

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048389

Permit being assessed: AN0239101

For: HM PRISON PRESCOED, held by Ministry of Justice

At: H M Prison, Prescoed, Coedypaen, Pontypool, Sir Fynwy, NP4 0TB.

Type of assessment carried out: Site Inspection, Reason: Routine.

On 22/05/2025, between 09:00 and 17:00.

Parts of permit assessed: Site

NRW Lead Officer: Alastair Krzyzosiak.

Report sent to: Christopher.Silcox@amey.co.uk, Facilities Manager, on 23/05/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	C2 Significant	3
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	C2 Significant	4

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	Improve operations and infrastructure. Comply with permit conditions.	30/06/2025
WQ-D3	Notify NRW without delay in the event of any future breakdowns, malfunctions, etc. As per permit conditions.	23/05/2025

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 contains a WARNING

Environment Officer Alastair Krzyzosiak attended the site on 22nd May 2025 at 09:15 to undertake a visual inspection of the plant and receiving watercourse. An alarm light was flashing on the plant room, and one pipe was disconnected. One pump didn't appear to be running. A blower also didn't appear to be running. The receiving watercourse was full of sewage fungus for at least 30m (likely to be more, as thick vegetation prevented a closer inspection further downstream). Where accessible, the watercourses upstream were checked and were running clear, with no signs of pollution. The plant was clearly not functioning properly, and is causing pollution. This is a breach of the permit.

An engineers report was provided showing that a maintenance visit was carried out on 14th May 2025. The report detailed various problems with the plant, including needing a new blower and air hose repairs. Quotes for repairs had also been sought. NRW had not been previously notified of the breakdown or ongoing pollution. This is another breach of the permit.

The permit was varied and consolidated on 30th November 2023. The new permit was to account for additional accommodation on the site. It is understood that this work has not been completed due to the contractors going out of business. Therefore, none of the required upgrades to the plant have been completed (e.g. chemical dosing).

Actions Required

- All necessary repairs must be undertaken as quickly as possible to bring the plant back into compliance with the permit in terms of emissions to water.
- Samples should be taken to demonstrate compliance once repairs are made and the plant is running as it should. Results to be sent to Alastair Krzyzosiak.
- An access route must be cleared to the point of discharge so that a visual inspection can be made there. This should be maintained in perpetuity to facilitate future inspections.
- Explain how the performance of the treatment plant was able to deteriorate to a point where it is causing pollution. How often is the plant serviced? Provide records going back two years.
- Explain why the breakdown / pollution was not reported to NRW as per the permit conditions.
- Explain where the prison is at in terms of the proposed expansion of accommodation. Are there any estimates on when the work will be started or finished?
- The treatment plant must be up to the standards set out in the permit when the new accommodation is finished. The existing plant will not comply with the permit if it is not upgraded before the new accommodation is in use.

Pipe Disconnected
Discharge

Sewage Fungus in Watercourse Below



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 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

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.