

DWI Ref: AE1-20-8319
Enforcement Ref: DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2025/001
DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2025/002
Date: 12 December 2025

Drinking Water Inspectorate
NIEA Headquarters
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
Lisburn
County Antrim
BT28 3AL
Telephone: 028 9056 9282
Email: DWI@daera-ni.gov.uk

Mr Mark Ellesmere
Company Secretary
Northern Ireland Water Ltd
Westland House
Old Westland Road
BELFAST
BT14 6TE

Dear Mark

REVOCATION OF REGULATION 31(4)(b) NOTICES ISSUED UNDER REGULATION 31(6) OF THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2017 – BALLINREES WTW AND ASSOCIATED WATER SUPPLY AREA

Contravention of the Regulatory Standard for the Pesticide, MCPA [(2-methyl-4-chlorophenoxy) acetic acid] (0.10µg/l)

Contravention of the Regulatory Standard for Taste and Odour (Acceptable to consumers and no abnormal change)

Water Treatment Works (WTW)	Water Supply Zones
W1701P Ballinrees	ZN0104 Ballinrees North* ZN0105 Ballinrees South* ZN0601 Ballinrees Limavady ZN0607 Corrody Derry**

* Area previously ZN0102 Ballinrees West and ZN0103 Ballinrees East.

** Can be supplied by a blend of Ballinrees and Caugh Hill WTWs' water.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) has actively monitored the progress NI Water has made in relation to the requirements of the Regulation 31(4) Notices DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002 and DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003, issued to NI Water on 17 December 2020, namely to:

“Install and have operational, a treatment system at Ballinrees WTW, that is effective in the removal or reduction of MCPA to achieve a final water result that meets the maximum regulatory limit of MCPA of 0.10µg/l”; and

“Install and have operational, a treatment system at Ballinrees WTW that is proven to be effective in the treatment of taste and odour parameters to achieve a final water and consumer tap result that is acceptable to the consumer and there is no abnormal change.”

On 3 March 2022, NI Water provided DWI with a Capital Solution Briefing Note in which the executive summary stated: *“NI Water commissioned a suite of Pilot studies, including; GAC, DAF, PAC dosing and Fixed Bed Ion Exchange to review the combined treatment of MCPA and the Taste and Odour parameters.....Following completion of the pilot study and review of the data, GAC has been proven to be the most effective treatment solution to meet the Regulation 31 (4) Notice requirements, with respect to the regulatory requirements for MCPA and taste and odour in the final waters at Ballinrees WTW. It is envisaged that a GAC Process Addition will provide a robust and flexible option for treatment of these parameters”*.

The above work was to have been completed by 22 December 2023 in compliance with the Regulation 31(4) Notices, DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002 and DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003. However, NI Water notified DWI on 24 October 2023 that it would be unable to meet the compliance date due to the time taken to complete pilot plant trials and delays in obtaining the funding approval.

On 18 December 2023, DWI issued Revocation Notices [DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2023/001 and DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2023/002], revoking DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002 and DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003 and issued new Regulation 31(4) Notices, DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/001 and DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/002. These new Notices extended the date for compliance, requiring the new GAC filters to be fully operational by 20 December 2024.

DWI monitored NI Water’s progress through the Compliance Programmes Review Meetings held on 14/01/2021, 13/05/2021, 07/10/2021 and 27/01/2022, 25/05/2022, 06/10/2022, 26/01/2023; 25/06/2023; 12/10/2023; 01/02/2024; 30/05/2024; 22/10/2024; and 14/02/2025.

On 7 April 2023, it was agreed DWI would also monitor NI Water’s progress through bimonthly updates and quarterly site visits. NI Water provided DWI with bimonthly updates on 25/05/2023, 29/08/2023, 12/10/2023, 07/12/2023, 27/02/2024, 09/04/2024, 18/06/2024, 17/10/2024 and 18/12/2024. NI Water facilitated site visits by DWI to Ballinrees WTW on 08/06/2023, 04/10/2023, 16/01/2024, 10/05/2024, 30/08/2024 and 27/11/2024.

NI Water confirmed on 17 December 2024, that the new GAC filters at Ballinrees WTW were brought into service on 16 December 2024 in compliance with the Regulation 31 Notices. However, post the new GAC filters coming into supply, an operational issue was identified with regards to the existing CoCoDAF service water supply interfacing with the new GAC treatment building. To ensure that the existing works continued to operate and ensure there was no risk to the treatment process and drinking water quality, it was necessary to take the GAC filters out of service until additional remedial work was completed on site.



