

National Inspection Plan 2015-2017

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

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

Licensing

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.

Water Management

- Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.
- National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.
- Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (*e.g. periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports*).

Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

Environmental Research and Development

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

Strategic Environmental Assessment

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

Radiological Protection

- 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.



Protecting Our Water and Our Health

National Inspection Plan 2015-2017

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

Environmental Protection Agency

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NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN 2015 - 2017
Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

2015

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Summary of 2015-2017 Plan

Plan Overview

- The aim of the Plan is to protect water and human health from risks posed by domestic waste water treatment systems.
- The Plan uses a two strand approach of awareness strategies and a risk based inspection strategy with inspections carried out by local authority inspectors (appointed by the EPA).
- The Plan covers the period to the 31st December 2017.
- Work carried out as part of Water Framework Directive (WFD) characterisation process and on-going EPA research projects will further determine the relative risk posed by domestic waste water treatment systems.

Engagement

- A national targeted engagement campaign will be progressed by the EPA in co-operation with the local authorities and other stakeholder groups to address the issues identified during the engagement and inspection processes.
- The EPA will oversee the implementation of the campaign by the local authorities.

Inspections

- A minimum of a 1,000 first time inspections will be carried out by local authority inspectors on an annual basis.
- An environmental risk-based methodology is used for the selection of the sites for inspections .
- The allocation of inspections is risk-based with twice as many inspections being carried out near sensitive waters.
- Shellfish protected areas are now included in the risk assessment for the first time.

Other Supports

- Three new regulator working groups will be established to ensure consistency across counties and to support local authorities on engagement; site selection; and enforcement policy.

Consultation

- The EPA invited submissions from all interested parties on the proposals up to the 3rd March 2015.
- All 77 submissions received have been considered in the development of this Plan.

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1. Background

Following public consultation, the EPA now publishes its second *National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2015-2017* covering the period to the end of December 2017.

The 2015-2017 Plan maintains a minimum allocation of 1,000 inspections per year, which is commensurate with the risk posed by domestic waste water treatment systems on a national scale. The Plan will be revised in 2017 unless significant new information becomes available in the intervening period, which warrants an earlier revision to the Plan.

The aim of the Plan is to protect water and human health from the risks posed by domestic waste water treatment systems (DWWTs) by using a two-strand approach of engagement strategies linked with a risk-based inspection process (Figure 1).



Figure 1: The building blocks of the Plan

It is the EPA's goal that all rural homeowners with domestic waste water treatment systems will know what to do to ensure their systems are well operated and maintained and act voluntarily to achieve this.

The engagement strategy and DWWTs inspections (Figure 2) intend to ensure that:

- Appropriate treatment of domestic waste water is in place;
- Treatment systems are adequately operated and maintained;
- Risks to human health and the environment are identified and managed;
- Public awareness is raised; and
- Information is available to owners of domestic waste water treatment systems regarding their responsibilities and how to operate and maintain their systems.

NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN FOR DOMESTIC WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS



Figure 2: The Aims and Objectives of the Plan

The National Inspection Plan addresses the requirements of Articles 4 and 8 of the Council Directive on Waste 75/422/ECC (C-188/08) and, in particular, provides for systematic periodic checks and inspections of domestic waste water treatment systems. It may also be seen as a measure under the 2000 Water Framework Directive (WFD), the aim of which is to protect/enhance all waters (surface, ground and coastal waters) and achieve "good status" for all waters.

Domestic waste water treatment systems located, constructed and installed in accordance with the best practice guidance provide adequate treatment and disposal of domestic waste water. There is a legal duty on the owner of a treatment system to ensure that their system does not, or is not likely to, constitute a risk to human health or the environment¹.

Failures in a system can result in waste water from private houses polluting watercourses and groundwater, as well as presenting a risk to human health through contamination of a drinking water source or ponding of sewage on the ground. The data from the first year's inspections showed that ponding was an issue at approximately 10% of inspected sites.

There are areas of the country where the potential environmental risk to waters (e.g. from nutrients) from treatment systems at a local level may be significant, for example, where there is a direct discharge to sensitive headwaters of a small stream or protected pearl mussel area. Private wells are also at risk from the pathogens in the waste water from the DWWTS.

Private wells in Ireland are at risk of contamination

A recent study found that *E.coli* was found in 29% of private wells, that only 40% of well owners had tested the well water and that 68% of the supplies had no form of treatment.

Did you know that drinking contaminated water can cause serious illness?

- **It is important that your well is constructed and sealed properly.**
- **Visually check your well to make sure there are no sources of contamination nearby.**
- **Test your well water once a year for microbial contamination, ideally after heavy rain.**

More information from <http://www.epa.ie/water/dw/hhinfo/>

The overall nutrient load from domestic waste water treatment systems to the environment on a national scale is relatively low in comparison to agricultural activities and urban waste water discharges. A recent EPA report² indicates that domestic waste water treatment systems only accounts for 1.6 % of the total suspected causes of pollution for South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) river stations, which are in an unsatisfactory condition.

¹ Article 70C(1)(b) of the *Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012*

² Integrated Water Quality – South East River Basin District 2013. EPA 2014

The most recent published OSPAR³ data on discharges (Figure 3) shows the relative nutrient loading from different sources. The term “Households not connected” is used to describe nutrient loadings from DWWTS. This research shows that DWWTS account for 2% of nitrogen discharges and 8% of phosphorous discharges.

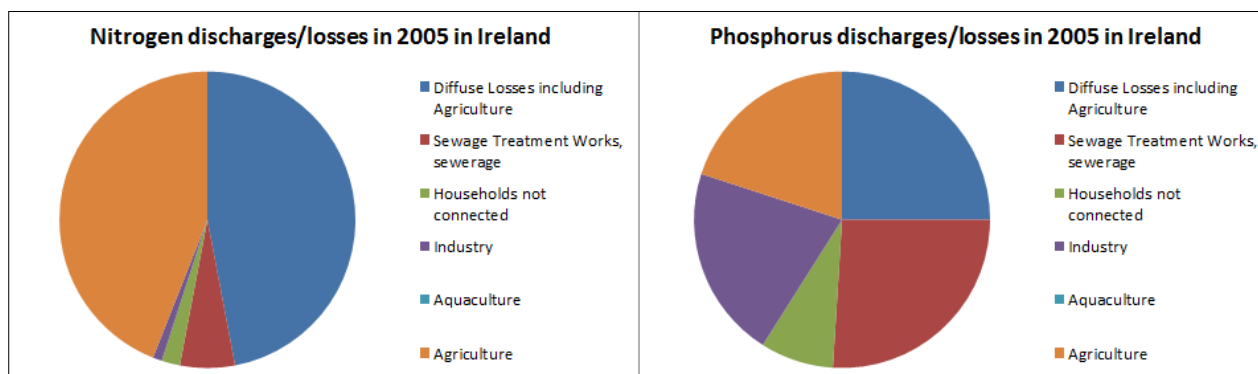


Figure 3: Contribution of the different anthropogenic sources in Ireland to the total losses and discharges of nutrients in 2005⁴

The EPA is currently developing a model which is building on OSPAR best practice for calculating up-to-date nutrient loads for use at sub-catchment scale. The main improvements include incorporating local ground conditions, along with updating the nutrient loading data and calculation methods for all sectors. This is required to make the results useful at catchment management level, and will help to determine more direct targeting of inspections for future cycles of the Plan. A research project ‘*Impact of domestic wastewater treatment systems on rivers and wells*’ (2012-W-MS-12) will also assist in the determining of the impacts of DWWTS on water quality.

1.2. Roles and Responsibilities

Homeowners

The *Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012* places general duties on owners of premises connected to a domestic waste water treatment system to ensure that their treatment system is operated and maintained properly so that it does not pose a risk to human health or the environment. Owners must comply with the advisory notice if their system fails an inspection. Owners of homes that are not connected to the public sewer are required to register their treatment system with ‘*Protect Our Water*’ which is the registration service operated on behalf of local authorities. There is no penalty for late payment and homeowners may register by going to www.protectourwater.ie and paying the €50.00 registration fee.

