



Drinking Water Quality Regulator  
for Scotland

# Incident Assessment

## Kinlochewe WTW *Cryptosporidium* detections July 2011

DWQR Inspector:  
Matthew Bower

### Summary of Incident

Samples of water taken at Kinlochewe WTW, Wester Ross have been found to contain the microscopic organism, *Cryptosporidium* on a number of occasions.

### DWQR Assessment of Cause of Incident

The current treatment process at Kinlochewe is quite basic, and not capable of removing *Cryptosporidium* from the water. *Cryptosporidium* occurs naturally in environmental waters as it is spread via animal faeces. Treatment with chlorine, which is used to disinfect water at Kinlochewe, is ineffective against *Cryptosporidium*.

### DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

Scottish Water is monitoring the quality of the supply regularly and has investigated potential sources of *Cryptosporidium* in the catchment. Scottish Water has plans to install a membrane filtration plant at the site within the current investment period, which ends in 2015. This should remove *Cryptosporidium* from the supply. All detections are reported to DWQR, Highland Council and NHS Highland. The Consultant in Public Health Medicine assesses data from the supply in order to determine whether to recommend that Scottish Water takes additional action to protect consumers.

**This Incident is still ongoing – this assessment will be updated if necessary.**