

# Annual Environmental Report

2021



Ferns

D0169-01

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2021 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0169-01, Ferns, in Wexford 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 significant changes nor improvements under taken in 2021

## 1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- FERNS SOUTH WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 2000, the treatment type is 3P - Tertiary P removal
- Ferns North WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 100, 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
TPEFF3300D0169SW001	FERNS SOUTH WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l

Discharge Point Reference	Treatment Plant	Discharge Type	Compliance Status	Parameters failing if relevant
TPEFF3300D0169SW002	Ferns North WWTP	Treated	Non-Compliant	Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l COD-Cr mg/l ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified 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 FERNS SOUTH WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

#### 2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - FERNS SOUTH 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
COD-Cr mg/l	12	1069	564
Suspended Solids mg/l	12	1514	364
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	12	529	284
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	1350	379

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'. 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 - TPEFF3300D0169SW001

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
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l	25	50	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	2.14	Pass
Suspended Solids mg/l	25	50	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	6.25	Pass
pH units	9.00	9.00	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.27	Pass
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	2.00	4.00	N/A	12	2	2	2.84	Fail
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	0.500	1.00	N/A	12	12	12	3.89	Fail
Visual Inspection Descriptive	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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):

No additional Process Optimisation Possible regarding removal Ammonia and Orthophosphate pending Upgrade ,

## Significance of Results:

Plant upgrade required to meet ELVs consistently.

### 2.1.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF3300D0169SW001

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	303187, 149384	RS12B010800	No	No	No	No	Moderate
Downstream	302754, 148972	RS12B010900	No	No	No	No	Moderate

The table below provides a summary of monitoring results for designated ambient monitoring points. The upstream and downstream annual mean values are shown (mg/l), and the difference between both monitoring stations is given as a percentage of the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) where relevant.

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l	RS12B010800	1.16	RS12B010900	1.25	1.50	5.8
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	RS12B010800	0.034	RS12B010900	0.048	0.065	22.9



Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	RS12B010800	0.024	RS12B010900	0.032	0.035	22.9
Total Hardness (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS12B010800	62	RS12B010900	63	N/A	
Temperature °C	RS12B010800	11	RS12B010900	11	N/A	
Total Oxidised Nitrogen (as N) mg/l	RS12B010800	5.32	RS12B010900	5.32	N/A	
Suspended Solids mg/l	RS12B010800	5.10	RS12B010900	3.98	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen mg/l	RS12B010800	11	RS12B010900	11	N/A	
Alkalinity-total (as CaCO3) mg/l	RS12B010800	35	RS12B010900	35	N/A	
pH units	RS12B010800	7.32	RS12B010900	7.32	N/A	
Conductivity @25°C µS/cm	RS12B010800	206	RS12B010900	205	N/A	
True Colour mg/litre Pt Co	RS12B010800	15	RS12B010900	15	N/A	
Nitrite (as N) µg/l	RS12B010800	12	RS12B010900	13	N/A	
Nitrate (as N) mg/l	RS12B010800	5.32	RS12B010900	5.28	N/A	
Dissolved Oxygen % Saturation	RS12B010800	97	RS12B010900	98	N/A	

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
Chloride mg/l	RS12B010800	21	RS12B010900	21	N/A	

### Significance of Results:

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

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

Based on ambient monitoring results a deterioration in Ammonia and Ortho-P, 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: High agricultural activity and domestic WWTPs between upstream and downstream monitoring points.

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 - FERNS SOUTH WWTP

### 2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - FERNS SOUTH 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	40278	692	98
TN	N/A	N/A	N/A

Parameter	Influent mass loading (kg/year)	Effluent mass emission (kg/year)	Efficiency (% reduction of influent load)
TP	N/A	N/A	N/A
cBOD	31431	237	99
COD	62465	2574	96

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

#### 2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - FERNS SOUTH 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.

FERNS SOUTH WWTP	
Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m <sup>3</sup> /day) - As Constructed	1350
DWF to the Treatment Plant (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	450
Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	1350
Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	379.13
Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed	2000
Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week) <sup>Note1</sup>	1358
Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining	642
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 - FERNS SOUTH 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.							

## 2.2 FERNS NORTH WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

### 2.2.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - FERNS NORTH 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
<b>COD-Cr mg/l</b>	12	1419	696
<b>Suspended Solids mg/l</b>	12	702	209
<b>BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l</b>	12	746	350
<b>Hydraulic Capacity</b>	N/A	297	62

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 greater 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'.

