



Drinking Water Quality Regulator
for Scotland

Incident Summary

Perth RSZ
Discolouration
April 2022

DWQR Inspector:
Andrew Kennedy

Event No. 12493

Event Category: Significant

On the morning of Wednesday 6th April 2022 a 3rd party contractor damaged a 150mm private fire main in the Perth Regulatory Supply Zone (RSZ). This led to an increase in flow (from 113 to 162 litres/sec) from Viewlands ML Distribution Service Reservoir (DSR). The burst was successfully isolated on the same day and the repair was carried out by the private contractor under guidance by Scottish Water. A total of 68 discolouration complaints were received from the affected area between 10:37am and 19:52 on 6th April 2022. 12 samples were taken during the investigation, with one failing for manganese.

It is clear that this incident was caused by a significant increase in flow through the network following a 3rd party damage to a fire main. Scottish Water's investigation showed that there was a 30% increase in flow out of Viewlands Mid-Level DSR and a 50% increase in normal peak flow within Perth City Centre Mid DMA, resulting in biofilm build-up within the pipes being stripped and transient discolouration in the downstream network.

This area is typically found to have a low risk of discolouration and trunk main conditioning was carried out within Perth City Centre Mid DMA in November 2021, however, the flow increase caused by this 3rd party damage surpassed the conditioned flow of the trunk main.

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

