

Incident Summary

Kinlochleven WTW *Cryptosporidium* detections November 2020

DWQR Inspector:
Moira Malcolm

Event No. 11337

Event Category: Significant

Two *Cryptosporidium* samples taken in response to an identified catchment risk on 2 and 3 November contained oocysts. In response, Scottish Water shut the treatment works to enable investigations of the treatment process. These indicated no issues, and attention switched to the clear water tank, the condition of which had previously caused concern. Inspection of this revealed issues, and the tank was isolated on 17 November to enable repairs to be made, with the area supplied by temporary tanks. Prior to isolation of the tank, four out of the eight *Cryptosporidium* samples collected contained oocysts in single figures. The tank was repaired and lined and returned to service on 4 December, following satisfactory samples. Although the immediate risk has been managed, further remedial work is needed and the work necessary to enable this is in progress.

It is unfortunate that the full extent of the work needed to ensure the integrity of the tank was not completed when it was previously repaired in 2019. Scottish Water attribute this to the circumstances at the time, when lower ground saturation meant that issues higher up the tank walls were not visible. This is feasible, but it does highlight the need for all tanks to have bypasses to enable thorough inspection and testing while they are fully removed from service.

The event has been categorised as Significant. Scottish Water has identified five actions which DWQR accepts are appropriate and will monitor to ensure they are completed prior to signing off the incident. DWQR made no additional recommendations.