Incident Summary

Gourdon DSR
Microbiological failures and restrictions on water use
July 2020

DWQR Inspector:
Bill Byers

Event No. 11102

Event Category: Significant

A scheduled sample taken from Gourdon service reservoir on 23 July, failed microbiological standards with 3 *E.Coli* and 3 Total coliforms present. Following the normal analysis routines, the results became available the following day at 16:45, and in view of the severity of the failures, discussion was held with the Consultant in Public Health medicine when a decision was taken to issue a boil notice to consumers in the area. It was also decided the tank would be bypassed and isolated for inspection and this was achieved by 22:30 the same evening. Boil water notices were delivered to the 274 properties within the supply zone through the night, a bottled water distribution point set up and arrangements made for water quality monitoring to be carried out within the distribution system downstream of the service reservoir and in the wider water supply network. Sample results were discussed with CPHMs on 26 July and with all samples taken showing no failure of water quality standards, it was decided to remove the restrictions on water use. The boil notice was lifted at 16:30 on 26 July.

Investigation of the condition of the service reservoir identified a number of issues with the structural integrity which permit routes of ingress of surface water into the storage space from which contamination can occur. I am satisfied from the reports provided and my visit, that these defects are the likely cause of the sample failures. The tank remains bypassed and out of service pending an assessment of the necessary remedial work and need to retain it as part of the distribution system.

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

A16985561