

# Annual Environmental Report

2021



Rathdowney

D0288-01

## **CONTENTS**

### **1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2021 AER**

- 1.1 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF MEASURES
- 1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY
- 1.3 ELV OVERVIEW
- 1.4 LICENSE SPECIFIC REPORT INCLUDED IN AER

### **2 TREATMENT PLANT PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT SUMMARY**

- 2.1 RATHDOWNNEY WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE
  - 2.1.1 INFLUENT SUMMARY - RATHDOWNNEY WWTP
  - 2.1.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - RATHDOWNNEY WWTP -
  - 2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE -
  - 2.1.4 OPERATIONAL REPORTS SUMMARY FOR RATHDOWNNEY WWTP
  - 2.1.5 SLUDGE/OTHER INPUTS TO RATHDOWNNEY WWTP

### **3 COMPLAINTS AND INCIDENTS**

- 3.1 COMPLAINTS SUMMARY
- 3.2 REPORTED INCIDENTS SUMMARY
  - 3.2.1 SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS
  - 3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

### **4 INFRASTRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT AND PROGRAMME OF IMPROVEMENTS**

- 4.1 STORM WATER OVERFLOW IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION REPORT
  - 4.1.1 SWO IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION SUMMARY REPORT
- 4.2 REPORT ON PROGRESS MADE AND PROPOSALS BEING DEVELOPED TO MEET THE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS
  - 4.2.1 SPECIFIED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY
  - 4.2.2 IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME SUMMARY
  - 4.2.3 SEWER INTEGRITY RISK ASSESSMENT

### **5 LICENCE SPECIFIC REPORTS**

- 5.1 DRINKING WATER ABSTRACTION POINT RISK ASSESSMENT
- 5.2 PEARL MUSSEL REPORT
- 5.3 PRIORITY SUBSTANCES ASSESSMENT

### **6 CERTIFICATION AND SIGN OFF**

- 6.1 SUMMARY OF AER CONTENTS

### **7 APPENDIX**

# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2021 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0288-01, Rathdowney, in Laois 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.

There were no capital works, significant changes or operational improvements undertaken in 2021

## 1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Rathdowney WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 3500, 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
<b>TPEFF3900D0288SW004</b>	Rathdowney 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 RATHDOWNEY WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

#### 2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - RATHDOWNEY 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
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	12	4.99	3.02
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	12	294	139
COD-Cr mg/l	12	1484	466.26
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	600	222.79
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	12	46	29
pH pH units	12	8.02	7.64
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	1908	553

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 less 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 - TPEFF3900D0288SW004

Parameter	WWDL ELV (Schedule A)	ELV with Condition 2 Interpretation included <sup>Note 1</sup>	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	16	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	25	62	N/A	12	1	N/A	8.56	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	20	40	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	2.20	Pass
pH pH units	6.00	9.00	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	8.07	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	0.800	1.60	N/A	12	1	1	0.311	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	0.500	0.600	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.149	Pass

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):

WWTP biological sludge issue.

## Significance of Results:

The WWTP is non compliant with the ELV's set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence. The impact on receiving waters is assessed further in Section 2.

### 2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF3900D0288SW004

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
Upstream	228374, 178935	RS15E010170	No	No	Yes	No	Moderate
Downstream	229080, 178367	RS15E010200	No	Yes	Yes	No	Moderate

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 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 Ortho-P and very slight deterioration in Ammonia 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.

As per the 3rd Cycle Draft Nore Catchment Report (HA 15), the significant pressures on the At Risk Erkina\_030 waterbody are Agriculture, Industry & Urban Waste Water. The Rathdowney WWTP is listed as a significant pressure on the Erkina\_030 waterbody in the Cycle 3 Catchment Report.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable negative impact on the Water Framework Directive status. The WFD status is moderate both upstream and downstream of the primary discharge.

## 2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - RATHDOWNEY WWTP

### 2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Rathdowney 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>	100431	3187	97
<b>SS</b>	47988	1739	96
<b>cBOD</b>	29930	447	99

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

### 2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Rathdowney 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.

