

Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2014

A Report for the Year 2014



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

Regulation: *We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

Knowledge: *We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.*

Advocacy: *We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.*

Our Responsibilities

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We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by co-ordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

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- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

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- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

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- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. *major development plans*).

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- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (e.g. *My Local Environment, Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

Management and structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Assessment
- Office of Radiological Protection
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



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Key findings for 2014

Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 (7%) large urban areas did not meet the European Union Directive requirement to provide secondary (biological) treatment.• 7 large urban areas did not comply with the European Union Directive requirement to provide infrastructure to reduce nutrients and discharged effluent which did not meet nutrient quality standards.• Untreated sewage was discharged from 45 areas, 27 of which are located in counties Cork, Donegal and Galway.
Effluent quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 143 (82%) large urban areas complied with the mandatory European Union effluent quality and sampling standards.• Just 24% of the waste water load discharged into sensitive areas from large towns and cities complied with mandatory European Union nutrient quality standards, up from 17.5% in 2013. Dublin and Cork were the major contributors to this low rate of compliance.
Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of seriously polluted river sites where pollution is attributed to urban waste water discharges is down from 9 in 2009 to 1 in 2014.• Waste water discharges contributed to poor water quality at 7 of Ireland's 136 identified bathing waters.
EPA audits & monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The EPA carried out over 300 audits and found that a programme for maintenance and operation of all plant and equipment was not in place at 26 of the areas audited.• The EPA conducted independent effluent monitoring at 263 treatment plants and 71 of these failed to comply with effluent quality standards set in EPA licences.
Incidents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 72% of the 1,294 incidents reported to the EPA related to breaches of discharge quality standards.• 42% of incidents were attributed to insufficient treatment capacity and 21% of incidents were attributed to operational and management practices.
Priority issues & actions required	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Urban waste water is one of the principal pressures on water quality in Ireland. Continued investment in infrastructure and a reversal in the recent decline in capital expenditure are essential to provide the waste water treatment necessary to protect receiving waters and meet obligations under EPA authorisations and European Directives. The following key issues must be addressed:• Directive compliance:- provide the necessary infrastructure and optimise the operation and maintenance of all plant and equipment.• Raw sewage:- eliminate the discharge of raw sewage.• Discharges causing pollution:- implement corrective action plans to prevent pollution and restore affected waters to good quality.• Vulnerable receptors:- carry out improvements identified in risk assessments to protect freshwater pearl mussels and shellfish waters.

Directive Compliance in 2014

Number and percentage of urban areas complying with key requirements of the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in 2014

Number of large urban areas¹

174

Infrastructure

Provision of secondary treatment - Article 4.1 of the Directive

162
(93%)

12
(7%)
See Table 2.3

Effluent Quality

Effluent quality and sampling standards for BOD and COD and, where relevant, nitrogen and phosphorus - Articles 4.3 and 5.3 of the Directive²

143
(82%)

31
(18%)
See Appendix A



Compliant



Non-compliant

¹ Urban areas with a population equivalent of 2,000 or more discharging to freshwater or estuaries and urban areas with a population equivalent of 10,000 or more discharging to coastal waters. These areas are subject to Article 4 of the Directive. The population equivalent of each urban area can vary from year to year and therefore the total number of large urban areas (i.e. those above the Directive's thresholds) can change from year to year.

² Nitrogen and phosphorus standards assessed at 33 urban areas with a population equivalent of greater than 10,000 discharging directly to sensitive areas.

1 Introduction

Waste water must be treated prior to being released back into the environment in order to remove contaminants that could otherwise pose a risk to the environment or public health. This report provides an overview of urban waste water treatment in Ireland during 2014³.

The European Union **Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive** of 1991 sets out requirements for the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water, with the objective of protecting the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. European Union member states are required to implement the Directive through national legislation. The Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001-2010 is the national legislation which gives effect to the requirements of the Directive in Ireland. A further national measure taken in Ireland to prevent and reduce pollution by urban waste water discharges was the introduction in 2007 of a licensing and authorisation process for such discharges⁴.

The **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** is the environmental regulator responsible for the licensing, authorisation and enforcement of urban waste water discharges. The EPA has issued 1,000 waste water discharge authorisations to date⁵.

Irish Water / Uisce Éireann is the national water utility responsible for the provision and development of water services, including the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water. These responsibilities, together with duties to comply with the requirements of all waste water discharge authorisations issued by the EPA, transferred from the local authorities to Irish Water at the beginning of 2014.

The Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive provides for the monitoring of waste water discharges and specifies minimum effluent quality standards. Where necessary the EPA sets more stringent standards in waste water discharge authorisations than those in the Directive in order to protect the receiving waters, prevent and reduce environmental pollution and meet requirements of European Directives and domestic water quality objectives.

This report provides a summary of national compliance in 2014 with requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, including the EPA's assessment of approximately 25,000 effluent monitoring results, which were reported to the EPA by Irish Water. The report also addresses enforcement of waste water discharge authorisations and includes an assessment of compliance with effluent standards set in the authorisations, using results from the EPA's annual effluent monitoring programme.

³ Urban waste water is domestic waste water or a mixture of domestic waste water with industrial waste water and/or run-off rainwater. Waste water from un-sewered areas served by septic tanks or other on-site treatment systems, and waste water treated in private waste water treatment plants are not covered by this report.

⁴ In accordance with the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations, discharges from urban areas with a population equivalent of 500 or more require a waste water discharge licence. Discharges from areas below this threshold require a certificate of authorisation.

⁵ As at 15th September 2015. This comprises 464 waste water discharge licences and 536 certificates of authorisation. These figures exclude reviews of existing authorisations. The authorisations and associated documentation are available on the [EPA website](#).

2 Waste water treatment infrastructure

Table 2.1 summarises the level of waste water treatment provided during 2014 for the main (primary) waste water discharge from each of the **510** urban areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme, i.e. areas with a population equivalent of 500 or more⁶.

Table 2.1: Summary of the level of waste water treatment provided in 2014 (by urban area)⁷

Size of urban area	Number of areas with no treatment or preliminary treatment	Number of areas with primary treatment	Number of areas with secondary treatment	Number of areas with secondary treatment & nutrient reduction	Total
Smaller urban areas below the EU Directive threshold ⁸	28	45	142	121	336
Large urban areas above the EU Directive threshold	7	4	64	99	174
Total	35	49	206	220	510

The treatment provided for the national waste water load generated across Ireland during 2014 is presented in Table 2.2⁹. Approximately 94% of the national waste water load received at least secondary treatment.

Table 2.2: Waste water treatment provided for the national waste water load in 2014 (by p.e.)¹⁰

No treatment or preliminary treatment (%)	Primary treatment (%)	Secondary treatment (%)	Secondary treatment & nutrient reduction (%)
4.6	1.2	68.6	25.7

2.1 Treatment at large urban areas

The level of treatment required at each urban area depends on the size of the urban area and the type of water body to which the waste water is discharged. The requirements of the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive in respect of treatment provision are summarised in Figure 2.1 on page 5 of this report. In accordance with Article 4 of the Directive secondary or biological treatment must be provided for all large urban areas above a certain size threshold⁸.

⁶ This includes the areas already licensed and those still at the licence application stage. In some cases licences were applied for and issued for urban areas with a population equivalent below the 500 p.e. threshold, in anticipation of future increases in waste water load. Such areas are included here.

⁷ Information on the level of treatment was provided to the EPA by Irish Water. The data refers to all areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme. It does not include areas subject to a certificate of authorisation or an application for a certificate of authorisation.

⁸ The threshold in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive for the mandatory provision of secondary treatment is 2,000 p.e. for discharges to freshwater and estuaries and 10,000 p.e. for discharges to coastal waters.

⁹ Waste water load is the organic biodegradable load in the waste water expressed in population equivalent. This takes into account the load generated by the resident population, the non-resident population (e.g. tourists) and industries. A population equivalent (p.e.) of 1 is defined as the organic biodegradable load having a five-day biochemical oxygen demand of 60g of oxygen per day.

¹⁰ Figures rounded to the nearest decimal place and do not add up to exactly 100%.

There were **174** large urban areas in Ireland in 2014 and **12** of these did not comply with the Directive's requirement to provide secondary treatment. The non-compliant areas are listed in Table 2.3.

The increase from 9 large urban areas without secondary treatment in 2013 is attributed to Lifford, Tallow and Portlaw, which were below the Directive's threshold in 2013, but above the threshold in 2014, i.e. the population equivalent rose above 2,000 in 2014 and therefore they became subject to the Directive's requirement to provide secondary treatment.

Table 2.3: Areas where secondary treatment required by the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive was not provided at the end of 2014

County	Urban area	Size of urban area (p.e.)	Receiving water	Treatment type	Estimated completion date ¹¹
<i>Directive requires secondary treatment by 31st December 2000 for discharges from areas with a population equivalent of more than 15,000</i>					
Cork	Ringaskiddy/Crosshaven /Carrigaline	116,982	Coastal	Preliminary	Q4 2016
Donegal	Killybegs	22,929	Estuarine	No treatment	Q2 2017
Wicklow	Arklow	16,261	Freshwater	No treatment	2019
<i>Directive requires secondary treatment by 31st December 2005 for discharges from areas with a population equivalent of between 10,000 and 15,000 and discharges to freshwater and estuaries from areas with a population equivalent between 2,000 and 10,000</i>					
Galway	Clifden ¹²	3,109	Estuarine	Primary	Q3 2015
Waterford	Tallow ¹³	2,020	River	Primary	Q3 2016
Waterford	Portlaw ¹³	2,070	River	Secondary & primary ¹⁴	2016
Cork	Passage West/Monkstown	9,120	Estuarine	No treatment	Q2 2017
Donegal	Bundoran	13,034	Coastal	Preliminary	Q3 2017
Donegal	Convoy	2,584	Freshwater	Primary	Q3 2017
Cork	Youghal	15,000	Estuarine	No treatment	2017
Cork	Cobh	14,400	Coastal	No treatment	Q2 2018
Donegal	Lifford ¹³	2,262	Estuarine	Primary	Not available ¹⁵

¹¹ Some dates for provision of secondary treatment which were provided by the local authorities and Irish Water and listed in previous EPA waste water reports have been re-estimated by Irish Water since the reports were published. The revised dates provided by Irish Water are presented here.

¹² Irish Water confirmed on 17/09/2015 that the new plant is at validation phase and is accepting full flow from the Clifden area.

¹³ An increase in the population equivalent of this area between 2013 and 2014 brought it above the Directive's threshold for mandatory provision of secondary treatment in 2014.

¹⁴ Waste water from a population equivalent of approximately 270 (13% of the total) receives primary treatment and consequently the overall area does not meet the treatment requirements of the Directive.

¹⁵ Irish Water did not provide the estimated date for provision of secondary treatment at Lifford.

2.2 Treatment at smaller urban areas

Areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme

Article 7 of the Directive requires appropriate treatment at smaller urban areas, i.e. those below the minimum thresholds outlined previously for large urban areas¹⁶. There were **336** smaller urban areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme in Ireland in 2014 (refer to Table 2.1).

- 263 have at least secondary treatment.
- 28 have no treatment or basic preliminary treatment and must be upgraded to provide appropriate treatment.
- 45 have primary treatment, which may or may not be appropriate depending on site specific conditions and associated risks.

The EPA determines during the waste water discharge licensing process the type of treatment required at such smaller urban areas with less than secondary treatment. The treatment required at the 73 smaller areas with less than secondary treatment is summarised below¹⁷.

Smaller urban areas with less than secondary treatment			
10 areas require infrastructural improvements to install / upgrade primary treatment	2 areas with primary treatment require no infrastructural improvements as the current infrastructure is appropriate	46 areas require infrastructural improvements to provide at least secondary treatment	15 areas at licence assessment stage await a decision on the type of treatment required

Other small areas with no treatment

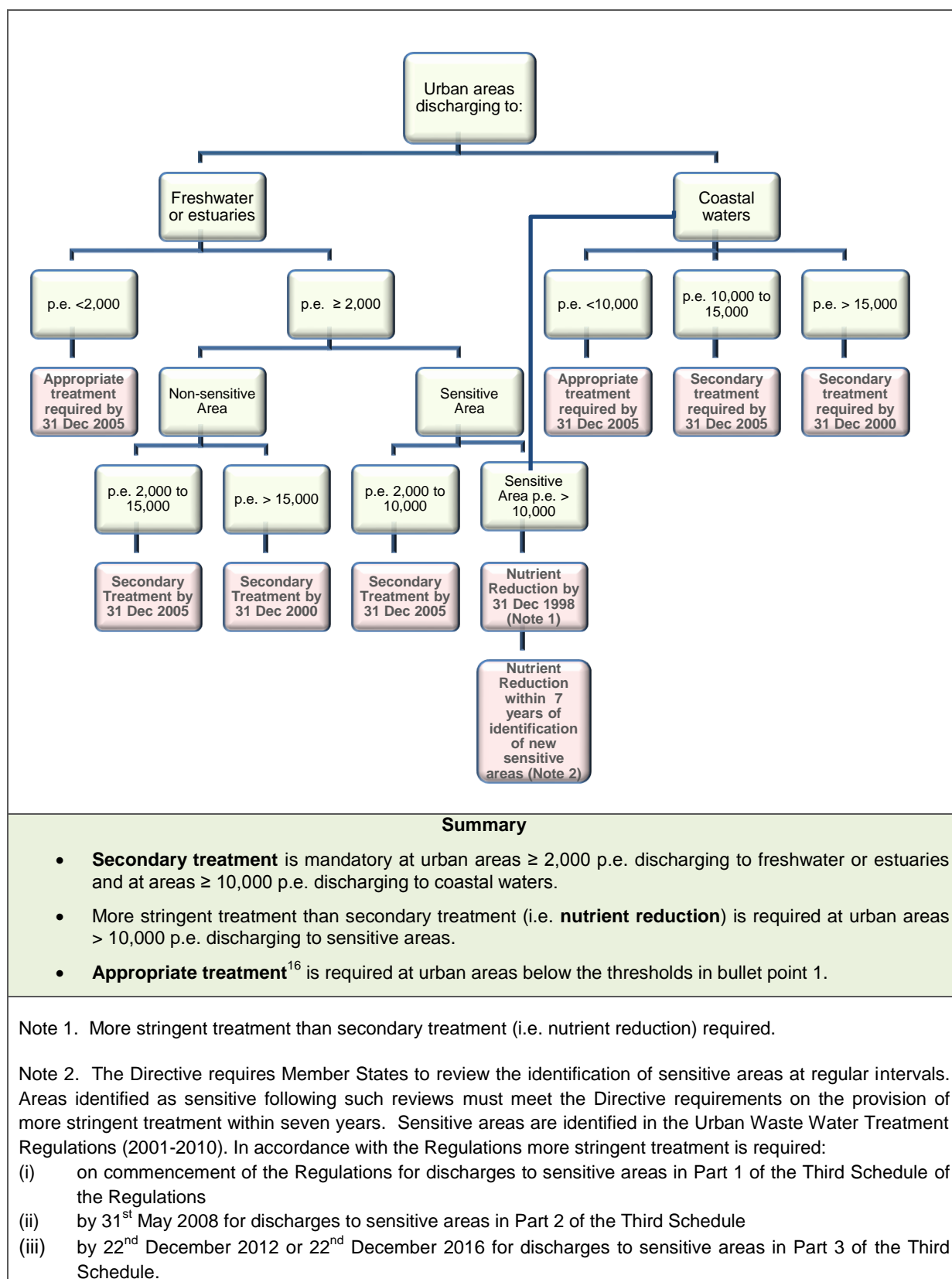
Waste water is discharged without treatment at a further **10** small areas that are below the 500 p.e. licensing threshold and are subject to the certificate of authorisation programme.

Appendix D lists all **45** areas where waste water is discharged without treatment. Untreated waste water can pose a risk to human health and the aquatic environment.

¹⁶ Appropriate treatment means treatment of urban waste water by any process and/or disposal system which after discharge allows the receiving waters to meet the relevant quality objectives and the relevant provisions of the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and other Community Directives.

¹⁷ As at 10/09/2015.

Figure 2.1: Summary of waste water treatment infrastructure required by the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive



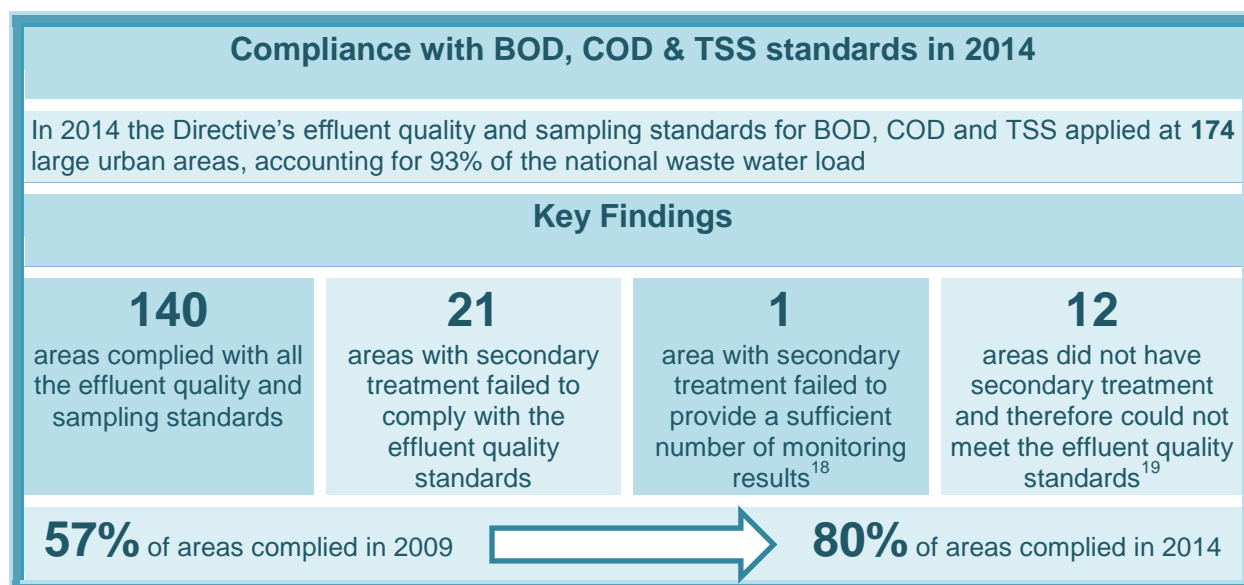
3 Effluent quality

3.1 Effluent quality at large urban areas

As outlined in section 2 of this report the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive requires secondary (biological) waste water treatment infrastructure at 174 large urban areas. The secondary treatment infrastructure must perform to an acceptable standard and, in order to address this, the Directive requires waste water or effluent reintroduced to the environment from these large urban areas to be regularly monitored and to comply with certain effluent quality standards. Compliance with these requirements is summarised in this section of the report.

