



**Scottish
Water**

Trusted to serve Scotland

Gairloch Waste Water Treatment Works

Autumn 2021 Update

After reaching agreement with a local stakeholder group and updating the wider community on our proposals in Autumn 2018, Scottish Water delivered a project to install a new treatment process at Gairloch Waste Water Treatment Works during 2019.

The new treatment process has now been operating for just over a year and includes septic tanks, a disk filter and disinfection using ultraviolet (UV) light.

Pilot period and sampling

Before the project went ahead, the stakeholder group agreed that there would be a pilot operating period over at least two winters to allow better evidence to be obtained about the benefit of UV disinfection, particularly during the winter months.



Limited sampling was able to take place during 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on SEPA's sampling and laboratory capacity, as well as the shortened bathing season. Even so, the samples taken have reflected continuing Excellent water quality status at both Gairloch and Sand beaches.

Disk filter refinements

Scottish Water has experienced some operational challenges with the disk filter, although the UV disinfection has remained effective throughout.

Work is continuing with the supplier to improve the performance of this part of the new treatment process. In the meantime, a naturally occurring tannin-based chemical was used within the site for a short period last summer to improve settlement of particles within the septic tanks during drier weather.

The need for any further use of this additional measure is being monitored carefully, while the main focus is on improving the disk filter's performance.



**Scottish
Water**

Trusted to serve Scotland

Spring 2021 Update (continued)

Seawater and odour reports

During 2020, some residents reported experiencing unpleasant odours when passing the Waste Water Treatment Works site.

Scottish Water has now installed rubber matting to minimise the risk of odorous air escaping from the chamber where waste water from the Lonemore pumping station first enters the site, upstream of the septic tanks.

We also make continuous efforts to locate and address potential sources of seawater entering the sewer network, particularly during high tides. An increase in the level of saltwater entering the network can increase the formation of odorous gases. A contractor is due to carry out work in the coming weeks on the foreshore below Glebe pumping station to remedy a source of seawater ingress that has recently been identified in that area.

While Scottish Water expects these two pieces of work to bring about improvement, it is keen for any unpleasant odours linked to the sewer network or the WWTW to be reported so that it can investigate and take action when required. There is an easy to use online reporting portal on Scottish Water's website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/report, or you can also email help@scottishwater.co.uk or call **0800 077 8778**.

Next steps

The stakeholder group will continue to monitor the findings of bathing water sampling over the remainder of the pilot period, before agreeing a long term operational plan for the WWTW on the basis of the evidence obtained.



More information about the group's work and regular updates are available from Scottish Water's website at www.scottishwater.co.uk/Gairloch.