³ OSPAR so named after the Oslo and Paris Conventions

⁴ OSPAR Commission 2008, Nutrients in the Convention Area – Assessment of implementation of PARCOM Recommendations 88/2 and 89/4.

Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012

70C. —(1) The owner of a premises connected to a domestic waste water treatment system shall—

(a) Comply with regulations made under section 70L,

(b) Ensure that the system does not constitute, and is not likely to constitute, a risk to human health or the environment, and, in particular does not—

(i) Create a risk to water, air or soil, or to plants and animals,

(ii) Create a nuisance through noise or odours, or

(iii) Adversely affect the countryside or places of special interest,

and

(c) Ensure that the system is entered on a register of domestic waste water treatment systems in accordance with section 70B.

Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG)

The Department sets national water policy and strategy and prepares environmental legislation.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA is responsible for the development of a National Inspection Plan and co-ordination and reporting on the implementation of the Plan by the local authorities.

The EPA appoints local authority inspectors; supervises the environmental functions such as the carrying out of engagement and inspection activities by the local authorities; and provides supports in terms of advice and guidance as well as providing workshops for local authority inspectors to share information.

The EPA is funding research projects to: help improve our understanding of the impact of waste water on human health and the environment; develop proposals for new treatment option; and inform the implementation of the engagement strategies in the Plan.

Local Authorities

Local authorities are responsible for the implementation of the Plan at a local level: their work involves the delivery of the engagement strategies in the Plan and carrying out inspections. This includes applying the criteria outlined by the EPA to select sites for inspection; carrying out the inspection; and undertaking follow up enforcement action. Local authorities also maintain a public register of treatment systems within their functional area.

1.3. Scope of the document

The period covered by the 2nd cycle of the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste water Treatment Systems is the 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2017.

[Proposals for the 2015-2017 Plan](#) were published and made available for public comment from the 3rd February to 3rd March 2015. 77 submissions were received.

The EPA invited several stakeholder groups to meetings to discuss the published proposals and meetings were held with the National Federation of Group Water Schemes (NFGWS), the Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association (ICMSA), Environmental Pillar's Environmental Law Implementation Group (ELIG), and the Sustainable Water Network (SWAN). A separate report outlining the main issues detailed in submissions received during the consultation period and the EPA response to them has been published on the EPA website. Several of the submissions raised issues outside the remit of the EPA in developing the Plan. These issues will be forwarded to the relevant authorities as outlined in the [EPA submissions summary report](#) on the website.

The Plan continues the approach set in the 2013-2014 Plan, taking into account:

- The findings of the [review of the implementation of the National Inspection Plan for 2013-2014](#)⁵ (Figure 4);
- Experience gathered from the engagement activities and inspections; and
- Submissions received during the consultation period.

A significant future milestone will be the publication of the characterisation of water catchments under Water Framework Directive (WFD) in 2017. This will allow the relative impact of domestic waste water treatment systems to be known in an Irish context and will further refine the targeting of and number of inspections for future plans.

⁵ National Inspection Plan Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems: A Review of the Period 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2014, EPA.



Figure 4: Key Insights and Data 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2014

Chapter 2 Risk Assessment

The EPA, in conjunction with the Geological Survey of Ireland and other external expertise, developed a methodology to rank areas by the risk posed by domestic waste water to both human health and the environment. This [risk-based assessment methodology](#)⁶ was used as part of the basis for the 2013 Plan.

2.1 2015 Updates to the Risk Maps

Some changes to the Areas of Special Interest map in the methodology have now been made as a result of updates in the following data layers:

- bathing waters;
- high status rivers; and
- high status lake catchment areas.

In addition, the contributing catchments (up to 20 km) of Shellfish Areas designated through the Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC) have been added, in order to provide additional protection for these waters. This has resulted in additional areas of some coastal counties being designated as being within catchment areas of sensitive receptors, which in turn has slightly changed the relative numbers of inspections in different counties. Figures 5a and 5b shows the changes in the risk maps from the 2013 Plan to the 2015-2017 Plan.

2.2 Future Updates

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) characterisation process is currently underway and may provide for further refinement of the current risk-based assessment methodology as it is examining the relative impact of point and diffuse pollution sources with a view to identifying water bodies at risk of pollution from different pollution sources and to prioritise measures to address the risk. In the meantime, there is no change to the fundamentals of the current risk assessment methodology.

⁶ *A risk-based methodology to assist in the regulation of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems*, EPA 2013

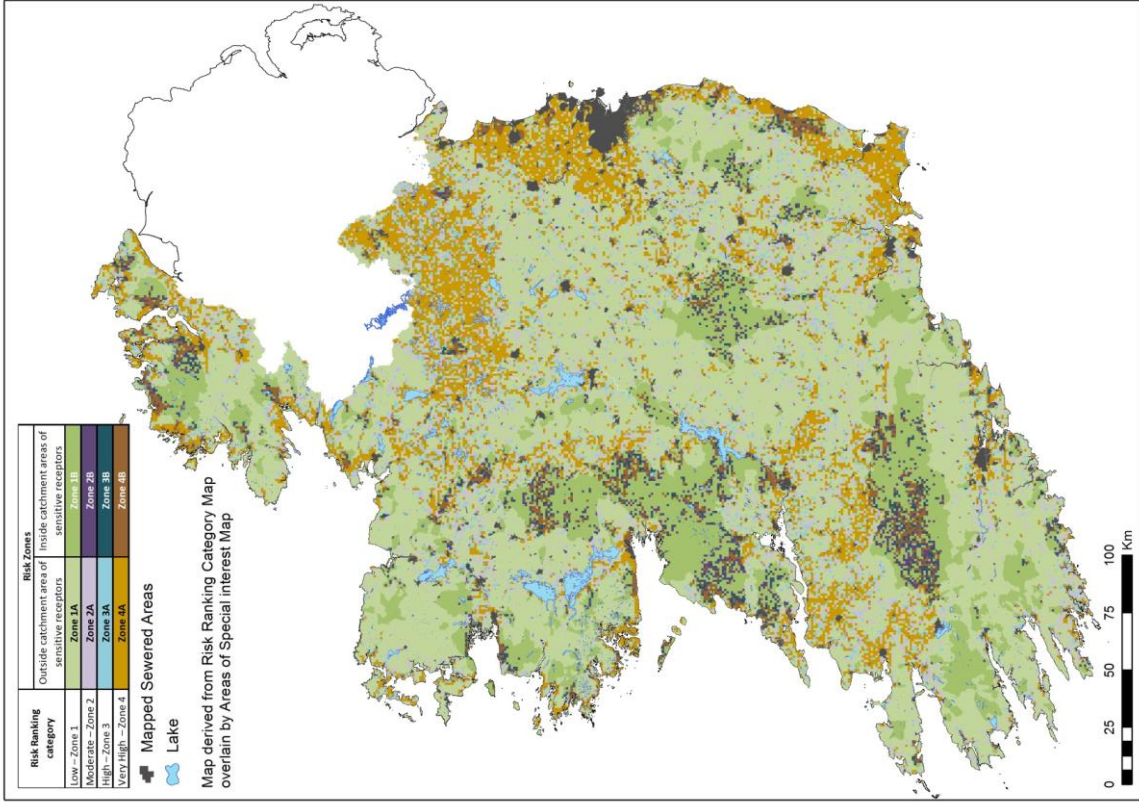


Figure 5a: Risk ranking map combined with Areas of Special Interest Map giving 8 zones (2013)

