

20 May 2019



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Dear Sue

### **Herricks WTW – SR21 letter of Commitment**

Herricks Water Treatment Works (WTW) supplies the communities of Keith, Aultmore and Drummuir. The WTW consists of conventional treatment based on coagulation, dissolved air flotation and rapid gravity filtration and has not had any major upgrade since its construction in 1970.

As with many catchments across Scotland, the raw waters supplying Herricks WTW have a known risk of *Cryptosporidium* and over the past 3 years we have recorded 4 detections of *Cryptosporidium* in our regulatory final water samples.

Following detailed asset capability investigations, we have concluded that the design of Herricks WTW is not fully effective in removing *Cryptosporidium*. These investigations have shown that the rapid gravity filters are below current industry best practice requirements and we have capability gaps in our flow control and desludging activities.

We are determined to bringing the WTW up to best practice standards and as such commit to deliver the following actions:

1. Maintain the following short term measures until such time as capability improvements are delivered:
  - a. Optimise the existing coagulation process to minimise elevated filter turbidities.
  - b. Monitor the turbidity of the water from each filter using online turbidity monitors linked to telemetry, and alarmed at a maximum value of 0.5 NTU.
  - c. Monitor Herricks WTW final water twice weekly for *Cryptosporidium*.
  - d. Notify Grampian NHS Board and DWQR of any detections of *Cryptosporidium* and, if necessary, implement any agreed measures to minimise risk to public health.

2. By 30th September 2019 provide DWQR with the appraisal of options for securing the provision of consistent, high quality water in the Herricks water supply zone through consideration of solutions which may include, but not limited to, installation of UV, increase filtration capacity and improvements to the inlet coagulation and clarification processes. The solution will comply with recognised industry good practice and the appraisal will take account of the longer term maintenance, growth and water quality challenge on this supply.
3. By 30th November 2019 and subject to agreement of the preferred solution with DWQR we will put forward a timetable to complete detailed design and to secure financial approval for the project.

We will provide reports every six months until such a time as the agreed improvement scheme is complete.

Please let me know if you want to discuss any further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Parsons', written in a cursive style.

**Simon Parsons**

Director of Strategic Customer Service Planning

cc: Douglas Millican (Scottish Water)  
Alan Sutherland (Water Industry Commission for Scotland)  
Bob Irvine (Scottish Government)  
Dr Emmanuel Okpo (NHS Grampian)