

# INDUSTRIAL AND WASTE LICENCE ENFORCEMENT

## SUMMARY 2021

[www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie) | [@EPAIreland](https://twitter.com/EPAIreland)

The Office of Environmental (OEE) continued to ensure effective

### ENFORCEMENT MEASURES WERE IMPLEMENTED DURING 2021

whilst also observing to the public health restrictions as a result of the Covid Pandemic.

**844** licensed Industrial and Waste sites in Ireland that were enforced by the OEE in 2021.

The OEE took a blended approach to its inspection work during the year -

**22%** of its inspections were carried out remotely.



Further details on the EPA's enforcement activities for 2021 are available at <http://www.epa.ie/industrialwastedata/>

## PRIORITIES

UNAUTHORISED  
HARVESTING OF  
PEATLANDS



BOG REHABILITATION  
WORKS AT EPA  
LICENSED SITES



WATER FRAMEWORK  
DIRECTIVE  
ENFORCEMENT  
ISSUES AT EPA  
LICENSED SITES



WASTE CAPACITY  
ISSUES AT IRELAND'S  
LANDFILLS AND  
WASTE PROCESSING  
INFRASTRUCTURE



## CHALLENGES

WORKING  
THROUGH  
A PANDEMIC



COMPLAINTS  
FROM  
PUBLIC



ODOUR & NOISE  
EMISSIONS FROM  
INDUSTRY



FIRE RISK  
MANAGEMENT AT  
WASTE TRANSFER  
STATIONS



# SITE INSPECTIONS

**1295** Inspections were carried out at

**556** different licensed sites.

**19%**

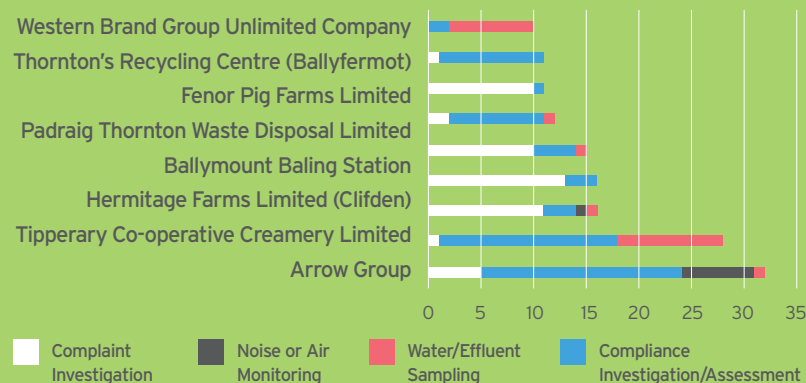
Increase in Inspections & Sites inspected from 2020.

**55**

site inspections targeting unauthorised industrial and waste activities, 48 of which were to unauthorised peat harvesting sites.



## SITES INSPECTED 10 TIMES OR MORE 2021



**159**

Air/Noise monitoring

**293**

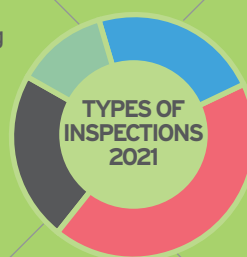
Water sampling

**289**

Remote Compliance Assessment

**554**

Enforcement site visit



## ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

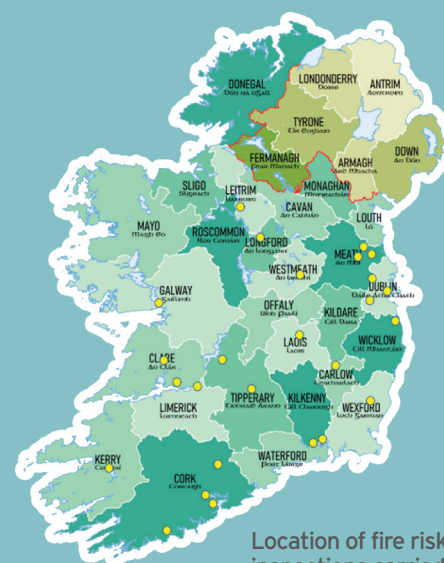
THE OEE DEVELOPED A NUMBER OF FOCUSED ENFORCEMENT PRIORITY GROUPS TO TACKLE SPECIFIC RISKS AND ISSUES AT LICENSED INDUSTRIAL AND WASTE SITES. SUCH ISSUES INCLUDED:

### > FIRE PREVENTION AT WASTE TRANSFER STATIONS:

**41** sites visited during 3 week campaign in March 2021 assessing fire risk management and waste storage practices on waste sites

Significant issues noted at a number of sites

**Outcome:** Improved fire risk management



Location of fire risk inspections carried out in March 2021

### > INDUSTRIAL AND WASTE SITES IMPACTING ON WATER QUALITY AS PER THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE:

One of the key priorities for 2021 was driving improvement at licensed Industrial and Waste sites that had been identified as significant water quality pressures.



