

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0040064

**Permit being assessed:** CG0090401

For: STAYLITTLE LANE CSO, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: STAYLITTLE LANE, Nr Ysgol Babanod, Dolgellau, LL40 2YW.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response  
(Incident number: 2204421).

On 20/06/2022.

Parts of permit assessed: Permitted Activities

**NRW Lead Officer:** Simon Roberts.

**Report sent to:** Catrin Jones, NW Sewrage Manager, on 14/07/2022.

### 1. Summary of our findings (full details in section 4)

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C2 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to land	C3 Minor	Date of non-compliance 20/06/2022 of permit condition 2.1.1 Permitted Activities - The only activity authorised by the permit is the activity specified in schedule 1 table S1.1.
WQ-B3 - Operations - Operating techniques	C4 No impact	Non compliance with permit condition 3.1 - Monitoring - 3.1.4 The operator shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the event recorder remains fully operational at all times within the reference period specified in table S3.1.

Result types are explained in more detail in the 'Important Information' section below.

### 2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C2	Comply with permit conditions. Carry out route cause investigation into discharge. Ensure that telemetry is properly recording all discharge occurrences and duration.	12/08/2022
WQ-B3	Ensure CSO telemetry system is fully operational in order to	12/08/2022

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	comply with monitoring requirements of permit	

Action criteria codes are listed in the 'Important information' section below.

### 3. What will happen next?

Any non-compliance we have identified and recorded on this form is an offence. It can result in criminal prosecution and/or suspension or revocation of your permit.

#### **You are non-compliant with your permit.**

**At this time, we are issuing you with a warning for the non-compliance recorded above. Warnings may influence future enforcement response for continued or further non-compliance.**

This statement does not stop us from taking additional enforcement action if further relevant information comes to light or offences continue.

### 4. Details of our assessment

This CAR Form is issued in regards to a non-compliance of Permit Condition 2.1.1 - Permitted Activities -

2.1.1. The only activity authorised by the permit is the activity specified in schedule 1 table S1.1 (Discharge of storm sewage via POINT OF DISCHARGE).

On the 20th of June 2022 NRW received a WATPOL from DCWW (Sap Ref 316208766) stating that DCWW's Pollution Technician had found pollution at the outfall of Staylittie Lane CSO, Dolgellau. Pollution was suspected to have been the result of very recent sewage discharges from the CSO, during a period of what was mostly dry weather. Pollution had resulted in a pooling of discoloration and sewage fungus on river bank.

A nearby NRW rain gauge has shown that only 1.2mm of rainfall was measured between 13th and 19th of June 2022, whilst only 8.8mm was measured between the 6th and 12th of June 2022. As such no recent storm events have been recorded on NRW's rain gauges.

Seeing as the permitted discharge for the CSO is for 'Storm sewage' discharge only, the very recent discharge prior to the 20th of June can be considered an unpermitted discharge.

Photos provided by DCWW's Pollution Technician show the pooling of grey water and sewage fungus at the riverbank, but it seems that most of the discharge has been prevented from reaching the watercourse due to the abundance of vegetation around the discharge point.

The incident has been categorised as 'low level to land' on WIRS, NRW's incident recording system, and has been given a CCS category 3 (a non-compliance which could have a minor environmental impact).

DCWW Pollution Technician explained on 23/06/2022 that during a CCTV mainline survey undertaken on the 22nd of June a Flow Monitor was found in the sewer which seemed to

be heavily restricting flows from the CSO. The Flow Monitor had been installed by contractors working for DCWW following flooding events upstream of the CSO. DCWW's Pollution Technician has suggested that the Flow Monitor might possibly have caused a blockage to the sewers which could have resulted in the unpermitted discharge from the CSO.

In addition, although clear evidence was seen and photographed of the recent spill from the CSO, no records of this discharge was recorded on DCWW's telemetry. Section 3.1 - Monitoring, of permit CG0090401 requests that the operator of the permit undertakes the necessary monitoring specified in schedule 3 of the permit.

NRW would like to request that DCWW investigate this incident in order to find the root cause of the discharge. If this is found to be the result of the flow monitor then we would ask that DCWW find a solution that will ensure that any unpermitted discharges are avoided from this CSO. We would also ask DCWW to investigate if their telemetry system is operating as expected, to ensure compliance with the permits monitoring requirements and that frequency and duration of all discharges from the CSO are recorded.

