

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0048718

Permit being assessed: BA1002401

For: Hirwaun Wastewater Treatment Works, held by DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Industrial Estate, Hirwaun, Rhondda Cynon Taff, CF44 9UN.

Type of assessment carried out: Other, Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2505389).

On 03/07/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: 1. Management, 2. Operations

NRW Lead Officer: Ceri Malone.

Report sent to: CARS mailbox, CARS mailbox, on 03/07/2025.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	2.1 Permitted activities - 2.1.1. The only activities authorised by the permit are the activities specified in schedule 1 table S1.1.

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-B1	1. Rectify the problem with the level controller fault – already completed by ATC team. 2. Unblock the line and ensure the site is functioning as designed – already completed by 10/06/25. Tankers emptied the sludge tank, jet-vac used to unblock the line.	Already completed

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

BA1002401 - Hirwaun Wastewater Treatment Works

Incident Report

On 07/06/2025 Natural Resources Wales (NRW) received a self-report (317380146) from Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) relating to an issue with a sludge holding tank at Hirwaun Wastewater Treatment Works. This was an upgrade from an early warning DCWW had sent previously the same day. A fault with the level controller reading and inhibit to the tank resulted in the overflow line to become blocked filling site drainage. An automatic de-sludge was set up to run for 5 minutes every 10 hours resulting in a discharge of liquors from the sludge via a manhole on site.

A total spill time of 30 minutes is estimated between 12:20pm on 05/06/25 to 18:45pm on 07/06/25 when the problem was identified and rectified. Despite some of the impact being contained to land some entered the Afon Camnant. A sample was taken by DCWW from the watercourse which had a result of 1.20mg/l. This result exceeded the typical background ammonia levels in the watercourse.

Breaches of permit condition:

2.1 Permitted activities - 2.1.1. The only activities authorised by the permit are the activities specified in schedule 1 table S1.1.

Only activities A1 and A2 are permitted as part of the permit these being:

Discharge of secondary treated sewage effluent and settled storm sewage at their associated discharge points.

This spill was of sludge liquor and not from either discharge point listed on the permit therefore this is considered a breach of the permit. The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 state that **38.**—(1) It is an offence for a person to— (2) It is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition. A **warning** has therefore been issued as part of this CAR form.

Action required by dates specified:

1. Rectify the problem with the level controller fault – already completed by ATC team.
2. Unblock the line and ensure the site is functioning as designed – already completed by 10/06/25. Tankers emptied the sludge tank, jet-vac used to unblock the line.

Contact details:

If you have any queries regarding this CAR form or to provide an update on any actions above, please contact me using the following details: Ceri Malone, Environment Officer, Ceri.Malone@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

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.