

Network Squads, South Region

2nd and 3rd March 2023

DWQR Staff Present

Andy Kennedy

Scottish Water Staff Present

Robert Brooks, Daniel Baird, Edward Moffat, Joe McLeod, Fraser Eddington, Jamie Bryson, John McCutcheon

Summary of Inspection

Overall Summary

An audit was carried out on 3 reactive leak repairs in Scottish Waters South Area by directly employed squads. All staff involved in the audit were helpful and engaged throughout in answering all questions and demonstrated clear pride in the work that they do. Blue cards and DOMS training were checked, with 1 operative having out of date DOMS training, and another operative having out of date Blue Card and DOMS training.

The sites themselves were tidy and overall good hygiene practices were followed to ensure pipe, fittings, tools and equipment with only a couple of concerns highlighted. Vans were inspected, and were generally found to be well ordered and clean, with segregated areas for fuel, plant and chemicals. Most equipment and fittings were stored appropriately, however there were a couple of unbagged collars on one of the vans. Those fittings that do not come in bags were stored in trays on the shelves. On two of the vans, these fittings and the trays were visibly clean, but could have been cleaner on the other van.

A communication pipe repair was observed in Brigend Park, Bathgate. Positive pressure was maintained during excavation, with the communication pipe isolated once excavated below the repair. The sump was limited due to other utilities immediately surrounding and underneath the communication pipe, but the squad ensured hygiene was maintained and used adequate chlorus spray for disinfection. All tools and fittings were kept off the ground and clean throughout the work. Appropriate advice was given to both customers supplied by the communication pipe before and after isolation.

Excavation was carried out on a burst main near Camptoun Holdings, Drem. The main had been fully isolated before the squad arrived on site in order to restore supply to properties at the top of the hill. At the time that the main was isolated, it had not been excavated and therefore poses a significant risk of ingress. Scottish Water confirmed following the audit on 5th March 2023 and returned to supply following 30minutes flushing from the end hydrant. Although this flushing time is appropriate to have turned over the main multiple times, it is concerning that Scottish Water did not consider disinfecting the main before returning to supply. It is also concerning that post-repair samples were not taken until 15th March (10 days post repair), although it is acknowledged that the same was clear of bacteriological indicators.