Effluent quality standards are set in the Directive for three key water quality indicator parameters, namely biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD) and total suspended solids (TSS). The Directive also specifies the minimum number of effluent samples to be collected and analysed on an annual basis, based on the size of the treatment plant.

Irish Water is responsible for the regular sampling and analyses of urban waste water discharges and for providing the results to the EPA. The EPA assesses the results provided on an annual basis against the quality standards and sampling frequencies specified in the Directive, and reports on the findings. Compliance with the Directive's quality and sampling standards is summarised below for the 174 large urban areas, i.e. those above the size thresholds outlined in section 2 of this report.

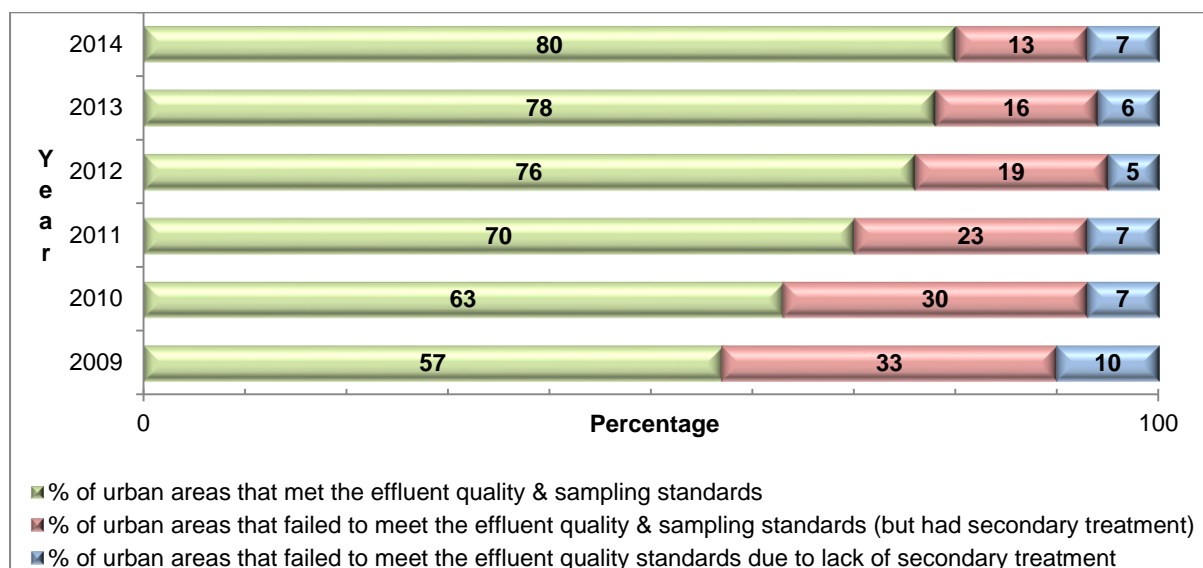


While still well below full compliance with the BOD, COD and TSS effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive the recent trend of improving compliance continued in 2014, as illustrated in Figure 3.1, which shows national compliance rates at large urban areas for the years 2009 to 2014.

¹⁸ 12 samples were required at Westport but only 11 were submitted to the EPA for assessment. The 11 samples met the effluent quality standards.

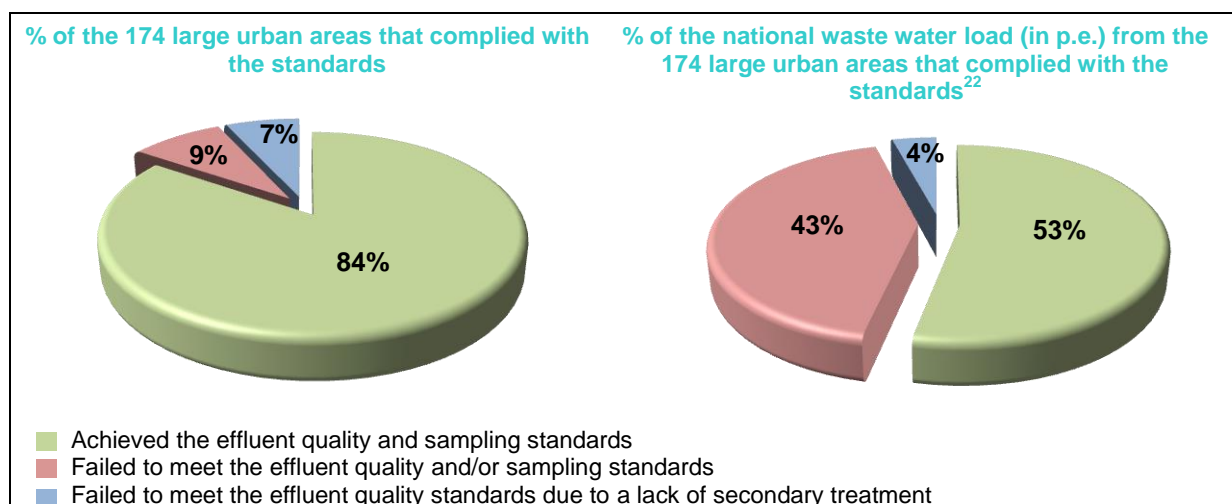
¹⁹ The 12 areas are listed in Table 2.3.

Figure 3.1: Compliance of all 174²⁰ large urban areas with the BOD, COD & TSS effluent quality and sampling standards in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive for 2009 to 2014



7 of the non-compliant urban areas met the BOD and COD standards but failed to meet the TSS standard. While the Directive sets a standard for TSS it also notes that this requirement is optional²¹. **147** large areas therefore complied with the BOD and COD effluent quality and sampling standards. A national summary of compliance in 2014 with just the mandatory BOD and COD effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive is presented by urban area and also by waste water load in Figure 3.2. The compliance rate by waste water load is similar to 2013 while compliance by urban area improved from 81% in 2013 to 84% in 2014.

Figure 3.2: Compliance of all 174 large urban areas in 2014 with the mandatory BOD & COD effluent quality and sampling standards in the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive



²⁰ 174 refers to 2014. The number of large urban areas varies from year to year. The numbers of areas in this category in 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010 and 2009 were 162, 170, 165, 169 and 174 respectively.

²¹ Refer to footnote 3 in Table 1 of the Directive. European Commission reports on compliance with secondary treatment standards exclude TSS results.

²² The European Commission typically reports national compliance in this format, i.e. by generated waste water load. Compliance by waste water load is strongly influenced by Ringsend, which accounts for approximately 40% of the waste water load from the 174 large urban areas. 7 of 145 BOD results and 3 of 248 COD results from Ringsend exceeded the maximum allowable concentration in the Directive in 2014 and therefore this area is considered non-compliant.

3.2 Effluent quality at all urban areas

Secondary or biological treatment was provided for the main (primary) discharge at **426** urban areas in 2014 and the remaining **84** urban areas had less than secondary treatment (refer to Table 2.1). A summary of effluent quality at all 510 urban areas is outlined below.

Effluent quality and sampling at all urban areas in 2014			
The BOD, COD and TSS quality and sampling standards in the Directive were used as an indicator guide to assess effluent quality at all 510 urban areas during 2014 ²³ . A secondary treatment plant that is performing well should, at a minimum, meet these standards.			
Key Findings			
316 areas met all the effluent quality and sampling standards	105 areas with secondary treatment did not achieve all the effluent quality standards ²⁴	5 areas with secondary treatment did not provide a sufficient number of effluent monitoring results ²⁵	84 areas did not have secondary treatment for the main discharge and therefore could not achieve the effluent quality standards

The national trend of improving performance in recent years continued in 2014, as illustrated in Figure 3.3 which provides a summary of effluent discharges from all urban areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme for the years 2009 to 2014.

Of the 105 areas with secondary treatment that did not meet the standards, **36** did not meet the standards consistently during the year, i.e. at least 50% of the samples breached the standards for at least one parameter²⁶. This is indicative of poor plant performance or overloading of the treatment plant.

57 areas with secondary treatment that did not meet the effluent quality standards appear to have sufficient treatment capacity (i.e. the generated load is less than the reported capacity of the treatment plant). Such areas would typically be expected to meet the effluent standards.

There has been a significant improvement in the monitoring of waste water discharges in recent years with the number of areas with secondary treatment that failed to provide a sufficient number of samples down from 38 in 2009 to 16 in 2013 and **5** in 2014.

The results of the 2014 assessment for each urban area are summarised in the county pages in Appendix A of this report. A one page summary of waste water treatment by county is provided in Appendix C.

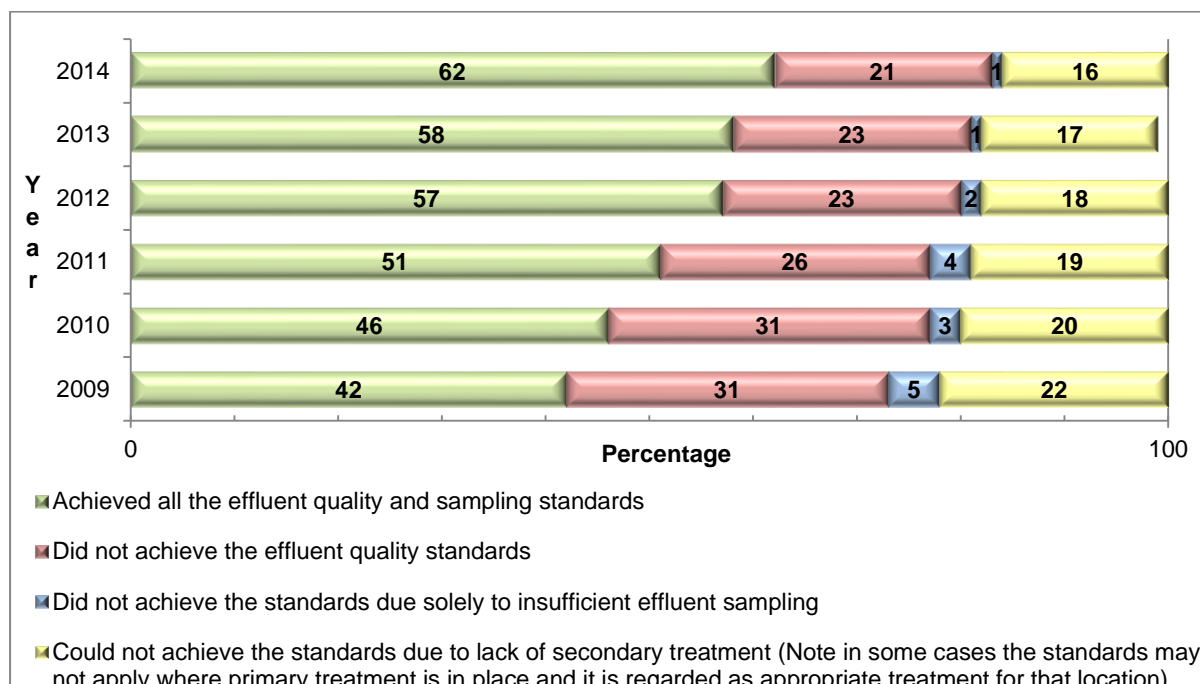
²³ The Directive does not specify the minimum number of samples required per year for treatment plants with a capacity less than 2,000 p.e. For the purposes of this assessment the EPA set the minimum number of samples required at these areas at either 6, or the number of samples specified in the waste water discharge licence if this is less than 6.

²⁴ Includes 2 areas where the main discharge met the standards but a smaller (secondary) discharge did not meet the standards, and 1 further area where the main discharge met the standards but the smaller discharge received less than secondary treatment and therefore could not meet the effluent quality standards.

²⁵ The 5 urban areas where monitoring was inadequate are Boherbue, Stradbally, Pallaskenry, Tarmonbarry and Westport. The first 4 of these also failed to provide a sufficient number of monitoring results in 2013. On the basis of the results provided 2 of the 5 areas also did not meet the effluent quality standards.

²⁶ Includes 1 area where the persistent failure was associated with the smaller (secondary) discharge.

Figure 3.3: Assessment of discharges from all urban areas against the BOD, COD & TSS quality and sampling standards in the 1991 Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive for the period 2009 to 2014²⁷



Sections 3.1 and 3.2 of this report assessed BOD, COD and TSS monitoring results against the effluent quality and sampling standards set in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Effluent is assessed against the Directive's nutrient quality standards in the following section of the report.

²⁷ The effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive are not a statutory requirement for urban areas <2,000 p.e. discharging to freshwater or estuaries or <10,000 p.e. discharging to coastal water (unless specified in a waste water discharge licence). In the case of the 336 smaller urban areas in 2014 the standards were used by the EPA for comparison purposes as an indicator guide to assess effluent quality. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number and do not always add up to 100.

3.3 Compliance with effluent standards for phosphorus and nitrogen

The EPA report on [Water Quality in Ireland 2010 - 2012](#) found that the most widespread water quality problem in Ireland relates to elevated nutrient concentrations arising primarily from human activities. The discharge of urban waste water is identified in the report as one of the two most important suspected sources of nutrients. Excessive concentrations of nutrients in water bodies can lead to eutrophication²⁸. The main nutrients of concern are phosphorus, which tends to drive eutrophication in freshwaters, and nitrogen which tends to drive eutrophication in coastal waters.

In order to protect waters at risk of eutrophication and prevent the accumulation of excessive nutrient loads Article 5(2) of the Directive requires a more stringent level of waste water treatment for certain discharges. As such, nutrient reduction, in addition to secondary treatment, is required at large towns and cities discharging directly to sensitive areas²⁹. There were 33 such large towns and cities in Ireland where the requirement for more stringent treatment applied in 2014³⁰.

In conjunction with the requirement to provide more stringent treatment for nutrient reduction, the Directive also sets limits on the concentration of phosphorus and nitrogen in effluent discharged to sensitive areas from large urban areas. As the receiving waters may not be equally vulnerable to both phosphorus and nitrogen the Directive specifies that one or both nutrient parameters may apply, depending on the local situation. The EPA is responsible for determining during the waste water discharge licensing process which nutrient parameter(s) shall apply³¹.

Compliance with phosphorus and nitrogen effluent quality standards in 2014			
33 large urban areas discharging waste water to designated sensitive areas were required to meet the effluent quality standards set in the Directive for phosphorus and/or nitrogen			
Both parameters (phosphorus and nitrogen) apply at 16 urban areas, phosphorus alone applies at 14 areas and nitrogen alone applies at 3 areas			
Key Findings			
90% of areas subject to the phosphorus requirement met the effluent quality standard for phosphorus (27 of 30 areas)	58% of areas subject to the nitrogen requirement met the effluent quality standard for nitrogen (11 of 19 areas)	8 of the 33 urban areas failed to meet the applicable effluent quality standards for phosphorus and/or nitrogen	24% of the total waste water load (in p.e.) from the 33 large urban areas met all the applicable nutrient quality standards

A summary of compliance with the nutrient quality standards in the Directive for each of the 33 areas > 10,000 p.e. discharging to sensitive areas is presented in Appendix B.

²⁸ Eutrophication means the enrichment of water by nutrients, especially compounds of nitrogen and/or phosphorus, causing an accelerated growth of algae and higher forms of plant life to produce an undesirable disturbance to the balance of organisms present in the water and to the quality of the water.

²⁹ This applies to urban areas with a population equivalent greater than 10,000 discharging to sensitive areas. Sensitive areas are listed in the Urban Waste Water Treatment (Amendment) Regulations 2010 [S.I. No. 48 of 2010](#). A water body is identified as sensitive if it (i) is eutrophic (ii) may become eutrophic if protective action is not taken or (iii) is intended for abstraction of drinking water and contains more than 50 mg/l of nitrates.

This section of the report addresses urban areas reported as discharging directly to sensitive areas. Urban areas discharging to the catchments of sensitive areas, where they may have an impact on those areas, are covered by Article 5(5) of the Directive. Such discharges are not addressed in this assessment.

³⁰ Excludes Drogheda and Clonakilty as the timeframe specified in national Regulations (S.I. No. 48 of 2010) for provision of nutrient reduction at these urban areas has not yet passed.

³¹ The EPA was assigned this responsibility under [S.I. No. 48 of 2010](#).

There was an improvement between 2013 and 2014 in the percentage of large urban areas meeting the standards for phosphorus (up 15% since 2013) and nitrogen (up 11% since 2013)³². However, some heavily populated areas such as Dublin and Cork continue to fail the nutrient quality standards and consequently just **24%** of the total waste water load (in p.e.) discharged to sensitive areas from the 33 large towns and cities met all the applicable nutrient quality standards in 2014. This is an improvement from 17% and 17.5% in 2012 and 2013 respectively.

Table 3.1 shows the eight areas that failed to meet all the effluent quality standards for nutrients.

Table 3.1: Urban areas that did not meet the effluent quality standards for nutrients in 2014

Urban Area	Nutrient parameter that failed the effluent quality standards in 2014	Estimated date for provision of more stringent treatment ³³
<i>The Directive required more stringent treatment (i.e. nutrient reduction) in addition to secondary treatment by 31st December 1998 for discharges from areas with a population equivalent of more than 10,000.</i>		
<i>More stringent treatment not provided</i>		
Cork City	Nitrogen	Q1 2018
Youghal	Nitrogen	2017
Killybegs	Nitrogen & phosphorus	Q2 2017
Greater Dublin – Ringsend	Nitrogen & phosphorus	Q1 2017
Enniscorthy / Kilagoley	Nitrogen & phosphorus	Q3 2018
<i>More stringent treatment for phosphorus in place but more stringent treatment for nitrogen not provided</i>		
Cavan	Nitrogen	Q3 2015
Roscrea	Nitrogen	Not available ³⁴
<i>More stringent treatment for nitrogen & phosphorus provided</i>		
Wexford	Nitrogen	Treatment was in place in 2014

The treatment provided at Ennis North, Dundalk and Tralee is reported as secondary treatment and this does not meet the Directive's requirement for waste water to be subject to 'more stringent treatment' than secondary treatment. However, the effluent monitoring results show that effluent from these 3 areas met the nutrient quality standards specified in the Directive in 2014.

While the Directive's requirement for more stringent treatment for nitrogen was not met at Mallow, Longford, Navan and Nenagh discharges from the existing treatment plants (secondary treatment with phosphorus removal) at these areas achieved the Directive's effluent quality standard for nitrogen in 2014.