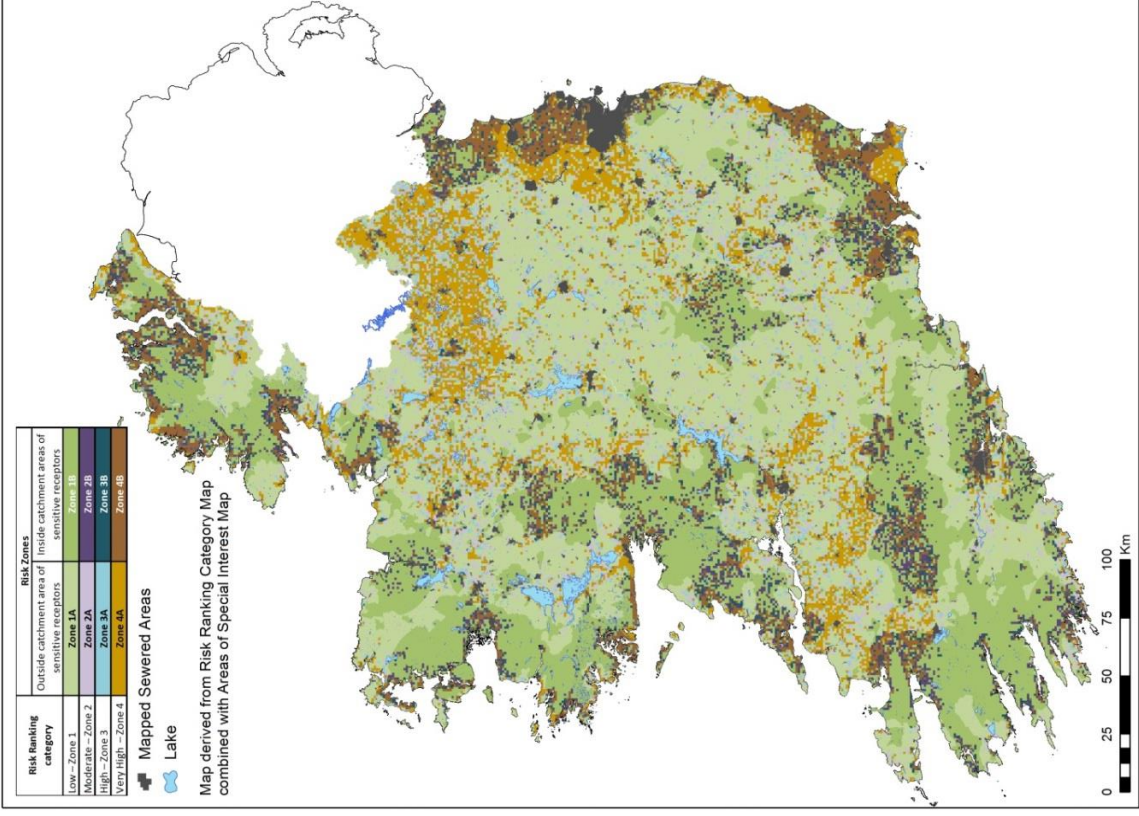


Figure 5b: New Risk ranking map combined with Areas of Special Interest Map giving 8 zones (including Shellfish Protected Areas) (2015 - 2017)

Chapter 3 Engagement

An essential part of the Plan is the focus on engagement strategies aimed at advising, educating and assisting the public to take the necessary steps to properly operate and maintain their domestic waste water treatment systems.

3.1 Review Findings

The review of the first year of implementation highlighted a number of issues such as a lack of awareness of operation and maintenance requirements by homeowners, which was evident during inspections as the most common reasons for failure related to de-sludging and/or operation and maintenance issues. This is despite a lot of information being available on the EPA and local authority websites. In a survey⁷ of attitudes and awareness towards domestic waste water treatment systems, 67 per cent of respondents said they had not sought information on the operation and maintenance of treatment systems.

Private wells may be at risk of contamination from waste water effluent if the system is not sited, installed or operated correctly. For 27 per cent of the treatment systems inspected, the water supply to the connected property is from a private well. Leakage from a waste water treatment system poses a threat to nearby wells and was found to be an issue in 18 per cent of these cases.

3.2 Proposed Action

It is proposed that a national targeted engagement campaign is needed to address the issues identified during the engagement and inspection processes. This targeted campaign will be progressed by the EPA in co-operation with the local authorities and other stakeholder groups. The EPA will oversee the implementation of the campaign by the Local Authorities.

3.3 Next Steps

In order to develop the national campaign a working group on engagement will be established under the Environmental Regulators NIECE⁸ Septic Tank Inspectors Network. This group will consider the outputs from an on-going EPA-funded research project titled 'Communicating Risk Based Enforcement'⁹. The group will also consider suggestions made in the submissions received and these will be used to inform the preparation of a programme of citizen engagement activities and initiatives.

There may be possible linkages with other environmental awareness campaigns (e.g. EPA/HSE [private wells](#) information campaign, public participation elements of the WFD) and this will be explored by the working group in order that synergies may be developed.

⁷ EPA Strive funded project 2013-W-SS-10 *Study on Public Awareness, Perception and Attitudes towards DWWTSs in Ireland*.

⁸ Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement (NIECE)

⁹ EPA Strive funded project 2013-W-DS-12 *Communicating Risk Based Enforcement* (Acronym: Relay_Risk)

An information seminar on the risks to private wells is planned for septic tank inspectors to educate them on the risks posed to private wells. Local authority inspectors will be provided with copies of the private wells leaflets in order that they can distribute them at the time of the inspection. The EPA will liaise with other stakeholders to highlight and discuss initiatives such as an incentivised private well testing scheme.

The LA will track the quantities of domestic waste water sludge quantities collected by permitted waste collectors. This metric will be used to determine if there is an increase in de-sludging rates nationally on foot of the awareness campaigns and not only as a consequence of inspections.

The EPA will undertake tracking of progress made by individual local authorities in meeting metrics, which will be defined following the delivery of the research findings above.

Chapter 4 Inspections

4.1. Introduction

An inspection under the National Inspection Plan checks that a domestic waste water treatment system is fit for purpose and that it does not pose a risk to human health or the environment. If a system fails an inspection then an advisory notice is issued. This specifies the reasons for failure and what measures need to be taken to fix the problem. The inspections are carried out by local authority inspectors appointed by the EPA.

The objective of the inspection strategy is to reduce the risk posed to human health and effect improvements in water quality.

4.2. Inspection Allocations

A minimum of 1,000 full inspections are required to be carried out nationally on an annual basis with a total minimum number of 3,000 full inspections to be carried out over the three year period 2015-2017.

The allocation of an annual national minimum of 1,000 inspections for domestic waste water treatment systems represents approximately 4% of total water-related inspections that local authorities are responsible for carrying out¹⁰. This allocation has regard to the risk from domestic waste water treatment systems on a national scale compared to other sectors regulated by local authorities.

The minimum allocation of inspections per county for the years 2015 to 2017 is outlined in Table 1. Table A.3 and Table A.4 in Appendix A outline the numbers of inspections in each risk category per county. Each Local Authority is required to carry out a minimum allocation of inspections in each year, but will have discretion as to how these are scheduled, e.g. if a local authority is required to carry out a minimum of 36 inspections over a three year period; they will be required to do a minimum of 12 inspections per year and could do all of the inspections in the higher risk categories in the first year as long as they carry out the remainder of the inspections in the other risk categories in years two and three. Additional inspections may be carried out by individual local authorities if there is evidence at a local level that domestic waste water treatment systems are causing an issue in particular catchments.

Research being carried out on load apportionment as part of the WFD characterisation will improve knowledge of the relative risk posed by domestic waste water treatment systems compared to other pollution sources and therefore further inform the appropriate number of inspections for the next cycle of the Plan from 2018.

¹⁰Under RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections), local authorities reported carrying out 22,838 water-related inspections in 2013; these include farm and Section 4 discharge licence inspections.