On 15 April 2025, DWI received an e-mail from NI Water which stated: *“Further to update verbally by telephone call on 31 March 25. I can confirm that the remedial work, as detailed in the email below, to resolve the operational issue with the existing CoCoDAF service water supply interfacing with the new GAC treatment building was completed in line with the programme of work. The GAC filters were brought into supply, w/c 24 March 2025, on 26 March 2025 at approximately 11:30am. The GAC filters have been running with no issues. As per normal procedures for capital projects like this there will be a 28 Day trial undertaken as part of the handover process”*.

DWI received an e-mail from NI Water on 26 June 2025 stating: *“The 28 Day Trial at Ballinrees commenced on 28 April 2025 and completed on 26th May 2025. Testing during the period was satisfactory”*. Water quality results covering the period March 2025 to June 2025, which also covers the period of the 28 Day testing, were provided for review by DWI.

The Drinking Water Inspectorate is now satisfied that the evidence provided by NI Water demonstrates that the new treatment process meets the requirements of the Notices.

Please find attached, Revocation Notices issued under Regulation 31(6) which rescind DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/001 (Annex A) and DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/002 (Annex B).

Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to this letter should be addressed by email to: berni.corr@daera-ni.gov.uk or by telephone: 028 9056 9479.

Acknowledgment

NI Water should acknowledge receipt of these Revocation Notices to: dwi@daera-ni.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Bernadette Corr

Interim Chief Inspector of Drinking Water

Drinking Water Inspectorate



Cc: David Reid, NIEA
Richard Crowe, NIEA
Gareth Greer, NIEA
Colin Armstrong, DAERA
Ciaran MacCann, URNI
Alison Clydesdale, Department for Infrastructure
Kathryn Baker, Department of Health
Karen Smyth, CCNI
Gary Curran, NI Water
Dymphna Gallagher, NI Water
Alison McMullan, NI Water



The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
Regulation 31(6): Notice of Revocation of a Notice under Regulation 31(4)(b)

Reference: DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2025/001

1.0 To: **Northern Ireland Water Limited**

At: **Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE**

2.0 **The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs** is satisfied that the e-mails received from **Northern Ireland Water Limited** on the 17 December 2024, 15 April 2025 and 26 June 2025 confirm that:

- 2.1 The new GAC filters were brought into supply on 16 December 2024 in compliance with DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/001.
- 2.2 The new GAC filters were removed from service shortly thereafter due to operational issues (flooding) which required essential remedial works.
- 2.3 Following completion of these remedial works, the new GAC filters were brought back into supply on 26 March 2025 at approximately 11:30am.
- 2.4 The 28 Day Trial of the new GAC treatment process at Ballinrees WTW commenced on 28 April 2025 and completed on 26th May 2025.
- 2.5 All final water samples taken during the period of the 28 Day Trial were satisfactory.

3.0 The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, is satisfied that the above listed works meet the requirements of DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002, issued on 17 December 2020 and extended on 18 December 2023 by DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/001.

4.0 Through Regulation 31(6) of The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs hereby revokes:

- 4.1. DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/001 issued on 18 December 2023

5.0 Signed (On behalf of the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs):



Bernadette Corr
Interim Chief Inspector of Drinking Water
Drinking Water Inspectorate

Date of Issue: 12 December 2025

The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
Regulation 31(6): Notice of Revocation of a Notice under Regulation 31(4)(b)

Reference: DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2025/002

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At: **Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE**

2.0 **The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs** is satisfied that the e-mails received from **Northern Ireland Water Limited** on the 17 December 2024, 15 April 2025 and 26 June 2025 confirm that:

- 2.1 The new GAC filters were brought into supply on 16 December 2024 in compliance with DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/002.
- 2.2 The new GAC filters were removed from service shortly thereafter due to operational issues (flooding) which required essential remedial works.
- 2.3 Following completion of these remedial works, the new GAC filters were brought back into supply on 26 March 2025 at approximately 11:30am.
- 2.4 The 28 Day Trial of the new GAC treatment process at Ballinrees WTW commenced on 28 April 2025 and completed on 26th May 2025.
- 2.5 All final water samples taken during the period of the 28 Day Trial were satisfactory.

3.0 The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, is satisfied that the above listed works meet the requirements of DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003, issued on 17 December 2020 and extended on 18 December 2023 by DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/002.

4.0 Through Regulation 31(6) of The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs hereby revokes:

4.1. DWI/Notice/NIW/2023/002 issued on 18 December 2023

5.0 Signed (On behalf of the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs):



Bernadette Corr
Interim Chief Inspector of Drinking Water
Drinking Water Inspectorate

Date of Issue: 12 December 2025