

National Inspection Plan

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems

*A Review of the Period 1st July 2013-30th June 2014
& Consultation on Proposals for 2015-2017*

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

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&
Consultation on Proposals for 2015-2017

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2015

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Visit the EPA website for more information on domestic waste water

www.epa.ie/whatwedo/advice/wastewater

Key Insights and Data for 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2014

Engagement

- 1.7 million leaflets are being distributed to householders
- 26 local authorities have septic tank information on their websites
- 15.5% of queries received by the EPA's Queries Unit were about septic tanks
- Despite this level of communication, the need for greater engagement is evident - 67% of respondents to a survey of attitudes and awareness said they had not sought information on the operation and maintenance of treatment systems

Inspections

- 987 inspections were carried out in the first year
- 476 systems failed the inspection and received an advisory notice
- Almost 50% of the systems inspected failed - most common reason for failure was lack of de-sludging
- 52% of sites with private wells failed the inspection
- 79% of inspected systems > 50 years old, failed the inspection
- 79% of the inspected systems are now compliant with the regulations

Other supports

- 108 local authority inspectors have been appointed by the EPA
- A data management system has been developed
- Extensive research underway to improve our understanding of the impact of wastewater on human health and water

Recommendations

- The current minimum number of 1,000 inspections should be maintained for the period 2015 -2017 until the completion of the Water Framework Directive characterisation process
- Encourage more people to engage positively with their responsibility to their family health

Consultation

- The EPA invites submissions from all interested parties on the proposals, prior to finalisation and publication of the Plan for 2015-2017 in early 2015

Chapter 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Domestic wastewater treatment systems located, constructed and installed in accordance with best practice guidance generally provide adequate treatment and disposal of domestic waste water. However, failures in a system can result in wastewater from private houses polluting watercourses and groundwater, as well as presenting a risk to human health. There is an onus 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.

The overall risk from domestic wastewater treatment systems to the environment on a national scale is relatively low in comparison to agricultural activities and urban wastewater discharges (Figure 1). There are, however, areas of the country where the potential risk from treatment systems at a local level may be significant.

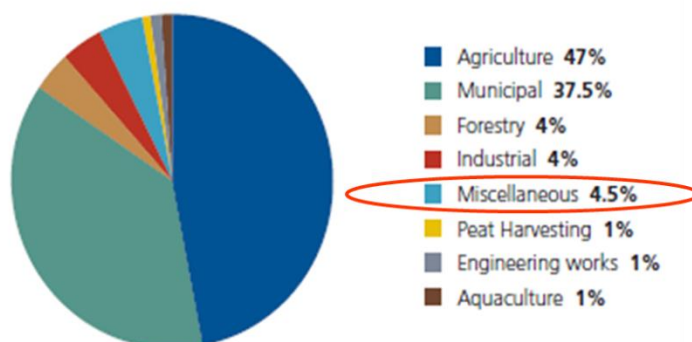


Figure 1: Suspected causes of pollution at 953 Polluted River Sites Surveyed in 2007-2009 (from a total of over 2500 monitoring sites) – DWWTs not listed

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the [National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems](#) in February 2013. The aim of the Plan is to protect human health and water from the risks posed by domestic waste water treatment systems by using a two-strand approach of education and awareness strategies linked with a risk-based inspection process (Figure 2).

The Plan is delivered by Local Authorities and the number of inspections for each county is allocated on a risk basis. 'Risk-based' means putting resources where the risks are greatest to human health and the environment. The Plan focuses particularly on areas where the potential risk to public health and valuable water resources is higher. For more detailed information, please refer to the EPA's [Plan](#).

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

NATIONAL INSPECTION PLAN FOR DOMESTIC WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

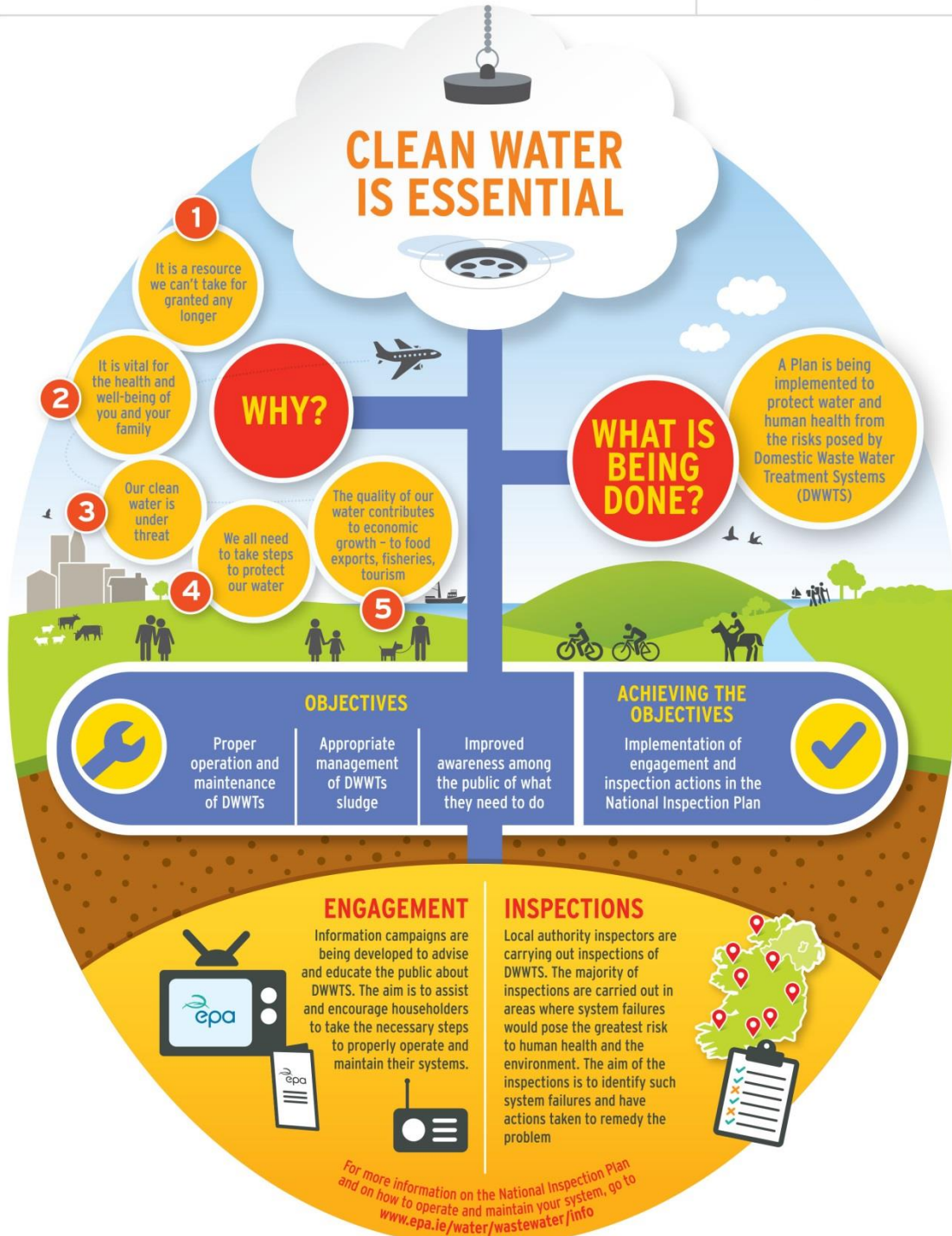


Figure 2: The Aims and Objectives of the Plan

1.2 Roles and Responsibilities

Homeowners

All homeowners with a treatment system have a 'duty of care' 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. Homeowners that are not connected to the public sewer are required to register their treatment system with 'Protect Our Water' who is operating the registration service on behalf of local authorities. It is an offence not to register, however, there is no extra cost for late payment and homeowners may register by going to www.protectourwater.ie and paying the €50.00 registration fee.

Environmental Protection Agency

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; oversees the carrying out of engagement and inspection activities by the local authorities; and provides supports in terms of advice and guidance.

The EPA funds research projects to: help improve our understanding of the impact of wastewater on human health and the environment; develop proposals for new treatment options; and inform the implementation of the engagement strategies in the Plan.

The EPA also has roles in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive; regulation of large urban waste water treatment plants, industrial and waste sites; and in ensuring that Irish Water delivers safe, clean and well protected drinking water.

Local Authorities

Local authorities are responsible for the implementation of the Plan at a local level, i.e. for the delivery of the engagement strategies in the Plan and for carrying out inspections. This includes applying the criteria outlined by the EPA to select sites for inspection, carry out the inspection and undertake follow up enforcement action. Inspections focus on compliance with the Water Services Act and Regulations, checking that:

- All components are in working order;
- There are no unauthorised discharges;
- Rainwater or clean surface water does not enter the system;
- The system is properly operated and maintained;
- The level of sludge in the tank is acceptable and that it is de-sludged at a regular frequency; and
- The system does not pose a risk to human health or the environment.

Local authorities also maintain a public register of treatment systems within their functional area. The current level of registration nationally is 90%.

1.3 Scope of the document

Engagement activities began in early 2013 and the first inspections were carried out in August 2013. These inspections have allowed, for the first time, the systematic collection of data on the nature and condition of domestic waste water treatment systems in Ireland.

The purpose of this review is to assess the implementation of the Plan during its first cycle, i.e. the period from 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014.

The findings of this review have resulted in recommendations, which have been incorporated into a proposal for the next cycle of the Plan, to cover the period 2015-2017. This proposal is set out in Chapter 6 of this report. The EPA invites submissions from all interested parties on the proposals, prior to finalisation and publication of the Plan for 2015-2017 in early 2015. Questions to assist the consultation process are posed in Section 6.10. **Closing date for submission of comments is the 3rd March 2015.**

In the six month period between the end of the first cycle (i.e. 30th June 2014) and the commencement of the proposed new Plan in 2015 (i.e. 1st July 2014 – 31st December 2014), the local authorities are required to continue to carry out inspections (on a pro-rata basis). The work carried out in this period will be reported on in early 2015.

The key milestones of the Plan are set out in Table 1.

Timeframe	Activity
February 2013	National Inspection Plan 2013 published
1 st July 2013 – 30 th June 2014	Implementation of National Inspection Plan 2013 – minimum 1,000 inspections required
1 st July 2014 – January 2015	(1) Local Authorities required to carry out a further minimum 500 inspections (2) Review of National Inspection Plan 2013/2014 by EPA (3) Publication of Review and Draft for Consultation (4) Public consultation period to end January 2015 (5) Consideration of submissions received and incorporation into 2015-2017 Plan (6) Preparation of National Inspection Plan 2015-2017
January 2015 –December 2017	Implementation of National Inspection Plan 2015-2017
2018 onwards	Align the National Inspection Plan with Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans

Table 1: National Inspection Plan milestones

Chapter 2 Engagement Strategy

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 wastewater treatment systems.