³² The 2013 assessment is based on 26 urban areas; the 2014 assessment is based on 33 urban areas.

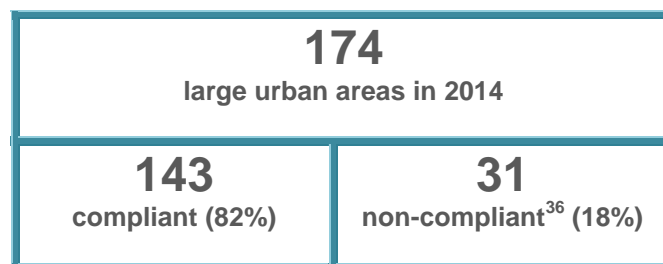
³³ Some dates for provision of more stringent treatment listed in the 2013 EPA waste water report have been revised since the report was published and the best estimated dates provided by Irish Water are presented here.

³⁴ The EPA determined during the licensing process that both nutrient parameters (nitrogen and phosphorus) are applicable to discharges from this area. Irish Water considers the nitrogen requirement to be overly stringent and has indicated that it will apply to the EPA for a review of this requirement.

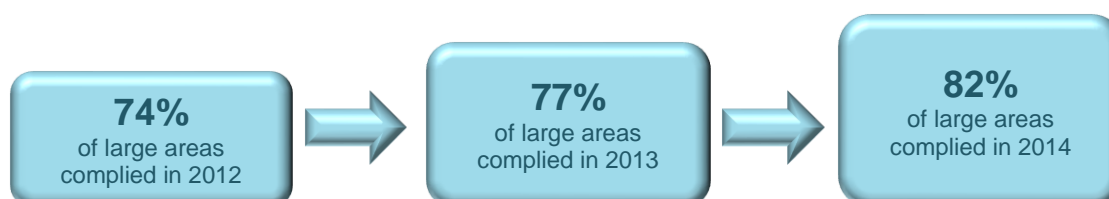
3.4 Summary of compliance with effluent quality and sampling standards

Compliance with the effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive is mandatory for all 174 large urban areas; however the suspended solids requirement is optional, as outlined in section 3.1 of this report. 147 of the large urban areas complied with the BOD and COD standards but 4 of these did not meet the relevant nutrient quality standards. This means that **143** of the 174 large urban areas met the mandatory standards in the Directive for BOD and COD and, where applicable, nitrogen and/or phosphorus³⁵. These areas accounted for 46% of the waste water load from large urban areas (by population equivalent).

Compliance with effluent quality and sampling standards



The improvement in the percentage of large urban areas meeting the mandatory effluent quality and sampling standards between 2012 and 2014 is outlined below.



As illustrated in Table 3.2, 3 counties (Cork, Donegal and Galway) account for 14 (or 45%) of the areas that are non-compliant with the mandatory effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive and 27 (or 60%) of the areas discharging waste water that receives no treatment or just preliminary treatment. An overview of key issues in these 3 counties is provided on page 14.

³⁵ While 9 rather than 12 nutrient results were provided for one area that exceeded the 10,000 p.e. nutrient threshold for the first time during 2014 (Muinebheag) this was considered compliant for effluent quality because (i) the 9 results met the nutrient quality standards (ii) the licence only requires 4 nutrient samples per year and (iii) it was not identified by Irish Water until year end that the area had exceeded the threshold for the first time.

³⁶ The 31 urban areas that did not comply with the mandatory effluent quality and sampling standards are highlighted in red in Appendix A.

Table 3.2: Number of areas per county that (i) were non-compliant with the mandatory effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive and (ii) discharge waste water that receives no treatment or preliminary treatment only

County	Number of large areas non-compliant with the mandatory BOD, COD or nutrient standards in the Directive ³⁷	Number of areas with no treatment or preliminary treatment only ³⁸
Cork	7	11
Donegal	4	11
Galway	3	5
Wexford	2	4
Mayo	2	2
Waterford	2	2
Cavan	2	0
Clare	1	5
Wicklow	1	2
Dublin	1	1
Carlow	1	0
Leitrim	1	0
Limerick	1	0
Meath	1	0
Sligo	1	0
Tipperary	1	0
Kerry	0	1
Louth	0	1
Kildare	0	0
Kilkenny	0	0
Laois	0	0
Longford	0	0
Monaghan	0	0
Offaly	0	0
Roscommon	0	0
Westmeath	0	0
Total	31	45

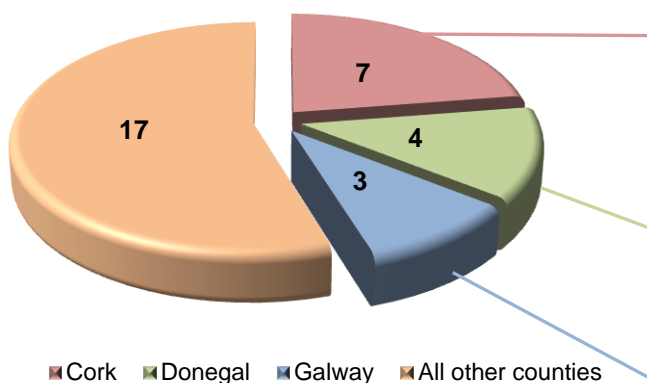
³⁷ Refers to the 174 large urban areas that are above the threshold for the mandatory provision of secondary treatment.

³⁸ This includes 35 areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme with no treatment or preliminary treatment only and 10 small certificate of authorisation areas (< 500 p.e.) with no treatment.

3.5 Spotlight on Counties Cork, Donegal and Galway

31 large urban areas were **non-compliant with the mandatory effluent quality / sampling standards** in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. 14 of these areas, listed below, were in Cork, Donegal and Galway.

Non-compliant with effluent quality / sampling standards



County Cork

1. Ringaskiddy / Crosshaven / Carrigaline
2. Passage West / Monkstown
3. Cobh
4. Youghal
5. Cork City
6. Clonakilty
7. Rathcormac

County Donegal

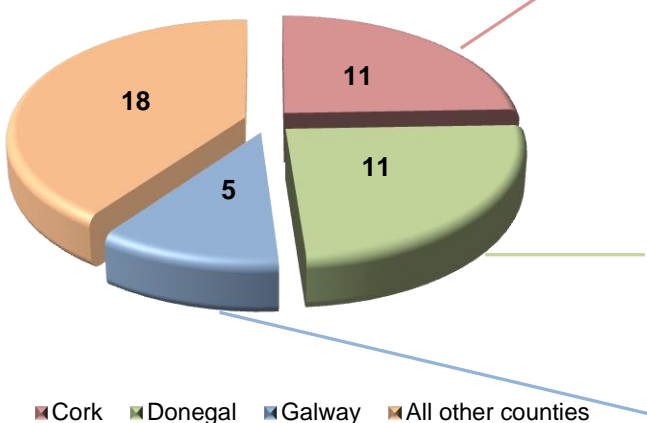
1. Bundoran
2. Convoys
3. Killybegs
4. Lifford

County Galway

1. Athenry
2. Clifden
3. Mountbellew

Waste water received **no treatment or preliminary treatment only** prior to discharge at 45 areas. 27 of these areas, listed below, were in Cork, Donegal and Galway.

No treatment or preliminary treatment only



County Cork

1. Ringaskiddy / Crosshaven / Carrigaline
2. Passage West / Monkstown
3. Cobh
4. Youghal
5. Ballycotton
6. Castletownbere
7. Castletownshend
8. Ringaskiddy village
9. Whitegate/Agada
10. Inchigeelagh
11. Timoleague

County Donegal

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bundoran | 7. Rathmullan |
| 2. Killybegs | 8. St Johnston |
| 3. Falcarragh | 9. Burtonport |
| 4. Kilcar | 10. Kerrykeel |
| 5. Moville | 11. Coolatee Housing Scheme |
| 6. Ramelton | |

County Galway

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Carraroe | 4. Roundstone |
| 2. Kinvara | 5. Ahascragh |
| 3. Spiddal | |

Other priorities in Cork, Donegal and Galway

- 3 of the 7 bathing waters across the country that failed minimum water quality standards are in Cork and Galway. Waste water discharges from Youghal, Clifden and Galway City contributed to **poor quality bathing waters** at Youghal Front Strand, Clifden beach and Ballyloughane beach respectively (refer to section 5.2 of this report).
- In 2014 the Bredagh River at Moville in County Donegal was the sole river site in the country where **serious pollution** (bad ecological status) was attributed to urban waste water discharges (refer to section 5.1 of this report).

4 Enforcement of waste water discharge authorisations in 2014

EPA waste water discharge authorisations contain legally binding conditions and compliance with these conditions plays a key role in protecting water resources, human health and the aquatic environment and preventing environmental pollution. The EPA has issued **464** waste water discharge licences and **536** certificates of authorisation to date³⁹. It is the responsibility of Irish Water to comply with the requirements of all these authorisations.

EPA enforcement activities include auditing of waste water works, sampling and monitoring of waste water discharges, tracking of progress with key infrastructural or operational improvements, dealing with incidents and complaints and following up on significant enforcement matters. The EPA also provides guidance to Irish Water to help secure and improve licence compliance. This section of the report provides a summary of enforcement activities in 2014.

4.1 Identifying and targeting key issues

The EPA takes a risk based, outcome driven approach to waste water enforcement in order to direct resources where they are most needed. The following were used to identify where infrastructural or operational improvements at waste water works should be prioritised to improve water quality, protect sensitive areas and vulnerable receptors, reduce public health risks from waste water discharges and address non-compliances with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.

EPA priorities in waste water enforcement in 2014			
Discharges causing pollution of rivers	Discharges contributing to poor quality bathing waters	Waste water treatment required by the Directive is overdue ⁴⁰	No treatment or preliminary treatment only provided
Discharges that failed mandatory quality / sampling standards ⁴¹	Improvement needed to protect freshwater pearl mussels	Improvement needed to protect shellfish waters	Other environmental pollution risk

The EPA requires Irish Water to implement corrective actions to address these priorities and the following examples outline how such issues are to be addressed.

³⁹ As at 15th September 2015. The figures exclude reviews of existing authorisations.

⁴⁰ This refers to the Article 4.1 requirement for secondary treatment at large areas, and the Article 5.2 requirement for more stringent treatment for discharges to sensitive areas from urban areas > 10,000 p.e.

⁴¹ This refers to large urban areas, above the thresholds in Article 4.1 and 5.2 of the Directive, that fail to meet the effluent quality and sampling standards set in the Directive for BOD and COD and, where applicable, nitrogen and/or phosphorus.

No treatment or preliminary treatment only

- In response to EPA enforcement activities, Irish Water provided plans for the provision of waste water treatment infrastructure to eliminate the discharge of raw sewage from 42 urban areas between 2015 and 2019 as outlined below⁴².



Secondary treatment required by the Directive is overdue

- The EPA required Irish Water to provide a plan for provision of secondary treatment at the 12 large urban areas that were non-compliant in 2014 with the Directive's requirement to provide such treatment. In response Irish Water has scheduled the provision of secondary treatment at 11 of these large urban areas, as summarised below. A date for the provision of treatment at the 12th non-compliant area, Lifford in Co. Donegal, was not provided by Irish Water at the time of publication of this report.



Discharges contributing to poor quality bathing waters

- In response to EPA requirements, management plans were drawn up to address all poor quality bathing waters impacted by urban waste water discharges. The planned improvement works to protect the affected bathing waters from the impacts of waste water discharges include the completion of new treatment plants at Clifden, Ardmore and Youghal in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively and the connection of Rush to a waste water treatment plant in 2018.

While progress has been made in the assessment of collection systems, there are still national information gaps which the EPA requires Irish Water to address in relation to the design, construction, integrity and maintenance of waste water collection systems in order to assess risks to the environment of leaks or discharges from these systems.

4.2 Progress on infrastructural improvements required by the licence

Waste water discharge licences include a requirement to carry out infrastructural improvements within certain timeframes where they are necessary in order to improve waste water discharges and reduce environmental risks. Such improvements typically include upgrades to the waste water treatment plant, the storm water overflows and/or the waste water collection network and the cessation of certain discharges.

- The EPA licences require over **440** individual improvement works to be completed between 2009 and 2014 at more than 120 different urban areas.
- Approximately **46%** of the improvement works due between 2009 and 2014 were reported as complete at the end of 2014, with the remainder still outstanding.

Some major infrastructural improvements completed in 2014 include the provision of new waste water treatment plants at Abbeylax and Mountrath in County Laois.

There is significant non-compliance with the statutory timelines specified in waste water discharge licences for completion of improvement works and some important infrastructural works necessary to

⁴² Dates for the provision of treatment at 3 of the 45 areas identified in this report with no treatment or preliminary treatment only have not been provided by Irish Water. The 3 areas are Rathmullan and Coolatee Housing Scheme in Co. Donegal and Avoca in Co. Wicklow.

improve waste water discharges and comply with the European Union Directive requirements are still overdue. Irish Water must address these matters and ensure compliance with licence requirements.

4.3 Capital investment

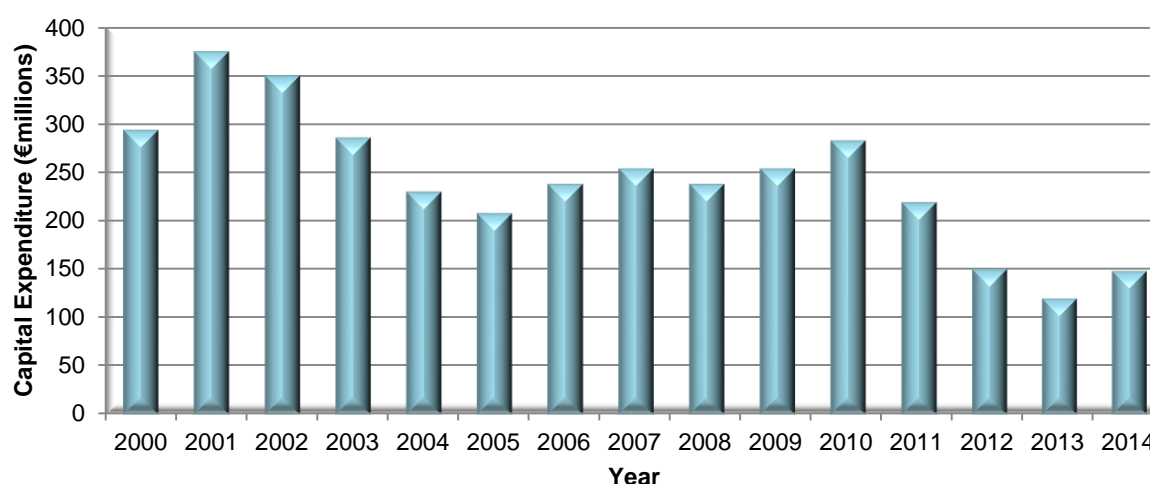
There has been substantial capital investment in waste water infrastructure since 2000, which has brought improvements in waste water treatment to many areas.

- Waste water receiving little or no treatment was reduced nationally from 30% in 2001 to less than 5% in 2014.
- Waste water receiving secondary (biological) treatment increased nationally from 29% in 2001 to 94% in 2014.

The average rate of capital investment between 2000 and 2011 was approximately €270 million per annum. Capital investment decreased to an average of €140 million per annum between 2012 and 2014, as shown in Figure 6.1. Further investment in infrastructure is necessary in order to:

- Eliminate the discharge of raw sewage.
- Comply with the European Union's Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.
- Meet the requirements of waste water discharge authorisations issued by the EPA.

Figure 6.1: Capital investment in urban waste water infrastructure between 2000 and 2014⁴³

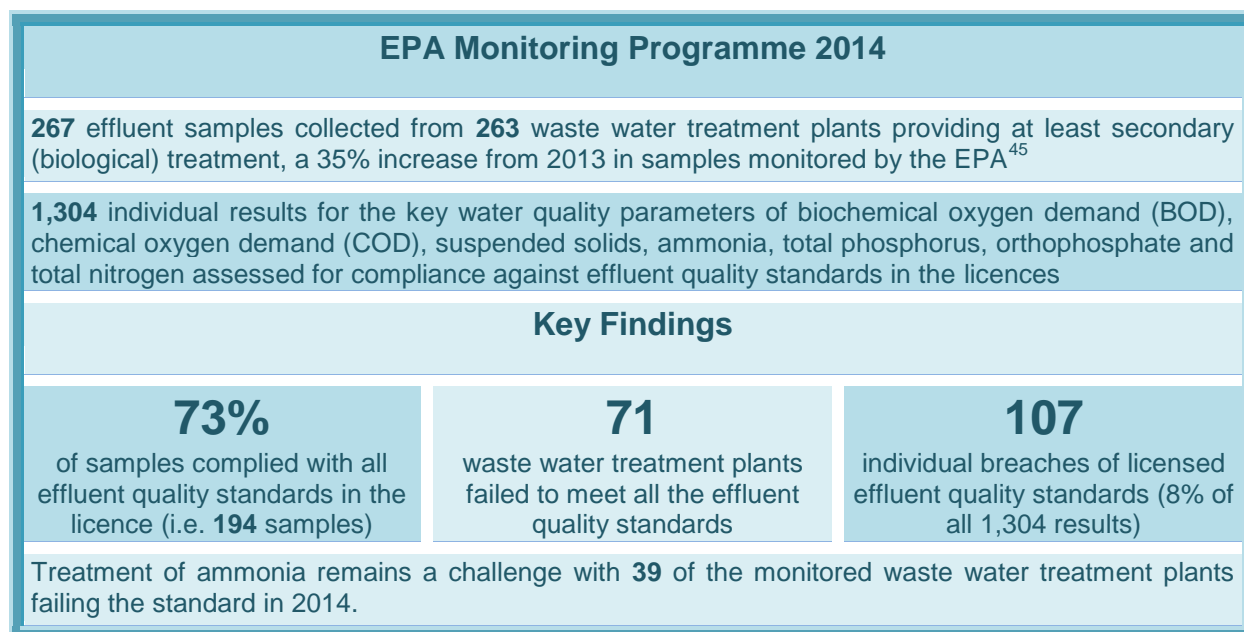


⁴³ Data from 2000 to 2013 was provided by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and shows expenditure under the Water Services Investment Programme. Expenditure for 2014 was provided by Irish Water.

4.4 EPA monitoring of urban waste water discharges

The EPA conducts an annual programme of independent monitoring of urban waste water discharges licensed under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations. Monitoring involves taking a discrete sample of treated waste water or effluent, analysing it in a laboratory for certain physico-chemical water quality indicator parameters, and assessing the results against the effluent quality standards in the waste water discharge licence. The licence standards may be more stringent than those in the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive if deemed necessary by the EPA to protect the receiving waters and/or public health⁴⁴. Compliance with these standards is one of the key drivers to protect waters from the impacts of waste water discharges.