**30** site visits were carried out during 2021 which were targeting significant water quality pressure issues at licensed sites.

**Outcome:**

**14** sites were removed from the EPA's Water Framework Directives significant pressures list

# PROSECUTIONS



**13** LEGAL ACTIONS REGARDING NON-COMPLIANCE WITH INDUSTRIAL OR WASTE LICENSES WERE HEARD IN CIRCUIT AND DISTRICT COURTS DURING 2021

**€125k** in fines

**€180k** in costs awarded to EPA

**€5k** in charitable donations

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/compliance--enforcement/whats-happening/prosecutions-and-penalties/>

## NATIONAL PRIORITY SITES



Eleven sites were identified as being National Priority Sites during 2021 and these are listed below.

SITE	COUNTY	SECTOR	ISSUE
Arran Chemical Company Limited	Roscommon	Chemical	Air emissions and groundwater contamination
Arrow Group	Kildare	Food & Drink	Odour & noise
Ballyguyroe Landfill Site (Cork Co Co)	Cork	Landfill	Landfill gas and leachate management
Diageo Ireland (St. James Gate)	Dublin	Food & Drink	Noise emissions
Hermitage Farms Ltd (Clifden)	Kilkenny	Intensive Agriculture	Odour emissions
North Cork Co-Op Creameries Ltd	Cork	Food & Drink	Emissions to water
Saint-Gobain Construction Products (Ireland) Ltd	Monaghan	Mineral extraction	Emissions to water
Staunton Foods Ltd	Cork	Food & Drink	Noise emissions
Timoleague Agri Gen Ltd	Cork	Anaerobic Digestion	Site management & lack of required infrastructure
Tipperary Co-operative Creamery Ltd	Tipperary	Food & Drink	Emissions to water
Western Brand Group Unlimited Company	Mayo	Food & Drink	Emissions to water

**8**

of the 11 National Priority Sites during 2021 were from the **Food & Drink and Intensive Agriculture sectors.**



The main issues at National Priority Sites during 2021 related to emissions to water and nuisance caused by **noise or odour emissions.**

**4**

of the National Priority Sites from 2021 were also on the National Priority Site list during 2020



these being:

- > Arran Chemical Company Limited
- > Arrow Group
- > Saint-Gobain Construction Products (Ireland) Ltd
- > Tipperary Co-operative Creamery Ltd

# COMPLAINTS



97% OF ALL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED REGARDING LICENSED INDUSTRIAL AND WASTE SITES DURING 2021 WERE IN RELATION TO FOUR MAIN ISSUES AS HIGHLIGHTED BELOW

		2020	2021	
	Water Quality	21	33	+57% 
	Air Quality	99	65	-34% 
	Noise	313	664	+112% 
	Odour / Smells	683	686	0%

## ODOUR

complaints were the main issue however **2021** saw a large increase in noise complaints from the public.



Whilst the number of complaints received by the EPA from the public regarding licensed **Industrial and Waste Sites** increased by

**28%**

from **2020**, the number of sites about which the complaints referred to remained largely unchanged.



Complaints were received in relation to

**125**

separate licensed sites

during **2021**; this is similar to the 2020 when 121 separate licensed sites were complained about.





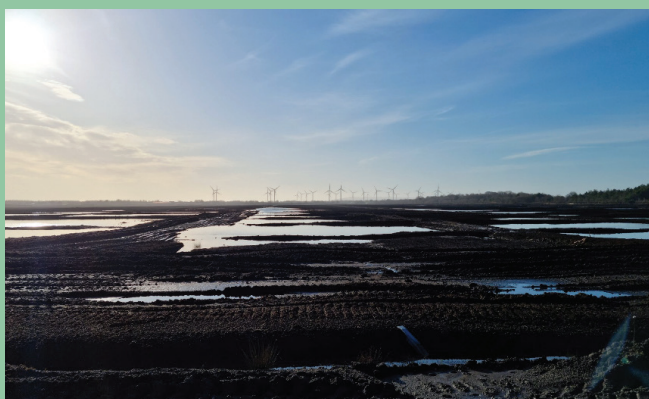
# OEE TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN 2021



**1** INDUSTRIAL SCALE PEAT HARVESTING



**2** NOISE COMPLAINT INVESTIGATION



**3** BOGLAND REHABILITATION WORKS AT EPA LICENSED SITES



**4** EPA AIR MONITORING



**5** WASTEWATER TREATMENT CHALLENGES AT FOOD AND DRINK SITES



**6** WASTE CAPACITY ISSUES IN IRELAND 2021



Public access to information

<https://www.epa.ie/our-services/compliance--enforcement/whats-happening/industrialwastedate/>