2.1 National Activities

[Literature for homeowners](#) was prepared by a working group established by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG). Approximately 1.7 million leaflets have been distributed to all local authorities, the Health Service Executive, the National Federation of Group Water Schemes and other interested groups. These groups are distributing the leaflets to householders through their normal community networks.



DECLG Working Group Information Leaflets.

The national environmental awareness TV programme 'Ecoeye' included an awareness raising segment aimed at people that have their own on-site wastewater treatment system. The initial screening (January 2013) and a rerun (September/October 2013) attracted over 750,000 viewers. The EPA has updated and maintained the information relating to treatment systems on its website, including the new section called ['Householder Information on septic tanks'](#). The EPA took part in national and local radio interviews and issued a press release to coincide with the launch of the Interim Review of the National Inspection Plan in April 2014. The launch received extensive press coverage. EPA staff also handles frequent queries from interested parties.

> Householder Information on Septic Tanks



Inspections

- ▶ Where can I get more information on inspection of septic tanks?
- ▶ National Inspection Plan 2013: Interim Review
- ▶ What to expect from an inspection



Guidance

- ▶ Code of Practice: Waste Water Treatment for Single Houses
- ▶ Where can I get more information on septic tanks and how they work?
- ▶ What you can do
- ▶ Guidance on Remediation and replacement of DWWTS



Grants

- ▶ Where can I get more information on available grants?
- ▶ Home Renovation Incentive Scheme



Complaints

- ▶ How do I make a complaint about a septic tank?

EPA webpage for Householders - www.epa.ie

2.2 Local Authority Activities

Local authorities have provided details of the engagement strategies employed by them to date, and a summary is presented in Figure 3 and Table A.1 in Appendix A. The most frequently used methods have been to distribute the information leaflets from the DECLG working group, either directly or through other stakeholder groups, and to place information on local authority websites. School visits, stakeholder meetings and the media (newspaper articles and advertisements, radio interviews and advertisements) have also been used by them to disseminate information.

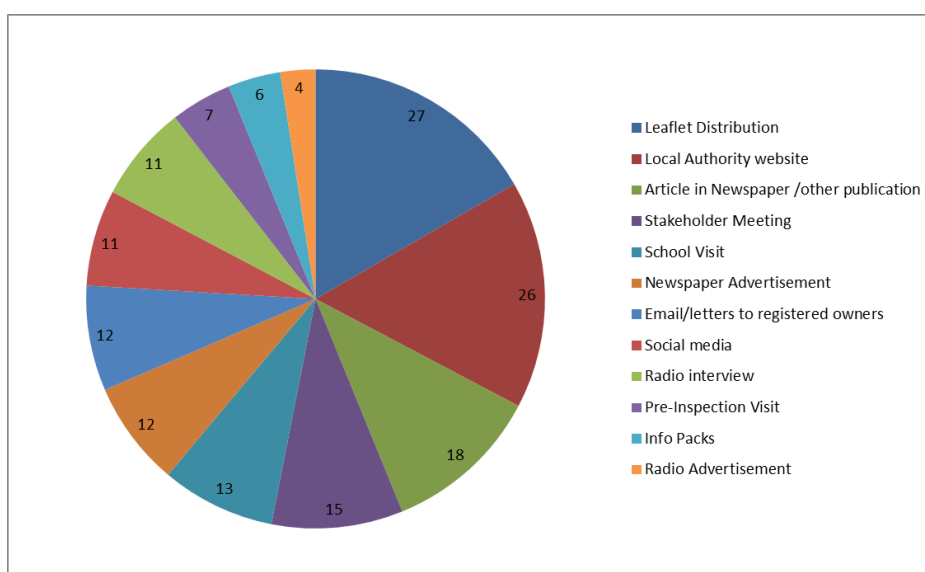


Figure 3: Number of Local Authorities using each method of engagement

In addition, all local authorities deal with frequent queries from members of the public by phone and in person and this person-to-person contact is a very important part of the engagement process. Many of these queries relate to administration of the grant scheme.

Examples of initiatives include the following:

- Some local authorities, for example, Carlow and Meath County Councils have visited homeowners in advance of inspections to deliver the pre-inspection notification letter. This has helped allay the concerns of homeowners and given them an opportunity to prepare for the inspection.
- Wexford County Council brought a reporter from a local radio station along to an inspection, which was broadcast and followed up with a live radio interview.
- Fingal and Cavan County Council's staff have prepared information packs for homeowners.
- Clare County Council has placed reminders on their 'the LIVING FARMLAND' calendar.
- Cork County Council has an exhibition banner showing simple steps to take to operate and maintain your system.



Extract from Clare Co Co calendar



Exhibition banner from Cork Co Co

Examples of Local Authority communication tools

2.3 Engagement Findings

The local authorities began to undertake engagement activities in the summer of 2013. Inspectors report that homeowners are aware of the inspection regime and have a generally positive attitude to the process. However, they have found that homeowners are not well aware of how to operate and maintain their systems.

A small scale study² examining public awareness, attitudes and perceptions of domestic wastewater treatment systems in 2012 and again in mid-2013 found that:

- 74% of respondents in 2013 thought that septic tanks posed a threat to the environment and 60% thought they posed a risk to their own health.
- 67% of respondents had not tried to find information on operation and maintenance.
- 60% of respondents stated that their tank had been de-sludged.
- There was a decrease from 26% to 13% in the number of respondents that thought that their system would require work in the survey from 2012 to 2013.

In 2014, the EPA Queries Unit received 403 queries³ on septic tanks. This was 15.5% of the total number of queries received by the Agency (i.e. 2,600). The septic tanks category is just one of the 70 categories of query that the Unit receives. The majority of these queries relate to the remediation of systems and the administration of the grant scheme. The EPA website provides a substantial amount of relevant information: it has received 13,160 hits on the domestic wastewater pages in 2014.

² Public awareness, perceptions and attitudes towards domestic wastewater treatment systems (2013-W-SS-10)

³ Data up to 31st December 2014.

Chapter 3 Inspection Strategy

An inspection under the National Inspection Plan checks that a domestic wastewater 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 what is wrong and what measures need to be taken to fix the problem.

The National Inspection Plan 2013 required a minimum of 1,000 inspections to be carried out by local authorities over a twelve month period starting the 1st July 2013 and specified the allocation of inspections for each county on the basis of a [risk assessment](#)⁴. The results of the risk assessment indicated that:

- The risk to human health from **pathogens** in waters impacted by 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 from domestic wastewater treatment systems that poses a threat to the environment, particularly to surface water, 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 were generated which divide the country into eight risk categories (Figure 4). Different weightings have been given to each risk category with an additional weighting applied within catchment areas of sensitive receptors. Five per cent of inspections were allocated to low risk areas, 15 per cent to moderate risk areas, 30 per cent and 50 per cent to the high and very high risk categories respectively. The number of inspections in each county depends on the percentage area of the county in each risk category. Details of the inspections carried out by each local authority in each risk zone are given in Table A.2 in Appendix A. The EPA also developed guidance for the selection of sites by local authorities for these inspections (Figure 5).

This report reviews all inspections carried out from the 1st July 2013 to the 30th June 2014 that have been submitted into the online data management system, known as the Domestic Wastewater Application (DWWA).

⁴ A risk-based methodology to assist in the regulation of Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems, EPA 2013

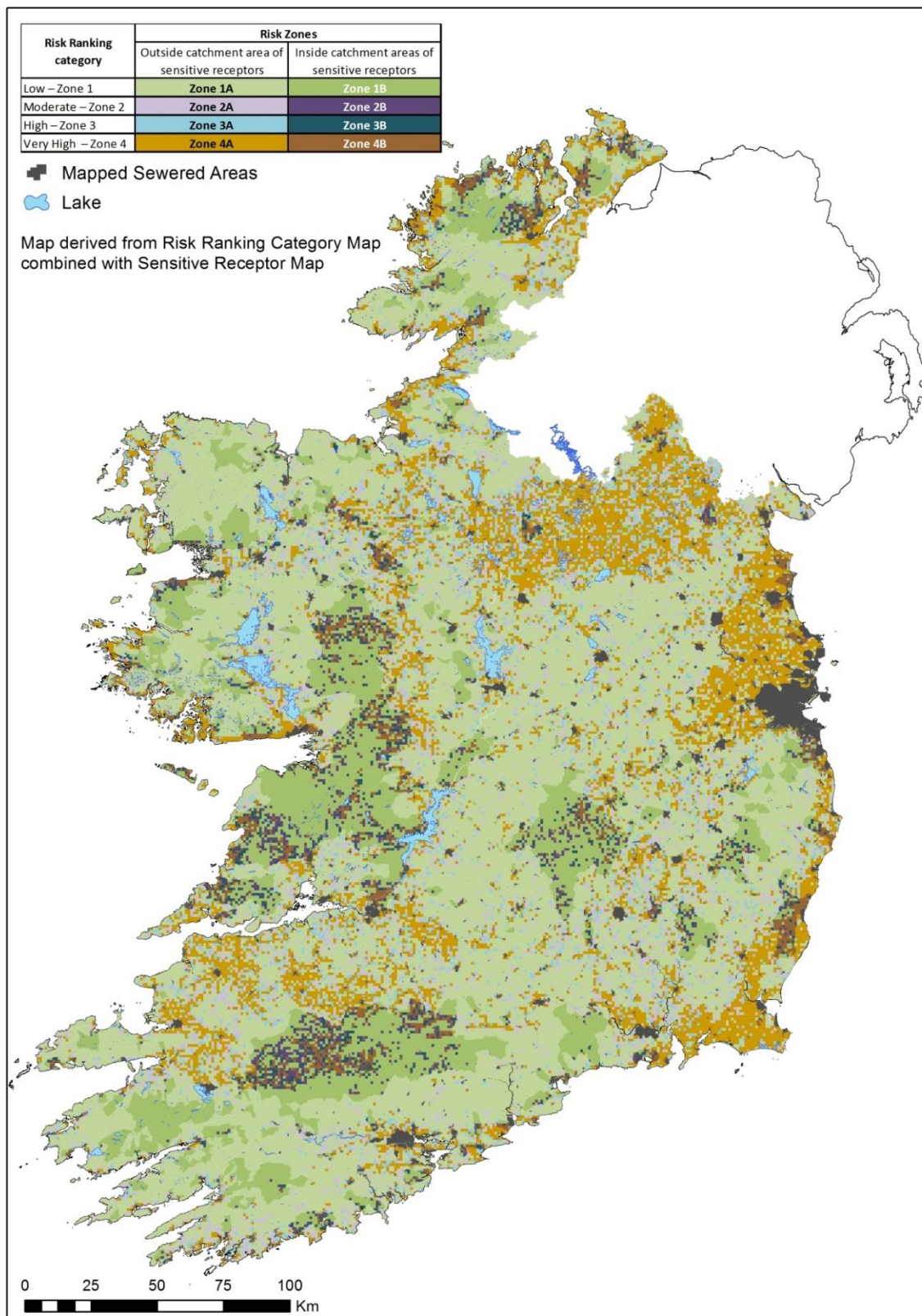


Figure 4: Risk ranking categories map combined with Areas of Special Interest map giving eight risk zones.

