

DWI Ref: AE1/20/1248169

Enforcement Ref: **DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002**

Date: **17 December 2020**

Tel: 028 90569282

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

Dear Mark

**NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 31(4)(b) OF THE WATER SUPPLY (WATER QUALITY) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2017  
 – BALLINREES WTW AND ASSOCIATED WATER SUPPLY AREA**

**Issue of Regulation 31(6) Notice Ref: [DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2020/002](#)**

**Issue of Regulation 31(4) Notice Ref: [DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002](#)**

**Issue of Regulation 31(4) Notice Ref: [DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003](#)**

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

Water Treatment Works (WTW)	Water Supply Zones
W1701P Ballinrees	ZN0102 Ballinrees West ZN0103 Ballinrees East ZN0601 Ballinrees Limavady ZN0607 Corrody Derry*

\*Can be supplied by blend of Ballinrees WTW and Caugh Hill WTW

**Background**

- 1.1 Contraventions of the regulatory standard for the herbicide MCPA at the Ballinrees Water Treatment Works (WTW) date back to 2010 (1no.), with further contraventions occurring in 2012 (3no.) and 2015 (6no.).
- 1.2 NI Water was first advised by the Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) that it was considering enforcement in relation to the ongoing contraventions on 17 November 2015. In 2016 no contraventions occurred and in 2017

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



following further contraventions (4no.), a Consideration of Provisional Enforcement Order (CPEO/17/01) was issued on 20 June 2017.

- 1.3 Undertakings were agreed with NI Water and published on 24 July 2017, to include short and long term mitigations to bring the works into compliance. Short term requirements to replace the existing media in both the GAC and PAC filters with GAC and PAC which was more effective in reducing MCPA were completed on 18 May 2018.
- 1.4 Longer term mitigations required NI Water to undertake a feasibility study to assess potential treatment options (before 16 March 2018), to implement an enhanced frequency of monitoring and to undertake work in the catchment through the Water Catchment Partnership. All of these were met, with enhanced monitoring and catchment work ongoing.
- 1.5 The feasibility report (IBE1375) proposed that a number of pilot studies be undertaken to further evaluate the potential treatment options identified to inform the long treatment term solution. DWI then agreed a further Undertaking under CPEO 17/01 with NI Water to provide a report on the single preferred treatment option, associated timeline and beneficial use date. This was to be provided by 31 March 2019 following a more detailed treatability study.
- 1.6 Based on the recommendations within the treatability study (IBI0032), DWI issued a Regulation 31(4)(b) Notice on 14 April 2019 (**DWI/Notice/NIW/2019/003**), some two years after the initial CPEO was issued. This required NI Water to install and have operational, a Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) dosing treatment plant at Ballinrees WTW by **18 December 2020**.

### **NI Water Request**

- 1.7 As with all DWI enforcements, NI Water is required to provide an update on progress at each Compliance Programmes meeting (triannually). An extract of the notes of these meetings in relation to the Ballinrees WTW enforcement is attached at Annex A.
- 1.8 Following the 08 May 2019 meeting, on 14 August 2019, NI Water updated DWI on the progress with the Notice stating: "*There are some changes to the timeline provided in the Optioneering report, however the project still remains on track to meet the completion date of 18 December 2020*".
- 1.9 At the meeting on 24 September 2019, NI Water first raised a discussion on a review of the existing enforcement (see attached note – Annex A).
- 1.10 On 13 November 2019, NI Water submitted an initial paper requesting that DWI consider deferring the requirements of the Regulation 31(4)(b) Notice (due completion by 18 December 2020) in the interests of securing best value for public funds but without compromising the quality of the public water supply.

