

Incident Assessment

Elphin (Knockan) WTW
Persistent *Cryptosporidium*
Detections
Sept 2011

DWQR Inspector:
Matthew Bower

Summary of Incident

Persistent detections of *Cryptosporidium* oocysts have occurred in this small water supply North of Ullapool in Wester Ross. In line with DWQR's policy for all water quality exceedences not resolved by Scottish Water within two months, this issue has been declared an incident.

DWQR Assessment of the Cause of the Incident

Elphin (Knockan) WTW currently has very basic treatment that is not capable of removing *Cryptosporidium* oocysts. Although the oocysts are often present in very low numbers in water supplied by the works, the current episode of detections of larger numbers of oocysts commenced in July 2011 and has continued since then.

DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

Scottish Water has inspected the catchment and found nothing unusual. NHS Highland wrote a letter to consumers in Elphin in September 2009 explaining the situation and suggesting that they may choose to boil water prior to consumption as a precaution. This advice remains in force.

Scottish Water is planning to replace the supply by linking it to the Ullapool system. The treatment at Ullapool is via modern membrane plant that is capable of removing *Cryptosporidium*. Scottish Water has committed to completing the replacement of the supply by October 2012 at the latest. NHS Highland, DWQR and Scottish Water are in regular discussion concerning the supply and progress is being monitored closely.