Annual Environmental Report

2024

Union Hall

D0469-01

CONTENTS

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0469-01, Union Hall, 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)

- UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK with a Plant Capacity PE of 400, 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
TPEFF0500D0469SW001	UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK	Treated	Non-Compliant	BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l COD-Cr mg/l Suspended Solids 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 UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK

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 Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	6	2.77	1.63
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	6	116	66
Total Nitrogen mg/l	6	26	11
Suspended Solids mg/l	6	89	68
COD-Cr mg/l	6	518	276
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	113	99

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 greater 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 - TPEFF0500D0469SW001

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	5	4	290	Fail
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	35	42	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	0.267	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	6	4	2	69	Fail
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	35	42	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	6.49	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceo mg/l	25	50	N/A	6	6	4	64	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	10	12	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	0.703	Pass
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	7.15	Pass
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	7	N/A	N/A	0.020	

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)
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	5.71	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	12	
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	N/A	N/A	1.86	

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 this 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 TPEFF0500D0469SW001

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	121228, 35358	TW05003180GH1002	No	No	No	No	Unassigned
Downstream	121571, 34648	TW05003180GH1001	No	No	No	No	Unassigned

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 not compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.

Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in BOD, Ammonia, ortho-phosphate, Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen, Faecal Coliforms, Temperature, Total Oxidised Nitrogen, 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.

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 have an observable impact on the coastal/transitional water quality.

2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK

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)
TP	67	77	-14.01
cBOD	2711	2654	2.1
SS	2791	2832	-1.48
COD	11384	11940	-4.89
TN	451	484	-7.18

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK

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.

UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m^3/day) - As Constructed	113
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	90
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m^3/day)	113
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m^3/day)	99
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	400
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)[Note1]	508
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.

2.1.5 SLUDGE / OTHER INPUTS - UNION HALL SEPTIC TANK

'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
1	Water Pollution	0	1

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	Inadequate Infrastructure	Yes	No

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	1
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	1
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
TBC	120994, 34613	Yes	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)?	Unknown
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
D0469-SIP:01	Waste water treatment plant and ancillary works	C	31/12/2020	No	Not Started		Capital works not funded in RC3. Capital works funding post 2024 will be contingent on the project being included in the 2025-2029 investment period

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
There is no Licence Specific Report Required in this AER Annual Review.		

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: 26/05/2025

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	
TW05003180GH1002	121228, 35358	TPEFF0500D0469SW001	No	No	No	No	Unassigned
TW05003180GH1001	121571, 34648	TPEFF0500D0469SW001	No	No	No	No	Unassigned

Ambient Impact Assessment Table

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS (Mean)	%EQS
BOD mg/l	TW05003180GH1002	1.029	TW05003180GH1001	1.527	4.00	12.5
Ortho-Phosphate (as P) mg/l	TW05003180GH1002	0.014	TW05003180GH1001	0.018	0.06	6.7
Ammonia (as N) mg/l	TW05003180GH1002	0.025	TW05003180GH100	0.045		
pH pH units	TW05003180GH1002	8.125	TW05003180GH1001	8.125		
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen mg/l	TW05003180GH1002	0.025	TW05003180GH1001	0.031		
Dissolved Oxygen %saturation	TW05003180GH1002	100.320	TW05003167BN2007	99.720	70 - 130	-0.6
E. Coli no. 100/mls	TW05003180GH1002	42.750	TW05003167BN2007	39.036		
Intestinal Enterococci no. 100/mls	TW05003180GH1002	17.018	TW05003167BN2007	17.018		
Faecal Coliforms no. 100/mls	TW05003180GH1002	14.518	TW05003167BN2007	28.000		
Temperature °C	TW05003180GH1002	15.700	TW05003167BN2007	15.900		
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	TW05003180GH1002	0.025	TW05003167BN2007	0.057		

Ambient Data Tables

Monitored Entity	Station	Monitoring Point	Date	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	E. Coli no./100 mls	Enterococci (Intestinal) no./100mls	Faecal coliforms no./100mls	ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	pH pH Units	Tempera ture °C	Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1002	Upstream	09/05/2024	<0.035	<1.0	<0.035	100.1				<0.020	8.1	13.7	0.02
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1002	Upstream	23/05/2024					31	<10	<10				
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1002	Upstream	05/06/2024	<0.035	1	<0.035	103.4	20	10	10	<0.020	8.2	15	<0.02
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1002	Upstream	11/07/2024	<0.035	<1.0	<0.035	98.6	10	10	10	<0.020	8.2	19.6	<0.02
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1002	Upstream	07/08/2024	<0.035	1.7	<0.035	97.8	110	41	31	<0.020	8	18.1	
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1002	Upstream	05/09/2024				101.7						12.1	0.05
			Mean	0.025	1.029	0.025	100.320	42.750	17.018	14.518	0.014	8.125	15.700	0.025

Monitored Entity	Station	Monitoring Point	Sample Date	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l	Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	E. Coli no./100 mls	Enterococci (Intestinal) no./100mls	Faecal coliforms no./100mls	ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	pH pH Units	Tempera ture °C	Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1001	Downstream	09/05/2024	0.062	3.1	0.051	99.9				0.029	8.2	13.9	<0.02
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1001	Downstream	23/05/2024					<10	<10	20				
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1001	Downstream	05/06/2024	0.067	1.1	<0.035	102.3	<10	10	20	<0.020	8.2	14.9	0.03
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1001	Downstream	11/07/2024	<0.035	<1.0	<0.035	99.6	132	20	52	<0.020	8.1	19.4	<0.02
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1001	Downstream	07/08/2024	<0.035	1.2	<0.035	96.7	10	31	20	<0.020	8	18.1	
Gandore Harbour	TW05003180GH1001	Downstream	05/09/2024				100.1						13.2	0.17
			Mean	0.045	1.527	0.031	99.720	39.036	17.018	28.000	0.018	8.125	15.900	0.057

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.