

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

Purpose of this Compliance Assessment Report:

- **Confirmation of Storm Overflow permit at Llanrhidian SPS**
- **Report compliance assessment with the Storm Overflow permit conditions in response to WIRS2508517**

Confirmation of Storm Overflow permit at Llanrhidian SPS:

NRW and DCWW compliance teams have recently carried out enquiries to confirm that Llanrhidian SPS has a permit in place to discharge storm sewage. The discharge was deemed as permitted in 1989 and this was confirmed in an EPR variation notice issued in 2010. This CAR form will assess compliance with the variation issued in 2010 under conditions in schedule 3 - Discharge from Combined Sewer Overflow or Storm Tank.

In response to CAR_NRW0043964 action 1 you informed us on the 2nd August 2024 that the asset was identified as being responsive to rainfall and had been added to the Unpermitted Storm Overflow register as per GN021. However, after the recent findings confirming that there is a permit in place to discharge storm sewage, we now understand that the CSO will follow the GN066 process – How to classify storm overflow performance.

The SOAF report submitted to us in 2024 identified a lack of screens, EDM over-reporting, Hydraulic Overload and significant Ecological impact. It also classified the CSO as unsatisfactory and substandard.

The EDM data submitted for 2024 counted 140 spills and was operational 97.47% of the time. The high number of spills suggest that the SPS could be spilling on a 'dry day' or that the EDM is over-recording.

We understand that Llanrhidian SPS has an AMP 8 NEP investment due to be completed by 31/03/2026 to certify the MCERTS monitors installed in AMP7, as well as any remedial work.

You also identified a risk of flow passed forward non-compliance in 2024. You have told us that inconsistent performance was investigated earlier in 2025 and the root cause has been identified as pump reliability issues and inaccurate reporting. Telemetry archiving has been improved, and you informed us that the pumps were going to be replaced. It is expected that compliance will be restored for 2025.

Action:

Please inform us if the pumps have been replaced

Compliance assessment with the Storm Overflow permit condition in response to WIRS 2508517:

On the 15th September 2025 NRW's Incident Communications Centre received a report from a member of public that on the 14th September Llanrhidian Sewage Pumping Station (SPS) was discharging from the Storm Overflow pipe within the watercourse. The WIRS also reported that water was flowing out of the SPS compound and backing up in the system causing a discharge from a nearby manhole at Millbrook Cottage.

You were notified via POLFAX on the 15th September of the WIRS report, you then provided us with rainfall data for the SPS via email and informed us via WATPOL that the SPS was responding to rainfall conditions. You told us that at the time of the spill, the station was achieving full flow at 4.8 L/s in FPF and during heavy rainfall, inflows can reach up to 14 L/s.

On 16th September, a final WATPOL update confirmed there were no issues at Llanrhidian SPS, and above- and below-ground inspections had found no faults or signs of the emergency overflow operating. Confirming the asset was overwhelmed by heavy rainfall on 14th–15th September.

The rainfall gauge at Gowerton recorded a maximum hourly rainfall of 11.8mm, confirming that heavy rainfall (over 4mm) corresponded with the discharge.

Permit condition Schedule 3 1. Discharge from Combined Sewer Overflow or Storm Tank

1.1 A discharge from a Combined Sewer Overflow (“CSO”) or storm tank shall consist of storm sewage effluent resulting from rainfall or snowmelt into the sewerage system.

I have assessed that you are compliant with permit condition Schedule 3 1.1.

I believe that the discharge occurred due to heavy rainfall which was recorded at the surrounding rain gauges and you have indicated that the FPF was being achieved at the time of the discharge.

Although the discharge has been assessed as compliant with condition Schedule 3.1.1, we do not consider a discharge from under the door of the SPS compound to the adjacent lane to be acceptable.

You informed us that infiltration is an issue within the Llanrhidian SPS catchment and that the SPS is at significant risk of repeat spills. You have also informed us via email that you were beginning an inflow reduction investigation on the 4th Nov 2025.

Action:

Please provide us with an outline of the inflow reduction plan you will now be carrying out preferably with timescales for the investigation.

Thank you

END

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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.