

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0050495

Permit being assessed: AN0060701

For: Barry Town SPS (short sea outfall), **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Access off Ffordd Y Glannau, Barry, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 5UA.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Incident Response (Incident number: 2508391).

On 10/09/2025.

Parts of permit assessed: Conditions 2.1, 2.3.1.

NRW Lead Officer: Charlotte Rhodes.

Report sent to: DCWW CARS Mailbox, DCWW CARS Mailbox, on 13/03/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	Action only (X)	
WQ-B3 - Water Quality - Operations - Operating techniques	Action only (X)	
WQ-B1 - Water Quality - Operations - Permitted activities	C3 Minor	2.1
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	

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. The failure was due to the transfer pumps yet the telemetry included in the storyboard was for the storm pumps. Please provide flow data for the transfer pumps and flow passed forward for the 24 hour period covering 10th September 2025. – Action only, Condition 2.1	31/03/2026
WQ-B1	2. Please confirm how DCWW are certain that the SSO did not spill on 15th September despite the telemetry	31/03/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	demonstrating a brief peak to 100%? – Action only.	
WQ-B3	3. Provide evidence to demonstrate if the storm storage capacity was fully utilised prior to discharge. Namely: flow data for storm pumps, wet well levels and EDM data for the 24 hour period covering 10th September 2025 – Action only, Conditions 2.3.1(b)(c).	13/04/2026
WQ-B1	4. Replace the faulty transfer pump to prevent further non-compliance emissions and provide an estimated completion date.	31/03/2026
WQ-C1	5. Please provide an estimate of the volume discharged from the SSO and LSO during this event.	31/03/2026

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

Site report

On 10th September 2025 an incident at **Barry West Sewage Pumping Station (SPS)** was self-reported by Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) to Natural Resources Wales (NRW), logged under **WIRS 2508391**. Following a power outage on site, discharges were made from both the Short (SSO) and Long Sea Outfalls (LSO), the discharges are permitted separately under permits **AN0060701** and **AN0021801** respectively; this report refers to **AN0060701** permitting the SSO – for the LSO refer to **CAR_NRW0050496**.

Weather at the time of the incident was wet, recorded in the storyboard as “heavy rain” yet data from the nearest rainfall gauge at Cog Moors records a peak of only 4.2mm within the 24 hours preceding the incident. The discharge occurred during the Bathing Water season; previous catchment modelling by Dwr Cymru showed the discharges from Barry West SPS can impact the designated bathing waters. A sample was taken at Cold Knap on the 11th September which returned elevated bacteria readings, unusual for this bathing water, but a definitive impact cannot be

confirmed.

The self-reporting WATPOL stated: *“A discharge has occurred from the long sea and short sea outfall at Barry West following multiple transfer pump failures. We lost full flow to Cog Moors for 1 hour (09:00 – 10:00)”* and confirmed that the LSO discharged from 09:00 – 10:00 and the SSO from 09:30 – 10:00. The next update later that day then said *“Dynamic test being carried out on site to determine root cause. Suggested power dip caused plc and transfer pump failures.”*

There was a recurring incident of the same nature on 15th September 2025, however on that occasion only the LSO is believed to have spilled; the storyboard states *“the SSO peaked at 07:45 but we do not believe there to have been a spill from here”*. The telemetry provided to demonstrate this relates to the **storm** pumps, not the **transfer** pumps whose failure are stated as the cause of these spills, therefore the justification for not believing the SSO to have spilled at this time is unclear. Please see Actions 1 and 2. This incident is discussed in relation to the LSO in CAR_NRW0050496.

Later updates received on 23rd September in a storyboard, confirmed that the dynamic testing found the sequencing of a hire raw transfer pump to be the root cause, having tripped the power supply by using too much power in first assist position, and that changing this to last seemed to resolve the issue until the existing pump is returned from repair. The storyboard also stated that *“No impact assessment able to be completed due to access to outfalls.”*

The final assessment comments in the storyboard were as follows: *“We believe this incident to have had little to no impact on the receiving watercourse due to heavy rainfall including a yellow weather warning in place at the time of the event and effluent being heavily diluted. Although due to lack of evidence capture and the incident taking place at a bathing water, no claim will be submitted for this incident.”*

Assessment against permit conditions

Condition 2.1 - *“The only activity authorised by the permit is the activity specified in schedule 1 table S1.1 [discharge of storm sewage via Point of Discharge]”*.

The discharge was not due to pump failure **not** rainfall and consisted of a potentially large volume, taking place on a weekday morning for 30 minutes. As such, this constitutes a Category 3 non-compliance - see Action 4.

Condition 2.3.1(b) - *off-line storm storage must be fully utilised before a discharge occurs. It shall only fill when the flow passed forward is equal to or greater than the overflow setting indicated [820 l/s] due to rainfall and/or snow melt and shall be emptied and its contents returned to the continuation flow as soon as reasonably practicable. The minimum off-line storm storage required is*

specified in table S3.3 [2777 m³]”

Further information is needed to determine compliance with this Condition and with **2.3.1(c)** regarding on-line storm storage – see Action 3.

Actions / Further comments

Overall, the site was found to be **non-compliant** with permitted Condition 2.1, with further information required in relation to Conditions 2.3.1(b)(c).

1. The failure was due to the **transfer pumps** yet the telemetry included in the storyboard was for the storm pumps. Please provide the flow data for the transfer pumps and flow passed forward for the 24 hour period covering 10th September 2025. – Action only, Condition 2.1.
Deadline 31/03/2026
2. Please confirm how DCWW are certain that the SSO did not spill on 15th September despite the telemetry demonstrating a brief peak to 100%? – Action only. **Deadline 31/03/2026**
3. Provide evidence to demonstrate if the storm storage capacity was fully utilised prior to discharge. Namely: flow data for storm pumps, wet well levels and EDM data for the 24 hour period covering 10th September 2025 – Action only, Conditions 2.3.1(b)(c). **Deadline 13/04/2026**
4. Replace the faulty transfer pump to prevent further non-compliant emissions and provide an estimated completion date – C3, Condition 2.1. **Deadline 31/03/2026**
5. Please provide an estimate of the volume discharged from the SSO and LSO during this event.
- Action only, **Deadline 31/03/2026**

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 required for the permit condition assessed to avoid non-compliance. No non-compliance scored at this time
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

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 Monitoring
- WQ-C5 Installation of monitoring boreholes

WQ D: Information

- WQ-D1 Records
- WQ-D2 Reporting
- WQ-D3 Notifications

Enforcement response

Any non-compliance with a permit condition 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 twenty working days to let you know if we agree to your request.

Disputing the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If you disagree with the content of this Compliance Assessment Report form, you should submit your concerns, in writing, to the regulating officer who issued it within **15 working days** of its issue. This will be treated as a **Stage 1 review**.

If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the stage 1 review, you may request a **Stage 2 appeal**. This request must be submitted **within 21 working days** of receiving the response from the stage 1 review.

Further details on our review and appeal process are available at: [Natural Resources Wales / Appeal a regulatory decision from Natural Resources Wales](#)

Concerns Not Related to the Content of this Compliance Assessment Report Form

If your concerns do not relate to the content of the Compliance Assessment Report form, you should first attempt to resolve the issue with the regulating officer or their line manager.

If the issue remains unresolved, please contact our **Customer Contact Team**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 065 3000 (Monday to Friday, 09:00–17:00)
- **Email:** enquiries@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

They will provide details on how to escalate your concerns through our **Complaints and Commendations procedure**.

If you are dissatisfied with our response, you may contact the **Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**:

- **Telephone:** 0300 790 0203
- **Email:** 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.