

**Our Case Number:** ACP-323980-25



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers' Assoc  
c/o Thomas Deegan  
Broadleas  
Ballymore Eustace  
Co. Kildare

**Date:** 17 July 2026

**Re:** Proposed Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region  
in the counties of Clare, Limerick, Tipperary, Offaly, Kildare, and Dublin.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your recent submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Commission will revert to you in due course with regard to the matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for inspection on the Commission's website at the following link:

<https://www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/case/323980>

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Commission's website: [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie).

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission. Please quote the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,

Eimear Reilly  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737184

PA04

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## Lauren Griffin

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**From:** LAPS  
**Sent:** Friday 17 July 2026 12:14  
**To:** Lauren Griffin  
**Subject:** FW: Response to Submission Report - Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region  
**Attachments:** Response to Submission Report - Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region.docx

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**From:** Thomas Deegan <thosdeegan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday 17 July 2026 09:09  
**To:** LAPS <laps@pleanala.ie>  
**Subject:** Response to Submission Report - Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region

You don't often get email from [thosdeegan@gmail.com](mailto:thosdeegan@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

**Caution:** This is an **External Email** and may have malicious content. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact the ICT Helpdesk.

Hi at An Coimisiún Pleanála,

c/o Eimear Reilly Executive Officer

Please find attached Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers' Association response to Response to Submission Report - Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region ACP-323980-25.

Regards,  
Thomas Deegan  
Hon Sec TSAA

**Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers' Association**

Broadleas,  
Ballymore Eustace  
Co. Kildare  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1/

An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref. No. ACP-323980-25  
Response to Submission Report - Water Supply Project Eastern and Midlands Region  
Water Supply Project Planning Application – Statutory Consultation Response to Submissions Report

Dear Sir/ Madam,

The letter from ACP dated 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026 invited the Applicant to make a submission, as follows: *"The Commission hereby considers it appropriate to invite you to make a submission on the observations received in relation to the application. Please be advised that any response to the Commission's invitation should not contain any additional reports or supplementary reports and should be confined to the issues raised in the observations received by the Commission."*

The Above Association wishes to make the following submission or observations in relation to Uisce Éireann's response to submissions received by An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Extracts from Uisce Éireann responses in *Italics* followed by Ballymore Eustace TSAA replies in upright normal text.

*1.4.3 Peak Abstraction*

*P3, Section 23 The maximum abstraction would be controlled by the Abstraction Licence and additionally by the Planning Permission, (which is based on the EIAR which assesses a maximum abstraction of 300Mld), if granted. Section 25 The Applicant can confirm that there is no intention to abstract more than 300Mld of raw water from the Parteen Basin, and the peak abstraction could not be increased without applying for additional consents and completing any environmental assessments necessary for such consent.*

**Ballymore Eustace TSAA Response**

Why should we believe the above when the Applicant i.e. Uisce Éireann is non compliant with three different Planning Permission conditions attached to Ireland's largest WTP at Ballymore Eustace operated by Uisce Éireann? Surely the Applicant's track record at complying with planning conditions attached by a planning authority and An Bord Pleanála (now An Coimisiún Pleanála) must be taken into account?

In granting planning permission for 'Retention of existing 1600mm diameter Raw Water Intake to its water treatment works at Bishopsland, Ballymore Eustace , Co. Kildare', Kildare County Council Planning Ref 86/1310 condition 2 states "Abstraction levels from the River Liffey through the proposed intake and through all other intakes shall not together exceed 70 million gallons per day." (318mld)

Dublin Corporation (Waterworks Division),  
c/o Mr. J. Fenwick, Waterworks,  
66-70 Marrowbone Lane,  
Dublin 8.

Application by Dublin Corporation (Waterworks Division), c/o Mr. J. Fenwick,  
Of Waterworks, 66-70 Marrowbone Lane, Dublin 8  
On 16.12.86 For Permission/Approval for Retention of existing  
100mm diameter Raw Water Intake to its water treatment works at Bishopscourt,  
Ballymore-Eustace, Co. Kildare.

A permission ~~XXXXXX~~ has been granted for the above development subject to the following conditions -

1. The development is to be retained as per plans lodged 16th December 1986 save as conditions hereunder otherwise require.
2. Abstraction levels from the River Liffey through the proposed intake and through all other intakes shall not together exceed 70 million gallons per day.
3. Monitoring arrangements shall be entered into between the applicants and the Planning Authority to allow the latter to satisfy itself on a regular basis that the abstraction levels specified in condition 2 are not being exceeded.

We are aware from three Access to Information on the Environment (AIE) requests that Uisce Éireann is non compliant with the above condition and can only give estimated figures rather than accurate metre readings of the daily abstraction volumes. We received daily Estimated Water Abstraction figures from Poulaphouca Reservoir into the Ballymore Eustace WTP from 01/04 2024 – 31/07/2025 (12pages) showing the date, Average Production (m<sup>3</sup>/d) and Estimated Abstraction (m<sup>3</sup>/d)

From the water abstraction volumes from Poulaphouca Reservoir supplied by AIE for the period January 2024 to July 2025 we calculated that out of a total period of 579 days Uisce Éireann were non compliant with planning permission 86/1310 conditions 2 for 545 days. The over abstraction was by as much as 70,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d. Unbelievably, Uisce Éireann only has estimated figures and does not record non compliances with Kildare County Council Planning Ref. No 86/1310 Conditions 2.

