

# Incident Assessment

## Black Esk Supply Zone – Dumfries Manganese Exceedences Sept 2011

DWQR Inspector:  
Matthew Bower

### Details of Incident

This incident was declared following an exceedence of the manganese standard from samples collected from an industrial premises in Dumfries.

DWQR declared this to be an incident due to the length of time before water quality was proven to have been restored.

### DWQR Assessment of Cause of Incident

A regulatory sample taken on the Catherinefield Industrial Estate, Dumfries, failed the standard for manganese by a large margin. A musty taste and odour was also detected. Scottish Water is potentially attributing the failure to disturbance of deposits due to flushing of water mains that had been carried out prior to the time the sample was collected. It is likely that the manganese is derived from historic deposits in the water main.

### DWQR Assessment of Actions Taken by Scottish Water

Attempts at further localised flushing failed to resolve the issue and it was January before passing samples were obtained. This was after the water main had been air scoured. DWQR considers that this relatively simple issue should have been resolved more promptly.