*Please note any reference within the CAR/ permit to the Environment Agency means Natural Resources Wales.*

*In this document 'Natural Resources Wales' means the Natural Resources Body for Wales established by Article 3 of the Natural Resources Body for Wales (Establishment) order 2012.*

If you have any queries about this report, or to discuss completion of any actions, please contact the NRW Officer named above.

## Important information

### Legal status of this report

Your permit is issued to you under the Environmental Permitting Regulations. You have a responsibility to comply with the conditions of your permit and prevent pollution/harm to the environment. You must also ensure that you comply with any other relevant legislation that may apply to your site's operations.

This report explains the findings of our assessment and any action you are required to take. We categorise non-compliance using our guidance for assessing non-compliance at regulated sites.

When we find potential non-compliance/s we will normally give you advice on how to maintain compliance.

To correct non-compliance, we may:

- require you to take specific actions
- issue a notice
- review the conditions of your permit.

Any advice and guidance we give will be without prejudice to any other enforcement response that we consider may be required.

### Assessment results and non-compliance categories (used in section 1):

Assessment result	Description
Assessed (A)	Assessed or assessed in part, no evidence of non-compliance found
Action only (X)	Action only relating to the activity assessment
Ongoing (O)	Ongoing non-compliance, not scored

Non-compliance category	Description
C1 Major	Potential to have a major, serious, persistent and/or extensive impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C2 Significant	Potential to have a significant impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C3 Minor	Potential to have a minor or minimal impact or effect on the environment, people and/or property
C4 No environmental impact	Non-compliance at a regulated site that cannot foreseeably have any impact on the environment, people and/or property

### If your assessment result in Section 1 is suspended, what does this mean?

In line with our guidance, we may suspend non-compliance for up to six months to allow time for remedial action to be taken. These will be re-instated if the action is not completed.

**Full list of water quality action criteria (used in section 1 and 2):****WQ A: Management**

- WQ-A1 General management

**WQ B: Operations**

- WQ-B1 Permitted activities
- WQ-B2 The site
- WQ-B3 Operating techniques
- WQ-B4 Improvement programme
- WQ-B5 Pre-operational conditions

**WQ C: Emissions and monitoring**

- WQ-C1 Emissions to water
- WQ-C2 Emissions to land
- WQ-C3 Emissions of substances not controlled by emission limits
- WQ-C4 Installation of monitoring boreholes

**WQ D: Information**

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

**Enforcement response**

Any permit condition non-compliance is an offence and we may take legal action against you. Action we take can include prosecution, serving a notice on you and/or suspension or revocation of your permit. See our Enforcement and Sanctions Guidance for further information.

**Data protection notice**

You should make sure that anyone named in this report knows that the information it contains will be processed by Natural Resources Wales to fulfil its regulatory and monitoring functions and to maintain the relevant public register(s).

We may also use and/or disclose the report in connection with:

- offering or providing you with our literature or services relating to environmental matters
- consulting with the public, public bodies and other organisations (e.g. Health and Safety Executive, local authorities) on environmental issues
- carrying out statistical analysis, research and development on environmental issues
- providing public register information to enquirers
- investigating possible breaches of environmental law
- assessing customer service satisfaction and improving our service
- Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations requests.

We may also pass it on to our agents or representatives to do these things on our behalf.

**Disclosure of information – this report will be available to view on-line**

If you think this report contains commercially confidential information that should not be placed on our public register, you must contact your local Natural Resources Wales office within **fifteen working days** of receiving this report, using the contact details in the accompanying email or letter. You must give a full explanation of why it should not be

added to our public register, including specifying which information is commercially confidential. We will assess your request and respond to you within 20 working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

**What do I do if I disagree with the report or have a complaint?**

If you disagree with this compliance assessment report, you should contact the lead officer without delay to discuss your concerns.

If you are unable to resolve the issue with the lead officer or their line manager you should contact our Customer Contact team on 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday 08:00 – 18:00), or email [enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk) for details of how to raise your dispute further through our Complaints and Commendations procedure.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you can contact the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales by phone on 0300 7900203 or by email at [ask@ombudsman.wales](mailto:ask@ombudsman.wales)

**Welsh Language Standards**

We are committed to establishing Natural Resources Wales as a naturally bilingual organisation. We will provide compliance reports in your preferred language.