

Lintrathen WTW Manganese Failures September - October 2025

Event No. 16223

Event Category: Significant

During September and October 2025, high levels of manganese were detected in samples taken from Lintrathen WTW and within the downstream distribution system; and from the final water from Clatto WTW. Extensive sampling was undertaken, with 37 samples failing the manganese standard. None of these failures were above health-based risk levels.

The failures were caused by high manganese in the raw water sourced from Backwater Reservoir serving both Lintrathen and Clatto WTWs. This was due to extremely low water levels causing naturally-occurring manganese present in the sediment entering water treatment. There is no dedicated manganese removal stage at Lintrathen or Clatto WTWs. DWQR notes that Loch of Lintrathen, which usually supplies Clatto WTW, was unusable due to high levels of algae and therefore was not available to mitigate the deterioration in raw water quality from Blackwater reservoir.

Dissolved manganese levels decreased in Backwater Reservoir with rainfall in October, with a corresponding drop in the concentration of manganese in the final water.

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