Annual Environmental Report

2024

Ballincollig New

D0049-01

CONTENTS

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0049-01, Ballincollig New, in Cork 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 major capital or operational changes undertaken.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Ballincollig WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 33000, the treatment type is 3NP - Tertiary N&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
TPEFF0500D0049SW001	Ballincollig WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l Total Nitrogen 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 BALLINCOLLIG WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - BALLINCOLLIG 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
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	12	391	161
Total Nitrogen mg/l	12	74	43
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	12	9.75	5.02
COD-Cr mg/l	12	977	444
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	1119	286
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	16580	4542

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 - TPEFF0500D0049SW001

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	25	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	12	1	N/A	9.84	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	25	50	N/A	12	1	N/A	5.12	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) Kg/d	74	148	N/A	12	1	N/A	25.94	Pass
Total Nitrogen mg/l	15	18	N/A	12	3	3	9.58	Fail
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.51	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	5	6	N/A	12	3	3	3.27	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	2	2.4	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.252	Pass

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)
ortho-Phosphate (as P) – unspecified Kg/d	29.5	59	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	1.27	Pass
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	2	2.4	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.397	Pass
Total Phosphorus (as P) Kg/d	15	30	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	2.01	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):

Refer to incident section of report

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 TPEFF0500D0049SW001

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	160952, 71730	RS19L030700	No	Yes	No	No	Good

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: Total Nitrogen mg/l, Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l.

The ambient monitoring results does 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.

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.

2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - BALLINCOLLIG WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Ballincollig 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)
COD	820234	45738	94
TP	9276	734	92

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
TN	80430	17720	78
cBOD	296871	9470	97
SS	529417	18208	97

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Ballincollig 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.

Ballincollig WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m^3/day) - As Constructed	22275
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	7425
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m^3/day)	16580
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	4542
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	33000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)[Note1]	25105
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	7895
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 - BALLINCOLLIG 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)
Domestic /Septic Tank Sludge	5340	Volume (m3)	33000	0.2	Yes	No	No

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 2024.			

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)
Uncontrolled release	Adverse Weather	No	Yes
Abatement equipment off-line	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Blocked Sewer	No	Yes

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Breach of ELV	Adverse Weather	Yes	No
Abatement equipment off-line	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	Yes
Other	Adverse Weather	No	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	6
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	6
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 2024 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2024 (m3)	Monitoring Status
SW05a	159239, 71509	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	22111	Monitored
SW05b	159239, 71509	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW06	161297, 71625	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
TBC	159686, 70001	No	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
TBC	159142, 70494	No	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
TBC	159718, 71261	No	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

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 2024 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2024 (m3)	Monitoring Status
TBC	159142, 70494	No	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
TBC	161279, 71596	No	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

The contents presented in this table include the most up to date information available at the time of writing. 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)?	22111
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
D0049-SIP:01	Installation of nutrient removal facilities	C	30/06/2013	Yes	Works Completed		
D0049-SIP:02	Upgrade storm water overflows SWO1	C	30/06/2013	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
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
D0049-01-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: 30/04/2025

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

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	
RS19L030700	160952, 71730	TPEFF0500D0049SW001	No	No	No	No	Good

Ambient Impact Assessment Table

Parameter Name	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS (Mean)	%EQS
BOD mg/l	RS19L030700	1.079	1.5	
Ortho-Phosphate (as P) mg/l	RS19L030700	0.016	0.035	
Ammonia (as N) mg/l	RS19L030700	0.052	0.065	
pH pH units	RS19L030700	7.627		
Dissolved Oxygen %saturation	RS19L030700	89.748		
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS19L030700	8.850		
Suspended Solids mg/l	RS19L030700	2.828		
Temperature °C	RS19L030700	13.119		
Total Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS19L030700	1.765		
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	RS19L030700	0.026		
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS19L030700	1.683		