The urban waste water discharge monitoring programme conducted by the EPA in 2014 is summarised below.

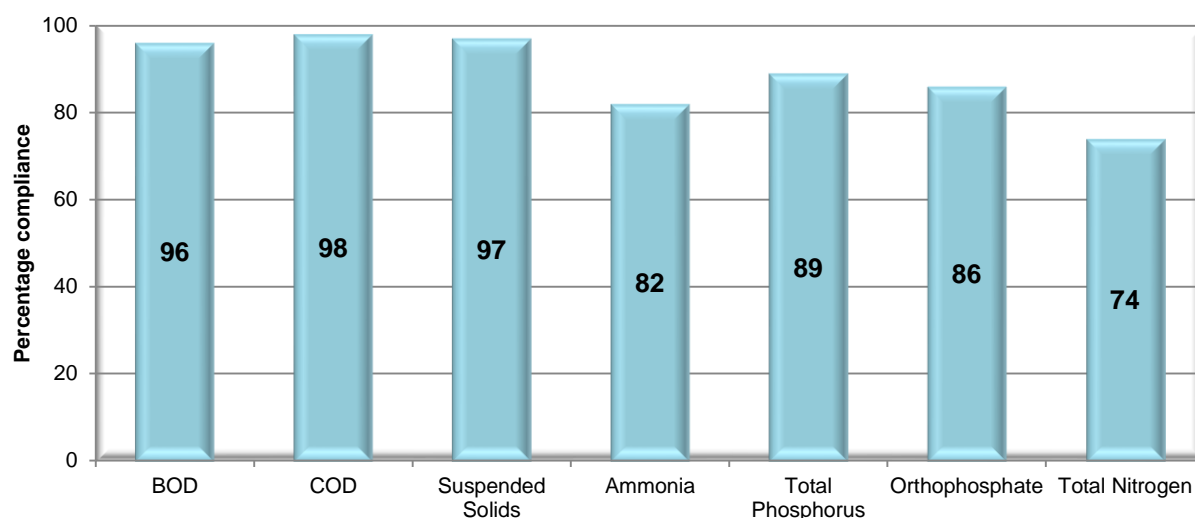


Compliance with the effluent quality standards for the 7 key water quality parameters is shown in Figure 4.1. The areas where samples did not meet the required standard for all key parameters are summarised in Appendix E.

⁴⁴ Chapter 3 of this report assesses Irish Water's self-monitoring results for 2014 against the effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive.

⁴⁵ Excludes samples taken at 3 treatment plants where effluent quality standards in the licence commence in 2015 or where the licence specifies a minimum percentage reduction in relation to the influent load rather than absolute quality standards for parameter concentrations. 4 non-routine samples taken in addition to the scheduled samples at 3 sites were also excluded.

Figure 4.1: EPA monitoring results for 2014 showing percentage compliance with allowable licence limits for 7 key parameters at plants with secondary or more stringent treatment



Recent changes to the interpretation of effluent standards in licences

Each waste water discharge licence sets emission limit values for various parameters and specifies how the emission limit values are to be interpreted. Previously the interpretation varied between different licences. It has now been standardised across most licences⁴⁶. In many cases the standard interpretation provides for a more stringent interpretation of the effluent quality standards for discrete (grab) samples and a consequential decrease in national compliance rates in 2014 compared with those reported for previous years⁴⁷.

4.5 Environmental incidents and complaints

Incidents

Irish Water must notify the EPA of all incidents at areas with a waste water discharge authorisation. An incident is any discharge that does not comply with the requirements of a waste water discharge licence or any occurrence at a waste water works with the potential for environmental contamination or requiring an emergency response by the authorisation holder and/or relevant authorities. The incidents from 2014 that were reported to the EPA are summarised on the following page.

⁴⁶ The new standard interpretation for discrete (grab) samples is that no BOD or COD grab sample value may exceed the emission limit value by more than 100%, no suspended solids grab sample value may exceed the emission limit value by more than 150% and for other parameters no grab sample value may exceed the emission limit value by more than 20%. This is set out in Condition 2 of each licence.

⁴⁷ If the new interpretation is applied retrospectively to the EPA monitoring results from previous years then the 2014 results are in line with previous years, e.g. the compliance rates for the number of individual results meeting the new standards in 2012, 2013 and 2014 are 90%, 92% and 92% respectively.

Incidents in 2014

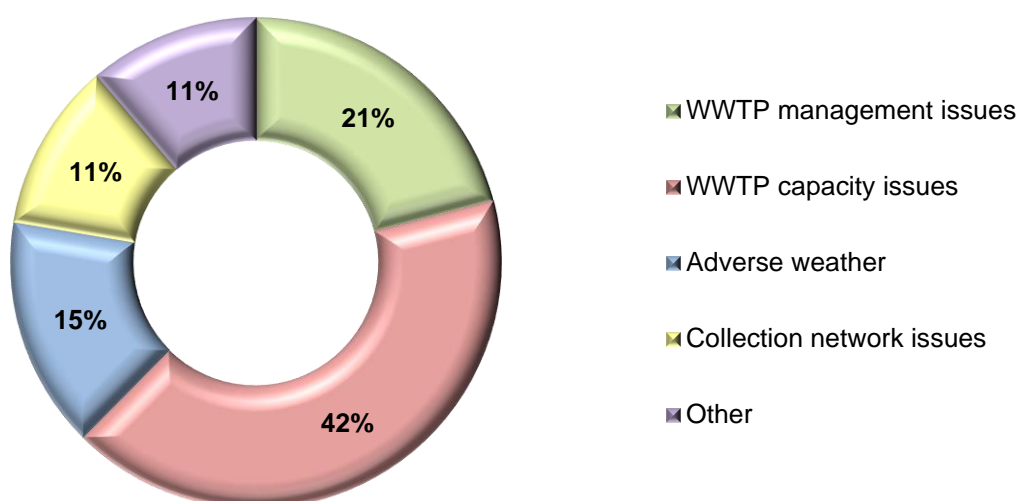
1,294 notifications of incidents that occurred in 2014 were received by the EPA. These incidents were at 256 licensed waste water works and 24 waste water works with a certificate of authorisation⁴⁸.

72% of reported incidents relate to effluent discharges that licensee self-monitoring demonstrated did not meet the relevant quality standards. The remainder were mostly overflows or uncontrolled releases⁴⁹.

42% of incidents are attributed to insufficient treatment capacity, up from 35% in 2013. Investment in the provision of waste water treatment infrastructure is required to address such incidents.

The root causes of incidents in 2014, as reported by Irish Water, are summarised in Figure 4.2.

Figure 4.2: Causes of all incidents in 2014 that were notified to the EPA



85% of incidents were reported as minor (e.g. deviations from licence requirements with no contamination / localised effects) and 15% (200) were reported as simple contamination. Over two-thirds of the simple contamination incidents are closed. The remainder are associated with discharges from 18 urban areas and most of these areas require infrastructure improvements to address the root cause of the incidents.

Guidance on the [types of incidents](#) to be notified to the EPA and a [step by step guide on completing an incident notification](#) are available on the EPA website to assist Irish Water in meeting incident reporting obligations.

Complaints

The EPA received **96** complaints in relation to 37 waste water works authorised by the EPA⁵⁰. Almost two-thirds of complaints relate to waste water discharges or overflows, while the remainder are mostly linked with odours. The waste water works serving Shannon Town (24 complaints) and Youghal (12 complaints) account for 37.5% of all complaints.

⁴⁸ The information in this section is from the end of March 2015. A small number of licences with recurring incidents were not required to submit an individual notification for every recurring incident but had to provide regular reports on incidents and progress in addressing them. Such incidents are excluded from the figures here.

⁴⁹ Examples include storm water overflows during heavy rainfall and emergency overflows.

⁵⁰ The 37 waste water works comprise 32 with a waste water discharge licence and 5 with a certificate of authorisation.

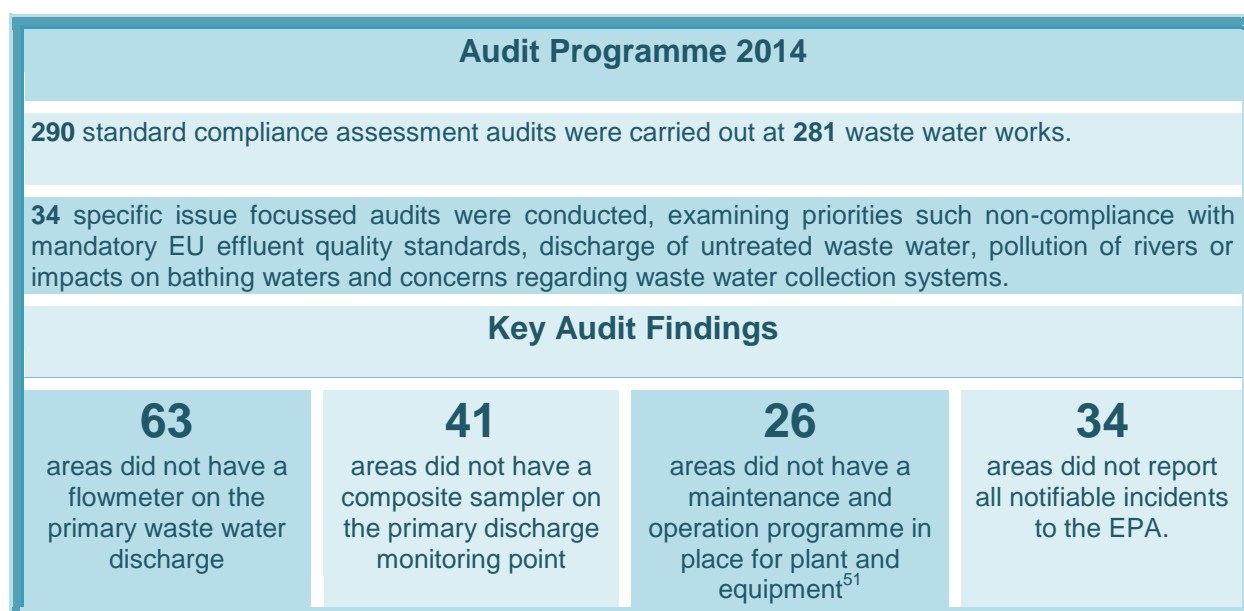
4.6 Optimisation of infrastructure

Compliance challenges may not always require capital investment and therefore the EPA targets optimisation of the performance of existing infrastructure where this can drive improved compliance. Process optimisation has significant potential to get the best from the treatment infrastructure already in place and to bring about improvements in waste water treatment.

Progress in implementation of various recommendations made by Irish Water's process optimisation team during the assessment of waste water treatment plants is slow and it is important that Irish Water now implement all those recommendations that can improve compliance and/or effluent quality.

4.7 EPA audits

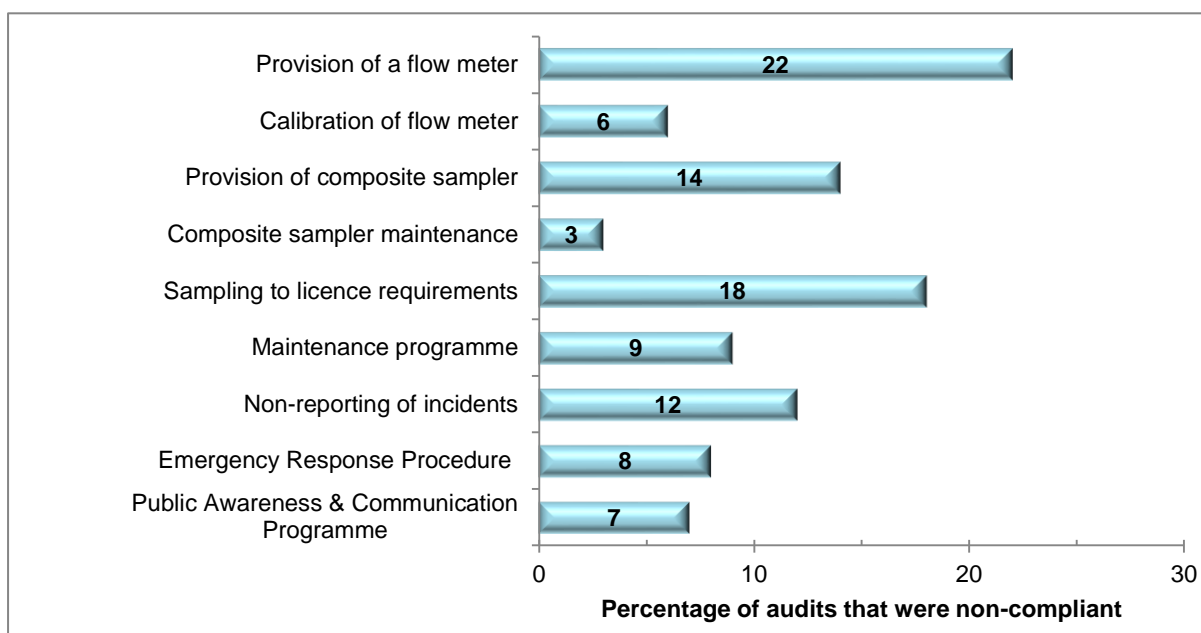
The audit programme conducted by the EPA as part of the enforcement of waste water discharge licences in 2014 is summarised below.



Non-compliance rates for 9 key areas examined during the standard compliance assessment audits are illustrated in Figure 4.3. The highest non-compliance rates were in relation to monitoring and the provision of key monitoring infrastructure such as flow meters and composite samplers. Monitoring of discharges in accordance with licence requirements is essential to demonstrate the adequacy of treatment and assess risks to the receiving environment. These non-compliances must be addressed immediately by Irish Water.

⁵¹ The implementation of a programme of maintenance and operation is essential in reducing incidents and ensuring the correct operation of critical equipment.

Figure 4.3: Percentage non-compliance with key licence requirements identified during the 2014 EPA auditing programme



4.8 Reporting to the EPA

The EPA requires information from Irish Water in order to assess the performance of waste water treatment plants, track licence compliance, identify risks or impacts associated with waste water discharges and provide interested parties with information on urban waste water. Some areas requiring improved reporting are outlined below.

- Incidents must be notified to the EPA as soon as practicable after occurrence. Table 4.1 illustrates the delays in the notification of incidents to the EPA. Audits conducted by the EPA also found that some incidents were not being reported to the EPA (refer to section 4.7 of this report). The quality of information provided for various incident notifications was also inadequate.

Table 4.1: Period elapsed between when an incident in 2014 was first noticed until it was notified to the EPA

	0 - 2 days	3 - 7 days	8 - 30 days	> 30 days
Percentage of incidents notified to the EPA within the given period	18%	18%	32%	32%

- Annual information for 2014 on the treatment plants, generated loads and receiving water was initially submitted to the EPA almost 2 months after the due date. A further 2 months elapsed before all data quality issues in this information were addressed by Irish Water.
- Data on sludge generation in 2014 and the re-use, recovery and disposal routes was provided to the EPA over 4 months after the due date.
- Information requested by the EPA during some investigations into compliance matters in 2014 was not provided by the due dates and in some cases all the information requested was not provided.

5 Impacts on rivers and bathing waters

5.1 Update on seriously polluted river sites

The [Focus on Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2013](#) report highlighted 6 river sites (down from 9 in 2007-2009) where bad ecological status or serious pollution was attributed, with a high degree of probability, to urban waste water discharges⁵². EPA monitoring during 2014 found that the extent of serious pollution has reduced significantly and just 1 of these river sites, listed in Table 5.1, was still classified as bad status or seriously polluted in 2014.

There was an improvement in the ecological status at the other 5 river sites and these were classified as poor status or moderately polluted in 2014⁵³. Further water quality improvements are necessary at these river sites so that they are brought up to at least good status (unpolluted) and meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

Table 5.1: River site where serious pollution in 2014 was attributed to urban waste water discharges

County	Urban Area	River	River Code	Ecological status in 2014	Channel length
Donegal	Moville	Bredagh	40B020400	Bad (seriously polluted)	0.5 km

5.2 Waste water works linked with bathing water failures

The EPA's report for 2014 on [Bathing Water Quality In Ireland](#) found that 7 of the 136 EU identified bathing waters failed to comply with minimum water quality standards and were classified as 'poor'. Waste water discharges from the 7 areas listed in Table 5.2 were considered a contributing factor to the poor classification of these bathing waters.

Table 5.2: Waste water discharges linked with poor status bathing waters

County	Urban Area	Bathing Area
Cork	Youghal	Youghal Front Strand Beach
Dublin (Fingal)	Rush	Rush, South Beach
Galway	Galway City	Ballyloughane Beach
Galway	Clifden	Clifden Beach
Waterford	Ardmore	Ardmore Beach
Westmeath	Lilliput Adventure Centre ⁵⁴	Lilliput, Lough Ennel
Wexford	Duncannon	Duncannon Beach

Detailed information on these bathing waters, including measures taken/planned to tackle the main causes of pollution, is available on the national bathing water information website splash.epa.ie.

⁵² Water quality was assessed by the EPA using biotic indices ('Q values'). Biotic indices reflect average water quality at a river site. They are based primarily on the relative proportions of pollution sensitive to tolerant macroinvertebrates (the young stages of insects primarily but also snails, worms, shrimps etc.) resident at a river site.

⁵³ Pollution at these 5 poor status or moderately polluted river sites, on the Swilly Burn, Cavan, Ahavarragh, Jiggy (Hind) and Tubbercurry, are attributed to discharges from Raphoe, Cavan, Dromcollagher, Roscommon and Tubbercurry respectively.

⁵⁴ Discharges from Lilliput Adventure Centre are not subject to the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations.

6 Sewage Sludge

Sewage sludge is a by-product of the waste water treatment process and includes biosolids removed from waste water during treatment as well as residual organic matter from the treatment process. Irish Water's waste water treatment plants produced a collective total of **53,543** tonnes of sewage sludge (dry solids) during 2014, based on information provided to the EPA by Irish Water. Destination routes for the sludge are summarised in Table 6.1.

Most of the sewage sludge produced in 2014 was treated and then reused on agricultural land as a fertiliser or soil enhancer.

Table 6.1: Sewage sludge destination routes in 2014⁵⁵.

	Agriculture	Composting	Landfill	Other⁵⁶	Total
Quantity (tonnes dry solids)	42,483 (79.3%)	9,266 (17.3%)	361 (0.7%)	1,433 (2.7%)	53,543

The total quantity of sewage sludge treated per county in 2014 is shown in Appendix F.

