

Rawburn WTW, South Region

01/09/2022

DWQR Staff Present

Moira Malcolm

Scottish Water Staff Present

Roy Caig, Gordon Lauchlin, Ross Johnstone

Mick Jones, Nick Stewart, Struan Robertson, Fraser Redpath

Summary of Inspection

Overall Summary

Rawburn WTW is a medium sized works that serves the south west area of the Scottish Borders around Eyemouth. Raw water from the Watch Water (and Dye River when required) is clarified and filtered through pressure filters before disinfection with hypochlorite and ammonium added for chloramination to preserve the residual throughout the network. A bubble curtain has recently been added to the Watch Water to control taste and odour compounds entering the works which has proved successful. Issues have been experienced at the works due to an inability to react to raw water quality changes leading to iron failures. A considerable amount of unlined iron piping contributes to these failures and the network is undergoing cleaning to reduce this risk. The works is put under considerable demand in summer months due to businesses requiring large amounts of water and the works struggles to meet this demand when regular demand has increased and raw water levels are low. During summer 2022 this led to some SRs being impacted to maintain levels across the network. The works was built in 1954 and is nearing the end of it's life. Water quality and network demand have changed significantly since the works was built and the current treatment is not optimal to sustain the works for a significant length of time. To maintain water quality a significant amount of operator input and expertise is required, in the main to overcome the shortcomings of the works. The works was scheduled for extensive investment which is required to maintain the provision of compliant and sufficient water quality to the area, and it is essential that funding is secured to ensure this goes ahead.