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



- 1.11 This proposal was based on NI Water considering that the short term mitigations it had made to the GAC and PAC media to more MCPA specific products, along with the increase in PAC dosing from 4mg/l to 12mg/l, had been effective in reducing the risk for MCPA contraventions in the works final water. No contraventions of the regulatory limit had been detected in final water samples since the modified GAC and PAC treatments were put in place.
- 1.12 On 15 November 2019, a meeting between DWI and NI Water was held to discuss NI Water's proposal and DWI agreed to consider the evidence presented and requested further information on sustainable catchment area management work (SCaMP) and an up to date risk assessment for Ballinrees WTWs. This was provided by NI Water on 19 November 2019.
- 1.13 On 29 November 2019, NI Water provided an assurance that if required, a permanent solution could be in place for Ballinrees WTW within 9 Months.
- 1.14 On consideration of the evidence presented, DWI required further clarification and on 13 December 2019, wrote to NI Water seeking clarification on the product specification for the GAC and PAC in use at Ballinrees WTW; how the optimum contact times and dose rates for PAC and contact times for GAC were being operationally achieved; and how future water supply resilience plans at Ballinrees WTW involving higher flows through the works may impact on the final water quality.
- 1.15 On 24 January 2020, NI Water replied to DWI's letter. The company provided a copy of product specifications for the GAC and PAC in use at Ballinrees WTW; the achievable contact time for the GAC and the maximum dose rate for the PAC; and the potential impact of increasing the output from Ballinrees WTW. NI Water accepted that the current treatment, installed as a short term mitigation at Ballinrees WTW for MCPA removal in response to CPEO 17/01, did not meet industry recommendations and that optimal operating conditions were not met for the treatment process.
- 1.16 There was further discussion on this enforcement at the Compliance Programmes meeting on 30 January 2020. DWI noted from the evidence presented by NI Water, that the current PAC treatment was not capable of working to industry specifications (see note attached in Annex A). Based on this evidence, DWI were not in a position to accept a short term mitigation, which was below industry recommendations as a long term solution.
- 1.17 Whilst DWI accepted that there had been no regulatory contraventions of MCPA in the final water from the filter media had been changed, there was no evidence presented on the level of MCPA in raw water that the works was capable of treating effectively. It was accepted by NI Water that there were sampling deficiencies in 2016, with no monitoring being undertaken in some of the highest risk season, and that there was no real challenge to the raw water in the 2018 season due to the River Bann being out of use for a period of time. It was agreed however that NI Water

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



would provide DWI with alternative proposals to those outlined in its letter of 24 January 2020 for consideration.

- 1.18 On 17 February 2020, DWI wrote to NI Water asking them to provide alternative proposals as agreed at the Compliance Programmes meeting to enable options to be considered in the amendment of the notice. This was still within the timeframe of the nine month installation phase as outlined as achievable by NI Water, before expiry of the notice.
- 1.19 NI Water planned to implement a similar treatment process as was trialled at Derg WTW. However, concerns were identified in December 2019, during the pilot studies at Derg WTW that indicated the PAC dosing system, previously successful in jar testing, was not effective in the pilot plant.
- 1.20 The installation of a similar treatment process had been planned for Ballinrees WTW, but as a result of the issues identified at Derg, further pilot studies were required to confirm the preferred solution for Ballinrees.
- 1.21 The pilot plant to be used is currently installed at Derg WTW and is due to be moved to Ballinrees on completion of the Derg pilot studies. There was some delay to the Derg pilot commencement due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- 1.22 An overall review of the current position has therefore been undertaken and in the interests of finding the optimal treatment solution, DWI advised NI Water that it would consider a range of options presented by the company prior to amending the requirements of the Notice.
- 1.23 This is in keeping with the collaborative approach, and in line with section 4.4 and 4.5 of our [Guidance note and information requirements on long term planning for drinking water supplies in PC21](#), where a proposal may no longer be the best available solution, or a review of its risk assessments indicate new or revised control measures, DWI will also consider such alternative solutions.
- 1.24 NI Water notified DWI on 25 November 2020 that it would not be able to meet the deadline contained in Regulation 31(4) Notice Ref: DWI/Notice/NIW/2019/003 due to the outcome of a treatability study suggesting the utilisation of PAC dosing would be unsuccessful.
- 1.25 NI Water submitted an MCPA Briefing Note for DWI (IBI0032 – 24 November 2020) to DWI on 25 November 2020 for consideration. The report indicates that: *“under current conditions, the utilisation of PAC dosing would be unsuccessful without other improvements to the current works processes. Investigations are required to determine the extent of improvements necessary to optimise the existing works processes to ensure that when PAC is trialled, it is under optimum conditions”*. The proposal includes an initial range of pilot studies, comprising: a pilot plant reviewing PAC dosing, with contact time and DAF Optimisation; and a pilot plant reviewing GAC to produce a treatment solution. The indicative timeline proposed for completion and beneficial use is 31 March 2024.

