

## Picketlaw WTW loss of control of treatment process 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> December 2024

DWQR Inspector:  
Robert Brooks

Event No. 14078

### Event Category: Significant

On the 14 December 2023 Picketlaw WTW was manually shutdown following a 35-minute breach of final water aluminium Prescribed Concentration Value (PCV). A wash water sequence failure had prevented Rapid Gravity Filter (RGF) 3 from washing and the remaining two filters were affected by having to treat the full plant flow. The plant failed to automatically shutdown on filtered water aluminium. The post-chlorine contact tank (CCT) scour valve was not fully opened during the shutdown to run inadequately treated water to waste. The plant was then restarted and treated water went into supply whilst treated water aluminium were above the PCV.

Scottish Water's Public Health Team were alerted to the issues and sampling was arranged. 8 samples and one *Cryptosporidium* sample was taken between 14 and 15 December 2023 from Picketlaw WTW and Picketlaw Regulatory Supply Zone. Of these, one sample from Picketlaw WTW breached the PCV for aluminium. All other parameters were shown to be satisfactory.

It is clear from the Scottish Water's event outcome report that this incident was caused by process control and operational failures that resulted in a loss of control of optimal treatment and the forward flow of inadequately treated water to supply.

The event has been categorised as significant. Scottish Water has identified eight 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.

