

## Londornoch RSZ Chlorate Failures July – September 2025

Event No. 15995

### Event Category: Significant

Between 15th July and 5th September 2025, four samples from Londornoch Water Treatment Works (WTW), two samples from Achuan Service Reservoir (SR), and three samples taken from consumer taps were above the regulatory standard for chlorate (PCV = 0.25mg/l). Although these samples exceeded the standard they were below Public Health Scotland and World Health Organisation health-based guidance values.

Chlorate is a disinfection byproduct which forms from the breakdown of sodium hypochlorite during storage, particularly at elevated temperatures. The breach of the chlorate standard in water supplied from Londornoch WTW was largely as a result of the use of high strength sodium hypochlorite (14%) during the summer months where the storage temperature was high (before the Company transferred to a lower strength chemical (10%)). Scottish Water reported that this issue was exacerbated by (1) asset deficiencies associated with the control of filter flows and chemical dosing and (2) delays in receiving analytical results from the laboratory.

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