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



## DWI Action

- 1.26 On review of all of the extensive communications, reports, evidence submitted and overall compliance across a range of parameters since, DWI has given extensive consideration to the proposed action in relation to NI Water's request to amend /suspend the Regulation 31(4)(b) Notice (ref DWI/Notice/NIW/2019/003) issued on 12 April 2019 and due to expire on 18 December 2020.
- 1.27 In consultation with NI Water and given the stable compliance that was demonstrated following the work in 2018 for MCPA, DWI has agreed to revoke the Notice, to provide NI Water additional time to conduct the proposed pilot studies outlined in the DWI Briefing Note for MCPA (IBI0032 - 24 November 2020) to find the optimum treatment solution. Please see attached Notice of Revocation attached at **Annex B (DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2020/002)**.
- 1.28 As part of the overall review of enforcement at Ballinrees that DWI agreed to consider during the 2020 year, it is noted that there has been no MCPA contraventions in the final water. Levels above the drinking water quality standard were noted in the raw water intake on four occasions, and there are still occasional significant peaks in the River Bann up to 3.7 µg/l. Effective abstraction management and catchment work is critical in managing this, but it remains a risk to the final water.
- 1.29 In recognition that there remains a risk of contraventions of MCPA in the final water until a long term solution is implemented, NI Water is required to undertake the capital works that are deemed necessary to comply with the requirements of the attached Regulation 31(4) Notice Ref: **DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002** within the specified time frame (**see Annex C**). Failure to achieve this will result in formal action being instigated by DWI.
- 1.30 The overall review conducted by DWI in 2020 in relation to a range of parameters raised concerns relating to the historical and ongoing contraventions of the taste and odour parameters in the final water. It is noted that the Compliance Programme meeting on 27 September 2018 (see Annex A) that in addition to MCPA, that THMs and taste and odour would also be included in any design for a treatment solution.
- 1.31 An increasing trend in consumer complaints giving rise to a number of water quality events being reported by NI Water (two serious in 2015 and 2020 and two significant in 2018 and 2019) has resulted in the DWSP and associated risk for taste and odour being increased from Low to Medium in 2019 at both the WTW and consumers' tap.
- 1.32 Consumer confidence in the public water supply is important and consumer acceptability is critical in maintaining this. The regulatory requirement for taste and odour is 'acceptable to the consumer' with 'no abnormal change'. Consumer complaints indicate that this requirement is not being met and has been verified by taste and odour contraventions and the subsequent reassessment of the risk by NI Water.

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



- 1.33 DWI has considered this and to secure compliance, NI Water must implement measures to reduce the risk of taste and odour in the final water at Ballinrees WTW. Please find attached a Regulation 31(4) Notice **DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003** to implement measures to control contraventions of the taste and odour parameters at Ballinrees WTW (**see Annex D**). Failure to achieve this will result in formal action being instigated by DWI.
- 1.34 NI Water indicated within the MCPA Briefing Note for DWI (IBI0032 – 24 November 2020) that the proposed timeline for completion and beneficial use is 31 March 2024. It is DWI's assertion that a slightly shorter beneficial use date is achievable and in the interests of protecting public health and securing compliance in a reasonable time, considering there has already been a significant delay in the implementation of a long term solution for MCPA, all necessary works within both notices must be completed on or before **22 December 2023**.

### Enquiries

Any enquiries relating to this letter should be addressed to Colin Clements, tel: 028 90569242 or myself, tel: 028 90569294 or by e-mail to [dwi@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:dwi@daera-ni.gov.uk).