Screenshot example of Date, Average Production (m<sup>3</sup>/d) and Estimated Abstraction (m<sup>3</sup>/d) below.

|            |            |             |
|------------|------------|-------------|
| 02/02/2025 | 334,957.00 | 358403.99   |
| 03/02/2025 | 335,111.75 | 358569.5725 |
| 04/02/2025 | 334,603.25 | 358025.4775 |
| 05/02/2025 | 336,644.62 | 360209.7487 |
| 06/02/2025 | 347,158.87 | 371459.9962 |
| 07/02/2025 | 352,318.75 | 376981.0625 |
| 08/02/2025 | 350,054.13 | 374557.9138 |
| 09/02/2025 | 347,467.00 | 371789.69   |
| 10/02/2025 | 348,648.63 | 373054.0288 |
| 11/02/2025 | 349,818.75 | 374306.0625 |
| 12/02/2025 | 348,701.75 | 373110.8725 |
| 13/02/2025 | 348,607.63 | 373010.1588 |
| 14/02/2025 | 350,951.50 | 375518.105  |
| 15/02/2025 | 346,644.75 | 370909.8825 |
| 16/02/2025 | 347,538.62 | 371866.3287 |
| 17/02/2025 | 349,120.88 | 373559.3363 |
| 18/02/2025 | 349,572.88 | 374042.9763 |
| 19/02/2025 | 346,576.12 | 370836.4537 |
| 20/02/2025 | 339,115.62 | 362853.7187 |
| 21/02/2025 | 316,186.38 | 338319.4255 |
| 22/02/2025 | 327,966.38 | 350924.0213 |
| 23/02/2025 | 325,580.50 | 348371.135  |
| 24/02/2025 | 322,025.25 | 344567.0175 |

With regards our second AIE request to • *The number of daily non-compliances with Kildare County Council Planning Ref. 00/2270 ABP Ref PL.09.124046 Condition 2 in the period January 2024 to July 2025 inclusive.* We received the Uisce Éireann reply: “The decision-maker has advised that Kildare County Council Planning Ref. 00/2270 ABP Ref PL.09.124046 Condition 2 states that: “Monitoring arrangements relating to the quantum of water abstracted from the Liffey, which shall also include monitoring of water levels downstream of the water treatment plant, shall be agreed between the planning authority and applicant prior to commencement of development and such monitoring shall be undertaken on a regular basis.”

“All details of the correspondence to Kildare County Council can be found on the Kildare Co. Council’s Planning Website. I have been advised that Uisce Éireann holds no other records relating to this element of your request.”

On looking up Kildare County Council Planning Website we found that there is no Uisce Éireann monitoring report under Kildare County Council Planning Ref. 00/2270 ABP Ref PL.09.124046 Condition 2 on the Kildare County Council’s planning webpage since July 2020.

The 2020 monitoring data showed that the quantum of water through the intakes to the WTP was non compliant with planning condition 86/1310 condition 2. (see screenshot section below)

All values in Megalitres per day

| Date      | Inlet | Outlet | Abstraction |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------------|
| 1-Feb-20  | 355.4 | 15.0   | 340.4       |
| 2-Feb-20  | 344.2 | 13.5   | 330.7       |
| 3-Feb-20  | 327.1 | 14.9   | 312.2       |
| 4-Feb-20  | 330.9 | 14.8   | 316.1       |
| 5-Feb-20  | 337.5 | 14.3   | 323.2       |
| 6-Feb-20  | 346.6 | 14.2   | 332.4       |
| 7-Feb-20  | 350.7 | 14.8   | 335.9       |
| 8-Feb-20  | 339.2 | 14.3   | 324.9       |
| 9-Feb-20  | 335.4 | 14.3   | 321.2       |
| 10-Feb-20 | 338.3 | 14.7   | 323.5       |
| 11-Feb-20 | 339.8 | 14.6   | 325.1       |
| 12-Feb-20 | 340.2 | 15.1   | 325.1       |
| 13-Feb-20 | 336.9 | 15.2   | 321.7       |
| 14-Feb-20 | 334.8 | 12.9   | 321.8       |
| 15-Feb-20 | 335.8 | 12.9   | 322.9       |
| 16-Feb-20 | 337.4 | 14.5   | 322.9       |
| 17-Feb-20 | 337.7 | 13.5   | 324.2       |
| 18-Feb-20 | 337.3 | 12.9   | 324.4       |
| 19-Feb-20 | 337.3 | 14.6   | 322.7       |
| 20-Feb-20 | 337.9 | 13.7   | 324.1       |
| 21-Feb-20 | 335.1 | 13.4   | 321.7       |
| 22-Feb-20 | 335.6 | 14.1   | 321.5       |
| 23-Feb-20 | 336.7 | 13.2   | 323.5       |
| 24-Feb-20 | 335.5 | 14.2   | 321.2       |
| 25-Feb-20 | 331.8 | 14.0   | 317.8       |
| 26-Feb-20 | 333.1 | 17.9   | 315.2       |
| 27-Feb-20 | 337.7 | 12.7   | 325.0       |
| 28-Feb-20 | 340.6 | 13.6   | 327.0       |
| 29-Feb-20 | 341.5 | 12.9   | 328.6       |
|           |       |        | 324.0       |

