

# Industrial and Waste Licence Enforcement Summary 2025

## Highlights of 2025



### Compliance



Overall, licensed industrial and waste sites maintain a good level of compliance. However, 5% of sites account for 39% of all detected non-compliances.

### Discharges to Waters



Discharges to water continue to be identified as a significant compliance issue, requiring the escalation of enforcement actions to drive adherence to licence conditions.

### Anaerobic Digestion



The Anaerobic Digestion sector, has presented persistent challenges due to inadequate odour-control measures and insufficient infrastructure, resulting in ongoing non-compliance with environmental requirements.

### Odour Emissions



Odour emissions remain the main source of complaints associated with EPA licensed facilities, with five sites accounting for 59% of all complaints.

### Complaints



The EPA targeted inspections where environmental issues and/or complaints required investigation, 13 sites were inspected 10 times or more during 2025.

### Waste



The waste sector show the highest rates of non-compliance amongst EPA licensed sites.

# Targeted Enforcement Actions



Inspections to the Food and Drink sector focused on the management of emissions to water. The EPA deployed specialist water sampling equipment at Food and Drink sites to assess compliance with limits for emissions to water.



The EPA led targeted investigations into persistent scrap-metal theft at waste facilities, coordinating a unified multi-agency response. This enforcement effort resolved issues at several sites and progressed further investigations aimed at tackling organised crime and disrupting the illicit financial gains from scrap-metal theft.



EPA inspections at waste facilities focused on fire risk assessment and fire control compliance. The EPA worked with national fire authorities, the Fire Service, the Health and Safety Authority, Uisce Éireann, and industry groups to strengthen fire safety measures at licensed sites.



Twenty-three inspections were undertaken at sites designated by the EPA as significant pressures under the Water Framework Directive. The inspections advanced the execution of corrective action measures and facilitated enhancements in water quality.



The EPA deployed significant resources to inspect EPA licensed sites within the Blackwater catchment in response to a significant fish kill that occurred in August 2025.



To date 18,861 Hectares of licensed peatland has been rehabilitated under the Peatlands Climate Action Scheme.

# Inspections in 2025

**96%** of all inspections were unannounced, with 21 different waste and industry sectors visited.

**8%** of all inspections were in relation to complaints received from the public regarding emissions from licensed sites.

**63%** of all the investigations into compliance issues were based on the findings of site inspections.

# 1681

Inspections were carried out at **656 different licensed sites**, across all 26 counties

## Industrial and Waste Enforcement Inspections 2025

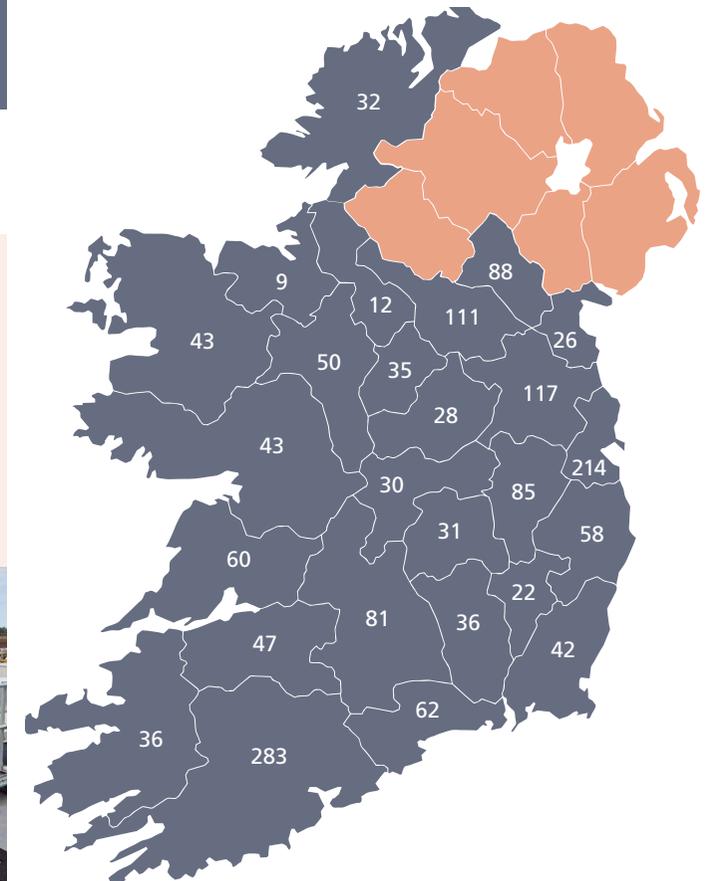
Air monitoring was carried out during **116 inspections**.

Water/effluent samples were taken during **533 inspections**.

The EPA conducted targeted inspections in response to environmental issues and/or complaints, and revisited sites where further investigation was required.

### Sites Inspected 10 Times or More During 2025

|                                        |    |                     |
|----------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| North Cork Co-Op Creameries Limited    | 50 | DISCHARGE TO WATERS |
| Arrow Group                            | 18 | ODOURS              |
| ABP Waterford                          | 17 | ODOURS              |
| ERAS ECO Ltd                           | 17 | ODOURS              |
| Aurivo Dairy Ingredients Limited       | 15 | DISCHARGE TO WATERS |
| Arrabawn Tipperary Co-Op, Nenagh       | 14 | DISCHARGE TO WATERS |
| Arrabawn Tipperary Co-Op, Tipperary    | 13 | DISCHARGE TO WATERS |
| Wellman International Ltd              | 13 | ODOURS              |
| Starrus Eco Holdings Limited (Munster) | 12 | ODOURS              |
| Alert Packaging Ltd                    | 11 | ODOURS              |
| Kepak Athleague                        | 11 | DISCHARGE TO WATERS |
| Aurivo Consumer Foods Ltd              | 10 | DISCHARGE TO WATERS |
| Ballynagran Residual Landfill          | 10 | ODOURS              |



# Escalation of Enforcement

The **National Priority Sites System** is a system of performance-based indicators to rank industrial and waste licensed sites in order of priority for enforcement.



