

## Compliance Assessment Report CAR\_NRW0041731

**Permit being assessed:** BP0319101

For: Gilfachreda CSO, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Opposite Glan Llethi, Gilfachreda, New Quay, Ceredigion, SA45 9SW.

**Type of assessment carried out:** Report/Data Review, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2206735).

On 07/09/2022.

Parts of permit assessed: See criteria listed below

**NRW Lead Officer:** Ffion Quan.

**Report sent to:** CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 27/04/2023.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C3 Minor	WIRS 2206735 incident. 2.3 Operating techniques

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

### 2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Explain what measures have been put in place to prevent recurrence of incidents alike at Gilfachreda in the future	25/05/2023

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

On the 7 September 2022 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) received an Early Warning Report from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) stating that a customer had reported the

CSO outfall discharging into the Afon Llethi, Gilfachreda. DCWW officers checked the telemetry of the site, which indicated that levels were low within the asset with no discharge occurring, therefore it is unknown how long the discharge was ongoing for.

DCWW crew attended site and found a chamber spilling at NGR SN 41028 58845 inside the CSO compound. The blockage was found to be caused by sewage debris on the incoming network to the asset, which caused flows to back up and spill from the foul chamber into the Afon Llethi. The blockage was cleared through a chamber at NGR SN 41026 58846. Samples were taken upstream, downstream, and raw point of discharge. It is unknown the exact locations and timings of these samples. The sample results are as follows –

#### 1. Suspended Solids

Sample 1 Upstream – 25mg/l

Sample 2 Raw discharge – 70mg/l

Sample 3 - Downstream – 20mg/l

#### 2. PH

Sample 1 Upstream – 7.5mg/l

Sample 2 Raw discharge – 6.9mg/l

Sample 3 Downstream – 7.3mg/l

#### 3. BOD

Sample 1 Upstream – <16mg/l

Sample 2 Raw discharge – 70mg/l

Sample 3 Downstream – <16mg/l

#### 4. COD

Sample 1 Upstream – <50mg/l

Sample 2 Raw discharge – 210mg/l

Sample 3 Downstream – <50mg/l

## 5. Ammonia

Sample 1 Upstream – <0.4mg/l

Sample 2 Raw discharge – 12.5mg/l

Sample 3 Downstream – <0.97mg/l

On the morning of 07/09/2022, NRW also received a bathing water exceedance at Traeth Gwyn (downstream of the asset). NRW considers that the incident that occurred at Gilfachreda CSO could have been a contributor to the elevated bathing water result. The reason behind this is that although the bathing water sample was taken before DCWW were notified regarding the incident, we do not know how long the chamber was spilling into the Afon Llethi for. Furthermore, although NRW received a risk of reduced water quality due to heavy rain that morning for Traeth Gwyn, there appears to be sewage fungus present in the photographs supplied by DCWW which shows that the discharge had been ongoing for a period before DCWW were aware.

Due to this, you have been scored a category 3 breach. Please can you explain what measures have been put in place to prevent a recurrence in the future by the 25/05/2023.

*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.