All values in Megalitres per day

| Date      | Inlet | Outlet | Abstraction |
|-----------|-------|--------|-------------|
| 1-Mar-20  | 342.2 | 13.5   | 328.7       |
| 2-Mar-20  | 340.9 | 13.6   | 327.3       |
| 3-Mar-20  | 344.2 | 12.5   | 331.7       |
| 4-Mar-20  | 349.3 | 13.0   | 336.3       |
| 5-Mar-20  | 348.8 | 14.4   | 334.3       |
| 6-Mar-20  | 348.3 | 13.3   | 335.0       |
| 7-Mar-20  | 347.9 | 13.3   | 334.6       |
| 8-Mar-20  | 347.7 | 12.8   | 334.8       |
| 9-Mar-20  | 347.6 | 14.1   | 333.6       |
| 10-Mar-20 | 349.3 | 13.6   | 335.8       |
| 11-Mar-20 | 349.6 | 14.1   | 335.5       |
| 12-Mar-20 | 347.7 | 12.3   | 335.4       |
| 13-Mar-20 | 337.4 | 14.1   | 323.3       |
| 14-Mar-20 | 329.2 | 14.1   | 315.1       |
| 15-Mar-20 | 325.5 | 13.0   | 312.5       |
| 16-Mar-20 | 322.2 | 12.5   | 309.7       |
| 17-Mar-20 | 328.5 | 13.7   | 314.8       |
| 18-Mar-20 | 339.0 | 13.4   | 325.6       |
| 19-Mar-20 | 343.2 | 14.3   | 328.9       |
| 20-Mar-20 | 342.8 | 12.4   | 330.3       |
| 21-Mar-20 | 342.0 | 12.9   | 329.1       |
| 22-Mar-20 | 337.8 | 14.0   | 323.8       |
| 23-Mar-20 | 334.8 | 14.1   | 320.8       |
| 24-Mar-20 | 334.6 | 12.7   | 321.9       |
| 25-Mar-20 | 334.6 | 12.6   | 322.0       |
| 26-Mar-20 | 334.5 | 14.1   | 320.4       |
| 27-Mar-20 | 334.3 | 14.9   | 319.4       |
| 28-Mar-20 | 334.5 | 13.9   | 320.7       |
| 29-Mar-20 | 329.2 | 12.3   | 316.9       |
| 30-Mar-20 | 324.6 | 13.8   | 310.8       |
| 31-Mar-20 | 324.5 | 14.5   | 310.0       |
|           |       |        | 325.1       |

Monthly Average Daily Abstraction March 2020

325.1 ML

Kildare County Council responded dated 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020 “The figures submitted indicates that the average abstraction during the first three months are above the maximum 318MLD that Dublin City Council can abstract in accordance with their abstraction licence”.

No monitoring under condition 2 has appeared on the Kildare County Council Planning Website since March 2020 and no monitoring of levels downstream has ever appeared. It appears if Uisce Éireann is non compliant they simply stop sending in monitoring reports and don’t hold any records of the the WTP’s planning conditions non compliances.

With regard to our 3<sup>rd</sup> AIE request • *The number of daily non-compliances with Kildare County Council Planning Ref 08520, ABP Ref PL.09.229575 Condition 8 in the period January 2024 to July 2025 inclusive.* Uisce Éireann replied; “The decision-maker has advised that the monitoring and sampling regime results are publicly available on the Kildare County Council planning website. Kildare County Council Ref number is 08520.”

KCC P.A. Ref 08520 Construction of new sludge treatment plant comprising 1no. sludge treatment building, 3 no. thickened sludge storage tanks, 1 no. dried sludge storage silo and associated site infrastructure.

Following KCC granting of planning permission without any monitoring conditions Ballymore Eustace TSAA appealed the decision to An Bord Pleanála. ABP granted permission dated 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009 but included the following condition;

8. (a) Comprehensive monitoring arrangements relating to the volume and quality of the treated filtrate and supernatant wastewater discharges to the River Liffey shall be submitted to and agreed in writing with the planning

authority prior to the commencement of development. In this regard, the process wastewater shall be treated to ensure compliance with the parameter limits which shall be specified by the planning authority having regard to the River Liffey Catchment Management Plan under the Water Framework Directive.

(b) The agreed monitoring regime shall provide for sampling, at regular, specified, intervals of the following:

(i) Supernatant from the sludge thickening tanks.

(ii) Spillway contents, including the combined filtrate, supernatant, washwater and surface water from the plant, prior to discharge.

(iii) Water in the Golden Falls Reservoir, upstream of the spillway discharge from the plant.

(iv) Water in the River Liffey, downstream of the spillway discharge from the plant.

