Annual Environmental Report

2023

Ballycastle

D0356-01

CONTENTS

7.1 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0356-01, Ballycastle, in Mayo 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)

- Ballycastle WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 600, the treatment type is 2 - Secondary 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
TPEFF2200D0356SW001	Ballycastle WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified 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 BALLYCASTLE WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - BALLYCASTLE 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	6	31	18
Suspended Solids mg/l	6	76	31
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	6	3.49	1.80
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	6	97	28
COD-Cr mg/l	6	514	128
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	291	170

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’. The design of the wastewater treatment plant allows for peak values and therefore the peak loads have not impacted on compliance with Emission Limit Values.

2.1.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - TPEFF2200D0356SW001

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	6	N/A	N/A	17	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	4.09	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	25	50	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	1.36	Pass
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	7.68	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	5	6	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	0.094	Pass
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	1	1.2	N/A	6	3	2	1.09	Fail
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	453	
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	1.22	

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)
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	10	

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):

Refer to Incident Section of Report.

Significance of Results:

The WWTP is non compliant with the ELVs 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 TPEFF2200D0356SW001

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	110129, 337867	RS33B010150	No	No	No	No	Moderate

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	110133, 338295	RS33B010200	No	No	No	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: ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l.

The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the downstream monitoring location. 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 mg/l and ortho-Phosphate (As P) mg/l, concentrations downstream of the effluent discharge is noted.

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 - BALLYCASTLE WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Ballycastle 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)
cBOD	1704	83	95
SS	1904	247	87
TN	1076	629	42

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
TP	109	74	32
COD	7719	1047	86

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Ballycastle 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.

Ballycastle WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m^3/day) - As Constructed	405
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	135
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m^3/day)	291
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	170
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	600
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)[Note1]	267
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	333
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 - BALLYCASTLE 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
There were no relevant environmental complaints in 2023.			

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)
Breach of ELV	WWTP not designed for P removal	Yes	Yes
Breach of ELV	WWTP not designed for P removal	Yes	Yes
Monitoring equipment off-line	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2023	3
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2023	3
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	111313,337589	Yes	Low Significance	Not yet Assessed	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW3	110146,338137	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not 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
There are no Specified Improvement Programmes for this Agglomeration.							

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
D0356-01-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	N/A

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

Signed: Date: 04/03/2024

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

Ballycastle Ambient Points

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	
Upstream Monitoring Point	110129, 337867	RS33B010150	No	No	No	No	Moderate
Downstream Monitoring Point	110133, 338295	RS33B010200	No	No	No	No	Moderate

Ambient Impact Assessment Table

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS (Mean)	% EQS
BOD mg/l	RS33B010150	0.780	RS33B010200	2.3	1.5	101%
Ammonia (as N) mg/l	RS33B010150	0.014	RS33B010200	0.045	0.065	48%
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS33B010150	0.007	RS33B010200	0.053	0.035	131%

Ballycastle D0356-01 Ambient Monitoring Data

				Parameter	Ammonia	pH	Dissolved Oxygen	Biological Oxygen Demand	Ortho-Phosphate	Dissolved Oxygen	Temperature	Total Nitroge
Station	Station Reference	River Basin D	Sample Date		mg/l N	pH units	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l P	% Saturation	Degrees C	mg/l N
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	27-Jan-2023	-	<0.05	8	12.39	1.3	<0.05		3.9	<1
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	27-Jan-2023	-	<0.05	8	12.65	1.1	<0.05		3.8	<1
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	22-Feb-2023	-	<0.05	7.5	11.35	5.7	<0.05		6.7	<1
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	22-Feb-2023	-	<0.05	7.5	11.22	3.1	<0.05		6.9	<1
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	8-Mar-2023	-	<0.05	8	12.31	<1	<0.05		9.2	<1
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	8-Mar-2023	-	<0.05	7.9	12.2	1.3	0.053		9	<1
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	19-May-2023	-	0.03	8.2	9.85	<1	<0.01	108.08	12.8	0.5
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	19-May-2023	-	0.07	8.2	9.9	<1	<0.01	108.63	12.8	0.5
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	14-June-202	-	<0.02	8	8.66	<1	<0.01	97.12	20.1	0.7
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	14-June-202	-	0.02	8	8.89	<1	<0.01	99.7	20	0.7
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	18-July-2023	-	<0.02	8	8.8	<1	<0.01	96.95	14.6	0.9
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	18-July-2023	-	<0.02	8.1	8.81	<1	<0.01	97.06	14.8	1
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	23-Aug-2023	-	<0.02	8	10.76	<1	<0.01	104.59	14.1	0.9
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	23-Aug-2023	-	<0.02	8	10.31	1.1	<0.01	100.44	14.2	1
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	26-Sep-2023	-	<0.02	7.7	10.68	<1	<0.01	101.55	13.1	1.1
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	26-Sep-2023	-	<0.02	7.7	10.65	<1	<0.01	101.49	13.2	0.9
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	11-Oct-2023	-	<0.02	8	11.11	<1	<0.01	109	13.3	0.7
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	11-Oct-2023	-	<0.02	8	11.13	<1	<0.01	103.2	12.9	0.7
Ballycastle Upstream	RS33BO10200	Western	16-Nov-2023	-	<0.02	8	12.11	<1	<0.01	102.8	8.5	0.8
Ballycastle Downstream	RS33BO10210	Western	16-Nov-2023	-	<0.02	8	11.92	<1	<0.01	102.5	8.7	0.6