

Annual Environmental Report

2024



Balbriggan

D0023-01

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1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2024 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0023-01, Balbriggan, in Dublin 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.

In February 2024, Stamullen agglomeration was amalgamated into Balbriggan Agglomeration.

The Stamullen WWTP was changed over to function as a Pumping Station which now pumps flows to the Balbriggan WWTP for treatment.

1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Balbriggan (Barnageeragh) WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 70000, 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
TPEFF0900D0023SW001	Barnageeragh 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 BARNAGEERAGH WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - BARNAGEERAGH 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
Suspended Solids mg/l	36	441	208
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	36	8.87	5.7
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	35	385	199
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	36	5.23	3.46
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	36	58	35
pH pH units	36	8.00	7.55
COD-Cr mg/l	36	994	453
Total Nitrogen mg/l	36	69	46
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	25004	9894

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 - TPEFF0900D0023SW001

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	36	N/A	N/A	35.1	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	35	87.5	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	5.71	Pass
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	25	50	N/A	34	N/A	N/A	3.63	Pass
pH pH units	9	9	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	7.59	Pass
Nitrite (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	0.291	
True Colour Hazen	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	32	
Conductivity @20°C µS/cm	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	1053	

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)
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	3.11	
Enterococci (Intestinal) no./100mls	N/A	N/A	N/A	2	N/A	N/A	1.96	
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	2.38	
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	2.71	
Dissolved Inorganic Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	7.8	
Coliform Bacteria (Total) no./100mls	N/A	N/A	N/A	37	N/A	N/A	2011	
Total Nitrogen mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	9.01	
E. Coli no./100mls	N/A	N/A	N/A	37	N/A	N/A	173	
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	N/A	N/A	4.40	
Salinity PSU	N/A	N/A	N/A	11	N/A	N/A	0.299	

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 TPEFF0900D0023SW001

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	324602, 263044	CW09001003DB7004	No	No	No	Yes	Good
Downstream	321806, 265565	CW09001003DB7005	Yes	No	No	Yes	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 compliant with the ELV's set in the wastewater discharge licence.

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 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.

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 - BARNAGEERAGH WWTP

2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Barnageeragh 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	718554	15644	98
COD	1636335	151185	91
SS	752254	24599	97
TN	166938	38809	77
TP	20669	11667	44

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

2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Barnageeragh 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.

Barnageeragh WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m³/day) - As Constructed	48300
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m³/day)	16100
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m³/day)	25004
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m³/day)	9894
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	70000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)^{Note1}	50496
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	19504
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 - BARNAGEERAGH 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	Broken Sewer Pipe	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)
Uncontrolled release	SWO exceptional rainfall and overflow expected	No	Yes
Spillage	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Blocked Sewer	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	Blocked Sewer	No	Yes
Abatement equipment off-line	Blocked Sewer	No	Yes

3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2024	8
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2024	8
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 (m ³)	Monitoring Status
SW003	321548, 263469	Yes	High Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW005	320439, 263829	Yes	Low Significance	Not Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW007	325540, 261085	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW009	324015, 261090	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
SW010	320876, 260084	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
TBC	320094, 263070	Yes	Low Significance	Not Meeting Criteria	0	0	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 (m ³)	Monitoring Status
TBC	320923, 263617	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 (m ³)?	0
Is each SWO identified as not meeting DoEHLG Guidance included in the Programme of Improvements?	Yes
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?	Yes

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
D0023-SIP:01	Balbriggan/Skerries Wastewater Treatment Scheme (Phase III) - Sewer Network Upgrade including infrastructure to direct WW from Loughshinny & Killalane to Barnageeragh WWTP	C	31/12/2010	Yes	Works Completed		
D0023-SIP:02	Balbriggan/Skerries Wastewater Treatment Scheme (Phase III) - Sewer Network Upgrade to improve primary discharge	C	31/12/2010	Yes	Works Completed		
D0023-SIP:03	Connection of Kelly's Bay P.S. to Barnageeragh WWTP. SW6 to cease or revert to SWO complying with DoE criteria.	C	31/12/2010	Yes	Works Completed		

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
D0023-SIP:04	Discharge to cease: SW014 Killalane septic tank	A	31/12/2010	Yes	Works Completed		
D0023-SIP:05	Discharge to cease: SW006 Hoar's Rock, Skerries to cease or revert to a surface water overflow	A	31/12/2010	Yes	Works Completed		
D0023-SIP:06	Discharge to cease: SW015 Loughshinny septic tank	A	31/12/2010	Yes	Works Completed		
D0023-SIP:07	Upgrading of sewer network to ensure SWOs comply with DoE criteria	C	31/12/2020	Yes	At Planning Stage		DAP Assessment commenced in 2022