(c) The physico/chemical parameters to be monitored shall include the following: Colour, Turbidity, Aluminium, Suspended Solids and PH.

(d) The data generated from this sampling/monitoring regime shall be forwarded to the planning authority at regular, specified, intervals and shall be made available for public inspection.

Reason: In order to protect the quality of the water in the River Liffey in the interest of public health and recreational amenity, including angling.

Unfortunately, the parametric limits of the Spillway discharge to the Liffey were based on the totally inaccurate false low daily maximum discharge to the Liffey of 3695M<sup>3</sup>/day submitted to the Kildare Planning Authority instead of a daily maximum discharge volume multiples of that volume. The false inaccurate daily maximum Spillway discharge volume was never corrected.

This led to the parametric emission limit for aluminium in the Spillway Discharge to the Liffey being set way too high at 6mgs/l to be assimilated by the Liffey for most of Spring, Summer and Autumn each year when the ESB release the minimum flow to the Liffey from Golden Falls Dam/Hydro Power Station of 1.5m<sup>3</sup>/sec.

|                                                                                                                                                                        |                   |                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Minimum Compensation flow in Liffey at Golden Falls                                                                                                                    | Controlled by ESB | 1.5 cumecs             |
|                                                                                                                                                                        | x1000             | 1500 l/sec             |
| Maximum discharge through spillway from process                                                                                                                        |                   | 3697 m <sup>3</sup> /d |
|                                                                                                                                                                        |                   | 43 l/sec               |
| If 10 mg/l concentration of Al <sup>3+</sup> is found in spillway, the downstream effect on a worst case dry day (compensation flow should be 1.5 cumecs) is equal to: | 10 (mg/l)x43/1500 | <b>285</b> ug/l        |

Kildare County Council reduced the Spillway Discharge aluminium concentration to 6mg/l thereby reducing the allowable downstream effect to 172 µg/l.

There are 36 Filters at the Ballymore Eustace WTP. It takes 18,800m<sup>3</sup>/day to backwash all the Filters. However, not all 36 Filters are backwashed down the Spillway Discharge to the Liffey every day.

An extract from a "VESI Environmental Ltd., ICW Feasibility Report, Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant October 2025" states

"1.2: Existing Data"

"Spillway flows are generally c. 15,000m<sup>3</sup>/day with occasional peaks up to c. 35,000m<sup>3</sup>/day."

To comply with ABP condition 8 the emission limit value for aluminium concentration in the Spillway Discharge should be reduced by at least a factor of 4 to 1.5 mg/l. Special arrangements should be made for the peak flows up to 35,000m<sup>3</sup>/day.

When Dublin City Council/Uisce Éireann submitted the monitoring results for Quarter 1, 2023 Kildare County Council informed them that "This submission is not in compliance with Planning Permission No 8 of An Bord Pleanála PL.09.229575." Following each Quarter's monitoring report since then, Kildare County Council have been requesting that "the Applicant/Developer is requested to submit the reasons as to why the above non compliances have



occurred and what measures are being put in place to rectify the non compliances.” So far, no plans or measures have appeared on the Kildare Planning Website from Uisce Éireann as to how they plan to become compliant.

Uisce Éireann is non compliant with three different planning permission conditions relating to the Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant which equates to unauthorised development, so I think it’s fair to say that Uisce Éireann is a rogue utility company with respect to planning conditions for Ireland's largest water treatment plant at Ballymore Eustace.

Uisce Éireann’s huge volume of water abstraction from Poulaphouca Reservoir i.e 40% of the total annual flow of the Liffey, has rendered the Liffey incapable of assimilating Uisce Éireann’s waste discharges to the Liffey

Example; Dublin City Coucil/Uisce Éireann submitted the WTP Monitoring Report for Q3 2024.  
Kildare County Council Planning Department response below.

**Table 1- Spillway Discharge Composite Sample**

| Month          | Colour                                                                                                       | Turbidity                                                                                                      | Aluminium                                                                                                                                                            | Suspended Solids                                                                                                                                          | pH        | Aluminium concentration downstream effect on River Liffey                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| July 2024      | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 | Compliant                                                                                                      | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024                         | Compliant | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup> July 2024 |
|                |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                | • Note : No sample result for this parameter submitted for 16 <sup>th</sup> of July therefore a non-compliance                                                       |                                                                                                                                                           |           | • Note : No sample result for this parameter available for assessment for 16 <sup>th</sup> of July therefore a non-compliance                                                          |
| August 2024    | Compliant                                                                                                    | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024 | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 13 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> of August 2024 | Compliant | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 6 <sup>th</sup> 13 <sup>th</sup> 20 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024                   |
| September 2024 | Compliant                                                                                                    | Compliant                                                                                                      | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 3 <sup>rd</sup> of September 2024                                                  | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 3 <sup>rd</sup> of September 2024                                       | Compliant | <b>NON-COMPLIANT</b><br>Non-compliant with set limit on the following dates:<br>• 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> and 24 <sup>th</sup> of September 2024         |

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL issue WARNING LETTER to UISCE ÉIREANN re unauthorised development at Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant

Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers' Association sent in three different Unauthorised Development Complaint forms to Kildare County Council re - non compliance by Uisce Éireann with three different planning permission conditions at the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Ballymore Eustace i.e.