Rathdowney WWTP	
<b>Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m<sup>3</sup>/day) - As Constructed</b>	2358



Rathdowney WWTP	
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	786
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	1908
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	552.92
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	3500
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) <sup>Note1</sup>	1571
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	1929
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 - RATHDOWNEY 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>Breach of ELV</b>	WWTP biological sludge issue	1	No	Yes
<b>Uncontrolled release</b>	Inadequate Operational Procedures / Training	1	No	Yes

### 3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2021	2
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2021	2
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	Total volume discharged in 2021 (m <sup>3</sup> )	Monitoring Status
TBC	229059.49, 178385.21	No	Low	Meeting	Unknown	Not Monitored
TBC	228486, 178815	No	Low	Meeting	1323	Monitored
SW3	226699.05, 178753.62	Yes	Low	Meeting	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 monitored SWOs in the agglomeration in the year (m <sup>3</sup> )?	1323
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

## SWO Summary

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

No

## 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>D0288-SIP:01</b>	Carry out improvement works including nutrient reduction to ensure compliance with the emission limit values as set out in Schedule A: Discharges and Discharge Monitoring.	C	31/12/2015	Yes	Works Completed		

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
Drinking Water Abstraction Point Risk Assessment	Yes	2017	No
Pearl Mussel Report	Yes	2016	No
Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	2017	No

### 5.1 DRINKING WATER ABSTRACTION POINT RISK ASSESSMENT

The Drinking Water Abstraction Point Risk Assessment Report has been included in the AER 2017.

### 5.2 PEARL MUSSEL REPORT

The Pearl Mussel Report has been included in the AER 2016.

### 5.3 PRIORITY SUBSTANCES ASSESSMENT

The Priority Substances Assessment Report has been included in the AER 2017.

## 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?	N/A
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:

Date: 18/02/2022

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

Appendix

**Appendix 7.1 - Ambient monitoring summary**

## Rathdowney 2021 Ambient Monitoring Summary

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish National Grid Reference (Easting, Northing)	EPA Feature Coding Tool code	Receiving Waters Designation (Yes/No)			
			Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish
Upstream Monitoring Point	228374, 178935	RS15E010170	No	No	Yes	No
Downstream Monitoring Point	229080, 178367	RS15E010200	No	Yes	Yes	No

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Current WFD Status	cBOD (Mean mg/l)	o-Phosphate (as P) (Mean mg/l)	Ammonia (as N) (mean mg/l)
Upstream Monitoring Point	Moderate	2.019	0.028	0.057
Downstream Monitoring Point	Moderate	1.785	0.072	0.058
<i>Difference</i>		-0.235	0.045	0.000
EQS		1.500	0.035	0.065
% of EQS		-15.635%	127.484%	0.513%

## Rathdowney 2021 Ambient Monitoring Data

Upstream Results									
Date		Temp °C	pH pH units	SS mg/l	COD mg/l	BOD mg/ l	Total Ammonia as N mg/l	Ortho- Phosphate as P mg/l	DO % sat
26/01/2021	U/S	6.7	8.07	19.6	26	1	0.12	0.033	94.8
25/03/2021	U/S	7.7	8.08	< 2	20	< 1	0.059	< 0.02	106
24/06/2021	U/S	14.9	8.21	< 2	< 20	1.6	0.042	< 0.02	95.7
26/08/2021	U/S	16	8.2	< 2	38	< 1	0.025	0.043	91.4
28/10/2021	U/S	13	7.82	88	65	5.1	0.033	0.032	89.2
15/12/2021	U/S	8.4	8.26	< 2	35	3	0.065	0.029	91.9
<b>Mean</b>		<b>11.117</b>	<b>8.107</b>	<b>18.876</b>	<b>33.024</b>	<b>2.019</b>	<b>0.057</b>	<b>0.028</b>	<b>94.833</b>
<b>95%ile</b>		<b>15.725</b>	<b>8.248</b>	<b>70.900</b>	<b>58.250</b>	<b>4.575</b>	<b>0.106</b>	<b>0.041</b>	<b>103.425</b>
Downstream Results									
Date		Temp °C	pH pH units	SS mg/l	COD mg/l	BOD mg/ l	Total Ammonia as N mg/l	Ortho- Phosphate as P mg/l	DO % sat
26/01/2021	D/S	6.6	7.97	86	25	3	0.083	0.033	84
25/03/2021	D/S	8	8.11	< 2	< 20	< 1	0.046	0.026	99.2
24/06/2021	D/S	15.7	8.37	< 2	< 20	1	0.033	0.045	117.7
26/08/2021	D/S	16.4	8.15	< 2	33	1.5	0.057	0.23	80
28/10/2021	D/S	13	7.93	41	45	3.2	0.069	0.073	81.5
15/12/2021	D/S	8.5	8.26	< 2	28	1.3	0.058	0.026	97
<b>Mean</b>		<b>11.367</b>	<b>8.132</b>	<b>22.109</b>	<b>26.547</b>	<b>1.785</b>	<b>0.058</b>	<b>0.072</b>	<b>93.233</b>
<b>95%ile</b>		<b>16.225</b>	<b>8.343</b>	<b>74.750</b>	<b>42.000</b>	<b>3.150</b>	<b>0.080</b>	<b>0.191</b>	<b>113.075</b>

Note: Where the concentration in the result is less than the limit of detection (LOD), a value of  $LOD/\sqrt{2}$  was used in calculating the mean and 95%ile concentrations.