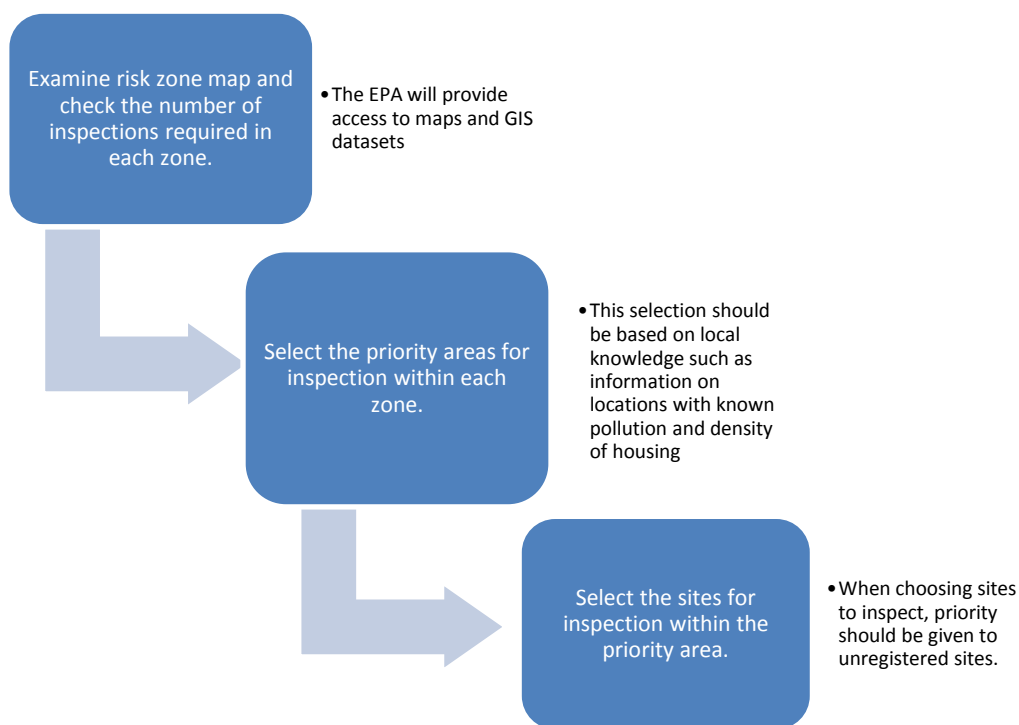


Figure 5: Site Selection flow diagram

3.1 Inspection Activities

99 per cent of the inspections (987) targeted in this first year of the Plan were completed by local authority inspectors in that period. Clare County Council and Mayo County Council did not complete the total number of inspections allocated to them in the specified timeframe, with Clare completing 31 per cent of their allocation and Mayo completing 62 per cent⁵. These councils have advised the Agency that this was due to staff resource issues. Since then these local authorities have continued to carry out inspections in order to meet their targets⁶.

Table 2 shows the progress of each county towards meeting the inspection targets, with the failure rate.

⁵ The EPA has instructed Clare and Mayo County Councils to ensure that the full inspection allocation for 1st July 2013 to 31st December 2014 is completed by the end of 2014.

⁶ It is noted that Clare and Mayo have completed their allocation to the end December 2014.

County	Target No. of Inspections	Total Submitted Inspections ⁷	Total No. Passed Inspections	Total No. Failed Inspections
Carlow	12	15	9	6
Cavan	48	49	19	30
Clare	55	17	14	3
Cork	99	99	39	60
Donegal	80	81	53	28
Dublin	15	20	9	11
Galway	98	99	83	16
Kerry	57	58	23	35
Kildare	25	31	26	5
Kilkenny	31	31	14	17
Laois	26	28	12	16
Leitrim	29	30	13	17
Limerick	50	53	11	42
Longford	17	18	12	6
Louth	18	18	7	11
Mayo	47	29	15	14
Meath	10	42	16	26
Monaghan	33	33	21	12
Offaly	16	16	8	8
Roscommon	33	33	9	24
Sligo ⁸	26	25	8	17
Tipperary	39	41	21	20
Waterford	16	16	14	2
Westmeath	14	24	19	5
Wexford	53	54	27	27
Wicklow	25	27	9	18
Total	1002⁹	987	511	476

Table 2: Progress on meeting inspection targets and failure rates, by county

⁷ Data includes all full inspections carried out by the 30th June 2014 and submitted to DWWA by 1st December 2014.

⁸ Sligo Co. Co. carried out 26 inspections as allocated however, due to circumstances beyond their control they have not been able to follow up on one inspection. An additional inspection will be carried out at a later date.

⁹ This number is due to rounding up of numbers when applying the weightings.

It is noted that 15 local authorities did not fully adhere to the risk based allocation. Carlow, Leitrim and Dublin carried out all their inspections in the very high risk categories (i.e. Zone 4a and 4b). This was due to decisions taken by the local authorities to focus their inspections in the highest risk areas where they were aware of water quality issues. Any local authority that wishes to carry out additional inspections in high risk areas may do so under the Plan, but this should not be at the expense of completing the full allocation across all risk categories. It is important to adhere to the risk-based allocation so that inspections are carried out right across the country, as systems may cause problems at a local level regardless of the national risk category, and also so that compliance rates may be determined on a national level.

An analysis of the main inspection statistics on a national level gives the following information:

987	The number of full inspections carried out
4	The number of re-inspections carried out on request of the homeowner
28	Time extensions were granted to homeowner to allow additional time for completion of works
48	The number of verification inspections¹⁰ carried out to ensure that the required remedial works have been completed prior to the closing off of the advisory notice

Data on inspection types

3.2 Inspection Findings

At a national level 476 of systems failed the inspection. Summary details on the inspection numbers and findings in each county are presented in Figure 6 and Tables A.2 and A.3 in Appendix A.

511	The number of systems that passed the inspection
476	The number of systems that failed the inspection and received an advisory notice
272	The number of systems that failed the inspection but have implemented necessary measures for closure of the advisory notice to date¹¹
783	The resultant number of compliant systems

Data on inspection compliance

¹⁰ Verification inspections are carried out where the local authority needs to inspect the site to ensure that the measures have been taken. Verification inspections may not be required in all cases.

¹¹ Data from advisory notices closed as and from the 1st December 2014.

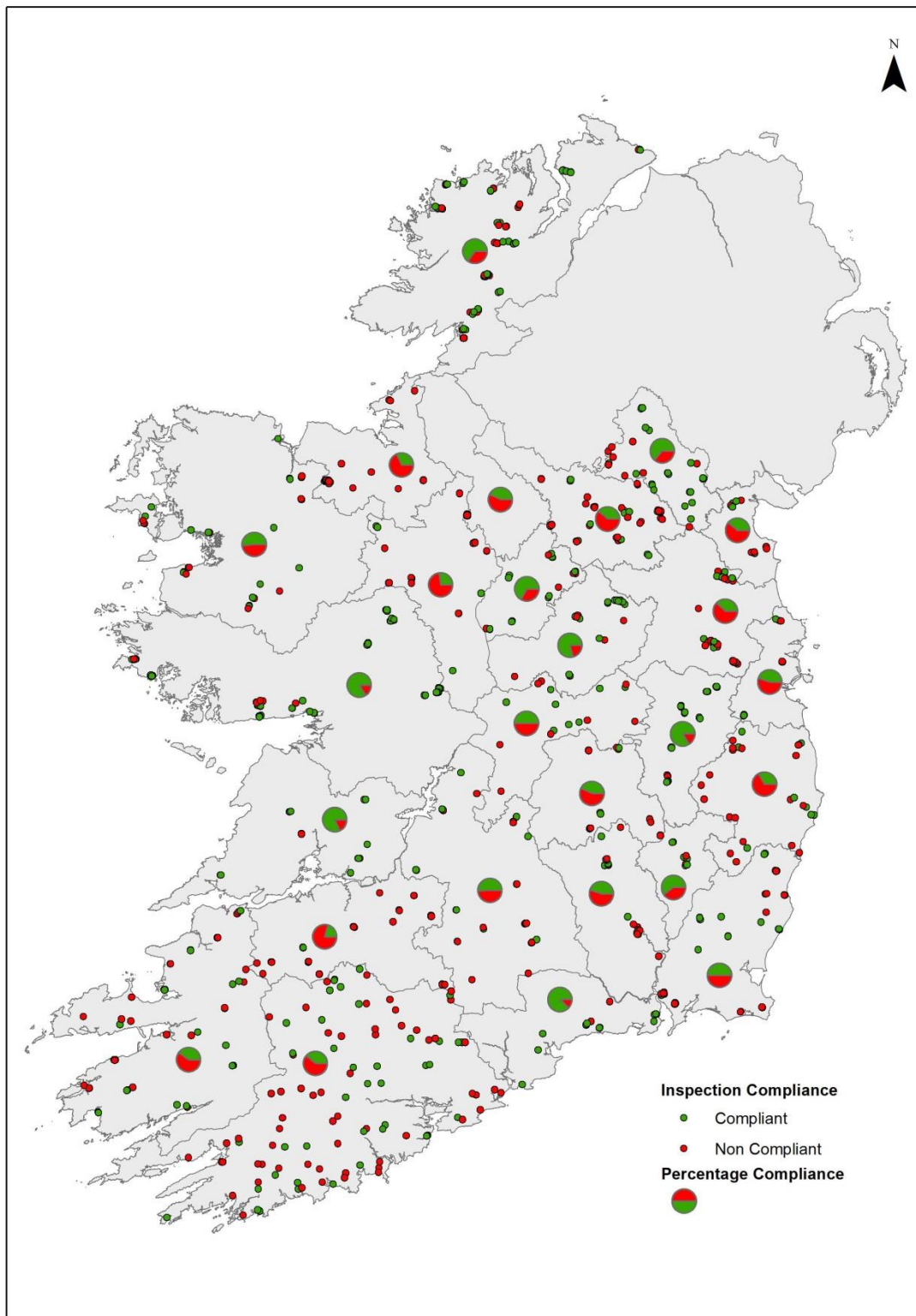


Figure 6: Representation of the spatial location of DWWTs inspections and their compliance status

Main Findings

The most common reasons for failure related to de-sludging and/or operation and maintenance issues (Figure 7). These issues are related to the behaviour of the householder rather than being faults with the system. The works required to remedy these issues do not qualify for grant assistance. Encouraging personal responsibility and behavioural change in this area would be best dealt with by way of engagement.