1. non compliance with Planning Permission 86/1310 limiting water abstraction through all intakes from Poulaphouca Reservoir to 70mgd or 318mld., dated 23rd October 2025

2. Non compliance with Planning Permission 00/2270, ABP Ref PL.09.124046, Condition 2 limiting water abstraction through all intakes from Poulaphouca Reservoir to 70mgd or 318mld and monitoring reporting conditions to KCC, including monitoring of water levels downstream of WTP dated 24th October 2025.

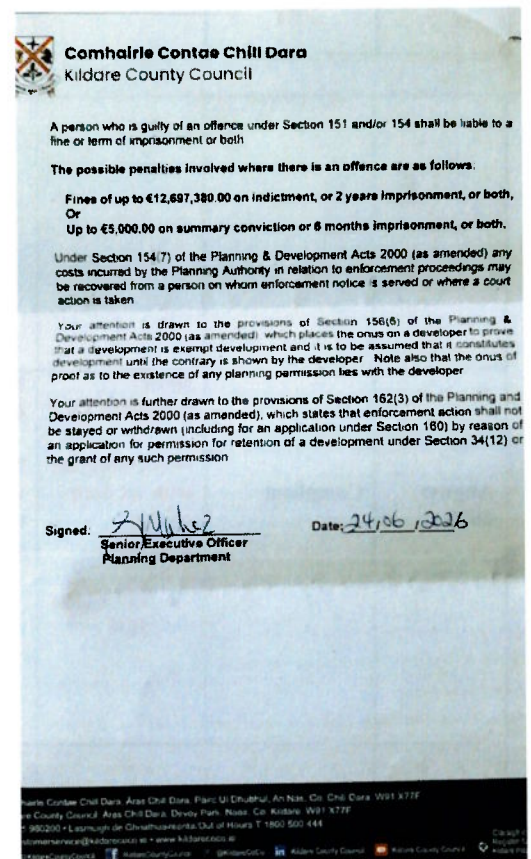
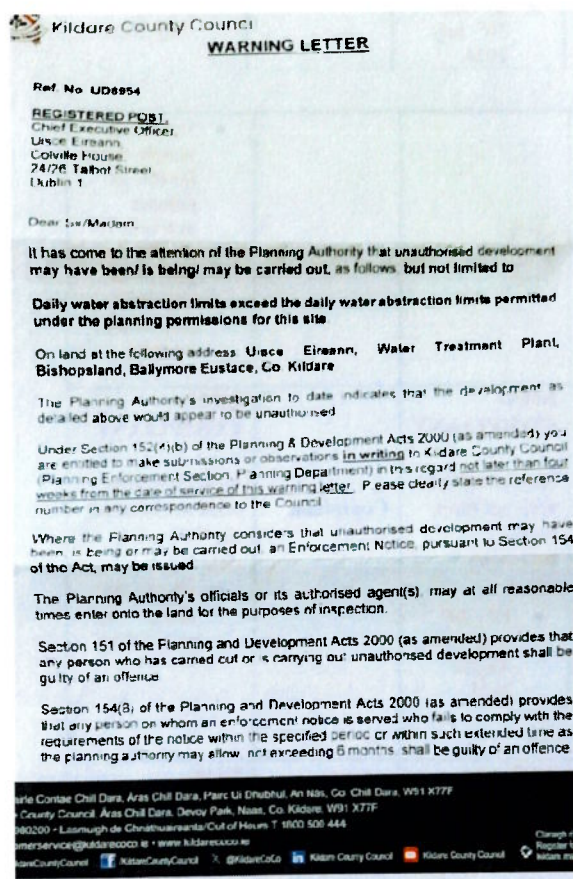
3. Non compliance with Planning Permission 08520 ABP Ref.PL.09. 229575 Condition 8 - WTP Spillway discharge to the Liffey Emission Limit Values dated 27th October 2025.

Kildare County Council have now issued a warning letter dated 24th June 2026 to the Chief Executive Officer Uisce Éireann saying it has come to their attention that unauthorised development may have been/is being/may be carried out as follows but not limited to "Daily water abstraction limits exceed the daily water abstraction limits permitted under the planning permissions for this site.

On land at the following address Uisce Éireann, Water Treatment Plant, Bishopsland, Ballymore Eustace, Co. Kildare. The Planning Authority's investigation to date indicates that the development as detailed above would appear to be unauthorised

Uisce Éireann has four weeks to reply.

See photo copy of full letter below.



### 5.2.1 Leakage Reduction

WSP\_SUB\_71 Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association

I don't believe we made any reference to leakage reduction in our submission.

### 6.3.7 Chemicals at the Proposed Water Treatment Plant



514. The general observer submission from Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association raised a specific issue relating to the chemicals required for the treatment process at the proposed WTP:

Unique ID      Name of Individual or Organisation

WSP\_SUB\_71 Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association

515. This general observer submission stated that, because of the list of chemicals used at the proposed WTP at Birdhill, (Sulphuric Acid, Aluminium Sulphate, Polyelectrolyte, Caustic Soda, Sodium Hypochlorite, Brine) it could also be considered a chemical process factory.

