

Please find below the latest information from DCWW CSO Alert Service regarding Newport Cwm SPS discharge.

Spill Ref No.1

Started 16/01/22 @ 05:37

Stopped 19/01/22 @ 12:50

Following consultation with DCWW an update of the investigation as supplied by DCWW on the 20th Jan 2022 is as follows.

Two of our engineers attended site on Tuesday (18th Jan 2022) to investigate potential catchment issues in Newport. Their focus started at the Newport Cwm pumping station where they identified a couple of potential issues which will need to be ruled out as part of our ongoing investigation, namely the operation of the flushing chamber and the associated penstock, and any potential impact its operation may have upon pumping station performance.

Attempts to lift upstream manhole chambers were less successful, due to a couple of reasons. Firstly several chamber needed to be located and 'dug out' to allow them to be lifted which ate into the time the team had onsite. Secondly the sewers in the lower reaches near the pumping station were observed to be at 80% capacity. At this level it is difficult to identify the direction that flows are entering the chambers are coming from and their proportionate impact.

With the weather forecast remaining dry for the coming week we intend to return to site next Wednesday to continue our investigations and further develop our understanding of the challenges we're facing at the pumping station.

I am hoping to meet with DCWW on Wednesday 26th Jan 2022.

On other matters I am grateful to Grace Hagan for contacting Paul Davies MS. DCWW have provided answers to some of my questions via Paul Davies on the 20th Jan 2022 see below.

In response to the points both you and Councillor Harries have raised I can confirm that we are investigating the issues at Newport Cwm thoroughly and as quickly as we can. The timescales for resolving the spill numbers will depend upon what issues are found during our inquiries, and we'll update Councillor Harries, as we progress with our investigations.

To answer the questions raised.

1. *I understand that this alert ref No 3 has no relevance to the actual number of spills in 2021. Is this correct?*
 - a. *This is correct, the sensor was moved slightly to a better location and recalibrated to the correct levels required. Unfortunately, a delay occurred in updating our Spill Alert system to the new sensor in our*

telemetry system. As such the number of spills recorded on the alert is incorrect.

- 2. Is the spill monitor now operating correctly in a calibrated manner?*
 - a. Yes, the work to recalibrate the sensor was completed in June 2021.*
- 3. How many spills have there been in 2021?*
 - a. We can provide an initial figure of 136 spills in total, for a total spill duration of 2423 hours. Please note this figure is still subject to us completing our Quality Assurance process as part of our Annual EDM return to our regulator, Natural Resource Wales (NRW). This return is due at the end of February 2022 and will be on the public record thereafter. If, because of this quality assurance process the spill figure changes, we'll update Councillor Harries and explain our reasoning for the changes.*
- 4. Are the spills screened to remove solid matter?*
 - a. Yes, there is a 6mm static screen on the overflow.*
- 5. The reason given for the CSO alert is "Weather Conditions". Please note there has been no rain in the vicinity for a prolonged period. Is this reason valid?*
 - a. Whilst we would expect, some catchments have a prolonged 'drain-down' period after rainfall, however, in this instance it appears excessive. We're investigating the upstream sewer network to better understand if there are issues which may be impacting this prolonged spill period. We've committed to provide Councillor Harries a verbal update on our progress by tomorrow and we'll discuss our findings and next steps with him at this time.*
- 6. I understand that the exact duration of the actual spill is not as indicated by the alert.*
 - a. The spill which occurred on 25 December 2020 started and stopped several times between 26 December and 30 December 2020. Due to the way spills are reported we need a 12-hour period clear of spills before we can issue out a 'stop' alert and as such none were issued. The site then spilled continuously from 30 December to 13 January where it once again stopped spilling periodically. A stop notice was finally issued on 15 January 2021.*
- 7. Are the pumps at Cwm working at the correct capacity and functioning as they should?*
 - a. The Pumps at Newport Cwm SPS are functioning as they are expected to, however, they are not quite delivering the full flow rate we would expect. Currently the flow is between 10-11litres per second against an expected 13.7 litres per second. Our operation team is currently investigating this, and we'll update Councillor Harries on our findings in due course.*

I hope the above has answered all your queries and offered assurances that we're in contact with Councillor Harries and will continue to do so.