Local Authority Area ¹¹	Minimum number of inspections 2015 - 2017	2015	2016	2017
Carlow County Council	33	11	11	11
Cavan County Council	117	39	39	39
Clare County Council	147	49	49	49
Cork County Council	297	99	99	99
Donegal County Council	285	95	95	95
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council	3	1	1	1
Fingal County Council	42	14	14	14
Galway City Council	6	2	2	2
Galway County Council	273	91	91	91
Kerry County Council	201	67	67	67
Kildare County Council	63	21	21	21
Kilkenny County Council	96	32	32	32
Laois County Council	66	22	22	22
Leitrim County Council	84	28	28	28
Limerick City and County Council	126	42	42	42
Longford County Council	42	14	14	14
Louth County Council	84	28	28	28
Mayo County Council	156	52	52	52
Meath County Council	129	43	43	43
Monaghan County Council	87	29	29	29
Offaly County Council	42	14	14	14
Roscommon County Council	84	28	28	28
Sligo County Council	78	26	26	26
South Dublin County Council	6	2	2	2
Tipperary County Council	99	33	33	33
Waterford City and County Council	51	17	17	17
Westmeath County Council	39	13	13	13
Wexford County Council	201	67	67	67
Wicklow County Council	63	21	21	21
TOTAL	3000	1000	1000	1000

Table1: Minimum national allocation of risk-based domestic waste water system inspections per local authority area

¹¹ Dublin and Cork City Councils do not have any inspections allocated to them as they are predominantly sewered areas

4.3. Site selection

The [risk based methodology](#) is used as the basis for the selection of sites for risk based inspections. The methodology highlights the areas of the country at risk and explains why some water body types are more sensitive than others, and therefore why they are given a higher priority in terms of inspection. A summary of the factors that were taken into account in the risk assessment methodology is given in Table A.1 in Appendix A.

The results of the risk assessment indicated that:

- The risk to human health from pathogens in domestic waste water is significantly higher in areas with a high density of systems and inadequate percolation; and in vulnerable areas with private wells.
- Phosphorus is the main pollutant posing a threat to the environment, particularly to surface water, either where there is inadequate percolation or attenuation. While the cumulative pollutant load arising from domestic systems will be insignificant compared to urban waste water discharges and agriculture at river basin scale, it can be significant in certain physical settings at local catchment scale.
- The threat posed by nitrogen from DWWTSs is low at catchment scale; however, in exceptional circumstances, at site-scale (a few hectares), a high density of domestic systems can cause localised plumes with elevated nitrate concentrations in groundwater.

As part of the risk assessment, risk maps divide the country into eight risk categories (Figure 5). Different weightings have been given to each risk category with an additional weighting applied within catchment areas of sensitive receptors (Table 2). The number of inspections in each county depends on the percentage area of the county in each risk category (Tables A.2 and A.3 in Appendix A).

Risk Ranking category	% of total number of inspections for each risk category	Risk Zones	
		Outside catchment area of sensitive receptors	Inside catchment area of sensitive receptors
Low – Zone 1	5	Zone 1A	Zone 1B
Moderate – Zone 2	15	Zone 2A	Zone 2B
High – Zone 3	30	Zone 3A	Zone 3B
Very High – Zone 4	50	Zone 4A	Zone 4B

Table 2: Division of risk categories and percentage of inspections per risk category

The site selection criteria in the 2013 Plan emphasised that priority should be given to the selection of un-registered properties for inspection in the first instance; this should continue. Local authorities should adhere to the risk-based allocation so that inspections are carried out right across the country in order to assess compliance. The overall selection criteria remain the same as outlined in the 2013 Plan (Figure 6), however, further guidance may be produced by a NIECE sub-working group on the practical aspects of inspection. Data on water quality will be provided to local authorities as it becomes available, to assist in the selection of priority areas.

Each local authority is reminded of the requirement to develop a local site selection plan, which documents the application of the site selection methodology and allows for the justification of selection of priority areas and individual sites. Documentation should be retained in such a manner to facilitate auditing by the EPA.

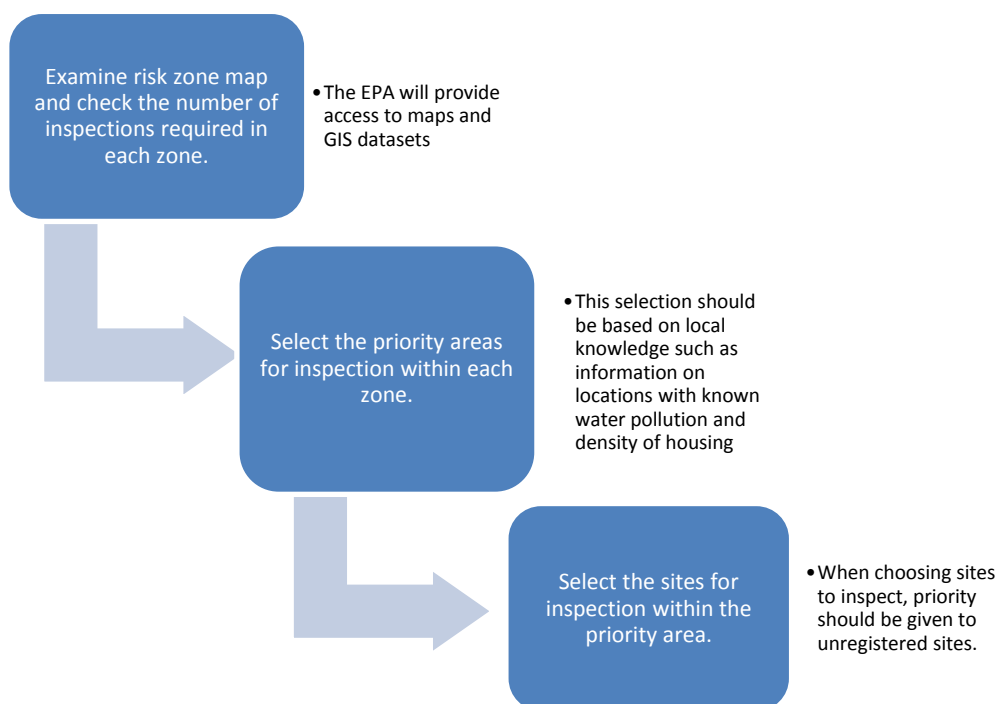


Figure 6: Site selection process

4.4. Inspection Scope

The inspections determine compliance with the *Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012* and associated regulations and in particular the *Water Services Acts 2007 and 2012 (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems) Regulations 2012* (S.I. 223 of 2012). The inspector will check:

- whether the system is registered;
- if it is leaking;
- if the system components are in working order;
- if effluent is ponding on the surface of the ground;
- if it is discharging direct to surface water without a licence;
- if rainwater or clean surface water is entering the system;
- whether the system is being properly operated and maintained;
- that the level of sludge in the tank is acceptable and that it is de-sludged at a regular frequency; and
- if the system is being managed in a manner that does not adversely affect human health and the environment.

A copy of the inspection form can be found in Appendix B.1. Homeowners may use this form as a checklist to determine if a system is working correctly or not.

The form consists of a number of objective questions relating to the condition, structure and discharges to and from the domestic waste water treatment system to assess compliance with the Water Services regulations. There is, however, a final subjective question on whether or not the issues arising with the system in the opinion of the inspector pose a risk to human health or the environment. To ensure a consistent approach to answering this subjective question further guidance will be developed for local authority inspectors.

Follow-up Actions

The owner will be notified about the findings of the inspection verbally at the end of the inspection and formally within six weeks. If the system fails the inspection, the local authority inspector will issue an advisory notice (Appendix B.2) within six weeks.

The advisory notice will:

- State how the DWWTS has contravened the regulations;
- State whether the domestic waste water treatment system constitutes a risk to human health or the environment;
- State the reasons for that opinion; and
- Direct the owner to remedy the matters specified in the notice by a specified date.

The advisory notice will not specify the exact remedial works to be undertaken. As each case is site specific the owner of the treatment systems may be required to seek expert technical advice to determine the most appropriate solution.