516. Further, the submission made reference to the treatment and disposal of the aluminium hydroxide coagulated with polyelectrolyte sludge and the large volumes of toxic filter backwash water and other wastewater produced at the WTP.

#### 6.3.7.1 Applicant's Response

517. The Applicant does not agree that the WTP would be considered a chemical process factory. The chemicals to be used at the proposed WTP are all approved by the Applicant for use in the treatment of raw water, under various Uisce Éireann Technical Standards (IW-TEC-900 series). These chemicals are standard in the water industry. The primary purpose of the WTP is to produce water fit for human consumption. No chemicals will be produced at the WTP therefore it is not correct to consider the WTP to be a chemical process factory.

Ballymore Eustace TSAA Response.

Water treatment for human consumption in a large WTP is a dirty industry.

How can the Applicant claim that “No Chemicals will be produced at the WTP” when most of the chemicals used at the proposed WTP will react to form a waste sludge that will have to be transported to a suitable waste disposable landfill facility?

When Aluminium Sulphate is added to water it reacts to form an insoluble precipitate or ‘floc’ Aluminium Hydroxide. The following reaction takes place ;  $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3 + 6(\text{H}_2\text{O}) \rightarrow 2\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3 \downarrow + 3\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$   
Aluminium Sulphate plus Water → Aluminium Hydroxide plus Sulphuric Acid  
Aluminium Sulphate is used as both a coagulant and a flocculant. The ‘floc’ formed is Aluminium Hydroxide, hence the term flocculation.

The fine Aluminium Hydroxide ‘flocs’ formed are coagulated by the polyelectrolyte coagulant into larger and heavier ‘flocs’ to speed up faster settling in the sedimentation tanks.

The finer ‘flocs’ that are not removed in the sedimentation tanks are carried over onto the Filters where they are removed by large volumes of ‘backwash’ water which also needs to be processed to separate the solids from the liquid.

In the Ballymore Eustace WTP the large volume of toxic to fish (contaminated with aluminium and polyelectrolyte) waste backwash water is discharged via the Spillway into the River Liffey.

It is also proposed to produce Sodium Hypochlorite at the WTP by an electrochemical process (electrolysis of brine).

An overnight spill of 71 cubic metres of Sodium Hypochlorite from Ballymore Eustace WTP killed fish in the River Liffey on the 15/16<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The spill was first reported by person walking past the Spillway discharge into the River Liffey who smelled chlorine and contacted the WTP. Uisce Éireann were prosecuted by IFI and fined at Naas District Court.

I believe that the proposed Birdhill WTP “could also be considered a chemical process factory” is fair comment.

518. The Applicant can confirm it is not proposed to use aluminium hydroxide at the WTP. The proposed coagulant is aluminium sulphate. As set out in the SID Engineering Report the treatment of water treatment residuals will be carried out in accordance with IW-TEC-900-07 Treatment of Water Treatment Plant Residuals. The residuals generated are not considered ‘toxic’ and are classified as Class 1 residuals under IW-TEC-900-07 (Class 1 Residuals

*arise as a result of the day-to-day operation of Water Treatment processes including Coagulation, Flocculation and Clarification, Filtration, Membrane processes and Ion Exchange processes, and as a result of Solid Residual Treatment processes).*

Ballymore Eustace TSAA Response.

How can the Applicant confirm it is not proposed to use aluminium hydroxide at the WTP when the whole water treatment purification process is based on the formation of Aluminium Hydroxide?

As mentioned above Aluminium Hydroxide will be produced as an insoluble precipitate or 'floc' at the WTP and plays a critical role in the water purification process, hence the term 'flocculation'. Tonnes of Aluminium Hydroxide will be formed and collected as sludge in the sedimentation tanks and it will be contaminated with the polyelectrolyte which is dosed as a coagulant. Hence my reference to the treatment and disposal of this waste product as "aluminium hydroxide coagulated with polyelectrolyte sludge" The other impurities removed in the WTP process will also be collected in the aluminium hydroxide/polyelectrolyte sludge.

Both aluminium and polyelectrolyte are considered toxic to aquatic life.

#### *6.3.11 Recommended Conditions P92*

*537. The general observer submission from Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association recommended an operational-related condition to be attached to any grant of planning:*

| <i>Unique ID</i>  | <i>Name of Individual or Organisation</i>                     |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>WSP_SUB_71</i> | <i>Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association</i> |

*538. This submission requested that ACP insert a condition in the planning permission specifying the maximum volume of water that can be abstracted through all intakes into the WTP. The Applicant must install metering equipment for the accurate measuring and recording of the daily abstraction volume (not estimates as at Ballymore Eustace) and the volume must be reported on a regular basis to the local authority and be made available for public inspection.*

##### *6.3.11.1 Applicant's Response*

*539. The Applicant acknowledges the recommended conditions and requirements within the submission from Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association. Further, the Applicant is committed to ongoing consultation with anglers throughout the development of the Proposed Project, and accepts the principle, spirit, and intent of the suggested conditions and requirements.*

*540. The Applicant will comply with the conditions attached to any grant of planning approval, in addition to those already included as mitigation or monitoring measures in the EIAR and the CEMP which are all included in the planning application documentation. However, the Applicant considers that this condition is relevant to the Abstraction Licence, if granted rather than the SID Planning Application.*

Ballymore Eustace TSAA Response

How can we believe that "the Applicant will comply with the conditions attached to any grant of planning approval" when their track record suggests otherwise.

