

# Annual Environmental Report

2021



Rathkeale

D0112-01

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2021 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0112-01, Rathkeale, in Limerick 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.

Improvements to Orchard Avenue pumping station to include new pumping systems and flow meters.

## 1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Rathkeale WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 4000, the treatment type is 3P - Tertiary P removal

## 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
TPEFF1900D0112SW001	Rathkeale WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l

# 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 RATHKEALE WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

#### 2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - RATHKEALE 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
Total Nitrogen mg/l	12	38	21
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	12	4.31	2.44
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	12	194	92
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	205	77
COD-Cr mg/l	12	489	204
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	3178	573

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 less 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 - TPEFF1900D0112SW001

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)
COD-Cr mg/l	125	250	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	24	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	11	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	15	30	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	4.52	Pass
pH units	9.00	9.00	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.71	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	2.40	2.88	N/A	12	2	2	1.43	Fail
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	2.00	2.40	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.404	Pass
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	1.00	1.20	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.166	Pass
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	12	
E. Coli MPN/100ml	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	17458	
Faecal coliforms cfu/100ml	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	2071	

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)
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	N/A	N/A	676	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	16	
Enterococci (Intestinal) MPN/100ml	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	1522	
Nitrite (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.215	

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):

**Mixed Liquor issues with lack of Rotifer bacteria.**

### Significance of Results:

Two ammonia failures.

## 2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF1900D0112SW001

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
<b>Upstream</b>	136062, 141413	RS24D021100	No	No	No	No	Poor
<b>Downstream</b>	135548, 141296	RS24D021300	No	No	No	No	Poor

The table below provides a summary of monitoring results for designated ambient monitoring points. The upstream and downstream annual mean values are shown (mg/l), and the difference between both monitoring stations is given as a percentage of the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) where relevant.

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
<b>BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l</b>	RS24D021100	1.92	RS24D021300	3.36	1.50	95.8
<b>Nitrate (as N) mg/l</b>	RS24D021100	1.27	RS24D021300	1.29	0.065	18.5
<b>Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l</b>	RS24D021100	0.048	RS24D021300	0.043	0.065	-7.7
<b>ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l</b>	RS24D021100	0.067	RS24D021300	0.068	0.035	3.1
<b>Faecal coliforms cfu/100ml</b>	RS24D021100	320	RS24D021300	410	N/A	
<b>Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l</b>	RS24D021100	1.28	RS24D021300	1.29	N/A	
<b>Alkalinity-total (as CaCO3) mg/l</b>	RS24D021100	231	RS24D021300	234	N/A	



Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS24D021100	9.58	RS24D021300	9.98	N/A	
Temperature °C	RS24D021100	11	RS24D021300	12	N/A	
pH units	RS24D021100	8.19	RS24D021300	8.18	N/A	
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	RS24D021100	521	RS24D021300	523	N/A	
Chloride mg/l	RS24D021100	24	RS24D021300	24	N/A	
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS24D021100	246	RS24D021300	250	N/A	
Enterococci (Intestinal) MPN/100ml	RS24D021100	76	RS24D021300	72	N/A	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	RS24D021100	1.78	RS24D021300	1.89	N/A	
E. Coli MPN/100ml	RS24D021100	288	RS24D021300	586	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	RS24D021100	90	RS24D021300	93	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen % O2	RS24D021100	90	RS24D021300	96	N/A	
True Colour mg/litre Pt Co	RS24D021100	29	RS24D021300	32	N/A	
Nitrite (as N) µg/l	RS24D021100	21	RS24D021300	18	N/A	

## Significance of Results:

The WWTP discharge was not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence for the following: Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l.

The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream and the downstream monitoring locations. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.

Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in BOD , concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted.

A deterioration in water quality has been identified, however it is not known if it or is not caused by the WWTP.

Other causes of deterioration in water quality in the area are: Intensive Dairy Agriculture in Catchment

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

## 2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - RATHKEALE WWTP

### 2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Rathkeale 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)
<b>COD</b>	56694	6740	88
<b>TP</b>	679	112	83
<b>cBOD</b>	25685	1256	95
<b>TN</b>	5843	4316	26
<b>SS</b>	21522	2921	86

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

### 2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Rathkeale 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.

Rathkeale WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m <sup>3</sup> /day) - As Constructed	2938
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	720
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	3178
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	573
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	4000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) <sup>Note1</sup>	2318
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	1682
Will the capacity be exceeded in the next three years? (Yes/No)	No

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 - RATHKEALE 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
<b>There were no relevant environmental complaints in 2021.</b>			

### 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 Irish Water 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	No. of incident occurrences	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
<b>Abatement Equipment offline</b>	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	1	No	Yes
<b>Breach of ELV</b>	WWTP biological sludge issue	1	Yes	Yes
<b>Spillage</b>	Blocked Sewer	1	No	Yes

Incident Type	Cause	No. of incident occurrences	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Uncontrolled release	EO caused by pump failure	1	Yes	No
Uncontrolled release	EO caused by pump failure	1	No	Yes

### 3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2021	5
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2021	5
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 2021 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2021 (m3)	Monitoring Status
<b>SW2</b>	135954, 141496	Yes	Low	Meeting	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

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 sewage was discharged via SWOs in the agglomeration in the year (m3)?	Unknown
Is each SWO identified as not meeting DoEHLG Guidance included in the Programme of Improvements?	N/A
The SWO Assessment included the requirements of relevant of WWDL schedules?	Yes
Have the EPA been advised of any additional SWOs / changes to Schedule C3 and A4 under Condition 1.7?	N/A

## 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
<b>There are no Specified Improvement Programmes for this Agglomeration.</b>							

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
<b>No additional improvements planned at this time.</b>				

### 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	Year included in AER	Included in this AER
<b>Priority Substances Assessment</b>	Yes	2016	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
Has a Technical amendment/licence review application been submitted to the Agency by IW?	No
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	No
List reason e.g. changes to monitoring requirements	N/A
Have these processes commenced?	No
Are all outstanding reports and assessments from previous AERs included as an appendix to this AER	N/A

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

Signed: Date: 05/05/2022

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

Katherine Walshe

Acting Head of Environmental Regulation.

## **7 APPENDIX**

There are no Appendices included