

Badentinan Regulation Zone, East Region

11th & 12th June 2019

DWQR Staff Present

Bill Byers

Scottish Water Staff Present

Robert Robb, Hamish MacDonald, David Hill

Summary of Inspection

Overall Summary

An audit on aspects of the operation and maintenance of the Badentinan water supply distribution system in the Lossiemouth and Fochabers area, taking in Fochabers and Lossiemouth Service Reservoirs.

There are very few water quality consumer contacts arising from within the related supply areas. Fochabers SR has had only occasional low level microbiological failures of samples but in those, the asset condition was attributed as being the root cause. It is reassuring to see remedial works in progress to address these concerns. Although there are no water quality issues arising from Lossiemouth SR, the appearance and condition of the tank and meter house, provides an unfavourable impression of care in the management of drinking water assets. The audit showed that telemetry provision at the service reservoirs was good and management of boundary valves between different elements of the distribution system are largely met. Provisions for carrying out repairs within the distribution system was found to be of a high standard.

Number of Findings: 3

Quality of Water

There have been occasional low level microbiological failures at the Fochabers Service Reservoir, with the asset condition attributed as being the root cause. Lossiemouth High Service Reservoir had been bypassed and removed from service due to the condition of the structure. Lossiemouth Low Service Reservoir remains in supply. There are very few water quality consumer contacts arising from within the related supply areas.

Asset Robustness

It was good to see the remedial works being carried out at Fochabers Service Reservoir to address concerns around asset integrity. The appearance and condition of the tank and meter house at Lossiemouth however provides an unfavourable impression of care being taken in the management of drinking water assets.

Operational Practices

Scottish Water's provisions for repairs within the distribution system was found to be of a high standard. The contractor squad audited on site, demonstrated good practice in their approach to repair of a leaking water main and tidy storage of repair fittings, tools and equipment within their van.

Management of Risk

There was no issue at either of the two Service Reservoir sites with telemetry provision and operation. The various restrictions and difficulty with access to elements of the site at Lossiemouth however gives rise to concern around the ability of various SW staff to complete drop-in or emergency tasks. The requirements for management of boundary valves between distinct supply areas was also, generally, shown to be effective. However the tube and tag for the bypass valve at Fochabers DSR was not present and was suspected to have been retained for safekeeping whilst the contractor had possession of the site. The potential risk of operation of the valve could be considered to be higher whilst third party activity was ongoing and the need for an alert of the importance of this valve more important. Boundary valve indicators and chamber protections should remain in place.

Recording Information

Information on the water supply system is maintained in the Geofield GIS on field laptops. All NSO's etc. have access to the up to date information on layout and valve status. The system was utilised to inform SR valve locations and audit of Boundary valves. Concern with the quality of reports of tank inspections:- At Fochabers, each cell had separate reports from cleaning activity but cell 1 report shows the same photographs as provided for cell 2, giving rise to concern of cut and paste culture with no quality check on information being presented. This was not picked up internally within SW.

Water Safety Plan

The 2015(v11) version of the DWSP recognises a need for structural condition of Lossiemouth SR to be investigated - There is a project progressing for the replacement/refurbishment of Lossiemouth SR that is looking to reach Cx1 in the summer of 2020.