Across all risk zones the rate of failure attributed to de-sludging is between 23-31%. There is no apparent correlation between risk category and failure rate for de-sludging (Table 3), which is as would be expected given that a failure to de-sludge depends on householder behaviour and is not related to ground conditions.

Construction issues such as leakage and roof water/surface water entering the system can also occur in any risk category but may be linked to construction practices at the time and the age of the system.

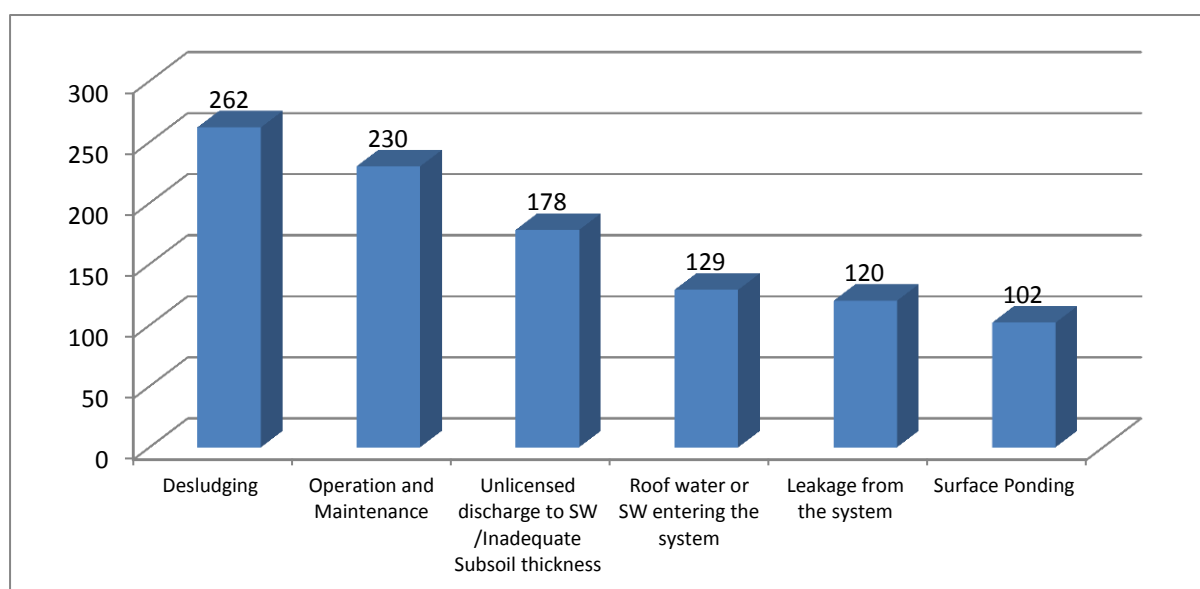


Figure 7: Reasons for failure of inspections of DWWTS

Conversely, problems such as surface water ponding and unlicensed discharges would be expected to be related to inadequate percolation and higher rates of failure for these reasons would be expected in the higher risk zones. To date, however, these only account for 27% of the failures in the very high-risk category, while accounting for 40% of failures low risk areas.

In examining the reasons for failure according to the risk category, it is noted that the systems inspected in the low risk areas may have been targeted as they were known to have water quality issues associated with them. Another factor to consider is that ponding generally occurs in the winter months and so may not be detected during inspections in the dry summer months. As further inspections are completed over time, with the systems being chosen randomly across the risk categories, better correlation between the different risk categories and these reasons for failure should emerge.

	No. inspections	No. failed sites	No. closed Advisory Notices ¹²	Leakage from the system Section 2(1)a	Unlicensed discharge to SW / Inadequate Subsoil thickness Section 2(1)b	Surface Ponding Section 2(1)c	Roof water or SW entering the system Section 2(2)	Operation and Maintenance Section 2(3)	Desludging Section 3(1)	Risk to human health or the environment Section 70C(1)(b)
1a Low	118	63	36	21	26	19	18	34	27	42
1b Low and in ASI	70	39	24	10	16	14	9	17	22	21
2a Moderate	70	32	15	6	12	4	7	15	20	16
2b Moderate and in ASI	53	15	6	4	5	3	5	6	12	7
3a High	68	35	18	11	12	6	13	15	20	19
3b High and in ASI	28	13	10	2	3	1	3	4	7	6
4a Very High	443	222	127	48	72	42	57	109	122	119
4b Very High and in ASI	121	53	35	16	28	11	15	26	29	33
Uncategorised	10	4	1	1	2	0	1	3	2	3
TOTAL	987	476	272	120	178	102	129	230	262	269

Table 3: Non-compliance by reason, linked to risk category, nationally

¹² Closed as of the 1st December 2014

Type and Age of Systems

The type and age of the treatment systems inspected were examined in order to determine if they are factors affecting the satisfactory working of a system (Figure 8 and Table A.4 in Appendix A):

- Pre-1964 septic tanks have a very high failure rate, which is not surprising as they were installed prior to the introduction of planning regulations and their age far exceeds the recommended system lifespan of thirty years.
- The majority of post-2000 secondary treatment systems failures are attributed to operation and maintenance issues, which may be expected as these systems require more servicing than a simple septic tank.

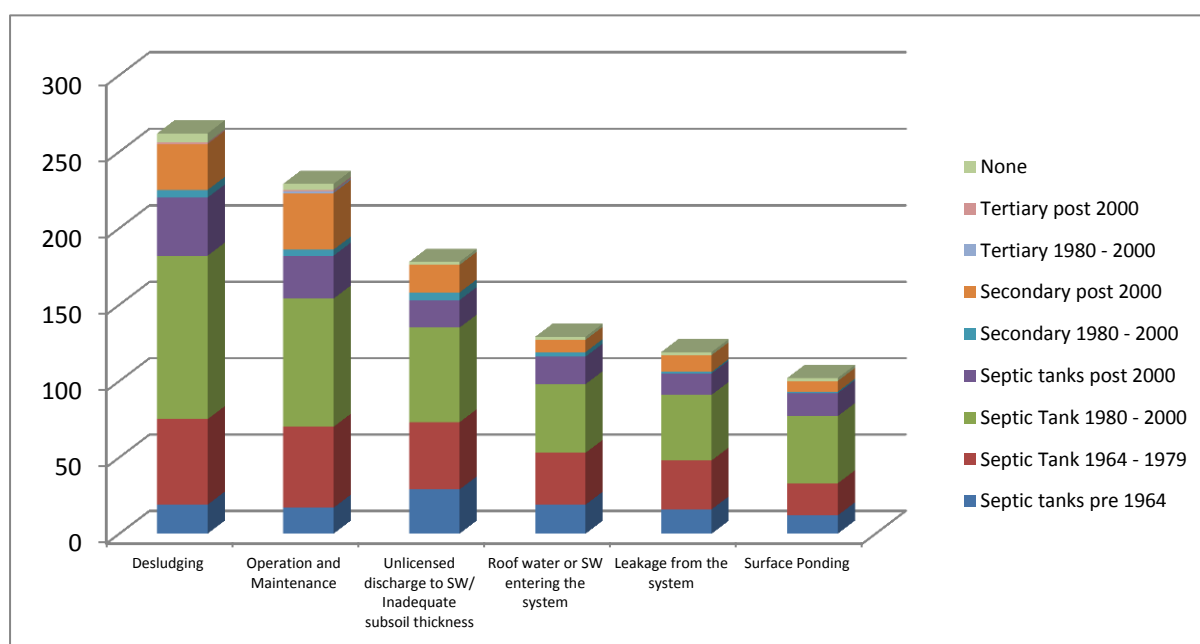


Figure 8 – The reasons for failure associated with the age and type of system

Water Supply

For 27 per cent of the systems inspected (Figure 9 and Table A.5 in Appendix A), the water supply to the connected property is from a private well. Leakage from a wastewater treatment system poses a threat to nearby wells and leakage was found to be an issue in 18 per cent of these cases. [Guidance on protecting wells](#) has been developed by the EPA in conjunction with the Health Service Executive (HSE); this information should be made available to householders where during an inspection it has become known that there is a private well on-site.

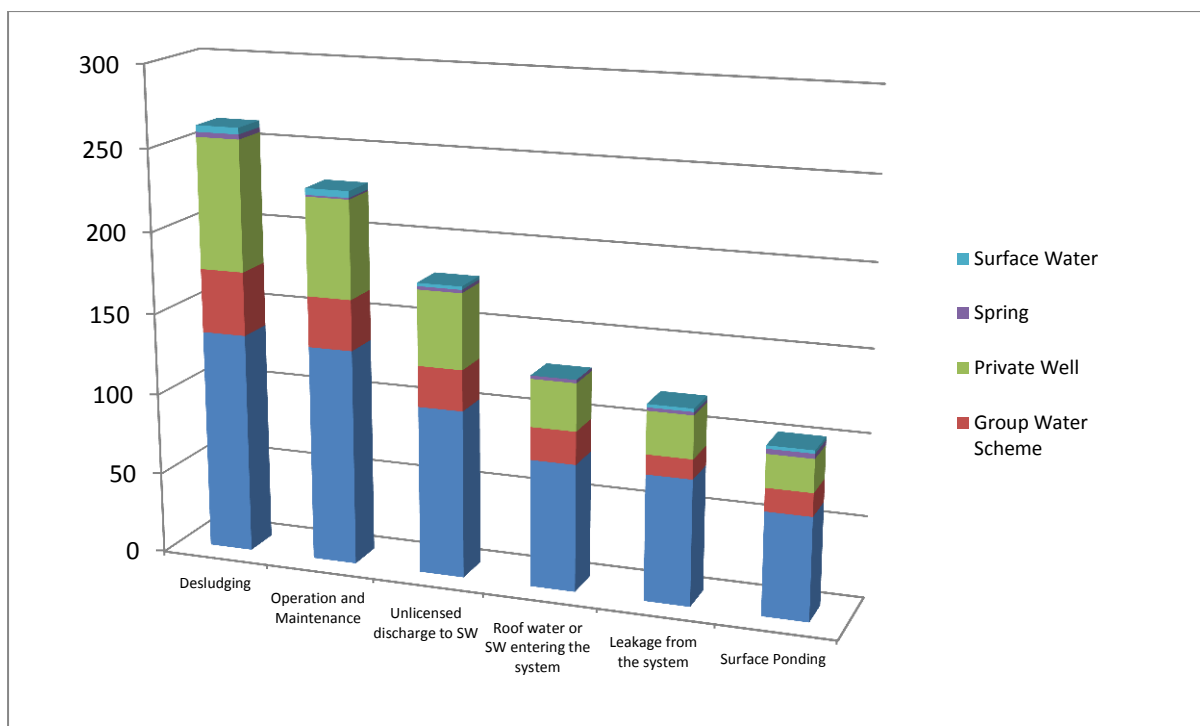


Figure 9 – The reasons for failure associated with type of water supply

26%	Of systems failed because of de-sludging
79%	Of pre-1964 septic tanks inspected are considered to pose a risk to human health and the environment
39%	Of post-2000 secondary treatment systems failed the inspection
52%	Of sites with private wells failed the inspection

Data on reasons for failures

Follow-up actions

Advisory notices issued to householders by the local authority inspectors contain advice on the measures to be taken to remedy the problems identified during an inspection. Closing out advisory notices is an important aspect of the implementation of the Plan and can also be a resource-intensive activity for local authorities. To date¹³ 272 advisory notices have been closed (Table A.6 in Appendix A) and 48 verification inspections have been undertaken on systems inspected during the first year to ensure that the appropriate measures have been put in place. In 227 cases (Figure 10), one of the measures required was to ‘de-sludge the tank using an authorised contractor and dispose of contents in accordance with all relevant national legislation’ and in many of these cases the homeowner would have to provide documentary evidence that they used a permitted contractor to do this work. 70 per cent of the de-sludging measures were closed out within three to six months of the date of issue of the associated advisory notice. Almost half of the closed advisory notices relate to sites where the treatment system was considered to pose a risk to human health or the environment.