⁵⁵ Figures are rounded to the nearest tonne.

⁵⁶ This refers to sludge held in storage at the end of 2014 and awaiting landspreading.

7 Recommendations

Urban waste water discharges are one of the principal pressures on water quality in Ireland. Continued financial investment and a reversal in the recent decline in the annual rate of capital expenditure is essential to provide the waste water infrastructure upgrades necessary to protect receiving waters and meet obligations under EPA authorisations and European Commission Directives such as the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and the Water Framework Directive.

The EPA makes the following recommendations in relation to urban waste water. Some of the recommendations are similar to those in previous reports but are still relevant and should be implemented by Irish Water.

7.1 Infrastructure

Requirements: Compliance with the treatment infrastructure requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and waste water discharge authorisations. Cessation of discharges of untreated sewage.

- The provision of **secondary treatment** for the 12 urban areas that did not have the required level of treatment in 2014 must be progressed (refer to Table 2.3).
- **Nutrient reduction** should be provided at the 7 urban areas greater than 10,000 p.e. that failed the nutrient quality standards and discharged to sensitive areas in 2014 in the absence of the necessary nutrient reduction infrastructure (refer to Table 3.1).
- The discharge of **untreated sewage** should be eliminated and treatment should be provided for the 45 areas where waste water was discharged with either no treatment or preliminary treatment only (Appendix D).
- The legally binding **infrastructure improvement programmes** specified in waste water discharge licences should be implemented and those required to address the waste water priorities in section 4.1 or to provide **appropriate treatment** required by the Directive should be prioritised.

7.2 Effluent quality

Requirements: Compliance with the effluent quality and sampling standards in the Directive and the waste water discharge authorisations.

- Effective **corrective action programmes** should be implemented at all waste water works that did not meet the mandatory effluent quality standards in the Directive (highlighted in Appendix A) in order to improve waste water treatment and bring the discharges into compliance with the Directive's requirements.
- An **integrated approach** should be taken to improving effluent quality across all areas. Inputs to the waste water works, optimisation of existing treatment processes and, where necessary, infrastructural upgrades should be examined with the aim of ensuring the effluent quality standards in the Directive and waste water discharge authorisations are consistently achieved.
- In order to get the best performance from the existing treatment infrastructure the **process optimisation** recommendations identified by Irish Water should now be implemented and priority should be given to those recommendations that will improve compliance and/or effluent quality.

- **Operation and maintenance** programmes should be in place for all plant and equipment to ensure the correct operation of the waste water works at all times and to minimise risks to the receiving environment. The operation of the 57 plants that did not meet the effluent quality standards and are reported as having sufficient capacity should be optimised to improve effluent quality.

7.3 Water quality

Requirements: Restore the quality of waters impacted by waste water discharges to at least good status. Protect vulnerable receptors from the impacts of waste water discharges.

- Corrective action plans should be implemented to address discharges of urban waste water that are causing **pollution of rivers** or contributing to **poor quality bathing waters** in order to improve discharge quality with the aim of improving the overall status of affected waters.
- Site specific assessments of the impact of discharges on **shellfish** in adjacent designated shellfish waters should be completed in line with licence requirements and appropriate disinfection should be installed as necessary, based on the findings of these assessments (refer to EPA priorities in section 4.1).
- Ecological assessments of the impact of discharges on **freshwater pearl mussels** should be completed as required by waste water discharge authorisations and site specific recommendations identified as necessary to protect the freshwater pearl mussel catchments should be implemented (refer to EPA priorities in section 4.1).
- The EPA required Irish Water to provide dates for completion of **works to address the priority issues** highlighted in section 4.1 of this report. There should be no delay in the delivery of the works and Irish Water must comply with any dates specified in the licences for completion of such works.

7.4 Reporting public information

Requirements: Provision of accurate information on waste water treatment to the EPA in a timely manner.

- All **incidents** must be promptly identified and reported by Irish Water in line with the requirements of waste water discharge authorisations and the guidance provided by the EPA.
- Irish Water should continue its assessment of **storm water overflows** against national standards, and report the findings to the EPA. Non-compliant storm water overflows should be upgraded or decommissioned in line with the requirements of EPA waste water discharge authorisations.
- A strategy should be developed by Irish Water, in line with the requirements of waste water discharge authorisations, to assess the **integrity of all waste water works** and identify any necessary infrastructural improvements. The strategy should have regard to the capacity of the works and any leaks, misconnections and surface water or groundwater infiltration.

Appendix A: County reports.

Explanatory note on county reports.

The results of the 2014 compliance assessment for discharges from urban areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme (i.e. areas with a population equivalent (p.e.) greater than 500⁵⁷) are summarised in this Appendix. The summary, based on information provided to the EPA by Irish Water / Uisce Éireann, is presented by county and contains the following:

Urban area: The name of the city, town or village where the waste water was generated, or the name of the waste water treatment plant where the waste water was treated.

Reg. No.: The reference number of the waste water discharge licence or application for the urban area. A licence is required from the EPA for discharges from all of Irish Water's waste water works that serve urban areas with a population equivalent greater than 500. Further information on all licence applications and all licences issued by the EPA can be viewed on the [EPA website](#).

BOD, COD, TSS compliance:

Pass – the 2014 effluent results reported to the EPA met the quality standards set in the Directive for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), chemical oxygen demand (COD) and total suspended solids (TSS), and a sufficient number of effluent results were reported to the EPA⁵⁸.

Fail – the 2014 effluent results reported to the EPA did not meet all the quality standards set in the Directive for BOD, COD and TSS and/or an insufficient number of effluent results were reported to the EPA.

No secondary – waste water received no treatment or a basic level of treatment (i.e. preliminary treatment or primary treatment) prior to discharge and consequently the effluent could not achieve the quality standards specified in the Directive⁵⁹.

Reason for failure: This refers to plants with at least secondary treatment that did not meet the BOD, COD and TSS standards in the Directive.

Quality – the discharge did not achieve the quality standards set in Annex I to the Directive for at least one of the following parameters (i) biochemical oxygen demand, (ii) chemical oxygen demand and (iii) total suspended solids. A failure for quality implies that the waste water treatment works did not perform to an acceptable standard on at least one sampling occasion during the year.

Sample no. – an insufficient number of effluent samples was collected, analysed and reported to the EPA. The minimum number of samples required for urban areas with a population equivalent greater than 2,000 is set in Annex 1.D to the Directive. For the purposes of this assessment the EPA required a minimum of 6 samples per year from areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme with a population equivalent less than 2,000, or else the number of samples specified in the waste water discharge licence if this is less than 6. If these areas have a treatment plant with a capacity of 2,000 p.e. or greater the EPA set the number of samples required as the number specified for that size of treatment plant in the Directive.

⁵⁷ In some cases licences were applied for and issued for urban areas with a population equivalent below the 500 p.e. threshold in anticipation of future increases in the organic biodegradable load collected within the waste water works. Such areas are included in Appendix A.

⁵⁸ The quality standards are mandatory for urban areas >2,000 p.e. discharging to freshwater or estuaries and >10,000 p.e. discharging to coastal waters. In the case of smaller urban areas below the Directive thresholds the EPA applied the standards as an indicator guide to assess the performance of the waste water works.

⁵⁹ Secondary treatment is mandatory for urban areas >2,000 p.e. discharging to freshwater or estuaries and >10,000 p.e. discharging to coastal waters. Smaller urban areas below these thresholds require appropriate treatment, which means treatment by any process and/or disposal system which after discharge allows the receiving waters to meet relevant quality objectives and relevant provisions of European Directives.

Persistent failures: A tick mark indicates that at least half of the effluent samples from a plant with secondary treatment did not achieve all of the relevant quality standards in 2014. This is indicative of poor plant performance or overloading of the treatment plant.

Urban area (p.e.): An estimate by Irish Water / Uisce Éireann of the size of the urban area or the waste water load generated in the area.

WWTP (p.e.)⁶⁰: A measure of the organic biodegradable load / population equivalent that the waste water treatment plant was designed and constructed to deal with.

Level of treatment provided: The level of treatment that the waste water received prior to discharge.

No treatment – waste water was discharged without receiving any treatment.

Preliminary – a basic form of treatment typically designed to remove floating debris, oils, fats, grease, grit, rags and large solids from the raw waste water.

Primary – a physical process that involves the settling out and removal of a proportion of the suspended, generally organic, matter from the raw waste water and a consequential reduction in biochemical oxygen demand and total suspended solids.

Secondary – takes place after the primary treatment process and involves a biological process whereby organic matter in the waste water is broken down and consumed by microorganisms.

Secondary & P removal / Secondary & N removal / Secondary with N & P removal – in addition to secondary treatment, nutrients such as phosphorous (P) and/or nitrogen (N) are removed from the waste water in order to minimise the risk of eutrophication in waters receiving the final effluent.

UV. Ultraviolet disinfection was provided for the inactivation / destruction of pathogenic organisms.

Receiving water⁶⁰: The type of water body into which the waste water was discharged.

Sensitive area⁶⁰: A tick mark indicates that the primary discharge point is located within a designated sensitive area. The legislation identifying sensitive areas can be viewed in the [Urban Waste Water Treatment \(Amendment\) Regulations](#). Criteria for identifying sensitive areas (e.g. waters that are eutrophic or may become eutrophic unless protected) are set out in Annex II to the Directive.

Nutrient quality compliance: An assessment of compliance with the effluent quality standards for nutrients (phosphorus and/or nitrogen) at urban areas with a population equivalent above 10,000 discharging to designated sensitive areas. One or both nutrient parameters may apply, depending on the local situation.

Compliance with quality and sampling standards in the Directive is mandatory for all large urban areas; however the suspended solids requirement is optional. The **31** large urban areas that did not meet the standards for biochemical oxygen demand and chemical oxygen demand and, where applicable, total phosphorus and total nitrogen, are highlighted in red in this Appendix. The number of large urban areas where effluent quality or sampling was non-compliant decreased from 44 in 2012 and 38 in 2013.

The **57** areas with secondary treatment that did not meet the effluent quality standards but appear to have sufficient capacity (i.e. the generated load is within the reported capacity of the treatment plant) are highlighted in blue. Refer to section 3.2 of the report for further details.

⁶⁰ The information on the WWTP capacity and the receiving water presented in this report differs for some urban areas from that provided to the EPA in previous years and presented in previous reports. The information was provided by the water services authorities (city and county councils) in previous years and by Irish Water since 2014. The latest information is based on the best available information provided to the EPA by Irish Water.

County Carlow 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballon	D0247-01	Pass			419	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Borris	D0248-01	Pass			1,310	1,500	Secondary	River		
Carlow town	D0028-01	Pass			39,043	36,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Fenagh	D0246-01	Pass			478	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Hacketstown	D0243-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,478	600	Secondary	River		
Muinebheag & Leighlinbridge	D0090-01	Pass			10,483	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass ⁶¹
Mysal	D0390-01	Pass			175	800	Secondary & P removal	River		
Palatine	D0391-01	Pass			523	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Rathoe	D0240-01	Pass			370	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Rathvilly	D0237-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,306	600	Secondary	River		
Tullow	D0091-01	Fail	Quality		6,545	4,000	Secondary	River		

⁶¹ The agglomeration was reported above the 10,000 p.e. threshold for the first time in 2014 and the nutrient assessment is based on 9 samples.

County Cavan 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Arvagh	D0497-01	Pass			1,164	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Bailieborough	D0085-01	Pass			2,577	2,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballinagh	D0501-01	Fail	Quality		854	1,800	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballyconnell	D0253-01	Fail	Quality		1,388	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballyhaise	D0496-01	Fail	Quality		780	905	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballyjamesduff	D0256-01	Pass			1,930	2,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Belturbet	D0084-01	Pass			2,096	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Blacklion	D0498-01	Pass			390	990	Secondary & P removal	Lake		
Cavan	D0020-01	Pass			30,760	18,517	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Fail (Nitrogen)
Cootehill	D0082-01	Pass			5,090	2,756	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Killeshandra	D0499-01	Fail	Quality		1,121	1,000	Secondary & P removal	Lake		
Kilnaleck	D0500-01	Fail	Quality		1,256	950	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kingscourt	D0083-01	Fail	Quality		2,694	2,335	Secondary & P removal	River		
Mullagh	D0252-01	Fail	Quality		1,080	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Shercock	D0495-01	Pass			828	1,000	Secondary & P removal	Lake		
Virginia	D0255-01	Pass			2,363	2,000	Secondary & P removal	Lake		

County Clare 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballyvaughan	D0327-01	No secondary			800		No treatment	Coastal		
Clarecastle	D0322-01	No secondary			1,200		No treatment	Estuarine		
Corofin	D0434-01	Pass			920	1,725	Secondary & P removal	River		
Crusheen	D0424-01	Pass			665	1,000	Secondary	River		
Doonbeg	D0324-01	Pass			1,092	1,500	Secondary & UV	Coastal		
Ennis North	D0048-01	Pass			26,647	17,000	Secondary	River	✓	Pass
Ennis South	D0199-01	Pass			3,707	6,000	Secondary	River		
Ennistymon	D0081-01	Pass			2,050	2,100	Secondary	River		
Inagh	D0422-01	Pass			349	550	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kilkee	D0078-01	No secondary			5,770		No treatment	Coastal		
Kilkishen	D0420-01	Pass			409	750	Secondary & P removal	Lake		
Kilrush	D0075-01	No secondary			5,551		No treatment	Coastal		
Lahinch	D0080-01	Pass			3,900	8,400	Secondary	River		
Liscannor	D0430-01	No secondary			763		No treatment	Coastal		
Lisdoonvarna	D0077-01	Pass			1,835	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Milltown Malbay	D0321-01	Fail	Quality		1,908	1,360	Secondary	River		
Newmarket on Fergus	D0079-01	Pass			3,467	5,000	Secondary & P removal	Lake		
Quilty/Kilmurry/Ibrickane	D0536-01	Pass			1,109	1,350	Secondary & UV	Coastal		
Quin	D0318-01	Pass			1,100	740	Secondary	River		
Scarriff	D0319-01	Pass			1,102	1,397	Secondary & P removal	River		
Shannon Town	D0045-01	Fail	Quality	✓	26,740	12,500	Secondary	Estuarine		
Sixmilebridge	D0076-01	Pass			2,929	6,000	Secondary	River		
Tulla	D0320-01	Pass			1,000	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		

County Cork 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballincollig	D0049-01	Pass			27,697	25,000	Secondary & N removal	River		
Ballineen & Enniskeane	D0472-01	Fail	Quality	✓	734	350	Secondary	River		
Ballingeary	D0431-01	No secondary			658	200	Primary	River		
Ballyclough	D0441-01	Pass			202	800	Secondary	River		
Ballycotton	D0516-01	No secondary			900		No treatment	Coastal		
Ballydehob	D0467-01	No secondary			687	700	Primary	Coastal		
Ballygarvan	D0540-01	Fail	Quality		390	634	Secondary	River		
Ballyhooley	D0432-01	Fail	Quality	✓	594	750	Secondary	River	✓	
Ballymakeera	D0299-01	No secondary			1,600	1,400	Primary	River		
Baltimore	D0296-01	Pass			2,500	3,600	Secondary & UV	Estuarine		
Bandon	D0136-01	Pass			10,396	20,000	Secondary	River		
Banteer	D0448-01	Pass			611	700	Secondary	River		
Bantry	D0168-01	Pass			5,500	6,000	Secondary with N & P removal & UV	Coastal		
Belgooley	D0541-01	Fail ⁶²	Quality		1,500	1,000	Secondary & UV	River		
Blarney ⁶³	D0043-01	Pass			5,136	13,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Boherbue	D0437-01	Fail	No results		901	800	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Buttevant	D0303-01	Pass			1,117	3,150	Secondary & P removal	River		
Bweeng	D0438-01	Pass			370	500	Secondary & P removal	River		

⁶² Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

⁶³ The secondary discharge at Cloghroe was listed in previous annual assessments but is no longer included because waste water from Cloghroe has been diverted to Blarney WWTP since August 2013.

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Carrignavar	D0517-01	Fail	Quality	✓	278	300	Secondary	River		
Carrigwohill	D0044-01	Pass			7,380	12,000	Secondary	Estuarine	✓	
Castletelyons	D0449-01	Pass			307	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Castlemartyr	D0134-01	Pass			2,400	2,000	Secondary	River		
Castletownbere	D0297-01	No secondary			1,700		No treatment	Coastal		
Castletownroche	D0293-01	Pass			926	1,000	Secondary	River		
Castletownshend	D0468-01	No secondary			188		No treatment	Coastal		
Charleville	D0204-01	Pass			13,300	7,500	Secondary	River		
Churchtown	D0444-01	Pass			744	936	Secondary & UV	Ground		
Clonakilty	D0051-01	Fail	Quality		15,700	5,333	Secondary	Estuarine	✓ ⁶⁴	
Clondulane	D0445-01	Fail ⁶⁵	Quality	✓	434	900	Secondary	River		
Cloughduv	D0330-01	Pass			254	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Cloyne	D0298-01	Pass			1,099	1,800	Secondary	River		
Coachford	D0427-01	No secondary			990	402	Primary	Lake		
Cobh	D0054-01	No secondary			14,400		No treatment	Coastal		
Conna	D0439-01	Fail	Quality	✓	728	800	Secondary	River		
Cork City	D0033-01	Pass			312,640	413,200	Secondary	Estuarine	✓	Fail (Nitrogen)
Courtmacsherry ⁶⁶	D0294-01	No secondary			1,450	500	Primary	Estuarine		
Doneraile	D0300-01	Pass			2,543	1,680	Secondary & P removal	River		
Drimoleague	D0470-01	Fail	Quality		332	500	Secondary	River		
Dripsey	D0426-01	Pass			375	600	Secondary	River		

⁶⁴ Designated as a sensitive area by the Urban Waste Water Treatment (Amendment) Regulations 2010. Nutrient reduction required by 22nd December 2016.

⁶⁵ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

⁶⁶ The waste water discharge licence application for Courtmacsherry has been withdrawn but the urban area is included in this report because it is above the licensing threshold and Irish Water is to submit a revised licence application.