## 2.2.2 EFFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - TPEFF3300D0169SW002

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)
<b>COD-Cr mg/l</b>	125	250	N/A	12	11	10	458	Fail
<b>Suspended Solids mg/l</b>	25	62.5	N/A	12	12	10	82	Fail
<b>pH units</b>	9.00	9.00	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.33	Pass
<b>BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous BOD) mg/l</b>	8.00	16	N/A	12	12	12	239	Fail
<b>Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l</b>	0.300	0.600	N/A	12	12	12	41	Fail
<b>ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l</b>	0.200	0.400	N/A	12	12	12	4.73	Fail
<b>Visual Inspection Descriptive</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	N/A	

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):

It is not possible to Achieve required discharge standard pending upgrade as plant is overloaded and solely consists of PST

### Significance of Results:

Plant is consistently non complaint and no additional process optimization is possible with existing infrastructure

## 2.2.3 AMBIENT MONITORING SUMMARY FOR THE TREATMENT PLANT DISCHARGE TPEFF3300D0169SW002

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	301595, 150308	RS12R470360	No	No	No	No	Moderate
Downstream	302285, 149902	RS12R470650	No	No	No	No	Moderate

The table below provides a summary of monitoring results for designated ambient monitoring points. The upstream and downstream annual mean values are shown (mg/l), and the difference between both monitoring stations is given as a percentage of the Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) where relevant.

Parameter Name	Upstream Monitoring Point Location	Upstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	Downstream Monitoring Point Location	Downstream Monitoring Point Annual Mean	EQS	% of EQS
<b>BOD - 5 days (Total) mg/l</b>	RS12R470360	3.42	RS12R470650	3.15	1.50	-18.3
<b>Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l</b>	RS12R470360	0.635	RS12R470650	0.613	0.065	-34.6
<b>ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l</b>	RS12R470360	0.135	RS12R470650	0.115	0.035	-57.1
<b>Temperature °C</b>	RS12R470360	12	RS12R470650	12	N/A	
<b>Suspended Solids mg/l</b>	RS12R470360	6.40	RS12R470650	5.84	N/A	
<b>pH units</b>	RS12R470360	6.98	RS12R470650	6.90	N/A	

### Significance of Results:

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

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

## 2.2.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - FERNS NORTH WWTP

### 2.2.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Ferns North 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)
<b>COD</b>	15712	10339	34
<b>SS</b>	4729	1854	61
<b>TP</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>cBOD</b>	7908	5403	32
<b>TN</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

#### 2.2.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Ferns North 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.

Ferns North WWTP	
<b>Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m<sup>3</sup>/day) - As Constructed</b>	0
<b>DWF to the Treatment Plant (m<sup>3</sup>/day)</b>	0
<b>Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m<sup>3</sup>/day)</b>	297
<b>Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m<sup>3</sup>/day)</b>	61.88
<b>Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed</b>	100
<b>Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)<sup>Note1</sup></b>	221
<b>Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining</b>	0



## Ferns North WWTP

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.

### 2.2.5 SLUDGE / OTHER INPUTS - FERNS NORTH 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)
<b>There is no Sludge and Other Input data for the Treatment Plant included in the AER.</b>							

## 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
<b>There were no relevant environmental complaints in 2021.</b>			

### 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 Irish Water 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	No. of incident occurrences	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
<b>Breach of ELV</b>	WWTP upgrade required to meet ELV	1	Yes	No
<b>Breach of ELV</b>	WWTP upgrade required to meet ELV	1	Yes	No

### 3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2021	2
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2021	2
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 2021 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2021 (m3)	Monitoring Status
<b>There are no Storm Water Overflows in this Agglomeration.</b>							

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 sewage was discharged via SWOs in the agglomeration in 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?	N/A
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
<b>D0169-SIP:01</b>	Complete improvements to comply with ELVs specified in Schedule A.2. Implement, in accordance with Condition 5.6.1, either (a) improvements to the existing waste water works to achieve compliance with the emission limit values specified in Schedule A.2 of this licence, or (b) an alternative discharge point, or (c) connection to another agglomeration.	C	31/12/2019	Yes	Not Started		
<b>D0169-SIP:02</b>	Complete improvements to comply with the total ammonia ELV as specified in Schedule A.1.	C	31/12/2019	Yes	Not Started		

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
<b>No additional improvements planned at this time.</b>				

**4.2.3 SEWER INTEGRITY RISK ASSESSMENT**

N/A

## 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	Year included in AER	Included in this AER
<b>Drinking Water Abstraction Point Risk Assessment</b>	Yes	2015	No
<b>Priority Substances Assessment</b>	Yes	2015	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
Has a Technical amendment/licence review application been submitted to the Agency by IW?	No
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	No
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:

Date: 09/05/2022

This AER has been produced by Irish Water's Environmental Information System (EIMS) and has been electronically signed off in that system for and on behalf of,

Katherine Walshe

Acting Head of Environmental Regulation

## **7 APPENDIX**

There are no Appendices included