



**Cyfoeth  
Naturiol**  
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Wales

C Grimshaw  
Catchment Performance Manager

Ein cyf / Our ref:  
Eich cyf / Your ref:

Sent via email

Dyddiad/Date: 29 March 2018

Dear Craig

**SAMPLE FAILURE AT CORWEN WWTW ON 22 APRIL 2017**

Following my letter to you sent electronically on 28 June 2017, we agreed that we would look again at the sample failure at Corwen WwTW on 22 April 2017.

Tom Lewis has reviewed the follow-up data and information that you have recently supplied. We appreciate how straightforward and honest you have been in these responses but they do not change our position that the sample result of 154 mg/l BOD should stand and not be excluded for the purposes of compliance assessment.

You accept that there is still an element of uncertainty around the actual cause of the poor sample and that 'the storm returns were deemed the likely cause of the failure, as the tanks had been full for a long period and their return through the site coincided in a slight reduction in effluent quality. Other than this, the site was running normally and with no known problems. We had been stressing to our operational staff the importance of ensuring storm tanks are emptied promptly and there is a possibility the operator returned the tanks too quickly in this instance. The operator at the time could not establish any other issues on site, and the site returned to normal operating levels very quickly after the storm returns stopped'.

Although we accept that BOD: COD ratio for the sample taken from the works on 22 April 2017 is unusual, unlike in the case of Kinmel Bay WwTW where we accepted this reasoning to exclude a sample failure at that works, we are not able to do that for this sample failure at Corwen WwTW. This is because the operation of the storm returns appears to be the root cause of the failure, supporting the accuracy of the sample result.

Yours sincerely

David Lee  
**NRM Team Leader**

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg  
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

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