

# 1. Non-Technical Summary of Determination

## **Introduction**

William Grant & Sons Distillers Limited, the owner and operator of the grain distillery in Girvan, have requested a time limited derogation from the effluent emission levels associated with best available techniques associated emission limits (BAT-AEL) for chemical oxygen demand (COD), total suspended solids (TSS), total nitrogen (TN) and total phosphorous (TP) discharges to the water environment.

This request relates to one of the BAT Conclusions (BATc) for the Food, Drink and Milk sector which form part of the BAT Reference Document (BREF) for this industry sector. The decision document sets out the steps SEPA have followed in assessing the request for derogation.

## **Derogation Application**

An additional period has been requested to progress modifications to processes to allow recovery of extra resource value from the effluent and reduce emissions to BATc standards.

The approach of recovering resource value from the effluent discharge is innovative and , where successful, will support delivery of net zero carbon emission ambitions not only at a site level but also in the wider Scotch whisky industry and society.

## **SEPA Assessment**

The Cost Benefit Assessment (CBA) identified the cost of achieving the BAT AEL's would outweigh the benefit disproportionately when compared with the proposed derogation.

A progressive reduction in emissions is expected during the derogation period as different step changes are implemented. Improved dispersion of effluent will also take place at the existing long sea outfall.

A high level of protection of the environment as a whole should not only be maintained but be enhanced during the derogation period and beyond particularly in relation to a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions to atmosphere and the circular economy.

## **Conclusion**

SEPA is minded to approve a derogation until 04 December 2030 as justified by the available information assessed and the reasons presented.