-Aug-2023	09:26	Compliance	-	-	14	31	<10	Nothing Observed
Bathing Waters	Downings	Downings	DCC Blue Flag Beach Monitoring	232503000	5-Sep-2023	07:50	Compliance	-	-	10	20	10	Nothing Observed