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
D0023-01-Priority Substances Assessment	Yes	No
D0023-01-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?	Yes
List reason e.g. additional SWO identified	Agglomeration boundary change; Additional SWOs; Amalgamation with Stamullen
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	No
List reason e.g. changes to monitoring requirements	N/A
Have these processes commenced?	Yes
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:

Date: 28/04/2025

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

Balbriggan Ambient Monitoring Summary 2024

Ambient Monitoring Report Summary Table

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish Grid Reference	EPA Feature Coding Tool code	Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish	Current WFD Status
Marine Monitoring Point Northwestern Irish Sea – Balbriggan (CW09001003DB7005)	321806, 265565	DB800	No	No	No	Yes	Good
Marine Monitoring Point Northwestern Irish Sea – Skerries (CW09001003DB7004)	325502 262244	DB780	No	No	No	Yes	Good
Shore Monitoring Point Balbriggan North Beach	320385E 264052N		Yes	No	No	Yes	Good
Shore Monitoring Point Skerries South Beach	325569E 260666N		Yes	No	No	Yes	Good
Shore Monitoring Point Loughshinny Beach	327233E 256837N		Yes	No	No	Yes	Good

2024 Ambient Monitoring Summary

Station	Date	Ammonia	BOD	DO	Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	pH	Temp - Surface	Total Oxidised Nitrogen	TN	Chlorophyll_a	Ortho-P	Salinity	DIN
		mg/L N	mg/l	mg/l	% Sat.	pH units	Degrees C	mg/l	mg/l	mg/m ³	mg/L P	S	mg/L N
Balbriggan/Skerries (DB800)	06/06/2024	0.46	2.8	10.29	102.1	6.9	14.3	0.10	< 0.5	2.07	0.01	34.33	0.55
Balbriggan/Skerries (DB800)	04/09/2024	0.43	2.0	10.95	100.1	7.8	16.4	< 0.05	< 0.5	< 1	0.03	35	0.47
Balbriggan/Skerries (DB780)	06/06/2024	0.49	2.4	10.07	101.7	7.1	14.1	0.11	< 0.5	4.08	0.01	34.17	0.60
Balbriggan/Skerries (DB780)	04/09/2024	0.43	4.9	10.88	99.9	7.8	16.4	< 0.05	< 0.5	< 1	0.07	34	0.48

Bathing Water Results 2024

Balbriggan Front Beach

Date	E-Coli Result	Intestinal Enterococci Result	Water Sample Status
11/09/2024	<10	4	Excellent
02/09/2024	52	142	Good
26/08/2024	63	49	Excellent
19/08/2024	52	7	Excellent
12/08/2024	233	34	Excellent
06/08/2024	20	8	Excellent
30/07/2024	341	79	Good
22/07/2024	279	230	Sufficient
16/07/2024	<10	<1	Excellent
24/06/2024	<10	2	Excellent
17/06/2024	31	22	Excellent
10/06/2024	10	5	Excellent
04/06/2024	41	2	Excellent
22/05/2024	86	5	Excellent

(Source: Beaches.ie)

Skerries South Beach

Date	E-Coli Result	Intestinal Enterococci Result	Water Sample Status
11/09/2024	<10	<1	Excellent
26/08/2024	10	1	Excellent
12/08/2024	20	7	Excellent
30/07/2024	<10	3	Excellent
16/07/2024	<10	5	Excellent
01/07/2024	30	4	Excellent
17/06/2024	20	8	Excellent
04/06/2024	63	1	Excellent
22/05/2024	31	3	Excellent

(Source: Beaches.ie)

Loughshinny Beach

Date	E-Coli Result	Intestinal Enterococci Result	Water Sample Status
11/09/2024	<10	3	Excellent
26/08/2024	95	59	Excellent
12/08/2024	96	29	Excellent
30/07/2024	10	<1	Excellent
16/07/2024	<10	2	Excellent
01/07/2024	<10	4	Excellent
17/06/2024	<10	2	Excellent

Date	E-Coli Result	Intestinal Enterococci Result	Water Sample Status
04/06/2024	<10	<1	Excellent
22/05/2024	10	2	Excellent

(Source: Beaches.ie)