Local authorities should take appropriate steps to close out advisory notices to make sure that remedial works are completed. Where remedial actions are not taken, initially the local authorities should work with homeowners to ensure that the necessary works are completed. Failing this, the ultimate sanction is legal action under the *Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012*. A NIECE working group on enforcement policy will be established to develop guidance in relation to appropriate enforcement action where there is non-compliance with the Advisory Notice. This is to assist in the application of a countrywide consistent approach.

It should also be noted that failure to register a domestic waste water treatment system is an offence and local authorities should take appropriate enforcement action in relation to such systems. Any unregistered system identified for inspection should be required to register as part of the sign-off on the inspection findings.

4.5 Complaints

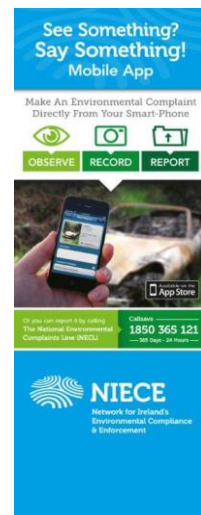
Local authorities must maintain a register of all complaints and other inspections, such as water pollution incident investigations, that relate to domestic waste water treatment systems. The upgrade or replacement of any system should be recorded. The EPA will continue to report on the numbers of complaints and any remedial action in its annual review of implementation of the Plan.

The Water Pollution Act and regulations are used where necessary for complaint investigations. The powers to control pollution are very similar in the Water Pollution Act and the Water Services (Amendment) Act and subsequent regulations. The general provision in the Water Pollution Act states *'that a person shall not cause or permit any polluting matter to enter waters'* and as such requires evidence of a discharge to waters. The Water Services regulations refers to unauthorised discharge, leakage, ponding, entry of surface waters, operation and maintenance issues as well as de-sludging. Where the risk is to human health and the environment irrespective of the regulations used, tight timeframes for remediation should be applied.

Reporting Complaints

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) operates an [iPhone](#) and [Android App](#), called *See it? Say it!*, to help people to report environmental pollution in their towns and villages.

Using the App you can now take a photograph of a pollution incident, add a summary description of what you want to convey and your contact details and this will automatically be sent to the relevant local authority for follow up (and the app will add GPS location coordinates).



Chapter 5 Implementation and Review of the Plan

5.1. Implementation

Local Authorities

The implementation of this Plan is carried out by Local Authorities. Each local authority is responsible for ensuring that the engagement and inspections strategies for their functional areas are carried out, as previously discussed.

EPA supervision

The EPA will continue its advisory, implementation and enforcement role and will prepare guidance, where necessary, to assist in the implementation of the new Plan covering 2015 to 2017.

The EPA will establish NIECE working groups on Engagement, Site Selection and Enforcement Policy. These working groups will comprise of nominated local authority participants and representatives from the Health Service Executive (HSE)/DECLG/City and County Managers Association (CCMA) and others, where appropriate. The outputs from these groups will assist in promoting a consistent approach across all local authority areas.

Inspection data is recorded by local authority staff in the EPA-managed Domestic Waste Water Application on EDEN¹². This allows individual local authorities to track the progress of their own inspection schedules against the National Inspection Plan.

The implementation of the Plan, including site selection, is subject to regulatory oversight by the EPA and will be audited by the EPA to ensure that the system is robust. At a national level, the EPA produces progress reports detailing the number of inspections that have been carried out by each local authority and the progress made against the Plan. Data collected may be used to identify priority issues for enforcement in addition to refining the risk assessment methodology. Data on the quality of inspections allows monitoring of the consistency of the inspections. The close out of advisory notices will be tracked with particular attention being given to ensuring that those systems that pose a risk to human health or the environment are considered a priority.

The EPA will advise all local authorities upon publication of the Plan of issues relating to site selection; sludge management; advisory notices; human health and the environment risk assessment criteria; EPA audits and any other advice as considered necessary.

The EPA in its supervisory/statutory performance role will publish reviews as outlined in the reporting schedule in Table 3 below.

¹² Environmental Data Exchange Network (EDEN) provides a common gateway to Environmental Licensing, Monitoring, GIS and Reporting Applications for Public Authorities to communicate with the EPA.

Timeframe	Activity
Q2 2015	Report on inspections carried out during period 1 st July 2014 – 31 st December 2014
Q2 2016	Report on implementation of Plan in 2015
Q2 2017	Report on implementation of Plan in 2016
End 2017	Publish next National Inspection Plan
Q2 2018	Report on implementation of 2015-2017 Plan
2018 onwards	Reporting to take place in conjunction with reporting on the Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans

Table 3: National Inspection Plan reporting milestones

Input from other stakeholders

While implementation of the inspection and engagement aspects of the Plan falls largely to the local authorities with the support of the EPA, the objectives of the Plan cannot be successfully delivered without the contributions of other organisations also.

To support successful implementation of the Plan, the EPA will work with other stakeholders to raise issues arising from the implementation of the Plan and the submissions received. For example, issues regarding legislation and grants are the responsibility of the DECLG. Irish Water also has a key role to play in the Plan as it is responsible for developing a national strategy for waste water sludge.

As the most common reason for inspection failure is lack of de-sludging, policy efforts will be targeted at encouraging householders to maintain their systems. Therefore, the issue of ensuring sufficient capacity for sludge recovery/disposal needs to be addressed as a priority, as research¹³ from 2012 has shown that additional capacity for sludge recovery/disposal is needed. This was also noted in the EPA's *'Focus on Urban Wastewater'* report published in 2012. The EPA has already highlighted this issue in its submission on the draft Regional Waste Management Plans and in its submission on Irish Water's Capital Investment Programme and draft Water Services Strategic Plan. When Irish Water issues its Strategic Sludge Management Plan, the EPA will make again submissions to ensure that the treatment and disposal options for domestic waste water sludges will be adequately catered for. The EPA has written to the DECLG and Irish Water advising them of the concerns raised in submissions it received on this issue during Public Consultation.

There may also be scope to establish schemes to facilitate de-sludging by working with permitted contractors in local communities, such as the proposal from the National Federation of Group Water Schemes to pilot such a scheme in Co. Louth.

Inspectors have found some cases where there are on-going uncontrolled direct discharges to water, possibly due to poor percolation issues on-site. In order to resolve such problems, technical and

¹³ 2012-W-DS-9 'Management options for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Sludges'.

legislative solutions must be examined. The findings from the research project on low permeability sites¹⁴ will assist in determining appropriate technical solutions. A review of the Water Pollution Act Section 4 discharge licensing mechanism may be appropriate. This could allow for the controlled discharge to surface water of a highly treated effluent, where it is environmentally sustainable, through means of a simplified consent process for existing systems approved by the local authority.

5.2. Reporting and Review

This second cycle of the Plan covers the period 2015-2017. The engagement strategy will have time to take effect during this period and its effectiveness will be measured using metrics identified in the Relay_Risk research project. The inspections carried out during this period will allow the acquisition of further data on the nature and condition of domestic waste water treatment systems in Ireland.

Section 70 K(3) of the *Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012* sets out the legislative requirements for reviewing the Plan. In particular it provides that:

‘The Agency shall from time to time as it thinks appropriate, and at least once in each period of 5 years after the date of making the national inspection plan, review the plan and make such revisions thereto as it thinks fit and reference in this Part to such a plan, shall unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as including references to such a plan as so revised’.

The EPA will review the implementation of the Plan and publish reports to its website (www.epa.ie) according to the schedule in Table 3. These reviews will consider if the strategies implemented in the National Inspection Plan are successful and effective in protecting human health and the environment.

If significant new information becomes available through the annual reporting on implementation or through developments under the WFD characterisation work in the intervening period which warrants a revision to the Plan, then the timetable in Table 3 may be amended by the EPA.

