Annual Environmental Report

2024

Muinebheag Leighlinbridge

D0090-02

CONTENTS

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0090-02, Muinebheag Leighlinbridge, in Carlow 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.

Upgrade works for the Mhuinebheag & Leighlinbridge WWTP were completed in Q4 2024 to include increasing the plant capacity from 5500 to 10600 PE.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Muinebheag & Leighlinbridge WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 5500 (10600 from Q4 2024), 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
TPEFF0100D0090SW001	Muinebheag & Leighlinbridge 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 MUINEBHEAG & LEIGHLINBRIDGE WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - MUINEBHEAG & LEIGHLINBRIDGE 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 (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	12	301	180
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	750	365
pH pH units	12	8.10	7.50
Total Nitrogen mg/l	12	52	34
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	12	40	21
COD-Cr mg/l	12	964	514
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	12	11	7.19
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	12	3.20	2.44
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	2746	1435

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 - TPEFF0100D0090SW001

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	23	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	12	1	N/A	9.53	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	25	50	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	2.13	Pass
Temperature °C	25	25	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	5.85	Pass
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.83	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	3	3	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.620	Pass
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	1.5	1.8	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.214	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)
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.764	
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	1096	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	16	

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 ELV's set in the Wastewater Discharge Licence.

2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF0100D0090SW001

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	270697, 162323	RS14B012820	No	No	No	No	Moderate
Downstream	268934, 161440	RS14B012920	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 compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.

The ambient monitoring results do not meet the required EQS at the upstream 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.

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 unknown.

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 - MUINEBHEAG & LEIGHLINBRIDGE WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Muinebheag & Leighlinbridge 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)
SS	187351	59412	97

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
cBOD	92484	1327	99
TN	17273	9714	44
COD	264170	14286	95
TP	3690	476	87

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Muinebheag & Leighlinbridge 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.

Muinebheag & Leighlinbridge WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m^3/day) - As Constructed	3024
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	986
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m^3/day)	2746
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	1435
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	5500*
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)[Note1]	5817
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.

*10600 from Q4 2024.

2.1.5 SLUDGE / OTHER INPUTS - MUINEBHEAG & LEIGHLINBRIDGE 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)
Waterworks Sludge	104	Weight (Tonnes)		0.02	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	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	WWTP biological sludge issue	No	No
Spillage	Shock load to the WWTP	No	Yes

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Uncontrolled release	Emergency overflow caused by power failure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Adverse Weather	No	No
Breach of ELV	Dosing pump failure or maintenance at WWTP	No	No
Uncontrolled release	Shock load to the WWTP	No	No
Uncontrolled release	Adverse Weather	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Plant or equipment maintenance at WWTP	No	No
Abatement equipment off-line	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	No
Abatement equipment off-line	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	11
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	11
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
SW003	269039, 165494	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW004	269168, 165307	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW002	269328, 161662	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	6399	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)?	6399
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?	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
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
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: 23/07/2025

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	
RS14B012820	270697, 162323	RS14B012820	No	No	No	No	Moderate
RS14B012920	268934, 161440	RS14B012920	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
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	RS14B012820	0.023	RS14B012920	0.023	0.065	0
BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l	RS14B012820	1.423	RS14B012920	1.306	1.500	-7.8
COD-Cr mg/l	RS14B012820	23.727	RS14B012920	21.455		
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	RS14B012820	90.030	RS14B012920	94.120		
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS14B012820	9.846				
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS14B012820	0.007	RS14B012920	0.012	0.035	14.3
pH pH units	RS14B012820	8.064	RS14B012920	8.109		
Suspended Solids mg/l	RS14B012820	14.641	RS14B012920	13.658		
Temperature °C	RS14B012820	12.480	RS14B012920	12.860		
Total Dissolved Solids mg/l	RS14B012820	4.000				
Total Nitrogen mg/l	RS14B012820	5.445	RS14B012920	5.318		
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	RS14B012820	0.073	RS14B012920	0.067		