



Drinking Water Quality Regulator
for Scotland

Incident Summary

Black Esk RSZ Discolouration 7th August 2021

DWQR Inspector:
Moira Malcolm

Event No. 11934

Event Category: Significant

On the morning of Saturday 7th August 2021 a burst occurred on a 3” branch main in the Black Esk Regulatory Supply Zone (RSZ) at Lockerbie. This led to an increase in flow (to 100 litres/sec) from Black Esk Service Reservoir (SR). The burst was successfully repaired on Sunday 8th August.

A total of 123 discolouration complaints were received from throughout the affected area between 7-11th August. 23 samples were taken during the investigation, with eight failing for manganese, one for iron, one for aluminium and one for coliforms.

Scottish Water’s investigation into the incident shows that the burst on the main caused an increase in pressure and flow between it and the upstream SR which stripped the pipes of their deposits laid down by biofilm build-up and insufficient treatment for manganese at the water treatment works.

Black Esk RSZ is known to have significant manganese deposits, and whilst 32 of the 54 DMAs within Black Esk RSZ were cleaned during the previous investment period, none of these were the ones affected by the burst.

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