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Dromahane	D0302-01	Pass			941	1,000	Secondary	River		
Dunmanway	D0160-01	Pass			2,174	3,500	Secondary	River		
Fermoy	D0058-01	Pass ⁶⁷			18,608	11,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Glanworth	D0450-01	Fail	Quality	✓	456	800	Secondary	River		
Glengariff	D0471-01	No secondary			900	1,000	Primary	Coastal		
Glenville	D0515-01	Fail	Quality	✓	488	300	Secondary	River		
Innishannon	D0429-01	No secondary			1,064	364	Primary	River	✓	
Kanturk	D0203-01	Pass			4,864	3,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kilbrittan	D0425-01	Pass			630	800	Secondary	River		
Kildorrery	D0442-01	Pass			467	850	Secondary	River		
Killavullen	D0447-01	Pass			443	1,000	Secondary	River		
Killeagh	D0301-01	Pass			808	1,000	Secondary	River		
Killeens	D0329-01	Fail ⁶⁸	Quality		763	1,200	Secondary	River		
Kilworth	D0334-01	Pass			1,152	2,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kinsale	D0132-01	Pass			7,414	9,800	Secondary with N & P removal & UV	Estuarine	✓	
Ladysbridge	D0328-01	Pass			218	1,000	Secondary	River		
Macroom	D0126-01	Fail ⁶⁸	Quality		7,518	5,230	Secondary	River		
Mallow	D0052-01	Pass			18,019	10,500	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Midleton	D0056-01	Pass			14,244	15,000	Secondary, N removal & UV	Coastal	✓	Pass
Millstreet	D0332-01	Pass			3,388	1,600	Secondary	River		
Mitchelstown	D0202-01	Pass			7,878	6,000	Secondary & P removal	River		

⁶⁷ There is also a separate secondary discharge from Fermoy which releases combined trade effluent and cooling water discharges from two private industries directly to the receiving waters. This did not meet the effluent quality standards in 2014.

⁶⁸ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Newmarket	D0333-01	Pass			2,414	1,600	Secondary	River		
North Cobh	D0140-01	Pass			2,436	4,000	Secondary & P removal	Coastal	✓	
Passage-Monkstown	D0129-01	No secondary			9,120		No treatment	Estuarine	✓	
Rathcormac	D0200-01	Fail	Quality		2,602	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ringaskiddy Village	D0436-01	No secondary			942		Preliminary	Coastal		
Ringaskiddy-Crosshaven-Carrigaline	D0057-01	No secondary			116,982		Preliminary	Coastal		
Riverstick	D0433-01	Fail	Quality	✓	484	450	Secondary & P removal	River		
Rosscarbery-Owenahincha	D0172-01	No secondary			4,051	5,239	Primary	Coastal		
Schull	D0295-01	Pass			2,500	3,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Skibbereen	D0166-01	Pass			4,600	4,700	Secondary & N removal	Estuarine		
Union Hall	D0469-01	No secondary			772	400	Primary	Estuarine		
Watergrasshill	D0201-01	Pass			1,236	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Whitegate-Aghada	D0423-01	No secondary			1,973		No treatment	Coastal		
Youghal	D0139-01	No secondary			15,000		No treatment	Estuarine	✓	Fail (Nitrogen)

Timoleague was listed in previous annual assessments but is no longer included because the waste water discharge licence for this area has been withdrawn and Timoleague is to be combined with the Courtmacsherry agglomeration.

County Donegal 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ardara	D0512-01	Pass			807	2,350	Secondary	Estuarine		
Ballybofey-Stranorlar	D0120-01	Pass			5,532	4,000	Secondary	River		
Ballyliffen	D0351-01	Fail	Quality	✓	552	400	Secondary	River		
Ballyshannon	D0128-01	Pass			2,100	6,100	Secondary	Estuarine		
Bridgend	D0532-01	Fail	Quality	✓	763	260	Secondary	River		
Buncrana	D0125-01	No secondary			7,765	13,200	Primary	Coastal		
Bundoran	D0130-01	No secondary			13,034		Preliminary	Coastal		
Burnfoot	D0531-01	Fail	Quality	✓	307	180	Secondary	River		
Carndonagh	D0113-01	Pass			4,294	5,833	Secondary & UV	River		
Carrigart	D0523-01	No secondary			451	450	Primary	Estuarine		
Castletinn	D0514-01	No secondary			1,286	600	Primary	River		
Clonmany	D0533-01	Pass			696	450	Secondary	River		
Convoy	D0344-01	No secondary			2,584	1,050	Primary	River		
Creeslough	D0534-01	Fail ⁶⁹	Quality		627	350	Secondary	River		
Donegal Town	D0135-01	Pass			8,520	12,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
Downings	D0350-01	No secondary			2,080	1,000	Primary	Coastal		
Dunfanaghy-Portnablagh	D0211-01	No secondary			2,135	900	Primary	Coastal		
Dungloe	D0208-01	No secondary			1,454	1,200	Primary	River		
Fahan	D0535-01	No secondary			845	800	Primary	Coastal		
Falcarragh	D0343-01	No secondary			1,499		No treatment	Estuarine		
Glenties	D0210-01	No secondary			1,749	1,000	Primary	River		

⁶⁹ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Kilcar	D0520-01	No secondary			1,230		Preliminary	Coastal		
Killea	D0537-01	Fail	Quality	✓	682	800	Secondary	River		
Killybegs	D0011-01	No secondary			22,929		No treatment	Estuarine	✓	Fail
Killygordon	D0518-01	Pass			779	600	Secondary	River		
Kilmacrennan	D0513-01	Fail	Quality		731	500	Secondary	River		
Letterkenny	D0009-01	Pass			23,982	40,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
Lifford	D0352-01	No secondary			2,262	1,550	Primary	Estuarine		
Manorcunningham	D0519-01	Fail	Quality	✓	775	1,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
Milford	D0342-01	Fail ⁷⁰	Quality		883	920	Secondary	River		
Mountcharles	D0522-01	Fail	Quality	✓	829	380+80 ⁷¹	Secondary	River		
Moville	D0212-01	No secondary			1,753		No treatment	River		
Newtowncunningham	D0349-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,287	600	Secondary	River		
Ramelton	D0341-01	No secondary			1,754		No treatment	Estuarine		
Raphoe	D0209-01	Fail ⁷⁰	Quality		1,493	800	Secondary	River		
Rathmullan	D0345-01	No secondary			1,069		No treatment ⁷²	Coastal		
Rosstownlagh	D0539-01	Pass			688	1,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
St Johnston	D0538-01	No secondary			644		No treatment	River		

Dunkineely was listed in previous annual assessments but is no longer included because the waste water discharge licence for this area has been withdrawn.

⁷⁰ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

⁷¹ Waste water treatment at Mountcharles is split between 2 secondary treatment plants. Both plants failed to meet the effluent quality standards during 2014.

⁷² Rathmullan was previously reported to the EPA as having primary treatment. In 2015 Irish Water confirmed that waste water discharges from Rathmullan without treatment.

County Dublin 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Dublin City										
Greater Dublin (Ringsend)	D0034-01	Fail	Quality		2,124,000	1,640,000	Secondary & UV ⁷³	Estuarine	✓	Fail (Nitrogen & Phosphorus)
Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown										
Shanganagh	D0038-01	Pass			94,960	186,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Fingal										
Balbriggan-Skerries	D0023-01	Pass			38,810	70,000	Secondary & UV ⁷⁴	Coastal		
Malahide	D0021-01	Fail ⁷⁵	Quality		18,785	21,000	Secondary & UV	Estuarine		
Portrane	D0114-01	Pass			23,612	65,000	Secondary & UV	Coastal		
Rush	D0119-01	No secondary			7,800		No treatment	Coastal		
Swords	D0024-01	Pass			77,014	60,000	Secondary with N & P removal ⁷⁶	Estuarine	✓	Pass

⁷³ Waste water from a population equivalent of approximately 144 is discharged to coastal water without treatment through a secondary discharge point at Doldrum Bay. This discharge is not directly into a designated sensitive area and it is required to cease.

⁷⁴ Waste water from a population equivalent of approximately 840 receives primary treatment at Loughshinny prior to discharge to coastal water through a secondary discharge point. This discharge is required to cease.

⁷⁵ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

⁷⁶ Waste water from a population equivalent of approximately 768 receives secondary treatment at Toberburr prior to discharge to the Ward river through a secondary discharge point. This met the BOD, COD and TSS quality and sampling standards in 2014. This discharge is not directly into a designated sensitive area and it is required to cease.

County Galway 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Athenry	D0193-01	Fail	Quality		5,172	6,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballinasloe	D0032-01	Pass			12,100	13,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballygar	D0371-01	Fail	Quality	✓	744	360	Secondary	River		
Carraroe	D0388-01	No secondary			1,401		No treatment	Coastal		
Clifden	D0198-01	No secondary			3,109	1,875	Primary	Estuarine		
Dunmore	D0370-01	Pass			799	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Galway City	D0050-01	Pass			213,424	91,600	Secondary	Coastal		
Glenamaddy	D0379-01	No secondary			563	300	Primary	Lake / turfough		
Gort	D0195-01	Fail ⁷⁷	Quality		3,216	4,310	Secondary	River		
Headford	D0197-01	Pass			1,165	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kinvara	D0276-01	No secondary			698		No treatment	Estuarine		
Loughrea	D0194-01	Pass			6,236	9,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Mountbellew	D0219-01	Fail	Quality	✓	2,474	700	Secondary	River		
Moycullen	D0191-01	Pass			3,237	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Moylough	D0403-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,744	600	Secondary	River		
Oughterard	D0192-01	Fail	Quality		1,483	500	Secondary	River		
Portumna	D0196-01	Pass			2,870	3,100	Secondary & P removal	Lake	✓	
Spiddal	D0396-01	No secondary			482		No treatment	Coastal		
Tuam	D0031-01	Pass			21,400	24,834	Secondary & P removal	River		

Ahascragh, Clonbur, Eyrecourt and Letterfrack were listed in previous annual assessments but are no longer included because the waste water discharge licences for these areas have been withdrawn.

⁷⁷ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

County Kerry 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Abbeydorney	D0417-01	No secondary			566	350	Primary	River		
Ardfert	D0282-01	No secondary			1,100	450	Primary	River		
Ballybunion	D0183-01	Pass			3,760	8,180	Secondary	Estuarine	✓	
Ballyduff	D0418-01	No secondary			815	300	Primary	River		
Ballyheigue	D0186-01	Pass			3,186	4,234	Secondary, N removal & UV	Coastal		
Ballylongford	D0459-01	No secondary			750		No treatment	Estuarine		
Cahersiveen	D0181-01	Pass			2,770	5,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
Castlegregory	D0461-01	No secondary			1,021	300	Primary	Coastal		
Castleisland	D0180-01	Pass			4,966	6,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Dingle	D0185-01	Pass			5,500	12,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Fenit	D0284-01	No secondary			1,000	500	Primary	Coastal		
Fieries	D0460-01	Pass			632	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Glenbeigh	D0286-01	Pass			900	500	Secondary	River		
Kenmare	D0184-01	Pass			6,200	5,833	Secondary	Estuarine		
Killamey	D0037-01	Pass			41,836	54,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Killorglin	D0182-01	Pass			3,764	5,000	Secondary	River		
Knightstown	D0421-01	No secondary			1,000	800	Primary	Coastal		
Listowel	D0179-01	Pass			8,826	12,500	Secondary	River		
Lixnaw	D0462-01	No secondary			811	300	Primary	River		
Milltown	D0331-01	Fail ⁷⁸	Quality		1,510	3,500	Secondary	River		
Rathmore	D0419-01	Fail	Quality		592	1,750	Secondary	River		
Sneem	D0285-01	Pass			1,000	2,500	Secondary, P removal & UV	Estuarine		
Tarbert	D0283-01	No secondary			667	650	Primary	Estuarine		
Tralee	D0040-01	Pass			35,149	50,333	Secondary & UV	Estuarine	✓	Pass
Waterville	D0287-01	Pass			1,700	3,000	Secondary & UV	Coastal		

⁷⁸ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

County Kildare 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Allenwood	D0493-01	Pass			842	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Athy	D0003-01	Pass			13,800	15,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Ballymore Eustace	D0238-01	Fail	Quality		748	2,000	Secondary	River		
Castledermot	D0236-01	Pass			1,848	2,400	Secondary & P removal	River		
Coill Dubh	D0242-01	Pass			1,066	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Derrinturn	D0244-01	Pass			3,070	1,600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kildare Town	D0178-01	Pass			11,891	28,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kilmeague	D0233-01	Fail	Quality		812	700	Secondary	River		
Leixlip	D0004-02	Pass			100,309	80,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Monasterevin	D0177-01	Pass			2,531	9,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Osberstown (Upper Liffey Valley Scheme)	D0002-01	Pass			104,723	80,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Rathangan	D0175-01	Pass			2,779	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Robertstown	D0234-01	Pass			450	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		

County Kilkenny 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballyhale – Knocktopher	D0530-01	Pass			154	400	Secondary	River		
Ballyragget	D0337-01	Fail	Quality		802	1,920	Secondary	River		
Bennettsbridge	D0400-01	No secondary			812	724	Primary	River	✓	
Callan	D0159-01	Pass			3,070	4,000	Secondary	River		
Castletomer	D0149-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,620	2,500	Secondary	River		
Clogh-Moneenroe	D0340-01	Pass			715	1,740	Secondary	River		
Fiddown	D0528-01	No secondary			409	608	Primary	Estuarine	✓	
Freshford	D0526-01	No secondary			763	320	Primary	River		
Goresbridge	D0529-01	No secondary			402	400	Primary	River	✓	
Gowran	D0335-01	Pass			905	1,600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Graigueanamanagh	D0155-01	Pass			1,961	3,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Johnstown	D0401-01	No secondary			1,080	900	Primary	River		
Kilkenny City	D0018-01	Pass			51,988	107,650	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Kilmacow	D0525-01	Pass			747	2,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Mooncoin	D0145-01	Pass			1,187	2,800	Secondary & P removal	Estuarine	✓	
Paulstown	D0339-01	Pass			721	1,000	Secondary	River		
Piltown	D0157-01	Pass			3,224	1,500	Secondary	Estuarine		
Thomastown	D0151-01	Pass			7,218	7,500	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Urlingford	D0336-01	Fail	Quality		1,306	1,500	Secondary	River		

Stonyford was listed in previous annual assessments but is no longer included as the waste water discharge licence for this area has been withdrawn.

County Laois 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Abbeyleix	D0156-01	Pass ⁷⁹			1,672	4,000	Secondary	River		
Ballinakill	D0384-01	Pass			238	700	Secondary	River		
Ballylinan	D0291-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,431	2,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Ballyroan	D0385-01	Fail	Quality	✓	308	600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Borris-in-Ossory	D0290-01	Pass			854	1,000 + 626 ⁸⁰	Secondary	River		
Castletown	D0387-01	Fail	Quality		274	500	Secondary	River		
Clonaslee	D0386-01	Pass			564	1,200	Secondary	River		
Durrow	D0289-01	Fail	Quality	✓	934	500	Secondary	River		
Mountmellick	D0152-01	Pass			4,224	7,000	Secondary	River		
Mountrath	D0153-01	Fail ⁸¹	Quality		1,596	4,500	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Portarlinton	D0158-01	Fail ⁸²	Quality		9,266	13,000	Secondary	River	✓	
Portlaoise	D0001-01	Pass			32,474	39,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Rathdowney	D0288-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,411	1,000 + 500 ⁸³	Secondary	River		
Stradbally	D0292-01	Fail	Sample no.		1,348	2,000	Secondary	River		

⁷⁹ A new waste water treatment plant was provided during 2014. The annual compliance assessment is based on the aggregation of monitoring results from the old and new plants.

⁸⁰ Waste water treatment at Borris-in-Ossory is split between 2 secondary treatment plants. The larger plant, with a capacity of 1,000 p.e., also provides P removal. Both plants met the effluent standards during 2014.

⁸¹ A new waste water treatment was provided in October 2014. The annual compliance is based on the aggregation of monitoring results from the old and new plants. Effluent samples taken from the new plant in 2014 were compliant. The WWTP (p.e.) refers to the new plant.

⁸² Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

⁸³ Waste water treatment at Rathdowney is split between 2 secondary treatment plants. Both plants failed to meet the effluent quality standards during 2014.

County Leitrim 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballinamore	D0281-01	Pass			1,392	1,800	Secondary & P removal	River		
Carrick-on-Shannon	D0154-01	Pass			5,176	11,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Dromahair	D0279-01	Pass			1,171	2,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Drumshanbo	D0144-01	Fail	Quality		2,406	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kinlough	D0280-01	Pass			1,527	2,100	Secondary & P removal	River		
Leitrim Village	D0278-01	Pass			808	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Manorhamilton	D0150-01	Fail ⁸⁴	Quality		2,016	3,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Mohill	D0277-01	Fail	Quality		1,316	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		

⁸⁴ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

County Limerick 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Abbeyfeale	D0115-01	Pass			1,357	2,860	Secondary & P removal	River		
Adare	D0312-01	Fail	Quality		3,252	2,500	Secondary & P removal	Estuarine		
Askeaton	D0315-01	No secondary			1,048	550	Primary	Estuarine		
Athea	D0508-01	No secondary			162	263	Primary	River		
Ballingary	D0507-01	Pass			198	1,350	Secondary	River		
Bruff	D0313-01	Pass			977	2,140	Secondary & P removal	River		
Bruree	D0506-01	Fail	Quality		277	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Caherconlish	D0308-01	Pass			1,700	3,833	Secondary & P removal	River		
Cappamore	D0310-01	Fail ⁸⁵	Quality		672	1,534	Secondary & P removal	River		
Castletroy	D0019-01	Pass			28,094	29,477	Secondary & P removal	River		
Croom	D0307-01	Pass			1,093	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Doon	D0309-01	Fail	Quality		335	1,534	Secondary & P removal	River		
Dromcollagher	D0316-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,187	400	Secondary	River		
Foynes	D0502-01	No secondary			558	950	Primary	Estuarine		
Glin	D0504-01	No secondary			1,307	710	Primary	Estuarine		
Hospital	D0314-01	Fail	Quality	✓	892	500	Secondary	River		
Kilfinnane	D0305-01	Pass			1,317	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kilmallock	D0106-01	Pass			2,400	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Limerick City	D0013-01	Pass			280,451	130,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
Murroe	D0306-01	Pass			1,098	800	Secondary	River		
Newcastle West	D0108-01	Pass			6,179	9,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Oola	D0505-01	Pass			1,001	350	Secondary	River		

⁸⁵ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Pallasgreen	D0503-01	Fail ⁸⁶	Quality	✓	590	750	Secondary & P removal	River		
Pallaskeny	D0304-01	Fail	Quality & sample no. ⁸⁷		804	2,000	Secondary & P removal	Estuarine		
Rathkeale	D0112-01	Pass			1,222	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		

County Longford 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballymahon	D0096-01	Pass			2,036	2,125	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Drumlish	D0489-01	Pass			976	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Edgeworthstown	D0098-01	Pass			2,689	2,700	Secondary & P removal	River		
Granard	D0187-01	Pass			1,184	3,200	Secondary with N & P removal	Lake		
Longford	D0060-01	Pass			11,672	20,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Newtownforbes	D0317-01	Pass			970	1,800	Secondary	River	✓	

⁸⁶ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

⁸⁷ The sample number fail was for suspended solids only.

