Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

Compliance Assessment Report CAR_NRW0053084

Permit being assessed: BP0236601

For: Swansea Bay Wastewater Treatment Works, **held by:** DWR CYMRU CYFYNGEDIG

At: Fabian Way, Crymlyn Burrows, Swansea, SA1 8QP.

Type of assessment carried out: Report/Data Review,

Reason: Routine.

On 12/08/2026.

Parts of permit assessed: Emissions to Water and Notifications

NRW Lead Officer: Sarah Bennett.

Report sent to: CARS@dwrcymru, CARS Mailbox, on 29/09/2026.

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

Part of permitted activity assessed (criteria)	Assessment result	Non-compliant permit condition
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Assessed (A)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-C1 - Water Quality - Emissions and monitoring - Emissions to water	Action only (X)	
WQ-D3 - Water Quality - Information - Notifications	C4 No impact	4.3.1

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

2. What action is required?

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
WQ-C1	Please let us know the findings of your investigation into the cause of the exceedances and any steps you are taking to prevent further exceedances.	16/10/2026
WQ-C1	Please confirm whether the failure to flag the exceedances resulted in any delay to your operational response to the reduction in final effluent quality	16/10/2026
WQ-D3	You have informed us that the delay in submitting the sample exceedance notification was due to your systems failing to identify the breach of limit, and that this is currently under	30/10/2026

Criteria	Action needed	Complete by
	investigation. Please inform us of the outcome of your investigation and the steps you have taken to prevent a recurrence.	

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.

At this time, we do not intend to take any further action.

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

The purpose of this Compliance Assessment Report is to:
• assess and record compliance with the Operator Self-Monitoring (OSM) numeric emissions limits relating to a spot sample taken at Swansea Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW); and
• assess compliance with notification condition 4.1.3(b).

Assessment and record of compliance with OSM numeric emissions limits:

On the 14 September 2026, you informed us that an OSM final effluent compliance sample taken at Swansea WWTW on the 12 August 2026 exceeded the Look Up Table (LUT) for Suspended Solids (SS) and Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD).

The suspended solids (SS) result was 64 mg/L, exceeding the LUT limit of 60 mg/L by 4 mg/L. The biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) result was 51 mg/L, exceeding the LUT limit of 50 mg/L by 1 mg/L.

Condition 3.1.2 states that the limits in schedule 3 table S3.1 to which this condition applies may be exceeded where: in any series of samples of the discharge taken at regular but randomised intervals in any period of twelve consecutive months as listed in column 1 of schedule 3A, no more than the relevant number of samples, as listed in column 2 of schedule 3A, exceed the applicable limit for that relevant parameter. For relevant parameters subject to schedule 3C the assessment is based on a fixed calendar year from 1 January to 31 December inclusive.

Accordingly, at Swansea WwTW, where 24 samples are taken on a rolling twelve-month basis, the SS limit of 60 mg/l and BOD limit of 50 mg/l may be exceeded on up to three occasions in any period of twelve consecutive months, provided the applicable maximum limits of 250 mg/l for SS and 100 mg/l for BOD, respectively, are not exceeded.

As these results constitute only the second SS exceedance and the first BOD exceedance within the relevant twelve-month period, they are compliant with the permit and fall within the LUT provisions.

You have not informed us of the reason for the deterioration in effluent quality identified in the sample taken on 12 August 2026. However, you have advised us that your science technicians are currently investigating the cause.

Action:
Please let us know the findings of your investigation into the cause of the exceedances and any steps you are taking to prevent further exceedances.

Action:
Please confirm whether the failure to flag the exceedances resulted in any delay to your operational response to the reduction in final effluent quality.

Compliance Assessment with Condition 4.3.1 - Notifications:

Condition 4.3.1 requires you to notify us as soon as reasonably practicable following detection of: (a) any breach of a limit specified in schedule 3 table S3.1 (including individual exceedances of limits which are covered by condition 3.1.2).

The sample was taken on 12 August 2026. You notified us of the exceedance 33 days later, on 14 September 2026. We consider notification within 21 days of the sample being taken to be a reasonable timeframe. I have therefore recorded a Category 4 breach of Condition 4.3.1.

Under Regulation 38 (2) of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2016, it is an offence for a person to fail to comply with or to contravene an environmental permit condition.

Action: You have informed us that the delay in submitting the sample exceedance notification was due to your systems failing to identify the breach of limit, and that this is currently under investigation. Please inform us of the outcome of your investigation and the steps you have taken to prevent a recurrence.

Any Advice and Guidance in this report is given formally as part of our enforcement response.

Thank you.

ENDS

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.