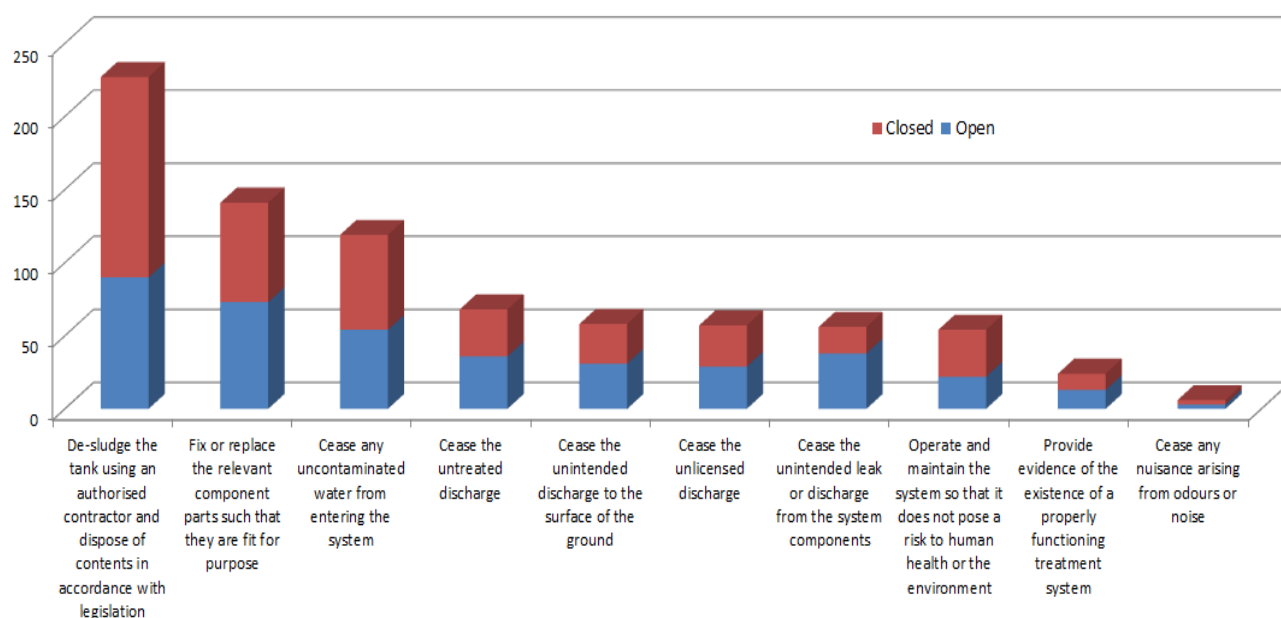


Figure 10: Measures associated with Advisory Notices (status at the 1st December 2014)

In 24 advisory notices, the homeowner was advised to ‘provide evidence of the existence of a properly functioning domestic wastewater treatment system (DWWTS) that complies with the requirements of the legislation’. This measure is specified where the inspector can find no evidence of wastewater treatment infrastructure on the site. Eleven of these advisory notices have been closed out indicating that there is a properly functioning system on site now.

Some examples of the measures actually put in place are outlined in Figure 11. Summary details on advisory notices are presented in Tables A.3 and A.7 in Appendix A.

¹³ 1st December 2014

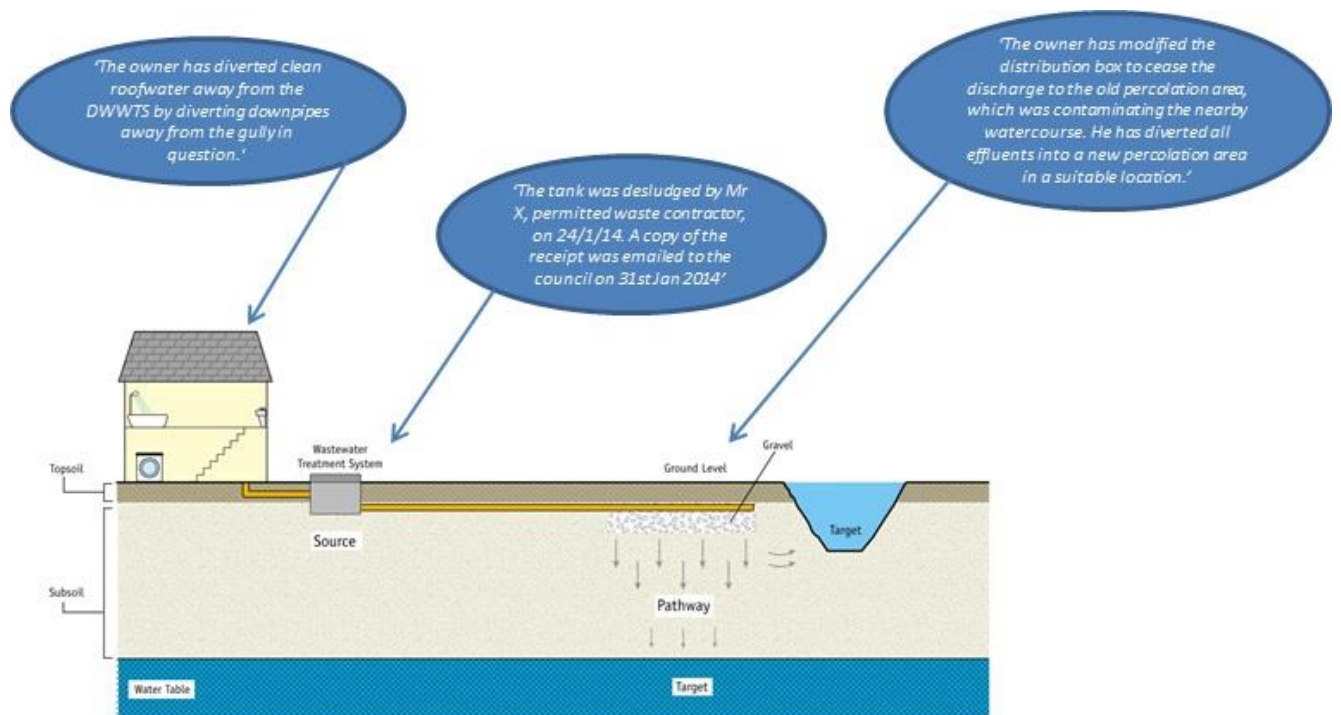


Figure 11: Some real examples of completed measures

Chapter 4 Supporting Activities

4.1 Environmental Protection Agency

The EPA has appointed 108 local authority inspectors to date covering all counties. All inspectors have successfully completed a specifically designed training course developed and delivered by the Local Authority National Training Group.

The EPA supports the implementation of the Plan and consistency of approach within this new inspection regime. Some of the main supports include:

- An online environmental regulators 'Septic Tank Inspectors Network' page on the regulators EDEN portal¹⁴ has been developed, to enable communication between the EPA and the inspectors and to facilitate discussion amongst inspectors.

Welcome to the Septic Tank Inspectors Network



Welcome

Welcome to the "Septic Tank Inspectors" Network page of the NIECE website. This Network Page is an online resource developed to assist WSA's in the implementation of the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS).

The primary objective of this site is to provide a forum for WSA inspectors to communicate amongst themselves and to share information relating to DWWTS inspections and remediation options. It also may be used to provide feedback to the EPA on common issues arising during the site inspections. All relevant guidance documents and legislation will be posted on this page, along with details of any planned events. The group discussion thread is also available for all to use, the views expressed may not reflect the EPA position.

Should you wish to see any further items added to this page, which would be relevant to all the members of this group, please don't hesitate to contact Margaret Keegan with such suggestions at m.keegan@epa.ie

Network Members and Contact Details



Have you seen what events are Upcoming?

[Calendar of Events](#)

	Title	Location	Start Date	End Time	All Day Event
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NIECE Septic Tank Inspectors Network Webpage

- A workshop for inspectors was held following the publication of the Interim Review of the Plan in April 2014. The main purpose of the workshop was to:
 - Allow the findings of the interim review to be presented;
 - Provide a platform for inspectors to share experiences on the site selection process, carrying out of inspections and the roll out of the engagement strategies; and
 - Obtain feedback on the implementation of the Plan to date, which is being used to inform this review.

¹⁴ 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.

- The Domestic Waste Water Application (DWWA), an online data management system for local authorities, was updated following feedback from inspectors. The DWWA allows for the management of the inspection process and generates inspection reports, advisory notices and statistics relating to inspections.
- The EPA provides ongoing query support in relation to the implementation of the National Inspection Plan and the DWWA system.

Research

Relevant research includes projects under the EPA-funded STRIVE environmental research programme, on the following topics:

- Assessment of disposal options for treated wastewater from single houses in low permeability subsoil (2010-W-LS-3).
 - The final report on the disposal options in low permeability subsoils will inform guidance to be developed and issued by the EPA. This research report is expected to be published by the end of 2014.
- Impact of domestic wastewater treatment systems on rivers and wells (2012-W-MS-12).
 - This project is half way through its three year timeframe and is examining the extent of impact of wastewater from domestic treatment systems on rivers and wells in four study areas. It also hopes to identify markers that will be able to be used to differentiate between animal and human waste contamination.
- Public awareness, perceptions and attitudes towards domestic wastewater treatment systems (2013-W-SS-10).
 - This small scale study is complete and provides information on public awareness, perceptions and attitudes towards DWWTS before and immediately after the introduction of the National inspection Plan.
- Communicating Risk Based Enforcement (Relay_Risk) (2013-W-DS-12)
 - This desk study is currently examining ways to deliver such messages effectively to the target audience in order to improve knowledge and promote behavioural change. This project will also investigate the appropriate metrics in order to determine the effectiveness of the engagement strategies. The findings of this project will be published in early 2015.

