

Glenfarg Kinnesswood BH A
RSZ;
Geosmin
21st May 2026

Event No. 17063

Event Category: Serious

From 29 May to 5 June 2026, Scottish Water received a total of 62 contacts from consumers supplied by Glenfarg WTW, 56 of which related to reports of an earthy/musty taste and/or odour in the drinking water. Investigation identified elevated geosmin concentrations as the cause of these complaints, with 15 samples taken from both final water and consumers' taps recording geosmin levels above the recognised taste and odour threshold of 3 ng/L.

The earthy/musty taste and odour was caused by a significant increase in naturally occurring geosmin levels in Glenfarg Reservoir, which supplies Glenfarg Water Treatment Works (WTW). The elevated geosmin concentrations were not effectively removed during the treatment process, resulting in impacts on water quality. Although Glenfarg WTW is equipped with powdered activated carbon (PAC) dosing to remove organic compounds such as geosmin, the PAC system was not in operation at the time of the incident. The incident was therefore attributed to a delay in bringing the PAC dosing process into service.

The event has been categorised as serious. Scottish Water has identified four actions which DWQR accepts are appropriate and will monitor to ensure they are completed prior to signing off the incident. DWQR made zero additional recommendations.