County Louth 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ardee	D0117-01	Pass			4,975	5,000	Secondary	River		
Blackrock	D0188-01	Pass			5,370	6,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
Carlingford	D0268-01	Pass			1,900	1,500	Secondary	Coastal		
Castlebellingham	D0269-01	Fail	Quality		1,115	1,700	Secondary	River		
Clogherhead	D0265-01	Pass			970	2,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Collon	D0261-01	Pass			888	1,200	Secondary	River		
Drogheda	D0041-01	Pass			66,049	101,600	Secondary	Estuarine	✓ ⁸⁸	
Dromiskin	D0264-01	Fail	Quality		867	2,100	Secondary	River		
Dundalk	D0053-01	Pass			43,642	179,107	Secondary	Estuarine	✓	Pass
Dunleer	D0111-01	Pass			2,264	4,344	Secondary	River		
Knockbridge	D0260-01	Pass			504	1,000	Secondary	River		
Louth Village	D0263-01	Pass			857	1,200	Secondary	River		
Tallanstown	D0270-01	Pass			818	1,000	Secondary	River		
Tullyallen	D0266-01	Fail	Quality		767	1,500	Secondary	River	✓	

⁸⁸ Designated as a sensitive area by the Urban Waste Water Treatment (Amendment) Regulations 2010. Nutrient reduction required by 22nd December 2016.

County Mayo 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Achill Island Central	D0072-01	Pass			4,378	4,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Achill Sound	D0511-01	Pass			394	1,200	Secondary	Coastal		
Balla	D0216-01	Fail	Quality		1,276	1,200	Secondary	River		
Ballina	D0016-01	Pass			20,094	25,000	Secondary & P removal	Estuarine		
Ballindine	D0355-01	Pass			376	732	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballinrobe	D0070-01	Pass			5,814	8,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballycastle	D0356-01	Pass			238	600	Secondary	River		
Ballyhaunis	D0069-01	Pass			4,294	4,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Bangor Erris	D0215-01	Pass			1,054	1,080	Secondary & P removal	River		
Belcarra	D0366-01	Fail	Quality		300	500	Secondary	River		
Belmullet	D0074-01	No secondary			1,202		No treatment	Coastal		
Castlebar	D0047-01	Pass			16,183	28,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Charlestown	D0214-01	Pass			1,070	1,200	Secondary	River		
Ciarmorris	D0071-01	Pass			4,909	5,333	Secondary & P removal	River		
Cong	D0066-01	Fail ⁸⁹	Quality		539	2,026	Secondary & P removal	Lake		
Crossmolina	D0073-01	Pass			666	3,150	Secondary & P removal	River		
Doogort	D0367-01	Fail	Quality		589	700	Secondary	Coastal		
Foxford	D0213-01	Fail	Quality		3,360	1,300	Secondary	River		
Kilkelly	D0357-01	Pass			958	900	Secondary	River		
Killala	D0067-01	No secondary			1,275		No treatment	Coastal		
Kilmaine	D0361-01	Fail	Quality		140	800	Secondary	River		

⁸⁹ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Kiltimagh	D0217-01	Pass			1,493	3,333	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Knock	D0065-01	Pass			1,240	6,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Lahardane	D0380-01	Fail	Quality	✓	551	500	Secondary	River		
Louisborough	D0220-01	Pass			752	1,000	Secondary	River		
Mallaranny	D0218-01	Pass			276	1,017	Secondary	Coastal		
Newport	D0224-01	No secondary			1,470	1,287	Primary	Estuarine		
Shrule	D0359-01	Pass			271	600	Secondary	River		
Swinford	D0068-01	Pass			3,500	6,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Westport	D0055-01	Fail	Sample no.		14,600	15,042	Secondary with N & P removal	Coastal		

Gweesalia was listed in previous annual assessments but is no longer included as the waste water discharge licence for this area has been withdrawn.

County Meath 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Athboy	D0124-01	Pass			2,131	5,800	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballivor	D0254-01	Pass			2,010	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Carlanstown	D0488-01	Pass			708	820	Secondary & P removal	River		
Donore	D0251-01	Pass			914	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Drumconrath	D0483-01	Pass			473	600	Secondary	River		
Duleek	D0133-01	Pass			4,979	7,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Dunshaughlin	D0138-01	Pass			5,607	12,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Enfield	D0131-01	Pass			7,108	3,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kells	D0127-01	Pass			7,559	8,000	Secondary	River		
Kentstown	D0479-01	Fail	Quality		1,229	600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kildalkey	D0486-01	Fail ⁹⁰	Quality		759	900	Secondary	River		
Kilmainhamwood	D0481-01	Pass			324	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Longwood	D0250-01	Pass			1,430	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Navan	D0059-01	Pass			32,707	50,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Nobber	D0487-01	Pass			619	600	Secondary	River		
Oldcastle	D0258-01	Pass			2,399	3,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Slane	D0257-01	Pass			1,629	2,250	Secondary	River	✓	
Stamullen	D0262-01	Fail	Quality		3,724	2,300	Secondary & P removal	River		
Summerhill	D0259-01	Pass			1,177	3,000	Secondary	River		
Trim	D0137-01	Pass			12,604	9,683	Secondary & P removal	River		

Crossakeel, Moynalty and Rathmolyon were listed in previous annual assessments but are no longer included as the waste water discharge licences for these areas have been withdrawn.

⁹⁰ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

County Monaghan 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballinode	D0435-01	Pass			606	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballybay	D0207-01	Pass			2,461	7,283	Secondary	River		
Carrickmacross	D0062-01	Pass			12,456	12,150	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Castleblayney	D0205-01	Pass			13,697	12,960	Secondary & P removal	Lake	✓	Pass
Clones	D0206-01	Pass			1,818	4,500	Secondary	River		
Ermvyle	D0346-01	Pass			1,126	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Glaslough	D0347-01	Pass			901	1,850	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Inniskeen	D0348-01	Pass			1,338	1,750	Secondary & P removal	River		
Knockaconny	D0463-01	Pass			422	1,000	Secondary	River	✓	
Monaghan	D0061-01	Pass			19,408	43,833	Secondary & P removal	River		
Newbliss	D0458-01	Pass			788	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Rockcorry	D0454-01	Pass			635	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Scotstown	D0494-01	Pass			1,397	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Smithboro	D0464-01	Pass			494	750	Secondary	River		

County Offaly 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballinagar	D0362-01	Pass			762	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Banagher	D0141-01	Pass			2,540	2,500	Secondary	River		
Birr	D0109-01	Fail ⁹¹	Quality		13,213	12,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Clara	D0142-01	Pass			3,785	9,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Cloghan	D0369-01	Pass			1,049	800	Secondary	River		
Daingean	D0226-01	Pass			679	1,200	Secondary	River		
Edenderry	D0110-01	Pass			7,372	9,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ferbane	D0147-01	Pass			1,627	3,184	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Kilcormac	D0225-01	Pass			1,564	2,000	Secondary	River		
Kinnity	D0363-01	Pass			332	750	Secondary	River		
Mucklagh	D0364-01	Pass			503	1,100	Secondary	River		
Rhode	D0227-01	Fail ⁹¹	Quality		398	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Shirone	D0365-01	Pass			646	1,000	Secondary	River		
Tullamore	D0039-01	Pass			24,055	45,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass

⁹¹ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

County Roscommon 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballaghderreen	D0123-01	Pass			2,472	2,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballyleague	D0229-01	Pass			882	3,200	Secondary	Lake	✓	
Boyle	D0121-01	Pass			3,594	6,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Castlereagh	D0118-01	Pass			3,385	4,590	Secondary & P removal	River		
Elphin	D0230-01	Pass			727	1,900	Secondary	River		
Frenchpark	D0376-01	Pass			224	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Hodson Bay	D0377-01	Pass			689	3,000	Secondary	Lake	✓	
Monksland	D0042-01	Pass			17,118	14,381	Secondary & P removal	River		
Roosky	D0408-01	Pass			574	2,600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Roscommon	D0116-01	Pass			6,989	9,550	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Strokestown	D0228-01	Pass			1,274	3,060	Secondary & P removal	River		
Tarmonbarry	D0524-01	Fail	Quality & sample no.		299	1,350	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	

Ballinlough was listed in previous annual assessments but is no longer included as the waste water discharge licence for this area has been withdrawn.

County Sligo 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballymote	D0094-01	Pass			2,354	3,000	Secondary	River		
Ballysadare	D0095-01	Pass			2,332	4,500	Secondary	Estuarine		
Cliffoney	D0394-01	Fail	Quality		600	800	Secondary	River		
Collooney	D0093-01	Pass			1,286	1,400	Secondary	River		
Coolaney	D0392-01	Pass			1,011	2,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Easkey	D0373-01	Pass			486	500	Secondary	River		
Enniscrone	D0102-01	Pass			3,125	5,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Grange	D0381-01	Fail	Quality	✓	1,285	280	Secondary	River		
Mullaghmore	D0239-01	No secondary			617	320	Primary	Coastal		
Rosses Point ⁹²	D0249-01	No secondary			1,679	1,500	Primary	Coastal		
Sligo	D0014-01	Pass			27,408	50,000	Secondary, P removal & UV	Coastal		
Strandhill	D0107-01	Fail	Quality	✓	3,576	1,500	Secondary	Coastal		
Tubbercurry	D0092-01	Fail	Quality	✓	2,283	1,400	Secondary	River		

Carney, Gurteen and Riverstown were listed in previous annual assessments but are no longer included as the waste water discharge licences for these areas have been withdrawn.

⁹² The waste water discharge licence for Rosses Point was withdrawn because the waste water collection network is to be connected to the waste water works serving Sligo town. Rosses Point is included in this report because it is above the licensing threshold and was not connected to Sligo waste water treatment plant during 2014.

County Tipperary 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ardfinnan	D0311-01	Pass			778	1,100	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballina-Killaloe	D0189-01	Pass			3,475	4,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballyclerhan	D0455-01	Pass			880	2,000	Secondary, P removal & UV	River		
Borrisokane	D0326-01	Pass			1,396	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Borrisoleigh	D0323-01	Pass			1,208	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Cahir	D0167-01	Pass			4,811	5,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Cappawhite	D0440-01	Pass			174	1,750	Secondary & P removal	River		
Carrick-on-Suir	D0148-01	Pass			7,950	11,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	
Cashel	D0171-01	Pass			10,916	9,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Clogheen	D0453-01	Pass			577	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Clonmel	D0035-01	Pass			34,909	80,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Cloughjordan	D0475-01	Fail	Quality	✓	342	500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Fethard	D0164-01	Pass			6,679	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Holycross	D0478-01	Pass			846	600	Secondary	River	✓	
Killenaule	D0443-01	Pass			877	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kilsheelan	D0452-01	Pass			1,066	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Limerick Junction	D0457-01	Pass			245	500	Secondary	River		
Littleton	D0480-01	Pass			835	1,000	Secondary	River		
Mullinahone	D0456-01	Fail	Quality	✓	958	500	Secondary	River		
Nenagh	D0027-01	Pass			24,452	18,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Newport	D0325-01	Pass			1,983	1,900	Secondary	River		
Roscrea	D0025-01	Pass			12,811	26,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Fail (Nitrogen)
Templemore	D0190-01	Pass			1,811	6,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Thurles	D0026-01	Pass			11,585	15,000	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Tipperary	D0146-01	Pass			13,499	9,800	Secondary & P removal	River		
Twomileborris	D0474-01	Pass			806	800	Secondary	River		

County Waterford 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ardmore	D0162-01	No secondary			1,500		Preliminary	Coastal		
Cappoquin	D0272-01	No secondary			1,750	950	Primary	Estuarine	✓	
Dungarvan	D0017-01	Pass			24,564	25,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Dunmore East	D0170-01	No secondary			3,656		No treatment	Coastal		
Kilmacthomas	D0275-01	No secondary			1,500	600	Primary	River		
Lismore	D0176-01	Pass			2,240	2,161	Secondary	River		
Portlao	D0274-01	Pass (87%) No secondary (13%) ⁹³			2,070	1,750+270	See footnote 93	River	✓	
Ring – Helvick - Baile na nGall	D0358-01	Pass			900	1,600	Secondary	Coastal		
Stradbally	D0353-01	No secondary			800	240	Primary	Estuarine		
Tallow	D0273-01	No secondary			2,020	650+250	Primary ⁹⁴	River		
Tramore	D0015-01	Pass			16,000	20,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Waterford City	D0022-01	Pass			47,666	190,600	Secondary	Estuarine		

⁹³ Waste water treatment at Portlao is split between 2 plants and 13% of the load does not receive secondary treatment. The larger plant, which provides secondary treatment, met the effluent quality and sampling standards in 2014. The smaller plant, which caters for a population of approximately 270, provides primary treatment only and consequently the overall area does not meet all the effluent quality and treatment standards in the Directive.

⁹⁴ There is also a supplementary plant with secondary treatment at Tallow, which treats waste water from a population equivalent of approximately 300. The 5 effluent samples reported for this plant in 2014 met the effluent quality standards.

County Westmeath 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Athlone	D0007-01	Pass			21,155	30,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Ballymore	D0509-01	Pass			313	500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballynacarrigy	D0482-01	Pass			404	600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Castlepollard	D0105-01	Pass			1,193	6,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Cionmellon	D0271-01	Pass			484	1,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Collinstown	D0485-01	Fail	Quality		326	1,200	Secondary & P removal	River		
Delvin	D0267-01	Pass			235	1,250	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kilbeggan	D0103-01	Fail ⁹⁵	Quality		1,082	2,250	Secondary & P removal	River	✓	
Killucan	D0100-01	Fail ⁹⁵	Quality		737	2,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kinnegad	D0104-01	Fail ⁹⁵	Quality		5,213	4,800	Secondary & P removal	River		
Moate	D0097-01	Pass			2,390	5,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Mullingar	D0008-01	Pass			26,064	55,000	Secondary with N & P removal	River	✓	Pass
Multyfarnham	D0510-01	Pass			959	700	Secondary & P removal	River		
Rochfortbridge	D0101-01	Pass			1,658	4,500	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Tyrellspass	D0099-01	Pass			684	2,000	Secondary & P removal	River		

⁹⁵ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

County Wexford 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ballaghkeen	D0398-01	Fail	Quality ⁹⁶		741	500+150	Secondary & P removal	River		
Ballycanew	D0402-01	No secondary			672	100	Primary	River		
Ballymurn	D0407-01	Pass			792	600	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Blackwater	D0143-01	Pass			1,475	2,000	Secondary	River		
Bridgetown	D0231-01	Pass			552	2,000	Secondary with N & P removal	Estuarine		
Buncloody	D0163-01	Pass			2,312	6,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Camolin	D0405-01	No secondary			756	100+50	Primary	River		
Campile	D0409-01	No secondary			620	150	Primary	Estuarine		
Cionroche	D0404-01	Pass			780	650	Secondary	River		
Coolgreany	D0174-01	Pass			410	2,400	Secondary	River		
Courtown & Gorey	D0046-01	Pass			8,207	10,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Duncannon	D0245-01	No secondary			13,055	6,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Enniscorthy ⁹⁷ & Kilgoley	D0029-01	Pass	Quality		1,200		No treatment	Coastal		
		Fail			12,298	16,000	Secondary	Estuarine	✓	Pass
					2,107	1,000	Secondary	Estuarine	✓	Fail ⁹⁸ (Phosphorus & Nitrogen)

⁹⁶ Waste water treatment at Ballaghkeen is split between 2 plants with secondary treatment and P removal. The larger plant met the effluent quality and sampling standards during 2014. The quality fail at the smaller plant (based on 2 samples) was for suspended solids. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

⁹⁷ The discharges at Enniscorthy and Kilgoley are subject to a single waste water discharge licence. As Kilgoley failed the effluent quality standards the Enniscorthy/Kilgoley area taken as a whole is deemed to have failed the standards.

⁹⁸ The total area covered by licence number D0029-01 is greater than 10,000 p.e. and both discharges are to a sensitive area so both are required to meet the nutrient quality standards in the Directive.

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Ferns	D0169-01	Fail	Quality		1,800	2,200+50	Secondary & P removal ⁹⁹	River		
Fethard-on-Sea	D0241-01	No secondary			1,440	150	Primary	Estuarine		
Kilmore Quay	D0232-01	No secondary			1,558		No treatment	Coastal		
Kilmuckridge	D0161-01	Pass			1,848	2,000	Secondary	River		
New Ross	D0036-01	Pass			8,866	16,000	Secondary	Estuarine		
Rosslare Harbour	D0165-01	Pass			2,800	9,383	Secondary	Coastal		
Rosslare Strand	D0173-01	Fail	Quality		6,916	8,500	Secondary	Coastal		
Taghmon	D0389-01	Pass ¹⁰⁰			1,096	600	Secondary	River		
Tagoat	D0397-01	Pass			875	800	Secondary with N & P removal	River		
Wexford Town	D0030-01	Pass			25,616	45,000	Secondary with N & P removal & UV	Estuarine	✓	Fail (Nitrogen) ¹⁰¹

Castlebridge and Piercetown were listed in previous assessments but are no longer included as the discharges ceased permanently in 2014 and waste water from these catchments is now conveyed to Wexford Town for treatment.

⁹⁹ Waste water treatment at Ferns is split between 2 plants. The larger plant, with secondary treatment and P removal, failed the effluent quality standards in 2014. The smaller plant, which caters for a population of approximately 360, provides primary treatment only.

¹⁰⁰ The waste water discharge licence does not require effluent monitoring as the discharge is required to cease and waste water from Taghmon is to be connected to Wexford Town. The compliance assessment is based on 1 sample. Pumping of waste water from Taghmon to Wexford Town commenced in February 2015.

¹⁰¹ The fail is due to a very high concentration of nitrogen in 1 of the 12 samples.