The Applicant, Uisce Éireann, is non compliant with the three different Kildare County Council and An Bord Pleanála planning permission conditions mentioned above for the Ballymore Eustace WTP. We are aware from an AIE request, (which we were forced to make) that the abstraction volumes from Poulaphouca Reservoir into the WTP are non compliant with planning permission conditions, but not only that, the abstraction volumes are only given as estimates and not accurate metre readings, so how are we expected to believe the Applicant concerning any conditions that may be attached to the proposed Birdhill WTP? As the saying goes 'if you want to know me come live with me.'

Ballymore Eustace TSAA was formed in 1974 to prevent the toxic Aluminium Hydroxide/Polyelectrolyte Sludge discharged from the WTP polluting the River Liffey at Ballymore Eustace. An Foras Forbartha at the time described the Liffey at Ballymore Eustace as "seriously polluted". We have bitter experience of the Ballymore Eustace WTP for over 50 years, from fish kills to regular pollution incidents. Unfortunately these incidents are not getting less frequent.

### *15.2.1 Response to General Issues Raised p 345*

#### *Potential for Odour Impacts*

*2044. The following submissions raised concerns about the potential for odour impacts as a result of the Proposed*

*Project: Unique ID Name of Individual or Organisation*

*WSP\_SUB\_52 John Sadlier*

*WSP\_SUB\_71 Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers' Association*

*WSP\_SUB\_76 Melissa Anne Kenny*

*WSP\_SUB\_93 Michael McKeogh*

#### *15.2.1.1 Applicant's Response*

*2045. The submissions raised concerns that odour generated from the Proposed Project would affect local residents. However, the water treatment process does not release any malodours, unlike wastewater treatment where odour management is a key consideration. The processes associated with water treatment are based on physical separation of material from the raw water and they are not biological processes that generate odours, which would be the case with wastewater treatment. In addition, the chemicals used as part of the water treatment process (sulphuric acid, chlorine, caustic soda) do not generate malodours. As the Proposed Project would not result in any significant odour emissions, there would be no impact on local residents as a result of odour.*

#### *Ballymore Eustace TSAA Response*

We raised no concerns about odour due to the operation of the proposed Birdhill WTP. However, something is dangerously wrong if the Applicant thinks that Chlorine doesn't generate a malodour. It is an extremely poisonous gas with a pungent odour and needs specialised training, extreme caution and protective breathing equipment when working with, or in close proximity to it.

### *15.3.3 Potential Odour Impacts Resulting from the Transport of Wastewater P350*

*2065. The general observer submission from Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association raised a specific issue relating to the potential for odour impacts on local residents as a result of the proposal to tanker wastewater:*

*Unique ID Name of Individual or Organisation*

*WSP\_SUB\_71 Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association*

*2066. This general observer submission stated that the removal of foul wastewater from the WTP site during operation by tanker will lead to odour problems for the local communities and along the route to the WwTP where it is be disposed of and does not appear to be sustainable in the long term.*

#### *15.3.3.1 Applicant's Response*

*2067. As set out in Section 4.8.6. of EIAR Chapter 4 - Proposed Project Description, foul wastewater generated on the WTP site would be directed to a holding tank with a level sensor to alert when emptying is required. It would then be tankered away for disposal at a licensed Wastewater Treatment Plant. Wastewater generated by operational staff on the site would be less than 1m<sup>3</sup>/d. There would be no odour impact from the transporting of the wastewater, as the foul wastewater will be in an enclosed tanker and would not be exposed to open air.*

#### *Ballymore Eustace TSAA Response*

We stand by our original concerns relating to odour impacts due to the storage, pumping and transportation of raw sewage and our belief that the removal of raw sewage by road tankers from a large WTP facility is not sustainable in the long term.

### *22.2.1 Response to General Issues Raised*

#### *Management of Waste at the Proposed Water Treatment Plant*

*2454. The following submissions raised concerns about the management of waste at the proposed WTP:*

*Unique ID Name of Individual or Organisation*

*WSP\_SUB\_71 Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association*

22.2.1.1 Applicant's Response

2455. The submissions received raised concerns that there would be a risk of pollution from the storage and management of waste. The Applicant recognises this concern, in particular the sensitivity of the Kilmastulla River, and as a result has taken account of this in the design of the Proposed Project. This included incorporating embedded design measures into the proposals, as set out in Chapter 9 – Water, and Chapter 19 – Resources and Waste Management of the EIAR. In particular, avoiding discharges 416 Water Supply Project Planning Application – Statutory Consultation Response to Submissions Report from the treatment process at the WTP (and the RWI&PS) to receiving water bodies including the Kilmastulla River.