It is intended that the third cycle of the Plan will be integrated into the next River Basin Management Plan. In preparation for this, a review of the minimum number of inspections for domestic waste water treatment systems will be undertaken by the EPA in the context of the findings of the characterisation process. LAs should then review the allocated minimum inspection numbers in light of other water quality objectives and carry out an overall assessment of how resources are best allocated to ensure the optimal outcomes for water quality.

The integration of the National Inspection Plan and the River Basin Management Plan will allow a consistent targeted approach to dealing with water quality issues arising from domestic waste water treatment systems thus resulting in improved water quality.

¹⁴ 2010-W-LS-3 ‘Assessment of disposal options for treated wastewater from single houses in low permeability subsoil’.

APPENDIX A: List of Tables

Table A.1 Summary of factors taken into consideration for risk assessment methodology

Table A.2 Extent of each local authority area in each risk category

Table A.3 Number of Inspections per risk category based on minimum national annual allocation of 1,000 inspections

Table A.4 Number of Inspections per risk category based on minimum national allocation of 3,000 inspections for the period 2015-2017

Table A.1 Summary of factors taken into consideration for risk assessment methodology

	Total Area	Minimum number of inspections per Local Authority Area	% of Local Authority Area at Very High Risk	% of Local Authority Area with extreme GW Vulnerability	% of LA Area with V. high likelihood of inadequate percolation	% of Local Authority Area within catchment of sensitive receptors	DWWTs density ¹⁵ (number of systems per km ²)
National	66799	1000					
Carlow County Council	896	11	14	33	6	33	13
Cavan County Council	1862	39	50	30	62	2	9
Clare County Council	3147	49	13	51	24	64	9
Cork City Council	39	0	1	34	0	3	7
Cork County Council	7382	99	10	52	13	64	11
Donegal County Council	4742	95	22	74	15	63	12
Dublin City Council	117	0	0	3	15	2	22
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council	126	1	8	35	5	33	9
Fingal County Council	446	14	46	20	66	60	219
Galway City Council	49	2	53	67	5	23	10
Galway County Council	5788	91	17	41	38	58	9
Kerry County Council	4664	67	15	50	25	57	12
Kildare County Council	1694	21	24	7	22	5	8
Kilkenny County Council	2062	32	18	57	19	32	11
Laois County Council	1741	22	13	28	10	50	7
Leitrim County Council	1504	28	31	25	75	23	12
Limerick City and County Council	2683	42	28	28	35	7	9
Longford County Council	1043	14	26	13	40	2	18
Louth County Council	823	28	42	23	30	85	6
Mayo County Council	5333	52	6	29	19	52	12
Meath County Council	2332	43	30	12	31	15	13
Monaghan County Council	1273	29	48	32	46	12	8
Offaly County Council	1976	14	7	4	22	4	7
Roscommon County Council	2453	28	16	35	35	12	9
Sligo County Council	1790	26	20	30	47	33	64
South Dublin County Council	232	2	28	49	20	0	9
Tipperary County Council	4262	33	7	32	5	8	8
Waterford City and County Council	1821	17	7	31	7	49	8
Westmeath County Council	1763	13	7	6	15	0	16
Wexford County Council	2347	67	39	28	36	59	10
Wicklow County Council	2001	21	13	63	10	17	13

¹⁵ Based on information from the GeoDirectory data layer which reflects the total number of properties assumed to be on DWWTs as they lie outside of the UWWTP agglomerations (i.e. sewerage areas)

Table A.2 Extent of each local authority area in each risk category

		Total Risk Category Area (%)				Catchment Area of Sensitive Receptors (%)			
	Total ¹⁶ km ²	Zone 1A Low	Zone 2A Moderate	Zone 3A High	Zone 4A Very High	Zone 1B Low	Zone 2B Moderate	Zone 3B High	Zone 4B Very High
National	66799	36 (24710 km²)	7 (4808 km²)	4 (2982 km²)	11(7812km²)	26(17535km²)	4 (2789km²)	2 (1644km²)	7 (4519 km²)
Carlow County Council	896	39	11	5	10	22	5	3	3
Cavan County Council	1862	24	12	12	49	1	0	1	1
Clare County Council	3147	21	5	3	5	42	8	5	8
Cork City Council	39	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Cork County Council	7382	26	4	2	3	45	8	4	7
Donegal County Council	4742	24	3	2	7	36	6	5	15
Dublin City Council	117	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council	126	7	2	1	2	20	6	1	6
Fingal County Council	446	1	0	0	2	10	3	3	44
Galway City Council	49	4	6	0	35	6	0	0	16
Galway County Council	5788	26	5	3	8	41	5	3	9
Kerry County Council	4664	24	6	3	9	43	5	3	6
Kildare County Council	1694	50	11	6	24	4	0	0	1
Kilkenny County Council	2062	37	12	6	11	16	6	3	7
Laois County Council	1741	28	7	4	9	38	6	3	4
Leitrim County Council	1504	29	11	10	27	13	3	3	4
Limerick City and County Council	2683	42	13	10	27	4	1	1	2
Longford County Council	1043	49	14	9	26	1	0	0	0
Louth County Council	823	1	1	0	7	31	13	8	34
Mayo County Council	5333	36	5	2	3	42	4	2	3
Meath County Council	2332	46	8	5	21	4	1	1	9
Monaghan County Council	1273	19	12	12	43	3	2	1	5
Offaly County Council	1976	75	9	4	7	3	0	0	0
Roscommon County Council	2453	51	12	8	15	10	1	0	1
Sligo County Council	1790	37	8	7	14	23	3	2	6
South Dublin County Council	232	33	4	5	28	0	0	0	0
Tipperary County Council	4262	69	10	5	7	7	1	0	0
Waterford City and County Council	1821	40	3	1	3	40	4	2	4
Westmeath County Council	1763	77	9	4	7	0	0	0	0
Wexford County Council	2347	19	5	2	12	21	7	4	27
Wicklow County Council	2001	60	8	4	9	11	1	1	3

¹⁶ Total not including sewered area

Table A.3 Number of Inspections per risk category based on minimum national annual allocation of 1,000 inspections

Annual allocation	Annual Total	Outside catchment areas of sensitive receptors				Inside catchment areas of sensitive receptors			
	Total	Zone 1A Low	Zone 2A Moderate	Zone 3A High	Zone 4A Very High	Zone 1B Low	Zone 2B Moderate	Zone 3B High	Zone 4B Very High
National	1000	83	51	62	263	116	55	66	304
Carlow County Council	11	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	2
Cavan County Council	39	1	2	4	31	0	0	0	1
Clare County Council	49	2	2	2	5	9	5	6	18
Cork City Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cork County Council	99	6	3	2	7	22	12	12	35
Donegal County Council	95	4	2	2	11	12	6	9	49
Dublin City Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Fingal County Council	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13
Galway City Council	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Galway County Council	91	5	3	3	16	16	6	8	34
Kerry County Council	67	4	3	3	14	14	5	5	19
Kildare County Council	21	3	2	2	13	0	0	0	1
Kilkenny County Council	32	3	3	3	7	2	2	2	10
Laois County Council	22	2	1	2	5	4	2	2	4
Leitrim County Council	28	1	2	3	14	1	1	2	4
Limerick City and County Council	42	4	3	6	24	1	0	1	3
Longford County Council	14	2	1	2	9	0	0	0	0
Louth County Council	28	0	0	0	2	2	2	3	19
Mayo County Council	52	6	3	3	5	15	4	4	12
Meath County Council	43	4	2	3	17	1	1	1	14
Monaghan County Council	29	1	2	3	18	0	0	1	4
Offaly County Council	14	5	2	2	5	0	0	0	0
Roscommon County Council	28	4	3	4	13	2	1	0	1
Sligo County Council	26	2	1	2	9	3	1	1	7
South Dublin County Council	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0
Tipperary County Council	33	10	4	4	10	2	1	1	1
Waterford City and County Council	17	2	1	1	2	5	1	1	4
Westmeath County Council	13	5	2	2	4	0	0	0	0
Wexford County Council	67	2	1	1	10	3	3	4	43
Wicklow County Council	21	4	2	2	6	1	1	1	4

