

# Industrial and Waste Licence Enforcement

## SUMMARY 2022

# 859

licences were enforced by the OEE during 2022.

## HIGHLIGHTS 2022



**Peat extraction** – Continued to take actions to cease the unauthorised industrial extraction of peat.



**Odour and Noise complaints** from licensed industrial and waste sites continue to dominate, accounting for **95% of all complaints received**.



**Water Framework Directive** – Identification and taking action at sites that pose a risk to water quality.



**Financial Provision** – The EPA has secured over **€1 billion in financial provision** from the licensed community.



**End of Life Vehicles** – Concerted actions to improve compliance and environmental performance at end of life vehicle and scrap metal processing sites.



**Quality of mixed recyclables** – Worked in collaboration with multiple agencies with regard to the repatriation of inappropriately classified waste that has been exported.



**Management of closed landfill sites** – Increased focus on the management of closed Local Authority Landfill Sites.

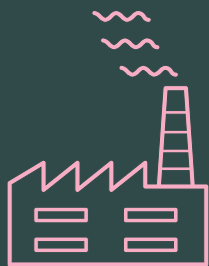


# 602

individual sites were inspected with an overall **11% increase in inspections on 2021**.



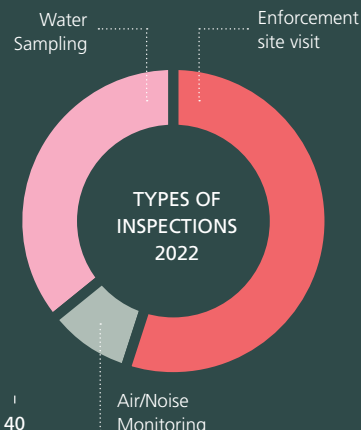
# INSPECTIONS



# 1434

inspections were carried out at **licensed Industrial and Waste facilities during 2022** which is an 11% increase on 2021.

SITES VISITED 10 TIMES OR MORE DURING 2022



# 58

inspections were carried out at **unauthorised sites.**

# 602

sites (70% of all sites) were **inspected.**

# 87%

of inspections were **unannounced.**

## NATIONAL PRIORITY SITES 2022

Licensee	County	Sector	Issue
Arrow Group Ltd	Kildare	Food & Drink	Odour and noise
Aurivo Dairy Ingredients Ltd	Roscommon	Food & Drink	Discharges to water & odour
Ballyguyroe Landfill	Cork	Waste	Landfill management
City Bin Co Ltd	Galway	Waste	Waste management
Euroflex Teoranta	Donegal	Surface coating	Emissions to air
Forge Hill Recycling Ltd	Cork	Waste	Waste management
Gairdini t/a Munster Joinery	Cork	Surface coating	Discharges to water
Kepak Athleague	Roscommon	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
North Cork Co-Op Creameries Ltd	Cork	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
SRCL	Dublin	Waste	Waste management
Staunton Foods Ltd	Cork	Food & Drink	Noise
Timoleague Agri Gen Ltd	Cork	Anaerobic digestion	Infrastructure & management
Western Brand Group Ltd	Mayo	Food & Drink	Discharges to water

# COMPLAINTS



# 1357

complaints were received during 2022 which is a **9% decrease** on 2021.

## Odour and Noise continue to dominate



# 729

**Noise** (54% of total, was 45% in 2021).



# 560

**Odour** (41% of total, was 46% in 2021).

# 10

sites accounted for **76% of all complaints** received during 2022.



Complaints were received for 106 sites, this is a **18% decrease on the number of sites** that were complained about during 2021.

# WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

# 42

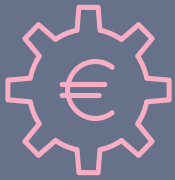
EPA licensed sites in **20 different counties** have been identified as significant pressures on water quality. **24 are for Groundwater Quality, 15 for Surface Water Quality and 3 are for both.**

# 50%

of these sites are **Food & Drink sites** (26%) and **Closed Local Authority Landfill sites** (24%).



There were **65 water sampling visits** carried out by the EPA at these sites during 2022.



## FINANCIAL PROVISION

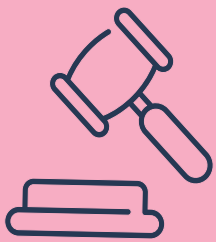
During 2022 the amounts of Financial Provision secured by the EPA exceeded the **€1 billion figure**.

Operators need to put in place and maintain sufficient financial provision so that they can pay for remediation or aftercare of their site, and for any potential clean-up that may be required following an accident or incident.

## GOING BEYOND COMPLIANCE

What is it? **Its an EPA initiative to promote moving beyond licence requirements amongst EPA regulated Industrial and Waste facilities.**

- Over 100 licensees reported on Beyond Compliance in their 2021 Annual Environmental Reports.
- Examples of projects include;
  - emissions reduction
  - biodiversity
  - carbon footprint reductions
  - anticipation of upcoming regulatory changes.



## PROSECUTIONS

**12 legal actions** were heard in the District, Circuit and High Courts during 2022, **finest of €14,650 and total costs of €111,103 awarded to the EPA.**

## PEAT

EPA engaging with

**5 local authorities**

where illegal extraction is taking place.



**51**

inspections in 2022 (48 in 2021).

**1**

injunction secured.

**3**

district court cases initiated covering 257 hectares.

**1**

undertaking to cease extraction signed covering 439 hectares.

**8**

further investigations ongoing.

The overall objective of the EPA is, that all peat extraction operations, and in particular, those which are required to have a licence from the EPA, are conducted in compliance with the relevant regulations, with the EPA targeting its enforcement interventions at those operations within its direct area of competence. The EPA has been and will continue to hold these operators to account.



# OEE TACKLING ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES IN 2022



**1** End of Life Vehicle Processing Site Inspection



**2** Focus on Food & Drink Sector Enforcement



**3** Inspection of recyclable waste for export



**4** Continued focus on unauthorised industrial peat extraction



**5** Taking legal action



**6** Focus on water quality pressures arising from licensed sites

## COMMUNICATION & ENGAGEMENT

The OEE continued to engage with the key stakeholders including individual licensed sites and industrial/sectoral representative groups.



### PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Latest industrial and waste compliance information | Environmental Protection Agency (epa.ie). Enhanced access to enforcement documents via the EPA website will be launched in 2023.