

# Annual Environmental Report

2023



Birr

D0109-01

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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 AER

This Annual Environmental Report has been prepared for D0109-01, Birr, in Offaly 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 capital works, significant changes or operational changes undertaken in 2023.

## 1.2 TREATMENT SUMMARY

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

- Birr WWTP with a Plant Capacity PE of 12000, 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
TPEFF2500D0109SW001	Birr 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 BIRR WWTP - TREATED DISCHARGE

#### 2.1.1 INFLUENT MONITORING SUMMARY - BIRR 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	12	832	350
COD-Cr mg/l	12	1029	503
Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l	12	27	16
BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l	12	470	194
Total Nitrogen mg/l	12	156	40
pH pH units	12	7.80	7.27
ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l	12	2.48	0.614
Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l	12	9.43	3.37
Hydraulic Capacity	N/A	7413	2867

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 - TPEFF2500D0109SW001

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	N/A	N/A	15	Pass
<b>Suspended Solids mg/l</b>	35	87.5	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	3.16	Pass
<b>BOD, 5 days with Inhibition (Carbonaceous) mg/l</b>	25	50	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	1.24	Pass
<b>pH pH units</b>	6	9	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	7.69	Pass
<b>Ammonia-Total (as N) mg/l</b>	5	6	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.165	Pass
<b>Total Phosphorus (as P) mg/l</b>	2	2.4	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.092	Pass
<b>Total Nitrogen mg/l</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	13	

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>Conductivity @20°C µS/cm</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	678	
<b>Nitrate (as N) mg/l</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	12	
<b>Nitrite (as N) mg/l</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.100	
<b>ortho-Phosphate (as P) - unspecified mg/l</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	12	N/A	N/A	0.012	

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 TPEFF2500D0109SW001

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
<b>Upstream</b>	205362, 205624	RS25L020800	No	No	No	No	Moderate
<b>Downstream</b>	203285, 207919	RS25L020900	No	No	No	No	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 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 concentration 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.



## 2.1.4 OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE SUMMARY - BIRR WWTP

### 2.1.4.1 Treatment Efficiency Report - Birr 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>TN</b>	41274	12806	69
<b>cBOD</b>	201582	1216	99
<b>TP</b>	3497	91	97
<b>COD</b>	521888	14741	97
<b>SS</b>	363356	3112	99

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

### 2.1.4.2 Treatment Capacity Report Summary - Birr 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.

Birr WWTP	
<b>Peak Hydraulic Capacity (m<sup>3</sup>/day) - As Constructed</b>	8100
<b>DWF to the Treatment Plant (m<sup>3</sup>/day)</b>	2700
<b>Current Hydraulic Loading - annual max (m<sup>3</sup>/day)</b>	7413
<b>Average Hydraulic loading to the Treatment Plant (m<sup>3</sup>/day)</b>	2866.76
<b>Organic Capacity (PE) - As Constructed</b>	12000
<b>Organic Capacity (PE) - Collected Load (peak week)<sup>Note1</sup></b>	11011
<b>Organic Capacity (PE) - Remaining</b>	989
<b>Will the capacity be exceeded in the next three years? (Yes/No)</b>	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 - BIRR WWTP

'Other inputs' to the waste water treatment plant are summarised in the 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 2023.</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 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)
<b>Uncontrolled release</b>	Network Infrastructure	Yes	No
<b>Abatement equipment off-line</b>	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	Yes
<b>Abatement equipment off-line</b>	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	Yes

Incident Type	Cause	Recurring (Y/N)	Closed (Y/N)
Uncontrolled release	Network Infrastructure	No	Yes
Uncontrolled release	SWO exceptional rainfall and overflow expected	No	Yes
Abatement equipment off-line	Plant or equipment breakdown at WWTP	No	Yes

### 3.2.2 SUMMARY OF OVERALL INCIDENTS

Question	Answer
Number of Incidents in 2023	6
Number of Incidents reported to the EPA via EDEN in 2023	6
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 2023 (No. of events)	Total volume discharged in 2023 (m <sup>3</sup> )	Monitoring Status
<b>SW2</b>	205371 205854	Yes	Low Significance	Not Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
<b>SW3</b>	205875 204654	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
<b>SW4</b>	206171 204637	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
<b>SW5</b>	206676 203499	Yes	Low Significance	Not Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored
<b>SW6</b>	206934 205172	Yes	Low Significance	Meeting Criteria	Unknown	Unknown	Not Monitored

