Annual Environmental Report

2024

Buncrana

D0125-01

CONTENTS

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0125-01, Buncrana, in Donegal 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)

- Buncrana WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 10000, the treatment type is 1 - Primary 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
TPEFF0600D0125SW001	Buncrana 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 BUNCRANA WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - BUNCRANA 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	4.06	2.13
COD-Cr mg/l	12	468	211
pH pH units	12	7.60	7.29
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	12	40	21
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	12	247	98
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	162	74
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	4403	3146

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 - TPEFF0600D0125SW001

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)
Suspended Solids mg/l	85	212.5	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	40	Pass
Temperature °C	25	30	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	4.75	Pass
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.39	Pass
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	13	N/A	N/A	22	
COD-Cr mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	197	
Nitrite (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.280	
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	23	
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	82	
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	N/A	N/A	600	

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)
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.290	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.314	
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	2.33	

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 TPEFF0600D0125SW001

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

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 coastal/transitional ambient monitoring results meet the required EQS. The EQS relates to the Oxygenation and Nutrient Conditions set out in the Surface Water Regulations 2009.

The WWTP discharge was compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.

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.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the designated shellfish water quality.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the coastal/transitional water quality.

The discharge from the wastewater treatment plant does not have an observable impact on the bathing water quality.

2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - BUNCRANA WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Buncrana 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	110057	92864	16
TN	N/A	N/A	N/A
COD	238425	222591	6.64
TP	N/A	N/A	N/A
SS	83399	45574	45

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Buncrana 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.

Buncrana WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m^3/day) - As Constructed	27000
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	9000
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m^3/day)	4403
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	3145.54
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	10000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)[Note1]	9225
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	775
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 - BUNCRANA 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 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	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	13
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	13
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	234412, 432404	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW004	234511, 431424	Yes	Medium Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW006	234485, 431377	Yes	Medium 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)?	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?	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
D0125-SIP:01	Provision of adequate storm water holding capacity at Westbrook Pumping Station	C	31/12/2012	Yes	Work ongoing on-site		
D0125-SIP:02	Upgrading of Storm Water overflows to comply with the criteria outlined in the DoEHLG "Procedures and Criteria in relation to Storm Water Overflows, 1995"	C	31/12/2012	Yes	Work ongoing on-site		

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
D0125-01-Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	No
D0125-01-Shellfish Impact 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: 03/07/2025

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

Buncrana WWTP

Ambient Monitoring Points from WWDL (or as agreed by EPA)	Irish Grid Reference	EPA Feature Coding Tool code	Receiving Waters Designation (Y/N)				WFD Status
			Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish	
Point 1 Coastal Lough Swilly	233800E 43089N	IE-NW-220-0000	Yes	No	No	Yes	Good
Point 2 Coastal Lough Swilly	233871E 430769E	IE-NW-220-000	Yes	No	No	Yes	Good

Parameter Name	Point 1	Point 1	Point 2	Point 2
BOD mg/l	233800E 43089N	2.25	233871E 430769E	2.75
Ortho-Phosphate (as P) mg/l	233800E 43089N	0.037	233871E 430769E	0.025
Ammonia (as N) mg/l	233800E 43089N	0.44	233871E 430769E	0.42
pH	233800E 43089N	7.70	233871E 430769E	7.70
Total Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	233800E 43089N	0.57	233871E 430769E	0.56
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	233800E 43089N	97.22	233871E 430769E	98.02
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	233800E 43089N	0.58	233871E 430769E	0.57
Chlorophyll (ug/l)	233800E 43089N	3.53	233871E 430769E	1.00

County	Licence Ref.	Agglomeratic	Receiving Wa	Monitoring L	Monitoring Result Source	Date	pH	Temperatur e (°C)	BOD mg/l	COD mg/l	SS mg/l	Total Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	Ammonia (as N) mg/l	Orthophosp hate (as P) mg/l	Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	Dissolved Oxygen %Sat	Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	Faecal Coliforms cfu/100ml	Escherichia coli cfu/100ml	Intestinal Enterococci cfu/100ml	Visual Inspection	SSRS	Water level	Conductivity	Chloride	Fluoride	Ammonium (NH4)	Major anions	Major Cations	Priority Subs	Metals & Organic Compounds	Salinity	Nitrate	Nitrite	Chlorophyll (ug/l)	Chlorophyll (mg/m3)
Donegal	D0125-01	Buncrana	Lough Swilly	**Number of samples Required**			4	0	4	0	0	4	0	4	4	4		4	4	0	0	0	4	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Issued on	18/01/2011			**Upstream: SW1u ()**																																		
				Downstream:SW1d ()																																		
				Buncrana - Poi	Email	27-Mar-24	8.1	NT	3	NT	NT	0.6		0.6	0.02		97.3	NT	0.6	NT	NT	NT												NT			3.22	NT
				Buncrana - Poi	Email	27-Mar-24	8.1	NT	2	NT	NT	0.55		0.55	0.02		97.9	NT	0.55	NT	NT	NT												NT			1	NT
				Buncrana - Poi	Email	29-May-24	7.8	NT	2	NT	NT	0.5		0.51	0.02		100.2	NT	0.54	NT	NT	NT												NT			1	NT
				Buncrana - Poi	Email	29-May-24	7.8	NT	2	NT	NT	0.5		0.49	0.02		101.3	NT	0.53	NT	NT	NT												NT			1	NT
				Buncrana - Poi	Email	11-Sep-24	8.1	NT	2	NT	NT	0.69		0.64	0.01		92.6	NT	0.69	NT	NT	NT												NT			3.22	NT
				Buncrana - Poi	Email	11-Sep-24	8.2	NT	3	NT	NT	0.7		0.65	0.01		94.3	NT	0.7	NT	NT	NT												NT			1	NT
				Buncrana - Poin	Email	19/11/2024	6.8	NT	2	NT	NT	0.5		0.02	0.1		98.8	NT	0.5	NT	NT	NT												NT			6.7	NT
				Buncrana - Poin	Email	19/11/2024	6.9	NT	4	NT	NT	0.5		0.02	0.05		98.6	NT	0.5	NT	NT	NT												NT			1	NT