Yours faithfully,



Catriona Davis  
**Chief Inspector of Drinking Water**  
Drinking Water Inspectorate

- Enc. **Annex A** - Compliance Programmes Meeting Notes – Ballinrees WTWs Enforcement Update  
**Annex B** - Notice of Revocation of a Notice - (DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2020/002)  
**Annex C** - Notice to mitigate a risk - DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002  
**Annex D** - Notice to mitigate a risk - DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003

cc: Ms. Tracey Teague, NIEA  
Mr. Tim Irwin, NIEA  
Dr. Theresa Kearney, NIEA  
Mr. Colin Clements, NIEA  
Mr. Eamon Campbell, DAERA  
Mr. John Mills, URNI  
Mr. Damian Curran, Department for Infrastructure  
Mr. Nigel McMahon, Department of Health  
Mr. Paul Harper, NI Water  
Ms. Dymphna Gallagher, NI Water  
Ms. Alison McMullan, NI Water

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



## Compliance Programmes Meeting Notes – Ballinrees WTW Enforcement Update

Date of Meeting	Meeting Note
26 June 2017	Issued 20/06/17. Note- report on delayed reporting due on 07/07/17 and undertakings due on 18/07/2017
24 November 2017	<p>Undertaking 2.1 Currently on target. Media is on site for filters 3&amp;4. There are difficulties with backwashing of filters 1 &amp; 2. Once these filters have been fully commissioned, 3&amp;4 will be changed. This could lead to delays in meeting the 31 December 2017 deadline. DWI advised that if an undertaking is unable to be met then NIW should advise DWI as soon as possible to avoid an escalation of the enforcement process and allow for the revocation and reissue of undertakings.</p> <p>Undertaking 2.2 PAC due to change in December with the replacement PAC due for delivery w/c 11/12/2017</p> <p>Undertaking 3.1 Interim meeting was held in October between RPS, NIW and Dalriada Water.</p> <p>Undertaking 4.1 Options for monitoring MCPA being considered; Chemcatcher- a passive sampling monitoring device to be used. NIW are buying 6.</p> <p>Undertaking 4.3 NIW to send dates of agricultural shows attended.</p>
22 March 2018	<p>Extension granted until 31/03/18. Undertaking now completed as confirmed by email on 16/03/18.</p> <p>Undertaking 2.2 PAC was changed in December '17 with the replacement PAC. Undertaking complete as of 01/12/17. New PAC is Jacobi Aquasorb G9 (previously Aquasorb 5000)</p> <p>Undertaking 3.1 Feasibility Study sent to DWI on 16/03/18. To be assessed by DWI.</p> <p>Undertaking 4.1 Options for monitoring MCPA being considered; Chemcatcher- a passive sampling monitoring device to be used. NIW are buying six. Ongoing.</p> <p>Undertaking 4.3 NIW to send dates of agricultural shows attended (to include last year and this year). PMN – AMcM forwarded details by email on the 05/04/2018.</p>
22 June 2018	<p>An amendment to CPEO/17/01 was issued on 18/05/18 to close off the current undertakings and to request a further undertaking from NIW.</p> <p>NI Water are to provide the new Undertaking by 29/06/18 which should provide details on the final treatment solution for Ballinrees WTW and the associated</p>