Table A.4 Number of Inspections per risk category based on minimum national allocation of 3,000 inspections for the period 2015-2017

2015 - 2017	Overall 3 year Total	Outside catchment areas of sensitive receptors				Inside catchment areas of sensitive receptors			
		Zone 1A Low	Zone 2A Moderate	Zone 3A High	Zone 4A Very High	Zone 1B Low	Zone 2B Moderate	Zone 3B High	Zone 4B Very High
National	3000	249	153	186	789	348	165	198	912
Carlow County Council	33	3	3	3	9	3	3	3	6
Cavan County Council	117	3	6	12	93	0	0	0	3
Clare County Council	147	6	6	6	15	27	15	18	54
Cork City Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cork County Council	297	18	9	6	21	66	36	36	105
Donegal County Council	285	12	6	6	33	36	18	27	147
Dublin City Council	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown County Council	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Fingal County Council	42	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	39
Galway City Council	6	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
Galway County Council	273	15	9	9	48	48	18	24	102
Kerry County Council	201	12	9	9	42	42	15	15	57
Kildare County Council	63	9	6	6	39	0	0	0	3
Kilkenny County Council	96	9	9	9	21	6	6	6	30
Laois County Council	66	6	3	6	15	12	6	6	12
Leitrim County Council	84	3	6	9	42	3	3	6	12
Limerick City and County Council	126	12	9	18	72	3	0	3	9
Longford County Council	42	6	3	6	27	0	0	0	0
Louth County Council	84	0	0	0	6	6	6	9	57
Mayo County Council	156	18	9	9	15	45	12	12	36
Meath County Council	129	12	6	9	51	3	3	3	42
Monaghan County Council	87	3	6	9	54	0	0	3	12
Offaly County Council	42	15	6	6	15	0	0	0	0
Roscommon County Council	84	12	9	12	39	6	3	0	3
Sligo County Council	78	6	3	6	27	9	3	3	21
South Dublin County Council	6	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0
Tipperary County Council	99	30	12	12	30	6	3	3	3
Waterford City and County Council	51	6	3	3	6	15	3	3	12
Westmeath County Council	39	15	6	6	12	0	0	0	0
Wexford County Council	201	6	3	3	30	9	9	12	129
Wicklow County Council	63	12	6	6	18	3	3	3	12

APPENDIX B: Inspection Templates

B.1 Inspection Form Template

B.2 Advisory Notice Template

Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

Appendix B.1**SITE INSPECTION FORM TEMPLATE**

Safety Note – it is dangerous to enter a septic tank or waste water treatment system as they emit dangerous gases and only certified personnel should carry out this work.

Domestic Waste Water Treatment System Inspection

This inspection is a review of the operation and performance of a DWWTS on a particular day. Lack of reporting of an area or an issue should not be construed to mean that this area is fully satisfactory.

Section 1 Inspection, Registration and Property Details

This section of the report identifies details relating to the Inspector, the Inspection, the DWWTS site location and the attached property(s). Information gathered in Section 1 will be used by the WSA for further correspondence with the DWWTS owner(s) if necessary.

Inspector Details

Inspector Name	Inspector ID:
Inspector Organisation:	

Inspection Details

Inspection ID:	Inspection Type:
Date: Time	Inspection Submission Date:

DWWTS Site Details

DWWTS ID:	
Irish Grid Easting:	Irish Grid Northing:
Townland:	County:
Are Location Co-ordinates at DWWTS inlet?	If no, estimated distance (m) to inlet?
Water Services Authority	How is Waste Water Disposed of?
Potential Risk to Surface Water	Potential Risk to Groundwater
Pathogen/MRP	Pathogen/MRP
Nitrates	Nitrates
Maximum Potential Risk	Zone 8 Risk
GW Vulnerability:	GW Flow Direction (Topographic)

Site Description

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Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

Details of Property(s) connected to DWWTS

Where 2 or more properties are connected to one DWWTS, please use a separate Property Details form for each connected property.

(1) Property			
Owner Name			
Property Address			
Owner Correspondence address if different:			
Townland:		County:	
Is DWWTS Registered?	Yes / No		
If yes, DWWTS Reg. Code:		DWWTS Reg. Start Date:	
Is the property a holiday home?	Yes / No	Resident Population or P.E.:	
Any high impact activities?	Yes / No	Activity P.E.:	
Description of activities:			
Activity P.E.:		Total Premises P.E.	
Source of Drinking Water (Y/N)	Group Water Scheme		
	Mains		
	Private Well		
	Spring		
	Surface Water		
Is drinking water treated?	Yes / No / Undetermined		

Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

Section 2 DWWTS Site Characteristics and System Design Details

This section of the report assists the inspector in carrying out a visual assessment of the site prior to assessing compliance of the DWWTS with the legislation. This section will capture DWWTS details and site characteristics.

Site assessment details are a mandatory part of the inspection but do not determine compliance with the legislation.

Information gathered in Section 2 will be generalised and used by the EPA in their environmental assessment reports.

Site Characteristics

When was the last significant precipitation? (Select One Option)	On day of inspection				
	Day before inspection				
	Within 3 days of inspection				
	More than 3 days before the inspection				
What are the Local Percolation Conditions? (Select One Option)	Good				
	Moderate				
	Poor				
Is there a presence of adverse vegetation (percolation) indicators such as:	Yes	No	Is there a presence of other Adverse Indicators?	Yes	No
Drainage ditches			Excessive Flies or insects		
Lush Grass			Evidence of Vermin		
Ponding			Visible Rock Outcrops?		
Rough land			Presence of Karst features?		
Rushes					
Above any of the system components is there evidence of:	Yes	No			
Paved Surfaces					
Cattle paths					
Decking or Patios					
Other large objects					
Parking					
Poaching					
Trees					
What is the regional Groundwater Flow Direction?					
Are there any down-gradient wells within 60m? (Y/N/Undetermined)					
If Yes, how many?					
Site characterisation report available? (Yes / No)					

Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

Comment on Site Characteristics				
System Design & P.E. Details				
What is the System Type? (Select one option)	Septic Tank			
	Secondary			
	Tertiary			
	None			
	Undetermined			
When was the system installed (Year)?		System Design P.E.		
Appropriate desludging frequency (in years)?"		Is Contributing P.E. > System Design P.E.? (Yes / No / Undetermined)		
What is the system capacity (m3)?				
System Observations		Yes	No	Undetermined / NA
How many chambers does the system have?				
Has the system been Inspected and maintained within the last 2 yrs? (Yes / No / Undetermined)				
Is there a distribution box present? (Yes / No / Undetermined)				
Is the system operational and the power supply connected (where required)? (Yes / No / Undetermined)				
Is there a maintenance contract in place? (Yes / No / Undetermined)				
What is the Infiltration Type? (Multiple Selection)	Soakaway			
	Percolation area			
	Raised Percolation Area (Mound System)			
	Polishing filter			
	Pipe to SW			
	Wetland / Reed Bed			
	Willow bed			
	None			

Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

Appropriate infiltration area for current use? (Yes/No/Undetermined)	
Comments on System Design and P.E	

Section 3. DWWTS Compliance Assessment

This section of the report will assess compliance of the DWWTS and all of its components with the requirements of the Water Services Acts 2007 and 2012 (Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems) Regulations 2012 and associated Statutory Instruments, in particular S.I. No. 223 of 2012 which refers to the operation and maintenance of DWWTS and Desludging.