2456. The residual water sludge would be stored, dried and then transported from site. There would be no discharge of sludge to the environment. As set out in Section 4.6.5 of EIAR Chapter 4 – Proposed Project Description, the sludge storage buildings would be covered to prevent contaminated rainwater runoff from the stored sludge being generated. Supernatant from the sludge thickeners and expressate from the sludge dewatering process would be pumped, via the washwater treatment side stream, to the head of the treatment process.

2457. It is intended that, where practicable, circular economy outlets for residual water sludge will be identified so that this could be put to a beneficial reuse via sustainable outlets ahead of disposal – an approach that aligns with the requirements of the waste management priority hierarchy. Examples of potential sustainable outlets and beneficial uses are outlined in Section 19.2.3.7 of EIAR Chapter 19 - Resource and Waste Management.

2458. There will be no discharge of wastewater from the WTP to the environment. A response in relation to process water and drainage water from the WTP, and associated risk of pollution to the Kilmastulla River, is included in Section 12.4.3 in Chapter 12 – Water (General) of this Report.

2459. The assessments reported in Chapter 19 – Resource and Waste Management and in Chapter 9 – Water of the EIAR concluded that with the proposed mitigation in place (embedded and additional mitigation as defined in the EIAR) there would be no likely significant effect as a result of the waste arising at the WTP.

Ballymore Eustace TSAA Response

The Applicant's Response sound like a replay of promises we have heard relating to waste water and sludge management at the Ballymore Eustace WTP for the past 50 odd years i.e there will be no discharge of wastewater from the WTP to the Liffey, circular economy outlets for residual water sludge will be identified so that this could be put to a beneficial reuse via sustainable outlets ahead of disposal etc. While it is easy to write reams of promises, unfortunately for Ballymore Eustace and the River Liffey the promises were not fulfilled.

How will it be possible to recirculate the waste water at Birdhill WTP when we are told that it's not possible to recirculate the waste water at Ballymore Eustace WTP due to the fear of introducing Cryptosporidium into the drinking water supply.

As stated in our original submission, we now feel aggrieved, betrayed and bewildered as to how it will be possible to recirculate the process wastewater in Uisce Éireann's proposed new WTP in Birdhill but not in the WTP in Ballymore Eustace. It appears that either Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers' Association or An Coimisiún Pleanála is not being told the truth.

As noted in our original submission we have the gravest concerns that there is a proposed large pipeline (600mm) from the Birdhill WTP site to a stream off site. There will be a discharge from the WTP to a stream off site!!!!!!.

We cannot have faith in the Applicant Uisce Éireann, knowing that they are non compliant with Kildare and An Bord Pleanála planning permission conditions which constitutes unauthorised development at the Ballymore Eustace WTP. It also begs the question is there any point attaching planning permission conditions to the Applicant's present planning application, if Uisce Éireann has a history of non compliance with planning permission conditions at Ireland's largest WTP at Ballymore Eustace?

27.5 Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant P511

3100. The general observer submission from the Ballymore Eustace Trout and Salmon Anglers Association raised concerns about the Ballymore Eustace WTP and made comparisons to between the Ballymore Eustace WTP and the proposed operation of the Proposed Project WTP.

3101. This general observer submission highlighted the problems that were created by the Ballymore Eustace WTP and stated that the same problems will be created by the proposed large WTP at the village of Birdhill.

27.5.1 Applicant's Response

3102. The Applicant notes that this observation relates to the current operation of the existing Ballymore Eustace WTP in County Kildare and is therefore not within the scope of the response to be provided for issues relating to the SID planning application under consideration by ACP.

Ballymore Eustace TSAA response

As we stated in our original submission, Ballymore Eustace TSAA are in favour of planning permission being granted for the present planning application in order to take water abstraction pressure off the River Liffey. However we also want ACP to be aware of the Applicant's tract record operating a large WTP so that the community of Birdhill and the environment are protected by stringent and enforceable planning condition and are not presented with 'a pig in a poke' that they will regret forever.

Our original submission referred to the ongoing problems and unfulfilled promises to mitigate these problems by Uisce Éireann the owner and operator of the Ballymore Eustace WTP. Uisce Éireann is now applying for planning permission for a similar sized WTP at Birdhill in Co Tipperary. They have not proved that they are capable of operating such a large WTP in compliance with Local Authority and An Coimisiún Pleanála planning permission conditions.

The only way that Uisce Éireann can be judged is on past activity relating to planning permission conditions such as those attached to the largest WTP in the country at Ballymore Eustace. Judging by their non compliance record and unauthorised development, it's no surprise that they do not want An Coimisiún Pleanála to know or refer to how they operate the Ballymore Eustace WTP. By their actions you shall know them and not by their promises.

Please find attached photos and video clips of the waste water Spillway Discharge to the River Liffey from the Ballymore Eustace WTP. These are typical of many times per day discharges when Filters are backwashed at the WTP. These photos and video clips are regularly sent to Uisce Éireann staff, Kildare County Council, IFI and EPA staff.

Uisce Éireann show no grá or appreciation for the aesthetic or recreational value of the River Liffey from which they gain so much.



WTP Discharge20260112\_104817.mp4



WTP Spillway discharge to the Liffey 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026 10am