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 <sup>3</sup> )?	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
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>D0109-SIP:01</b>	SW3 - Upgrading of Storm Water Overflows, to provide storm-water capacity of 150m <sup>3</sup> , to comply with the DoE criteria for SWOs	C	01/01/2022	No	Not Started		

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>D0109-SIP:02</b>	SW4 - Upgrading of Storm Water Overflows, to provide storm-water capacity of 150m3, to comply with the DoE criteria for SWOs	C	01/01/2022	No	At Planning Stage		

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	Included in this AER
<b>Priority Substances Assessment</b>	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?	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: 27/02/2024

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**

## Birr Ambient Monitoring Summary 2023

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Irish National Grid Reference (Easting, Northing)	EPA Feature Coding Tool code	Receiving Waters Designation (Yes/No)			
			Bathing Water	Drinking Water	FWPM	Shellfish
Upstream Monitoring Point	205362, 205624	RS25L020800	No	No	No	No
Downstream Monitoring Point	203285, 207919	RS25L020900	No	No	No	No

Ambient Monitoring Point from WWDL (or as agreed with EPA)	Current WFD Status	cBOD	o-Phosphate (as P)	Ammonia (as N)
Upstream Monitoring Point	Moderate	0.958	0.0143	0.030
Downstream Monitoring Point	Good	0.882	0.0142	0.033
<i>Difference</i>		<i>-0.076</i>	<i>-0.0001</i>	<i>0.003</i>
EQS		1.500	0.035	0.065
% of EQS		-5.055%	-0.220%	4.700%

## Birr Ambient Monitoring Data 2023

			Temperature	pH	BOD	COD	Suspended solids	Total Nitrogen as N	Total Phosphorus as P	Total Ammonia as N	Ortho-Phosphate as P	Nitrite as N	Nitrate as N	Conductivity	DO	DO
Station	Station Reference	Sample Date	Degrees C	pH units	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	µS/m	mg/l	% sat
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	10/01/2023	4.4	7.8	1.5	41	58	2.8	0.15	< 0.02	0.016	< 0.004	2.11	373	12.1	90.5
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	24/01/2023	7.3	8.06	< 1	27	3.6	4.3	< 0.05	< 0.02	0.02	0.014	4.099	580	9.55	81.6
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	02/02/2023	7.7	8.1	< 1	< 20	4	4.5	0.11	0.034	0.017	0.013	3.533	586	11.84	99
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	07/03/2023	6.1	8.2	< 1	< 20	6.5	4.1	0.06	0.044	0.014	0.018	2.86	587	12.5	109.1
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	15/03/2023	6.5	8.07	1.3	< 20	8	3.3	< 0.05	0.038	0.014	0.01	2.811	545	11.76	101.5
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	13/04/2023	8	8	< 1	< 20	3	3	0.05	0.047	0.008	0.007	2.655	529	12.46	107.1
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	15/06/2023	18.7	8.12	1	< 20	< 2.5	3.1	< 0.05	0.023	< 0.006	0.023	2.778	555	9.82	105.8
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	29/06/2023	16.1	8.24	1	< 20	< 2.5	2.5	0.03	< 0.02	0.011	0.01	2.157	493	10.84	103.5
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	11/07/2023	18.2	7.82	1.3	24	< 2	2.3	< 0.1	0.062	< 0.02	0.015	1.6	417	9.4	100.1
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	16/08/2023	14.6	7.99	< 1	< 20	< 2.5	3.5	0.03	< 0.02	0.021	0.004	2.564	572	9.95	93.4
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	27/09/2023	1.4	7.98	< 1	30	< 2	2.6	< 0.1	0.024	0.023	< 0.015	1.6	513		
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	25/10/2023	2.4	7.94	1.4	24	24.2	2.7	< 0.1	0.026	< 0.02	< 0.015	1.7	489	10.1	105.1
0800 - Croghan Br	RS25L020800	07/11/2023		7.69	< 1	< 20	< 2.5	4.9	< 0.01	0.036	0.009	0.015	4.164	652		
		<b>Mean</b>	<b>9.283</b>	<b>8.001</b>	<b>0.958</b>	<b>19.934</b>	<b>9.015</b>	<b>3.354</b>	<b>0.058</b>	<b>0.030</b>	<b>0.0143</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>2.664</b>	<b>530.077</b>	<b>10.938</b>	<b>99.700</b>
		<b>95%ile</b>	<b>18.425</b>	<b>8.216</b>	<b>1.440</b>	<b>34.400</b>	<b>37.720</b>	<b>4.660</b>	<b>0.126</b>	<b>0.053</b>	<b>0.022</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>4.125</b>	<b>613.000</b>	<b>12.480</b>	<b>108.100</b>

