

Lintrathen WTW Loss of Coagulation 27th January and 3rd February 2026

Event No. 16709 & 16724

Event Category: Significant

On both 27th January and 3rd February, aluminium sulphate dosing ceased (for 1hr 50min and 1hr 15min respectively) and caused a failure of coagulation. Coagulation pH and filter turbidity breached the EAL on both occasions (for 3 and 1.5 hrs respectively), seriously compromising disinfection. Reactive sampling was carried out, with detections of *Cryptosporidium* and *Clostridium perfringens* reported on the 29th January. There were no failures reported from the second event.

Both events were attributed to a blockage in the alum dosing pump non-return valve, caused by debris entering the uncovered alum tank. The secondary alum tank was offline at the time for cleaning and repair, and the debris is likely to have originated from this activity. Additionally, the absence of an auto-changeover system on the alum pumps meant the affected pump continued to operate without dosing until manual intervention took place.

The event has been categorised as significant. Scottish Water has identified seven actions which DWQR accepts are appropriate and will monitor to ensure they are completed prior to signing off the incident. DWQR made one additional recommendation.