County Wicklow 2014

Urban area	Reg. No.	BOD, COD, TSS compliance	Reason for failure	Persistent failures	Urban area (p.e.)	WWTP (p.e.)	Level of treatment provided	Receiving water	Sensitive area	Nutrient quality compliance
Arklow	D0006-01	No secondary			16,261		No treatment	River		
Aughrim	D0222-01	Fail	Quality		1,139	1,200	Secondary	River		
Avoca	D0411-01	No secondary			1,694		No treatment ¹⁰²	River		
Ballinaclash	D0412-01	Fail ¹⁰³	Quality		61	600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Balinglass	D0089-01	Pass			2,490	3,000	Secondary	River		
Blessington	D0063-01	Pass			6,913	6,000	Secondary & P removal	Lake		
Canew	D0064-01	Pass			1,294	2,400	Secondary	River		
Dunlavin	D0476-01	Fail	Quality		934	600+200 ¹⁰⁴	Secondary	River		
Enniskerry	D0088-01	Pass			4,510	6,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Greystones	D0010-01	Pass			36,205	40,000	Secondary	Coastal		
Kilcoole	D0087-01	Pass			2,801	3,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Kilpedder	D0416-01	Fail	Quality		524	600	Secondary	River		
Laragh	D0415-01	Fail	Quality		1,082	1,000	Secondary & P removal	River		
Newcastle	D0410-01	Pass			624	800	Secondary	River		
Rathdrum	D0086-01	Pass			2,700	3,500	Secondary & P removal	River		
Redcross	D0414-01	Pass			722	800	Secondary & P removal	River		
Roundwood	D0223-01	Pass			1,550	1,600	Secondary & P removal	River		
Tinahely	D0221-01	Pass			1,021	1,200	Secondary	River		
Wicklow	D0012-01	Pass			26,526	34,000	Secondary	Coastal		

¹⁰² Avoca was previously reported to the EPA as having primary treatment. In 2015 Irish Water confirmed that waste water discharges from Avoca without treatment.

¹⁰³ Fail for suspended solids only. The Directive sets a limit for this parameter but notes that the requirement is optional.

¹⁰⁴ Waste water treatment at Dunlavin is split between 2 secondary treatment plants. Both plants failed to meet the effluent quality standards during 2014, and the smaller plant persistently failed the standards.

Appendix B: Compliance with nutrient quality standards in the Directive.

The following table shows compliance in 2014 with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive's effluent quality standards for nutrients in waste water discharged to sensitive areas from towns and cities with a population equivalent of over 10,000 p.e. An urban area is deemed to fail the Directive's requirements if the annual mean concentration of a given nutrient (phosphorus or nitrogen) in the effluent exceeds the allowable concentration in the Directive.

County	Urban area	Reg. No.	Phosphorus compliance in 2014	Reason for fail	Nitrogen compliance in 2014	Reason for fail
Carlow	Carlow town	D0028-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Carlow	Muinebheag / Leighlinbridge	D0090-01	Pass ¹⁰⁶		Refer to note 105	
Cavan	Cavan	D0020-01	Pass		Fail	Quality
Clare	Ennis North	D0048-01	Pass		Pass	
Cork	Cork City	D0033-01	Refer to note 105		Fail	Quality
Cork	Fermoy	D0058-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Cork	Mallow	D0052-01	Pass		Pass	
Cork	Midleton	D0056-01	Refer to note 105		Pass	
Cork	Youghal	D0139-01	Refer to note 105		Fail	No results ¹⁰⁷
Donegal	Killybegs ¹⁰⁸	D0011-01	Fail	Quality	Fail	Quality
Dublin	Greater Dublin	D0034-01	Fail	Quality	Fail	Quality
Fingal	Swords	D0024-01	Pass		Pass	
Kerry	Tralee	D0040-01	Pass		Pass	
Kildare	Athy	D0003-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Kildare	Leixlip	D0004-02	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Kildare	Osberstown	D0002-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Kilkenny	Kilkenny City	D0018-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Laois	Portlaoise	D0001-01	Pass		Pass	
Longford	Longford	D0060-01	Pass		Pass	
Louth	Dundalk	D0053-01	Pass		Pass	
Mayo	Castlebar	D0047-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	

¹⁰⁵ In accordance with [S.I. No. 48 of 2010](#), and taking into account the local situation, the EPA determined that this parameter does not apply.

¹⁰⁶ A minimum of 12 results is required by the Directive however the compliance assessment is based on 9 results because it was not identified by Irish Water until year end that the area exceeded the 10,000 p.e. threshold for the first time during 2014.

¹⁰⁷ No results submitted however as no treatment is provided at Youghal it cannot meet the quality standard for nitrogen.

¹⁰⁸ Pending a determination by the EPA on the appropriate nutrient parameter(s) that shall apply a precautionary approach is taken whereby both are assumed to apply on a provisional basis.

County	Urban area	Reg. No.	Phosphorus compliance in 2014	Reason for fail	Nitrogen compliance in 2014	Reason for fail
Meath	Navan	D0059-01	Pass		Pass	
Monaghan	Carrickmacross	D0062-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Monaghan	Castleblaney	D0205-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Offaly	Tullamore	D0039-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Tipperary	Clonmel	D0035-01	Pass		Pass	
Tipperary	Nenagh	D0027-01	Pass		Pass	
Tipperary	Roscrea	D0025-01	Pass		Fail	Quality
Tipperary	Thurles	D0026-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Westmeath	Athlone	D0007-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Westmeath	Mullingar	D0008-01	Pass		Refer to note 105	
Wexford	Enniscorthy ¹⁰⁹	D0029-01	Fail	Quality	Fail	Quality
Wexford	Wexford town	D0030-01	Pass		Fail ¹¹⁰	Quality

Carrigtwohill was subject to the nutrient requirements of the Directive in 2013 but it dropped below the 10,000 p.e. threshold in 2014 and therefore it is not included in the assessment above as the nutrient requirements did not apply in 2014.

The following areas were reported below the 10,000 p.e. threshold in 2013 and above the 10,000 p.e. threshold in 2014: Muinebheag/Leighlinbridge, Fermoy, Mallow, Youghal, Longford, Carrickmacross, Castleblaney and Thurles.

¹⁰⁹ Waste water treatment at Enniscorthy is split between two treatment plants which both discharge to a sensitive area. The primary discharge met the effluent quality standards for phosphorus and nitrogen but the secondary discharge, which accounts for almost 15% of the total waste water load, failed both the phosphorus and nitrogen quality standards.

¹¹⁰ The fail is due to a very high concentration of nitrogen in 1 of the 12 samples.

Appendix C: Summary of waste water treatment by county in 2014.

County	No. of urban areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme	No. of large areas non-compliant with the mandatory BOD, COD or nutrient standards in the Directive ¹¹¹	No. of areas with no treatment or preliminary treatment only ¹¹²	No. of areas with secondary treatment that did not meet all the BOD, COD & TSS standards ¹¹³
Carlow	11	1 of 3 33%	0	3 of 11 27%
Cavan	16	2 of 6 33%	0	7 of 16 44%
Clare	23	1 of 7 14%	5	2 of 18 11%
Cork	74	7 of 26 27%	9 + 2	16 of 56 29%
Donegal	38	4 of 9 44%	8 + 3	11 of 20 55%
Dublin	7	1 of 6 17%	1	2 of 6 33%
Galway	19	3 of 10 30%	3 + 2	6 of 14 43%
Kerry	25	0 of 8 0%	1	2 of 16 12%
Kildare	13	0 of 7 0%	0	2 of 13 15%
Kilkenny	19	0 of 4 0%	0	3 of 14 21%
Laois	14	0 of 3 0%	0	8 of 14 57%
Leitrim	8	1 of 3 33%	0	3 of 8 37%
Limerick	25	1 of 5 20%	0	8 of 21 38%
Longford	6	0 of 3 0%	0	0 of 6 0%
Louth	14	0 of 5 0%	0 + 1	3 of 14 21%
Mayo	30	2 of 8 25%	2	8 of 27 30%
Meath	20	1 of 10 10%	0	3 of 20 15%
Monaghan	14	0 of 4 0%	0	0 of 14 0%
Offaly	14	0 of 5 0%	0	2 of 14 14%
Roscommon	12	0 of 5 0%	0	1 of 12 8%
Sligo	13	1 of 4 25%	0	4 of 11 36%
Tipperary	26	1 of 10 10%	0	2 of 26 8%
Waterford	12	2 of 6 33%	2	1 ¹¹⁴ of 6 17%
Westmeath	15	0 of 4 0%	0	4 of 15 27%
Wexford	23	2 of 5 40%	2 + 2	4 ¹¹⁵ of 17 24%
Wicklow	19	1 of 8 12%	2	5 of 17 29%
Total	510	31 of 174	35 + 10	110 of 426

¹¹¹ Refers to the 174 large urban areas that are above the threshold for the mandatory provision of secondary treatment. The first figure is the number of non-compliant large urban areas, the second figure is the total number of large urban areas in the county and the third figure is the percentage of large urban areas in the county that did not comply with the mandatory effluent quality and/or sampling requirements of the Directive.

¹¹² The first figure is the number of areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme with no treatment or preliminary treatment only. Where a second figure is listed this is the number of small areas, outside the scope of the waste water discharge licensing programme (i.e. < 500p.e.), with no treatment or preliminary treatment only.

¹¹³ Refers to all areas subject to the waste water discharge licensing programme that have secondary treatment.

¹¹⁴ The main discharge achieved the effluent quality standards but a smaller (secondary) discharge only received primary treatment and therefore did not meet the effluent quality standards.

¹¹⁵ Includes 2 areas where the main discharge met the standards but the smaller (secondary) discharge did not meet the standards.

Appendix D. Areas with no treatment or preliminary treatment only.

7 large urban areas where waste water received no treatment or preliminary treatment only in 2014¹¹⁶.

County / Region	Urban area	Licence number
Cork	Cobh	D0054-01
Cork	Passage West / Monkstown	D0129-01
Cork	Ringaskiddy/Crosshaven/Carrigaline	D0057-01
Cork	Youghal	D0139-01
Donegal	Bundoran	D0130-01
Donegal	Killybegs	D0011-01
Wicklow	Arklow	D0006-01

There is also an untreated secondary discharge of approximately 144 p.e. from the Ringsend agglomeration (D0034-01) at Howth.

28 smaller urban areas where waste water received no treatment or preliminary treatment only in 2014¹¹⁷.

County / Region	Urban area	Licence number
Clare	Ballyvaughan	D0327-01
Clare	Clarecastle	D0322-01
Clare	Kilkee	D0078-01
Clare	Kilrush	D0075-01
Clare	Liscannor	D0430-01
Cork	Ballycotton	D0516-01
Cork	Castletownbere	D0297-01
Cork	Castletownshend	D0468-01
Cork	Ringaskiddy Village	D0436-01
Cork	Whitegate/Aghada	D0423-01
Donegal	Falcarragh	D0343-01
Donegal	Kilcar	D0520-01
Donegal	Moville	D0212-01
Donegal	Ramelton	D0341-01
Donegal	Rathmullan ¹¹⁸	D0345-01
Donegal	St Johnston	D0538-01
Dublin / Fingal	Rush	D0119-01
Galway	Carraroe	D0388-01
Galway	Kinvara	D0276-01

¹¹⁶ Large urban areas are those above the EU Directive thresholds for the mandatory provision of secondary treatment, i.e. 2,000 p.e. for discharges to freshwater and estuaries, 10,000 p.e. for discharges to coastal waters.

¹¹⁷ Smaller urban areas in the size range 500 p.e. (the lower size threshold for a waste water discharge licence) up to the EU Directive thresholds outlined in the previous footnote.

¹¹⁸ Rathmullan was previously reported to the EPA as receiving primary treatment.

County / Region	Urban area	Licence number
Galway	Spiddal	D0396-01
Kerry	Ballylongford	D0459-01
Mayo	Belmullet	D0074-01
Mayo	Killala	D0067-01
Waterford	Ardmore	D0162-01
Waterford	Dunmore East	D0170-01
Wexford	Duncannon	D0245-01
Wexford	Kilmore Quay	D0232-01
Wicklow	Avoca ¹¹⁹	D0411-01

10 areas with a population equivalent below 500 where waste water is discharged with no treatment or preliminary treatment only¹²⁰.

County	Town / village	Certificate number
Cork	Inchigeelagh	A0349-01
Donegal	Burtonport	A0446-01
Donegal	Coolatee Housing Scheme	A0525-01
Donegal	Kerrykeel	A0445-01
Galway	Roundstone	A0115-01
Louth	Omeath	A0072-01
Wexford	Arthurstown	A0243-01
Wexford	Ballyhack	A0242-01
Cork	Timoleague	N/A
Galway	Ahascragh	N/A

Raw sewage was also discharged from the village of Kilmacsimon, Co. Cork during 2014 however Irish Water has confirmed that this has been addressed and waste water generated in the area now receives treatment prior to discharge.

Waste water discharge licence applications for Timoleague and Ahascragh were withdrawn in 2015. Irish Water is due to apply for a certificate of authorisation for Ahascragh. Waste water from Timoleague is to be connected to Courtmacsherry and Irish Water is due to apply for a waste water discharge licence for Courtmacsherry/Timoleague.

¹¹⁹ Avoca was previously reported to the EPA as receiving primary treatment.

¹²⁰ These areas are below the threshold for a waste water discharge licence. A certificate of authorisation is required for discharges from areas with a population equivalent of less than 500.

Appendix E: EPA monitoring.

Urban areas where effluent samples taken by the EPA in 2014 did not comply with the allowable limits in the waste water discharge licence.

County	Urban Area	BOD	COD	SS	NH ₃	TP	Ortho P	TN
Carlow	Muinebheag	✓	✓	✓				
Clare	Doonbeg				✓			
Clare	Ennis North				✓			
Clare	Ennistymon					✓		
Clare	Lahinch	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Clare	Lisdoonvarna						✓	
Cork	Banteer				✓			
Cork	Blarney					✓		
Cork	Carrignavar	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Cork	Castlelyons						✓	
Cork	Charleville				✓			
Cork	Clondulane						✓	
Cork	Cloughduv						✓	
Cork	Cloyne							✓
Cork	Cork City							✓
Cork	Conna				✓			
Cork	Dromahane						✓	
Cork	Dunmanway				✓			
Cork	Glanworth				✓		✓	
Cork	Kanturk				✓			
Cork	Kildorrery						✓	
Cork	Killeens						✓	
Cork	Mitchelstown				✓			
Cork	Watergrasshill				✓	✓	✓	
Donegal	Clonmany				✓			
Donegal	Killea	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Donegal	Kilmacrennan Visit 1	✓						
Donegal	Kilmacrennan Visit 2	✓		✓				
Galway	Athenry Visit 1						✓	
Galway	Athenry Visit 2				✓			
Galway	Tuam						✓	✓
Kerry	Tralee				✓			
Kildare	Ballymore Eustace					✓	✓	
Kildare	Kilmeague	✓		✓				
Kilkenny	Ballyragget				✓			
Kilkenny	Ullingford				✓		✓	
Laois	Ballinakill						✓	
Laois	Borris in Ossory SW001						✓	
Laois	Borris in Ossory SW002						✓	
Laois	Castletown				✓			

County	Urban Area	BOD	COD	SS	NH ₃	TP	Ortho P	TN
Leitrim	Carrick on Shannon					✓		
Leitrim	Drumshanbo						✓	
Limerick	Adare				✓			✓
Limerick	Dromcollagher		✓					
Limerick	Newcastle West						✓	
Limerick	Oola				✓			
Limerick	Pallasgreen						✓	
Louth	Drogheda				✓			✓
Mayo	Belcarra				✓			
Mayo	Lahardane	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Meath	Carlanstown				✓			
Meath	Drumconrath				✓			
Meath	Dunshaughlin					✓		
Meath	Kentstown				✓			
Meath	Nobber				✓			
Monaghan	Emyvale						✓	
Monaghan	Glaslough						✓	
Monaghan	Knockaconny						✓	
Monaghan	Rockcorry	✓			✓			
Monaghan	Smithborough						✓	
Roscommon	Castlereagh				✓			
Tipperary	Clonmel							✓
Tipperary	Cloughjordan				✓			
Tipperary	Mullinahone	✓			✓			
Tipperary	Nenagh							✓
Tipperary	Roscrea							✓
Westmeath	Collinstown				✓		✓	
Westmeath	Moate				✓			
Wexford	Ballymurn				✓		✓	
Wexford	Enniscorthy (Kilagoley)				✓	✓		✓
Wexford	Rosslare Strand	✓		✓	✓			
Wicklow	Blessington				✓			
Wicklow	Roundwood				✓			
Total		11	6	8	39	8	26	9
<i>The following samples were taken shortly before the licences were amended to provide for a standard, more stringent interpretation of emission limit values. The samples complied with the licence standards in place at the time of sampling but did not meet the revised standards introduced shortly after sampling.</i>								
Carlow	Rathoe				✓			
Mayo	Ballindine				✓			
Sligo	Ballymote				✓			
Wexford	Clonroche							✓
Wicklow	Ballinaclesh							✓
Wicklow	Enniskerry				✓			

Appendix F: Sewage sludge treated per county in 2014¹²¹.

County	Tonnes dry solids/year
Carlow	1,343.95 ¹²²
Cavan	1,637.91
Clare	719.52
Cork	4500.26
Donegal	529.70
Dublin	19,129.40
Galway	2,578.35
Kerry	960.91
Kildare	3,336.38
Kilkenny	1,003.50
Laois	766.00
Leitrim	268.60
Limerick	2,108.00
Longford	1,634.40
Louth	1,195.23
Mayo	1,249.39
Meath	1,832.72
Monaghan	833.42
Offaly	462.67
Roscommon	645.70
Sligo	431.09
Tipperary	1,692.44
Waterford	1,036.38
Westmeath	1,214.51
Wexford	1,303.60
Wicklow	1,129.44
Total	53,543.47

¹²¹ Where sludge generated in one county was transported to another county for treatment, the sludge is reported for the receiving county.

¹²² Includes sludge imports from counties Offaly and Wexford.

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ó éifeachtaí díobhálacha na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

Rialú: *Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maithe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.*

Eolas: *Soláthraímid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírthe agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.*

Tacaíocht: *Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maith, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.*

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

- Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:
- saoráidí dramhaíola (m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta);
- an dionalmhaíocht (m.sh. muca, éanlaith);
- úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (OGM);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitiril;
- scardadh dramhuisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdarais áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhíríú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúcháin.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a idíonn an ciseal ózóin.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uisce idirchriosacha agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuisce; leibhéil uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairisciú ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus na n-údarás áitiúil (m.sh. tuairisciú tréimhsiúil ar staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí).

Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gáis ceaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainathint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (m.sh. mórfhleananna forbartha).

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil radaíochta, measúnacht a dhéanamh ar nochtadh mhuintir na hÉireann don radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taismí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, léarscáileanna radóin).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlacha a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an ghníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig Aeráide, Ceadúnaithe agus Úsáide Acmhainní
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Measúnú Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Cosaint Raideolaíoch
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



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