The findings of all this research will be published on the EPA website as they become available.

A research study 'Management Options for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Sludges (2012-W-DS-9)' report has been published by the EPA. Some of the findings are presented in the infographic below. The report has identified that only 50% of sludges from treatment systems can be treated in existing facilities due to infrastructural deficits assuming a de-sludging rate of every three years. It makes a number of recommendations, which the EPA and other stakeholders such as the DECLG and Irish Water will need to progress.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS FOR DOMESTIC WASTE WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS SLUDGES



[Link to published research report](#)

Sludge Management Options Infographic

4.2 Local Authorities

Currently, 76 inspectors are actively involved in carrying out inspections under the Plan. For the inspectors involved, it is only one part of their work within the local authority. Many of the inspectors are responsible for the implementation of other local authority statutory environmental functions including agricultural inspections, discharge licensing, bathing water monitoring, Water Framework Directive work and dealing with environmental complaints.

The extent of the work for inspectors on the Plan in each Local Authority will depend on the available resources and the number of inspections to be carried out. The activities involved in implementing the National Inspection Plan include:

- Compliance promotion and awareness raising;
- Site selection;
- Inspection Planning;
- Notification of the householder (may involve pre-inspection visit);
- Carrying out the inspection;
- Inputting data, generating reports, advisory notices, notices of compliance;
- Following up on open advisory notices;
- Liaison with homeowners;
- Carrying out verification inspections;
- Closure of advisory notices or further enforcement actions; and
- Administration of the inspection and grant application processes.

Other Inspections

In addition to the inspections carried out under the *Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012*, local authorities also deal routinely with complaints in relation to domestic wastewater treatment systems under the *Water Pollution Act, 1990* and associated regulations. These inspections are not covered by this report as they fall outside of the remit of the National Inspection Plan. The work in this area also leads to an improvement in the functioning of these systems thus reducing their risk to human health and the environment. Data on complaints is not currently readily available. A recent email survey to all local authorities yielded a response from twenty seven local authorities. The total number of domestic waste water complaints dealt with by staff at those local authorities in the period 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2014 was 388, the number of closed complaints at that time was 217.

Bathing water failures, where the source of the pollution is attributed to domestic wastewater treatment systems, also result in inspection of these systems in the catchment. In the 2014 bathing water season only one investigation considered septic tanks to be the main pollution source, though other investigations have also included inspections of treatment systems.

Chapter 5 Assessment of Findings

This report reviews the establishment and implementation of a new regime for the regulation of domestic wastewater treatment systems. The data gathered from the first year of inspections has provided an insight into the nature and condition of domestic wastewater treatment systems for the first time in Ireland.

On a national scale, discharges from domestic wastewater treatment systems are considered to pose a low risk in comparison to discharges from urban wastewater treatment plants and agriculture. Therefore the strategy of engagement activities combined with risk-based inspections is reflective of the relative risk posed by domestic wastewater treatment systems.

At the same time as gathering data on the condition of treatment systems through the implementation of the Plan, the EPA is also carrying out an assessment of the impacts on water quality as part of the characterisation under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). This work will identify the water bodies at risk of failing to meet the WFD objectives and more importantly, in the context of domestic wastewater treatment systems, the specific type of pressure put on each water body at risk.

While inspections are currently allocated based on risk maps, by 2017 the characterisation process will result in the availability of pollution impact potential maps for the country, identifying the areas where domestic wastewater treatment systems, among other pressures, are actually causing an impact on water quality. This will allow for improved targeting of inspections in the areas where such an impact has been identified.

In the meantime, the EPA will continue to gather information on the condition of treatment systems to inform the characterisation under the WFD, which provides the link to impact on water quality and for refining the messages under the engagement strategy.

5.1 Implementation to date

The focus in the first 12 months of implementation of the Plan has been on training inspectors and getting the inspection regime embedded in local authorities' work plans, and all local authorities have commenced inspections. 99 per cent of the inspections that were allocated to local authorities for the first year were carried out. Local authorities are working with homeowners to determine appropriate solutions where a system has failed an inspection, as well as carrying out follow-up inspections and taking enforcement action, where necessary.

While engagement activities have been carried out, it is too early to assess their effectiveness, though anecdotally it is considered that awareness of regulation of domestic wastewater treatment systems is increasing. The outputs of the 'Communicating Risk Based Enforcement' research project will allow a co-ordinated campaign to be developed and enable the effectiveness of the campaign to be assessed in future years.

5.2 Condition of treatment systems in Ireland

The data derived from the inspections to date provide valuable information on the condition of domestic wastewater treatment systems in Ireland. 52 per cent of the treatment systems inspected passed the inspection, however, that means that 48 per cent of the systems failed. We now have information on the reasons the sites failed the inspection, which will inform the steps to be taken to promote compliance in the future.

For example, the data supports concerns that had been raised in relation to the low level of de-sludging and the lack of operation and maintenance of these treatment systems. 116 systems failed just on these grounds. Improved awareness of the need for regular de-sludging and operation/maintenance is required. Behavioural change in this area should result in improved compliance rates and could be most efficiently achieved through targeted engagement rather than through inspections only. 45 per cent of the advisory notices relating to de-sludging/operation and maintenance have been closed out already.

The next most common issue found is that of unauthorised discharges to surface waters/inadequate subsoil thickness in place, which is resulting in untreated effluent going directly into surface or groundwater at 178 sites. A review of the closed advisory notices indicates that 51 of these sites have been remediated. Local authorities will need to make sure that follow up actions are taken in respect to these failures, and appropriate remedial works have been identified through the STRIVE research project (2010-W-LS-3).

The age of treatment systems appears to influence the compliance rate. 79 per cent of the pre-1964 septic tanks inspected failed the inspection. The 2011 Census¹⁵ states that there are 127,961 treatment systems installed pre-1961; many of these systems may need to be replaced as they are well beyond the recommended lifespan (30 years) of these types of systems.

Of the sites inspected that had a private well, 52 per cent failed the inspection. The risks to private wells from domestic effluent need to be highlighted. A “Protect your Well” assessment app is available from the EPA website www.epa.ie. It provides well owners with tailored advice on how they can reduce the risk of contamination in their well.

Improvements have been made by homeowners to systems as a result of inspections. When the number of closed advisory notices is combined with the number of systems that passed in the first instance, 79 per cent (783) of the inspected treatment systems are now compliant with the regulations and do not pose a risk to human health and the environment. This number will increase as homeowners of systems, which failed the inspections, carry out the required works and local authority inspectors close out the advisory notices.

As more sites are inspected more data will be gathered and further analysis can be made. The data collected will be used to inform the WFD characterisation process and the engagement strategies.

¹⁵ The Roof over our Heads – Housing in Ireland (Central Statistics Office, 2012)

5.3 Recommendations

The aim of the Plan is to protect water and human health by using a two-strand approach of education and awareness strategies linked with a risk-based inspection process. This is an innovative approach which is in keeping with the current drive towards risk-based enforcement and compliance promotion across Europe. This review supports the continuation of this approach.

The following recommendations are made to further support the implementation of the objectives of the National Inspection Plan.

Period of Plan

- It is recommended that the 2nd cycle of the Plan should cover the period 2015-2017. This will enable the 3rd cycle of the Plan to be integrated into the next River Basin Management Plan, which is being prepared as part of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Ireland, and commences in 2018. The integration of these two Plans will allow a consistent targeted approach to dealing with water quality issues arising from domestic wastewater treatment systems.

Registration

- Failure to register a domestic wastewater treatment system is an offence and local authorities should take enforcement action in relation to unregistered systems.

Engagement Strategy

- The findings of the inspections relating to the condition of treatment systems should be used by local authorities to frame the messages that are to be disseminated to homeowners.

Inspection Frequency

- The current minimum number of inspections should be maintained for the period 2015 - 2017 until the completion of the WFD characterisation process.
 - This takes into consideration that domestic wastewater treatment systems are considered to be a low risk activity at a national scale;
 - It allows the acquisition of sufficient data to inform the Water Framework Directive characterisation;
 - Once the characterisation is complete, there will be a better understanding of the relative risk posed by domestic wastewater treatment systems as a pressure;
 - It will allow time for the engagement strategy to take effect and for its effectiveness to be measured.
- A review of the inspection numbers should be undertaken as part of the detailed work planned for the next River Basin Management Plans (due to be published at the end of 2017). Such a decision to change the minimum number of inspections can be made in the context of an overall assessment of how resources are best allocated to ensure the optimal outcomes for water quality.

Site Selection

- Local authorities should adhere to the risk-based allocation so that inspections are carried out right across the country in order to assess compliance.
- Local authorities should adhere to the site selection criteria and continue to target unregistered sites. Any unregistered system identified for inspection should be required to register as part of the sign-off on the inspection findings.

Enforcement

- Local authorities should take the appropriate steps to ensure that advisory notices are closed out to ensure that the inspection strategy is effective. 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 prosecution under the *Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012*.

Water Quality

- Inspectors have found that in some case there are on-going direct discharges to water, possibly due to poor percolation issues on-site. A review of the Water Pollution Act Section 4 discharge licensing process may be appropriate to allow for consideration of treating these discharges to a high standard and the discharge of such treated effluent to surface water, where it is environmentally sustainable and approved by the local authority, through means of a simplified consent process.

Protecting Private Wells

- Guidance on protecting wells developed by the EPA should be provided to householders with private wells.
- An incentivised private well testing scheme may raise awareness of the potential risks posed by septic tanks to drinking water supplies thus encouraging private well owners with septic tanks to ensure that their systems are properly operated and maintained.

Complaints

- Tracking of upgraded systems in this context would contribute to the overall improving picture on a national level and a means for doing this should be investigated.

Sludge Management

- As the most common reason for inspection failure is lack of de-sludging, policy efforts should be targeted at encouraging householders to maintain their systems. For example, research has shown that additional capacity for sludge recovery/disposal is needed.

Chapter 6 Proposals and Consultation for Next Plan (2015-2017)

6.1 Introduction

The proposed Plan is essentially will be a continuation of the existing Plan taking into account the findings of the review and comments received during the consultation period.

The proposed modifications to the existing Plan are limited to those outlined below.

The Agency invites submissions from all interested parties on the proposals below, prior to publication of the Plan for 2015-2017 in early 2015. Questions to assist in the consultation process are posed in Section 6.10. **Closing date for submission of comments is the 3rd March 2015.**

6.2 Proposed Period of Plan

The period covered by the 2nd cycle of the *National Inspection Plan for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems* will be 1st January 2015 to 31st December 2017.