			Temperature	pH	BOD	COD	Suspended solids	Total Nitrogen as N	Total Phosphorus as P	Total Ammonia as N	Ortho-Phosphate as P	Nitrite as N	Nitrate as N	Conductivity	DO	DO
Station	Station Reference	Sample Date	Degrees C	pH units	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	mg/l	µS/m	mg/l	% sat
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	10/01/2023	4.8	7.98	1	33	64	3.2	0.14	0.031	0.017	0.007	2.532	430	12.8	92.3
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	24/01/2023	7.4	8.09	< 1	31	8.4	4.6	< 0.05	< 0.02	0.019	0.015	4.301	585	9.6	77.7
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	02/02/2023	7.6	8.12	< 1	22	3	5.4	0.12	0.03	0.018	0.012	3.509	592	11.89	99.3
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	07/03/2023	5.8	8.26	< 1	< 20	5.5	4.3	0.05	0.029	0.011	0.02	3.301	594	12.6	109.7
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	15/03/2023	6.6	8.08	< 1	< 20	5	3.4	< 0.05	0.039	0.014	0.015	2.924	548	11.15	92.6
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	13/04/2023	7.7	8	< 1	< 20	5	3.6	0.05	0.057	0.006	0.006	3.146	516	12.59	107.4
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	15/06/2023	18.3	8.12	< 1	< 20	3.5	3.3	< 0.05	0.021	0.009	0.02	3.227	592	9.58	96.8
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	29/06/2023	15.6	8.25	< 1	< 20	2.5	2.6	0.04	0.056	0.016	0.013	2.375	527	10.62	105.2
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	11/07/2023	18.1	8.1	1.5	28	< 2	2.6	< 0.1	0.056	< 0.02	0.016	1.7	424	9.5	100..4
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	16/08/2023	14.8	8.02	< 1	< 20	4.5	3.6	0.03	0.037	0.019	0.006	2.664	574	9.09	92.9
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	27/09/2023	1.6	8.08	1.4	28	8.4	2.7	< 0.1	0.02	0.023	< 0.015	1.7	528		
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	25/10/2023	2.2	7.92	1.2	26	< 2	2.7	< 0.1	0.026	< 0.02	< 0.015	1.6	474	10.5	109.9
0900 - Derrinsallow Br	RS25L020900	07/11/2023		8.03	< 1	33	4.5	2.6	< 0.01	< 0.02	< 0.006	0.009	2.241	588		
		<b>Mean</b>	<b>9.208</b>	<b>8.081</b>	<b>0.882</b>	<b>21.989</b>	<b>9.010</b>	<b>3.431</b>	<b>0.058</b>	<b>0.033</b>	<b>0.0142</b>	<b>0.012</b>	<b>2.709</b>	<b>536.308</b>	<b>10.902</b>	<b>98.380</b>
		<b>95%ile</b>	<b>18.190</b>	<b>8.254</b>	<b>1.440</b>	<b>33.000</b>	<b>30.640</b>	<b>4.920</b>	<b>0.128</b>	<b>0.056</b>	<b>0.021</b>	<b>0.020</b>	<b>3.826</b>	<b>592.800</b>	<b>12.700</b>	<b>109.810</b>

*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.*