S.I. 223 of 2012	Is there evidence of an unintended leak or discharge from the following System Components?	Yes	No	N/A
Section 2(1)a – Leaking components	Tank or System			
	Inlet Pipes			
	Outlet Pipes			
	D-Box			
	Manhole Covers			
	Manholes			

Comment on Leaking Components

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S.I. 223 of 2012	Is there evidence of an unlicensed or untreated discharge?	Yes	No
Section 2(1)b – unlicensed or untreated discharge.	Of effluent to surface waters		
	If yes, what form does it take? (Select One Option)	As discharge direct to SW	
		As discharge via sub-surface conduit	
		As discharge via surface conduit	
	Of greywater to surface waters		
	If yes, what form does it take? (Select One Option)	As discharge direct to SW	
		As discharge via sub-surface conduit	
		As discharge via surface conduit	
	Of untreated effluent or greywater to groundwater		
	If yes, what form does it take? (Select One Option)	Going direct to water table	
		Going to karst feature	
		Going to bedrock	
		Because of insufficient soil depth	

Comment on unlicensed or untreated discharges

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Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

S.I. 223 of 2012 Section 2(1)c – unintended discharge onto the Surface of the ground.	Is there evidence of an unintended discharge onto the surface of the ground indicated by:	Yes	No	
	Wet areas or effluent ponding			
	Erosion or leakage from the infiltration area			
Comment on discharge onto surface of the ground				
S.I. 223 of 2012 Section 2(2) – Roofwater and Surface water runoff	Is there evidence of uncontaminated water entering the system as:	Yes	No	
	Roofwater runoff			
	Surface water runoff			
Comment on uncontaminated water entering the system				
S.I. 223 of 2012 Section 2(3) – Maintenance and Operation	Is there evidence that the system is not well maintained indicated by:	Yes	No	
	Nuisance Odour			
	Nuisance Noise			
Comment on nuisance odour or noise				
S.I. 223 of 2012 Section 2(3) – Maintenance and Operation	For all systems, is there evidence that the following system components are not fit for purpose, not operational and/or not in good repair so as to pose a risk to human health or the environment?	Yes	No	NA
	Septic tank or secondary system			
	Inlet Pipes			
	Outlet pipes			
	Distribution Box			
	Manholes			
	Manhole Covers			
Comment on system components				

Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

S.I. 223 of 2012 Section 2(3) – Maintenance and Operation	For secondary or tertiary systems, is there evidence that the components are not fit for purpose, not operational and/or not	Yes	No	NA
	Air supply pipes			
	Pumps			
	Pump float switch			
	Blowers			
	Filter media			
	Alarms			
	Power supply			
	Other Tertiary elements			
Comment on secondary or tertiary system components				
S.I. 223 of 2012 Section 3 Desludging	Section 3. Desludging	Yes	No	
	Is there evidence that the tank or unit has not been desludged appropriately?			
	Is there evidence that the level of sludge in the tank or unit shows the need for desludging?			
	Who has desludged the system? (Owner or 3rd Party or Unknown)			
	In the case of a 3rd party, name and contact details			
	In the case of a 3rd party, is a desludging receipt available?			
	In the case of a 3rd party, is there evidence that the 3rd party is an unauthorised contractor?			
	In the case of owner, is there evidence that the sludge was not used in agriculture or was spread in such a way as to contravene regulations?			
Comment on Desludging				
Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Section	Section 70C (1b) Is there evidence to show that the system constitutes, or is likely to constitute, a risk to human health or the environment, in particular:	Yes	No	
	To water, air or soil, or to plants and animals?			
	Through a noise or odour nuisance?			
	By affecting the countryside or places of special interest?			
Comment on Section 70C				

Inspection Issued By: _____

Inspection Reference ID: _____

Details of Property(s) connected to DWWTS

(Where 2 or more properties are connected to one DWWTS, please use a separate Property Details form for each connected property.)

Property			
Owner Name			
Property Address			
Owner Correspondence address if different:			
Townland:		County:	
Is DWWTS Registered?	Yes / No		
If yes, DWWTS Reg. Code:		DWWTS Reg. Start Date:	
Is holiday home?	Yes / No	Domestic P.E. (Resident):	
Any high impact activities?	Yes / No	Activity P.E.:	
Description of activities:			
Total Premises P.E.:			
Drinking Water Source? (Select one)	Group Water Scheme		
	Mains		
	Private Well		
	Spring		
	Surface Water		
Is drinking water treated?	(Yes / No / Undetermined)		

Appendix B.2

ADVISORY NOTICE TEMPLATE

WATER SERVICES ACTS 2007 and 2012

NOTICE PURSUANT TO SECTION 70(H) OF THE WATER SERVICES ACT 2007, AS AMENDED BY THE WATER SERVICES (AMENDMENT) ACT 2012 OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE DUTIES OF OWNERS OF PREMISES CONNECTED TO A DOMESTIC WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM AS SPECIFIED IN SECTION 70C(1) OF THE ACT.

Property Reference: DWPR XXXXXXXX.

Inspection Reference: DWWIXXXXXX

Site Reference: DWWT_XXX_XXXX

Advisory Notice Reference: DWANXXXXX

To: Name

Correspondence Address: Address

From Water Service Authority: Name County Council

WHEREAS the Water Service Authority is of the opinion that the person to whom this notice is addressed has failed to comply with a duty specified under Section 70C(1) of the Water Services Act, 2007, as amended by the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012, namely:

1. The owner has contravened regulations made under Section 70L of the Water Services Act 2007, as amended by the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012.
2. The domestic waste water treatment system constitutes, or is likely to constitute, a risk to human health or the environment, and in particular – (i) creates a risk to water, or soil, or to plants and animals, (ii) creates a nuisance through noise or odours, or (iii) adversely affects the countryside or places of special interest.

CONNECTED PROPERTY

Address Address

REASON FOR OPINION - Specific to the Inspection see examples below

#	Legislation Section	Advisory Notice Reason
1	Section 2(1)a	There is evidence of an unintended leak or discharge from the Inlet Pipes
2	Section 2(3)	There is evidence that the following system components are not fit for purpose, not operational and/or not in good repair so as to pose a risk to human health or the environment: Inlet Pipes
3	Section 70H(4)(b)	There is evidence to show that the system poses a risk to human health or the environment, in particular: To water, air or soil or to plants and animals

MEASURES REQUIRED - Specific to the Inspection see example below

#	Measure	Details
1	Cease the unintended leak or discharge from the system components	Free text
2	Fix or replace the relevant component parts of the system such that they are fit for purpose	Free text

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the matters specified above must be remedied by you by **DATE**

WATER SERVICES AUTHORITY STAMP

Signed By:

Print Name:

Contact Tel No:

Dated this day of 20

IMPORTANT NOTES FOR THE PERSON ON WHOM THIS NOTICE IS SERVED

- It is an offence to fail to rectify matters specified in the advisory notice within the specified timeframe.
- Inspections carried out, and advisory notices issued, under the Water Services Act 2007 do not provide exemption from prosecution for public health or environmental offences under other legislation.
- You must inform the water services authority of the completion of the remediation works required under this advisory notice within 10 days of completion of those works. The water services authority may carry out a further inspection to confirm that the necessary remediation has been carried out.
- You may, within 21 days of the issue of this notice, apply to the issuing water services authority to have a re-inspection carried out by an authorised officer of the waste service authority. Your application must be (a) made using the prescribed application form and (b) accompanied by the re-inspection fee of €20.00. The fee will be refunded if this advisory notice is cancelled as a result of the re-inspection.
- Following a re-inspection, this notice will be: (i) confirmed with no modifications, (ii) confirmed subject to modifications, alterations or additions, or (iii) cancelled. You will be notified of the outcome of the re-inspection in writing. Any such notification letter should be retained with the advisory notice.

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 gclóíonn leis na córais sin.*

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

Tacaíocht: *Bimid 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 diantalmhaíocht (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 peitрил;
- 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 húdaráis áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhíriú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúchán.
- 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 ídíonn 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, uiscí idirchriosacha agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; 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 cheaptha 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 shainaitheint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeraíde, 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 teaghlaigh 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.

Headquarters, PO Box 3000

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