6.3 Risk Assessment

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) characterisation process is currently underway, which may allow for the replacement of the current risk assessment methodology with the pollution impact potential maps from 2018. In the meantime, there will be no change to the fundamentals of the applied risk assessment methodology. It is, however, proposed to add the catchments of the shellfish protected areas to the Areas of Special Interest map, in order to provide additional protection for these waters. This may result in additional areas of some coastal counties being designated as zones 1b, 2b, 3b, or 4b, which in turn may slightly change the relative numbers of inspections in different counties.

6.4 Registration

Local authorities should take a proactive approach and further enforcement action, where appropriate, in relation to unregistered systems. Any unregistered system identified for inspection should be required to register as part of the sign-off on the inspection findings and this should be incorporated into the annual work plan for each local authority.

6.5 Engagement

The review has highlighted the need for a targeted campaign to address different issues identified by the engagement and inspection processes. The EPA will work with local authorities to develop a communication strategy that will assist in ensuring that consistent messages are disseminated.

There will be annual tracking of progress made by individual local authorities in meeting metrics specified in the strategy.

6.6 Inspections

Frequency

It is proposed that the national minimum number of full inspections to be carried out will remain at 1,000 per year, with a total minimum number of 3,000 to be carried out over the three year period 2015-2017. These numbers are in keeping with the relative low risk at national level to water quality from treatment systems as compared to other activities, such as agriculture and urban waste water.

Each Local Authority will be required to carry out a minimum allocation in each year, but will have discretion as to how these are selected and scheduled, e.g. if it is proposed that 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 Very High Risk Zone 4a in the first year and then carry out the remainder of the inspections in the other risk categories in years two and three.

Site Selection

The site selection criteria in the first Plan emphasised that priority should be given to the selection of unregistered properties for inspection in the first instance. This should continue. The overall selection criteria will remain the same as outlined in the National Inspection Plan 2013, however, further guidance may be produced on the practical aspects of inspection.

Enforcement

Particular attention should be given by local authorities to the closing out of advisory notices as it can be inferred from this that the remedial works are complete and that the risk to human health and the environment is reduced.

6.7 Protecting Private Wells

Local authority inspectors will be provided with copies of the private wells leaflets in order to that they can distribute them at the time of the inspection. An information seminar on the risks to private wells is proposed for septic tank inspectors to inform them of the risk posed to private wells.

The EPA will highlight the recommendation for an incentivised private well testing scheme with the DECLG.

6.8 Complaints/Other inspections

Local authorities should maintain a register of all complaints and other inspections such as water pollution incident investigations that relate to domestic wastewater treatment systems. The upgrade or replacement of any system should be recorded.

The EPA will work with the County & City Managers Association (CCMA) to investigate possibilities for the development of a data management system to capture this data.

6.9 EPA Supervisory Function

The EPA in its supervisory/statutory performance role will carry out reviews as outlined in the reporting schedule in Table 4 below. 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.

Timeframe	Activity
Q1 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
Q2 2018	Report on implementation of Plan in 2015-2017
2018 onwards	Reporting to take place under Water Framework Directive River Basin Management Plans

Table 4: National Inspection Plan reporting milestones

6.10 Consultation Process

We invite submissions on the proposals outlined in this Chapter. In order to assist with this, we have posed a number of questions listed below to which we would welcome your response. It would be helpful if you could number your responses with the same number as the question below. In order to assist us with the assessment of these submissions, please provide a rationale for your response to each question. Additional comments are welcome.

Submissions should be emailed to DWWTSInspections@epa.ie or by post to **National Inspection Plan 2015-2017 Consultation**, EPA, McCumiskey House, Richview, Clonskeagh Road, Dublin 14 to arrive no later than **the 3rd March 2015**.

Question 1: Despite widespread media coverage of registration and inspection of domestic waste water treatment systems, 67% of respondents to a survey had not sought out information on these systems.

Did you try to find out information?

Yes/No

• If yes, what prompted you to do so?

Please give details

• If no, what prevented you from doing so?

○ Was it a lack of awareness of where to find the information? If so, what information would be helpful?

Yes/No

○ Was it a fear that your system might require costly work to be carried out?

Yes/No

○ Was it a lack of awareness of the possible health risks posed by such systems?

Yes/No

○ Other reason

Please give details

Question 2: The review has found that the main reasons for systems failing the inspection are due to a failure to de-sludge or operate/maintain a system properly. Actions to address these issues would not qualify for grant assistance.

• Are you surprised at this finding?

Yes/No

• Did you realise that these are necessary to make sure your system works properly and doesn't pose a threat to your health?

Yes/No

• Did you know that it is a legal requirement to maintain your system so that it doesn't pose a risk to human health or the environment?

Yes/No

• On hearing that most systems should not require major works, are you more likely to check out your system and take any necessary actions, such as de-sludging the tank (approximate cost €250)?

Yes/No

Question 3: What further supports would be helpful?

Please give details

Please enter any further comments you would like to make:

Please give details

Appendix A – Data tables

Table A.1: Summary of Engagement strategies by Local Authority for the period up to the 30th June 2014.

Table A.2: Inspections by Risk Zone from 1st July 2013 to 20th June 2014, by Local Authority at 1st December 2014.

Table A.3: Advisory Notices and reasons for non-compliance as a result of inspections carried out from the 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014, by county.

Table A.4: Non-compliance by reason according to age and type of treatment system, nationally.

Table A.5: Non-compliance by reason according to water supply, nationally.

Table A.6: Status of Advisory Notices Issued from the 1st July 2013 to the 30th June 2014.

Table A.7: Status of Advisory Notices with associated measures.

Table A.1: Summary of Engagement strategies by Local Authority for the period up to the 30th June 2014

Local Authority	Article in Newspaper /other publication	Newspaper Ads	Radio interview	Radio Ads	Stakeholder Meeting	School Visit	Leaflet Distribution	Social media	Local Authority website	Email/letters to registered owners	Info Packs	Pre-Inspection Visit	Best Practice examples
Carlow	✓						✓		✓	✓		✓	
Cavan	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Clare	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Cork	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Donegal	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Dublin						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Galway		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓				
Galway City							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kerry	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				
Kildare		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
Kilkenny						✓	✓		✓				
Laois							✓	✓	✓				
Leitrim	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Limerick	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓			
Longford	✓					✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
Louth					✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
Mayo		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Meath		✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			
Monaghan	✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓			
Offaly	✓		✓				✓		✓	✓			
Roscommon	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			
Sligo	✓						✓	✓	✓		✓		
Tipperary N		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓				
Tipperary S							✓	✓	✓	✓			
Waterford	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Westmeath	✓				✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Wexford		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Wicklow						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Table A.2: Inspections by Risk Zone from 1st July 2013 to 20th June 2014, by Local Authority at 1st December 2014

Water Service Authority	Risk Zone	Total Submitted Inspections	Total No. Compliant Inspections	Total No. Non-Compliant Inspections	Total No. Open Advisory Notices	Total No. Closed Advisory Notices
Carlow County Council	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	15	9	6	1	5
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	15	9	6	1	5
Cavan County Council	1a Low	2	2	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	4	2	2	1	1
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	5	2	3	1	2
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	38	13	25	6	19
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	49	19	30	8	22
Clare County Council	1a Low	3	2	1	0	1
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	6	5	1	0	1
	3a High	1	1	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	7	6	1	0	1
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	17	14	3	0	3
Cork City Council	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	0	0	0	0	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0

Cork County Council	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
	1a Low	12	3	9	5	4
	1b Low and in ASI	15	4	11	3	8
	2a Moderate	5	3	2	0	2
	2b Moderate and in ASI	10	4	6	5	1
	3a High	7	4	3	0	3
	3b High and in ASI	9	2	7	2	5
	4a Very High	17	9	8	1	7
	4b Very High and in ASI	24	10	14	5	9
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Donegal County Council	TOTAL	99	39	60	21	39
	1a Low	5	3	2	1	1
	1b Low and in ASI	8	6	2	1	1
	2a Moderate	3	0	3	3	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	3	2	1	1	0
	3a High	6	4	2	1	1
	3b High and in ASI	5	4	1	1	0
	4a Very High	36	24	12	7	5
	4b Very High and in ASI	15	10	5	2	3
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin City Council	TOTAL	81	53	28	17	11
	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	0	0	0	0	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	0	0	0	0	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Fingal County Council	TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0
	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0

Galway City Council	4a Very High	3	2	1	0	1
	4b Very High and in ASI	8	5	3	1	2
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	11	7	4	1	3
	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	0	0	0	0	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
Galway County Council	Unknown	10	7	3	2	1
	TOTAL	10	7	3	2	1
	1a Low	7	4	3	0	3
	1b Low and in ASI	6	6	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	7	6	1	0	1
	2b Moderate and in ASI	18	18	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	26	22	4	0	4
	4b Very High and in ASI	25	20	5	2	3
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	89	76	13	2	11
Kerry County Council	1a Low	9	5	4	0	4
	1b Low and in ASI	7	2	5	1	4
	2a Moderate	5	2	3	1	2
	2b Moderate and in ASI	1	1	0	0	0
	3a High	6	2	4	2	2
	3b High and in ASI	1	0	1	1	0
	4a Very High	27	11	16	6	10
	4b Very High and in ASI	2	0	2	0	2
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	58	23	35	11	24
Kildare County Council	1a Low	4	3	1	1	0
	1b Low and in ASI	2	2	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	3	1	2	2	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	3	3	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	16	14	2	2	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	3	3	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	31	26	5	5	0
Kilkenny County Council	1a Low	4	3	1	0	1
	1b Low and in ASI	1	0	1	0	1
	2a Moderate	4	3	1	1	0

Laois County Council	2b Moderate and in ASI	1	1	0	0	0
	3a High	4	2	2	2	0
	3b High and in ASI	1	1	0	0	0
	4a Very High	14	3	11	7	4
	4b Very High and in ASI	2	1	1	1	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	31	14	17	11	6
	1a Low	2	1	1	1	0
	1b Low and in ASI	5	2	3	3	0
	2a Moderate	3	2	1	1	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	2	2	0	0	0
	3a High	2	0	2	2	0
	3b High and in ASI	1	1	0	0	0
	4a Very High	6	0	6	6	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	7	4	3	1	1
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	28	12	16	14	1
Leitrim County Council	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	30	13	17	13	4
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	30	13	17	13	4
Limerick City & County Council	1a Low	4	0	4	4	0
	1b Low and in ASI	1	0	1	1	0
	2a Moderate	6	1	5	4	1
	2b Moderate and in ASI	2	1	1	0	1
	3a High	6	1	5	2	3
	3b High and in ASI	2	1	1	0	1
	4a Very High	28	5	23	11	12
	4b Very High and in ASI	4	2	2	0	2
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	53	11	42	22	20
Longford County Council	1a Low	2	1	1	1	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	2	2	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	1	0	1	1	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	13	9	4	0	4
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0