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



	timelines for completion by the 31 March 2019. <i>[PMN: Received 29/06/18]</i>
27 September 2018	<p><b>- On track</b></p> <p>A.1- in addition to MCPA, THMs and Taste &amp; Odour will be included in design solution.</p> <p>It was noted that there has been no MCPA failures during this season however this summer has been dry and the River Bann was out for a period of time in June (Event 20/18) therefore no real challenge in the raw water this year.</p>
23 January 2019	<p><b>- On track</b></p> <p>A.1- NI Water awaiting concept. CD advised that any potential land acquisition issues should be highlighted and actioned as soon as possible.</p>
08 May 2019	<p>CPEO/17/01 – Completion of Undertakings Letter issued 03/04/2019.</p> <p>Update on Reg. 31(4)(b) Notice 03/19:</p> <p><b>- On track</b></p> <p>Using same contractor that's working at Derg (Lowry Bros.) JT to carry out an authority change. This is included in the timeline.</p> <p><b>[Action]:</b> The Summary Report template for Reg. 31(4) Notice for Ballinrees WTWs circulated to NIW should be updated in line with the work programme as outlined in Ballinrees WTW MCPA Optioneering Report – IB10032 and provided to DWI.</p>
24 September 2019	<p>Update on Reg. 31(4)(b) Notice 03/19: Summary Report for Reg. 31(4) Notice for Ballinrees WTW updated for the meeting.</p> <p>NI Water advised they were currently reviewing the treatment at Ballinrees WTW for MCPA in light of the recent levels of MCPA being detected. NI Water monitoring of MCPA in the final water shows MCPA levels are low and below the PCV during 2018 and 2019 to date. Over the past 21 months, the combined raw waters in Ballinrees Dam have not exceeded 0.18ug/l, despite a spike of 2.8ug/l in the River Bann (May 2018) and a 1.9ug/l spike in uplands flow (Oct 18). 2019 raw water has been below the PCV. Changes have been made to treatment process (Change in GAC and PAC to more MCPA specific product – CPEO undertaking) and percentage removal at WTW is in the region of 60-70%.</p> <p>Noted that NI Water tabled the Change Control for Ballinrees WTW at the September ORG.</p> <p>DWI requested evidence to support a review of the requirement for additional treatment at Ballinrees WTW required under the current Notice. NI Water to provide a report to DWI by end of October 2019. In the interim, NI Water continue to work to timeline for delivery.</p> <p><b>[Action from meeting in May 2019]:</b> The Summary Report template for Reg. 31(4) Notice for Ballinrees WTW circulated to NIW should be updated in line with the work programme as outlined in Ballinrees WTW MCPA Optioneering Report – IB10032 and provided to DWI. – <b>Action Complete</b></p>
30 January 2020	<p>Update on Reg. 31(4)(b) Notice 03/19 for Ballinrees WTW- summary report updated for the meeting.</p> <p>NI Water's response sent 24/01/20 to DWI letter issued 13/12/19. DWI noted the PAC treatment in place is not capable of working to industry specifications. Discussions around potential alternative arrangements including time constraints and alternative proposals concluded with NI Water to provide new treatments proposals to DWI for further consideration.</p>

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*





	<p><b>[Action]:</b> NIW to provide DWI with alternative proposals to those outlined in its letter of 24/01/2020 for consideration.</p>
03 June 2020	<p>Update on Reg. 31(4)(b) Notice 03/19 for Ballinrees WTW- summary report updated for the meeting.</p> <p>NI Water's response sent 24/01/20 to DWI letter issued 13/12/19. DWI noted the PAC treatment in place is not capable of working to industry specifications. Discussions around potential alternative arrangements including time constraints and alternative proposals concluded with NI Water to provide new treatments proposals to DWI for further consideration.</p> <p><b>[Action]:</b> NI Water to provide DWI with alternative proposals to those outlined in its letter of 24/01/2020 for consideration which are dependent on Derg WTW's programme of work</p>
23 September 2020 (draft note)	<p>The Regulation 31 Notice expires on 18 December 2020. The pilot plant at Derg WTW will be moved to Ballinrees WTW to undertake treatment trials to help determine the final treatment solution for MCPA removal at Ballinrees WTW. It was agreed that a longer period for the pilot plant trials would be undertaken to enable a fuller assessment to be made, compared to the Derg, due to the current lower risk for non-compliance for MCPA than at the Derg. AMcM updated that the Ballinrees WTW MCPA briefing paper was being reviewed with regards to the timeline for delivery and a copy would be provided to the DWI. The DWI noted that this should be provided by mid-November to enable sufficient time for review.</p> <p><b>[Action]:</b> NI Water to provide information on revised timeline for delivery of treatment solution to the DWI by mid November 2020. Information provided 25/11/20 – <b>Action Complete</b></p>

*Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*



An Agency within the Department of  
**Agriculture, Environment  
and Rural Affairs**  
[www.daera-ni.gov.uk](http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk)



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE**

Drinking Water Inspectorate  
Klondyke Building  
Gasworks Business Park  
Cromac Avenue  
Malone Lower  
BELFAST  
BT7 2JA

Tel: 028 90569282

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

Reference Number: **DWI/Revoke/Notice/NIW/2020/002**

1.0 To: **Northern Ireland Water Limited**

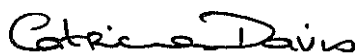
At: **Westland House, 40 Old Westland Road, Belfast, BT14 6TE**

