

Loch Calder WTW Response to water quality events September 2025

A comprehensive audit of Loch Calder WTW, which supplies Caithness, was conducted following several water quality incidents over recent years. The works was operating effectively on the day of inspection, with all water quality parameters meeting compliance standards. However, persistent issues with lime precipitation (drop-out) caused by high raw water pH continue to present operational challenges.

Loch Calder WTW is generally a well-operated and compliant treatment works with knowledgeable staff and good operational practices. The main areas of concern relate to lime scaling, ageing filtration assets, monitoring limitations, chlorate risk management, and maintenance workload optimisation. While none of these issues were causing compliance failures at the time of the audit, several require attention to improve long-term resilience and reduce future water quality risks.

DWQR identified fourteen findings. Proposed interventions to address DWQR's findings, along with completion dates and any interim mitigations that will be put in place have been agreed with Scottish Water.

DWQR will monitor completion of agreed interventions, and may request evidence of completion or re-visit the site.