Louth County Council	TOTAL	18	12	6	2	4
	1a Low	1	0	1	0	1
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	1	1	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	1	1	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	12	5	7	0	7
	4b Very High and in ASI	3	0	3	0	3
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Mayo County Council	TOTAL	18	7	11	0	11
	1a Low	8	3	5	1	4
	1b Low and in ASI	6	2	4	2	2
	2a Moderate	1	1	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	2	1	1	0	1
	3b High and in ASI	2	2	0	0	0
	4a Very High	7	4	3	0	3
	4b Very High and in ASI	3	2	1	1	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Meath County Council	TOTAL	29	15	14	4	10
	1a Low	7	2	5	0	5
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	3	2	1	0	1
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	4	1	3	0	3
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	27	11	16	1	15
	4b Very High and in ASI	1	0	1	0	1
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Monaghan County Council	TOTAL	42	16	26	1	25
	1a Low	2	0	2	0	2
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	2	0	2	2	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	3	3	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	23	15	8	4	4
	4b Very High and in ASI	3	3	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Offaly County Council	TOTAL	33	21	12	6	6
	1a Low	6	2	4	0	4
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	2	1	1	0	1
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	2	1	1	0	1
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0

Roscommon County Council	4a Very High	6	4	2	0	2
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	16	8	8	0	8
	1a Low	5	1	4	4	0
	1b Low and in ASI	2	0	2	1	1
	2a Moderate	3	1	2	0	2
	2b Moderate and in ASI	1	1	0	0	0
Sligo County Council	3a High	4	1	3	3	0
	3b High and in ASI	1	0	1	0	1
	4a Very High	14	3	11	10	1
	4b Very High and in ASI	3	2	1	0	1
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	33	9	24	18	6
	1a Low	2	0	2	2	0
	1b Low and in ASI	8	3	5	1	4
South Dublin County Council	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	5	2	3	2	1
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	5	0	5	1	4
	4b Very High and in ASI	5	3	2	2	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	25	8	17	8	9
Tipperary County Council	1a Low	0	0	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	0	0	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	9	2	7	7	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
Waterford City & County Council	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	9	2	7	7	0
	1a Low	10	3	7	5	2
	1b Low and in ASI	1	0	1	1	0
	2a Moderate	4	2	2	1	1
	2b Moderate and in ASI	2	1	1	0	1
	3a High	6	5	1	1	0
	3b High and in ASI	3	2	1	0	1
	4a Very High	13	8	5	2	3
	4b Very High and in ASI	1	0	1	1	0
	Unknown	1	0	1	1	0
	TOTAL	41	21	20	9	11
	1a Low	5	5	0	0	0
	1b Low and in ASI	4	3	1	1	0
	2a Moderate	2	1	1	1	0

Westmeath County Council	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	5	5	0	0	0
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	16	14	2	2	0
	1a Low	11	8	3	2	1
	1b Low and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	4	4	0	0	0
	2b Moderate and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	3a High	0	0	0	0	0
	3b High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	4a Very High	9	7	2	1	1
	4b Very High and in ASI	0	0	0	0	0
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
Wexford County Council	TOTAL	24	19	5	3	2
	1a Low	3	2	1	0	1
	1b Low and in ASI	1	1	0	0	0
	2a Moderate	3	2	1	0	1
	2b Moderate and in ASI	1	0	1	1	0
	3a High	3	1	2	1	1
	3b High and in ASI	1	1	0	0	0
	4a Very High	33	18	15	6	9
	4b Very High and in ASI	9	2	7	3	4
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	54	27	27	11	16
Wicklow County Council	1a Low	4	2	2	1	1
	1b Low and in ASI	4	1	3	0	3
	2a Moderate	3	1	2	0	2
	2b Moderate and in ASI	1	0	1	0	1
	3a High	2	0	2	0	2
	3b High and in ASI	2	1	1	0	1
	4a Very High	7	2	5	3	2
	4b Very High and in ASI	4	2	2	1	1
	Unknown	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	27	9	18	5	13
TOTAL		987	511	476	204	272

Table A.3: Advisory Notices and reasons for non-compliance as a result of inspections carried out from the 1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014, by local authority

Local Authority	Total No. of Inspections	Total No. of Advisory Notices	Leakage from the system Section 2(1)a	Unlicensed discharge to SW/Inadequate subsoil thickness Section 2(1)b	Surface Ponding Section 2(1)c	Roof water or SW entering the system Section 2(2)	Operation and Maintenance Section 2(3)	Desludging Section 3(1)	Risk to human health or the environment Section 70C(1)(b)
Carlow County Council	15	6	0	0	0	1	4	1	0
Cavan County Council	49	30	0	4	2	3	5	29	7
Clare County Council	17	3	0	1	0	1	1	1	2
Cork County Council	99	60	17	22	11	10	24	43	27
Donegal County Council	81	28	9	17	10	6	15	8	21
Fingal County Council	11	4	0	1	1	0	3	2	2
Galway City Council	10	3	1	2	0	1	3	2	3
Galway County Council	89	13	11	10	10	3	12	7	13
Kerry County Council	58	35	5	12	7	12	9	15	15
Kildare County Council	31	5	2	2	0	1	4	3	2
Kilkenny County Council	31	17	3	1	2	4	9	11	2
Laois County Council	28	16	5	6	4	2	6	10	8
Letttrim County Council	30	17	3	12	3	5	9	4	13
Limerick City & County Council	53	42	6	15	6	16	19	23	22
Longford County Council	18	6	3	3	0	4	4	5	4

Local Authority	Total No. of Inspections	Total No. of Advisory Notices	Leakage from the system Section 2(1)a	Unlicensed discharge to SW/inadequate subsoil thickness Section 2(1)b	Surface Ponding Section 2(1)c	Roof water or SW entering the system Section 2(2)	Operation and Maintenance Section 2(3)	Desludging Section 3(1)	Risk to human health or the environment Section 70C(1)(b)
Louth County Council	18	11	1	1	0	6	2	7	9
Mayo County Council	29	14	6	3	3	1	9	12	12
Meath County Council	42	26	1	16	3	7	11	5	19
Monaghan County Council	33	12	2	1	4	5	8	1	5
Offaly County Council	16	8	2	2	2	2	3	5	4
Roscommon County Council	33	24	18	13	9	7	22	8	20
Sligo County Council	25	17	7	8	8	5	12	12	13
South Dublin County Council	9	7	0	3	0	1	5	6	4
Tipperary County Council	41	20	3	6	4	8	9	13	12
Waterford City & County Council	16	2	2	1	1	0	2	2	1
Westmeath County Council	24	5	2	2	3	2	2	0	4
Wexford County Council	54	27	8	8	5	8	13	20	12
Wicklow County Council	27	18	3	6	4	8	5	7	13
Total	987	476	120	178	102	129	230	262	269

Table A.4: Non-compliance by reason according to age and type of treatment system, nationally

	Total # of Inspections	Total # of Advisory Notices	Risk to human health or the environment	Desludging	Operation and Maintenance	Unlicensed discharge to SW / Inadequate subsoil thickness	Roof water or SW entering the system	Leakage from the system	Surface Ponding
Septic tanks pre 1964	63	43	34	19	17	29	19	16	12
Septic Tank 1964 - 1979	186	108	59	56	54	44	34	33	21
Septic Tank 1980 - 2000	380	179	107	107	84	62	45	43	44
Septic tanks post 2000	158	65	31	38	28	18	18	14	15
Secondary 1980 - 2000	26	11	7	5	4	5	3	1	1
Secondary post 2000	157	61	25	30	37	18	8	11	7
Tertiary 1980 - 2000	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Tertiary post 2000	7	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
None	8	7	5	6	4	2	2	2	2
Total	987	476	269	262	230	178	129	120	102

Table A.5: Non-compliance by reason according to water supply, nationally

	Total # of Inspections	Total # of Advisory Notices	Risk to human health or the environment	De-sludging	Operation and Maintenance	Unlicensed discharge to SW / Inadequate subsoil thickness	Roof water or SW entering the system	Leakage from the system	Surface Ponding
Group Water Scheme	162	72	40	39	31	25	20	12	14
Mains	541	255	157	136	134	103	78	78	63
Private Well	265	138	65	80	60	46	29	26	20
Spring	11	6	3	3	1	2	2	2	3
Surface Water	8	5	4	4	4	2	0	2	2
Total	987	476	269	262	230	178	129	120	102

Table A.6: Status of Advisory Notices Issued from the 1st July 2013 to the 30th June 2014, by county at 1st December 2014

	Total No. Advisory Notices Submitted	Total No. Open Advisory Notices	Total No. Closed Advisory Notices	Total No. Open-Re- inspection Advisory Notices	Total No. Extension Decision Granted	Total No. Extension Decision Refused	Total No. Confirmed Advisory Notices	Total No. Cancelled Advisory Notices	Total No. Open- Prosecution Pending	Total No. Open- Court Appeals
Carlow	6	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cavan	30	8	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Clare	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cork	60	21	39	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Donegal	28	17	11	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Dublin	11	8	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Galway	16	4	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kerry	35	11	24	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Kildare	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kilkenny	17	11	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laois	16	14	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Leitrim	17	13	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Limerick	42	22	20	1	4	0	1	0	0	0
Longford	6	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louth	11	0	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mayo	14	4	10	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Meath	26	1	25	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Monaghan	12	6	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Offaly	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roscommon	24	18	6	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Sligo	17	8	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Tipperary	20	9	11	1	4	0	0	0	0	0
Waterford	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westmeath	5	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wexford	27	11	16	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
Wicklow	18	5	13	1	1	0	1	0	0	0
Total	476	204	272	5	28	0	4	1	0	0

Table A.7: Status of Measures associated with Advisory Notices at 1st December 2014

Measures	Open Measures	Closed Measures	Total
Cease any nuisance arising from odours or noise	3	3	6
Cease any uncontaminated water from entering the system	54	65	119
Cease the unintended discharge to the surface of the ground	31	27	58
Cease the unintended leak or discharge from the system components	38	18	56
Cease the unlicensed discharge	29	28	57
Cease the untreated discharge	36	32	68
De-sludge the tank using an authorised contractor and dispose of contents in accordance with all relevant national legislation	90	137	227
Fix or replace the relevant component parts of the system such that they are fit for purpose	73	68	141
Operate and maintain the system so that it does not pose a risk to human health or the environment	22	32	54
Provide evidence of the existence of a properly functioning DWWTS that complies with the requirements of the legislation	13	11	24
Not Specified	9	11	20

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 maíthe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn 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 dhírú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúcháin.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhrámhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídionn 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 screamhuisc; 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 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 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.



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An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

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