2.0 **The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

under Regulation 31(6) of the above Regulations hereby revokes the following Notice which was published by the Department on 12 April 2019 under Regulation 31(4) of the above Regulations:

**DWI/Notice/NIW/2019/003 - issued to Northern Ireland Water Limited 12 April 2019**

3.0 Signed [On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs]:



Catriona Davis  
**Chief Inspector of Drinking Water**  
Drinking Water Inspectorate

Date of Issue: **17 December 2020**

**The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**  
**Regulation 31(4)(b): Notice to mitigate a risk**

Reference Number: **DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/002**

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 on consideration of monitoring results for MCPA in the final drinking water at Ballinrees Water Treatment Works from 2015 to 2020 that:

there is or has been a significant risk of supplying water from **Ballinrees Water Treatment Works** that could constitute **an unwholesome water supply**, in that:

**There is a risk of the water containing the Pesticide, MCPA [(2-methyl-4-chloro-phenoxy) acetic acid], above the regulatory standard of 0.10 µg/l.**

3.0 Through Regulation 31(4)(b) of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs requires Northern Ireland Water Limited to:

***Review, revise, or make operational such specified measures by such date it considers appropriate to mitigate the risk.***

4.0 In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 31(4)(b), Northern Ireland Water Limited is required to:

**Install and have operational, a treatment system at Ballinrees WTW that is proven to be 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**

- 5.0 The measures outlined in 4.0 above (or measures that will achieve the same effect) must be taken by **22 December 2023**.
- 6.0 This notice may be amended or revoked by the Department at any time.
- 7.0 Signed [On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs]:



Catriona Davis  
**Chief Inspector of Drinking Water**  
Drinking Water Inspectorate

Date of Issue: **17 December 2020**



## NOTES

In the opinion of the designated officer, Northern Ireland Water Limited is not complying with the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 as described in paragraph 2.0 of the Notice.

You have a right to carry out work that will achieve the same effect as that described in paragraph 4.0 of the Notice. If you think that there is another equally effective way of complying with the law, you should first discuss it with the designated officer.

This Notice may be amended or revoked by the Department at any time.

**WARNING**

**Failure to comply with this Notice will result in Enforcement Action under Article 30 of The Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006**



**The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017**  
**Regulation 31(4)(b): Notice to mitigate a risk**

Reference Number: **DWI/Notice/NIW/2020/003**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 on consideration of water quality events relating to taste and odour (34/15; 32/18; 22/19; 20/20) and the subsequent increase in risk from Low to Medium in the final drinking water at Ballinrees Water Treatment Works and at the consumers' tap in 2019 that:

there is or has been a significant risk of supplying water from **Ballinrees Water Treatment Works** that could constitute **an unwholesome water supply**, in that:

**There is a risk of the water contravening the regulatory standard for taste and odour in that it is not acceptable to the consumer and that there is an abnormal change giving rise to complaints or water quality events.**

3.0 Through Regulation 31(4)(b) of the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs requires Northern Ireland Water Limited to:

***Review, revise, or make operational such specified measures by such date it considers appropriate to mitigate the risk.***

4.0 In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 31(4)(b), Northern Ireland Water Limited is required to:

**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**

- 5.0 The measures outlined in 4.0 above (or measures that will achieve the same effect) must be taken by **22 December 2023**.
- 6.0 This notice may be amended or revoked by the Department at any time.
- 7.0 Signed [On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs]:



Catriona Davis  
**Chief Inspector of Drinking Water**  
Drinking Water Inspectorate

Date of Issue: **17 December 2020**



## NOTES

In the opinion of the designated officer, Northern Ireland Water Limited is not complying with the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 as described in paragraph 2.0 of the Notice.

You have a right to carry out work that will achieve the same effect as that described in paragraph 4.0 of the Notice. If you think that there is another equally effective way of complying with the law, you should first discuss it with the designated officer.

This Notice may be amended or revoked by the Department at any time.

**WARNING**

**Failure to comply with this Notice will result in Enforcement Action under Article 30 of The Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006**