Ten sites appeared on the NPS list during 2025, with only three remaining by year-end. This improvement in environmental performance resulted from increased EPA enforcement and a corresponding rise in investment and commitment to compliance from licensees.



Since 2023, four Anaerobic Digestion sites have been added to the NPS list due to issues such as poor odour control and inadequate infrastructure to maintain compliance.



Over the past 5 years 40 sites have appeared on the NPS list, with the **Waste Sector (38%)** and the **Food and Drink Sector (25%)** accounting for the majority of the sites.



The EPA issued a suspension notice to cease discharges to water to a Milk Processing site during 2025.

## National Priority Sites 2025

| Licensee                                | County    | Sector              | Issue                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Alert Packaging Limited                 | Wicklow   | Surface coating     | Emissions to air and odour    |
| Arrow Group Limited                     | Kildare   | Food & Drink        | Odour and noise control       |
| Eras Eco Ltd                            | Cork      | Waste               | Odour control                 |
| Future Pigs Limited                     | Kildare   | Anaerobic Digestion | Infrastructure and management |
| Kingspan Building Products Limited      | Cavan     | Chemical            | Infrastructure and management |
| Kingspan Insulation Limited             | Monaghan  | Chemical            | Emissions to air              |
| North Cork Co-Op Creameries Limited     | Cork      | Food & Drink        | Emissions to water            |
| Ted O'Donoghue and Sons Limited         | Cork      | Waste               | Site operation and management |
| Timoleague Agri Gen Limited             | Cork      | Anaerobic Digestion | Infrastructure and management |
| Tipperary Co-operative Creamery Limited | Tipperary | Food & Drink        | Emissions to water            |

## Industrial and waste court cases concluded in 2025

|                              | District Court | Circuit Court/DPP |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Conviction                   | 4              | 1                 |
| Benefit of the Probation Act | 1              | –                 |

| Fines and Cost Awarded         |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| Fines imposed by the Court     | €246,000   |
| Donations imposed by the Court | €152,500   |
| Costs Awarded to the EPA       | €78,247.37 |

## Priority Summary Sites 2025

1% of Industrial & Waste Sites were NPS Sites however they accounted for:

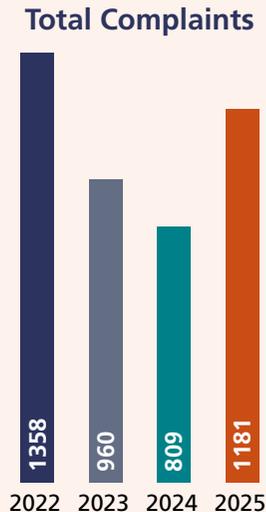
- 39% of all complaints
- 12% of all non-compliances detected
- 8% of all site inspections
- 13% of new investigations opened



# Complaints

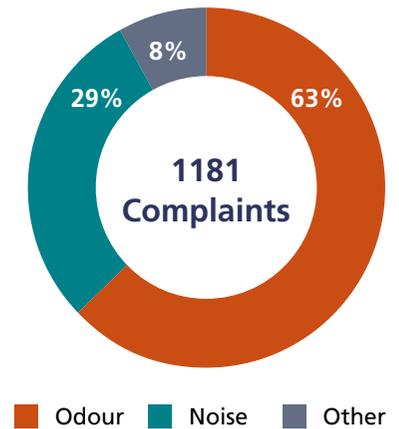
**1181 complaints** were received by the EPA during 2025. Complaints referred to **117 licensed Industrial and Waste Sites**.

**131**  
inspections during 2025 were following up on complaints



**Odour and noise nuisance** continue to be the main complaint issues.

- **46% increase in complaints** since 2024 with the number of odour complaints (753) almost doubling since 2024 (388).
- **162 odour impact assessments** were carried out at 59 different licensed sites.
- **5 sites accounted for 59% of all complaints** with 1 site accounting for 39% of all complaints.



A number of sites where nuisance type complaints were received in previous years have resolved these issues by investing in improved operations and noise and odour abatement technologies.

Following significant enforcement intervention by the EPA, **Aurivo Dairy Ingredients** invested over **€3 million in odour control and related infrastructure**, with works completed in 2025. The upgrades focused on the wastewater treatment plant, including tank enclosures and treatment of odorous air emissions.



Provision of closed roof on large effluent tank

Aerial view of Aurivo site with covered tanks

# Overview of the EPA's Enforcement Role for Industry and Waste

## Types of Regulated Activities



Industrial sites including chemical plants, pharmachem, food & drink processors, surface coaters, cement production, oil and gas processing terminals



Energy plants



Waste processing facilities, including recycling and transfer stations, landfills, incinerators, composting plants, anaerobic digestion

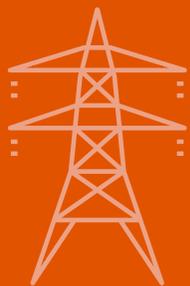


Large intensive agriculture farms for the rearing of pig or poultry



Timber treatment and processing plants

Figure 1 – EPA Licensed Sites



The Energy Sector and Intensive Agriculture Sector have been the areas where most new licences have been issued by the EPA over the past 5 years.

## Financial Provision

€1.19 billion has been secured from licensed sites to provide for significant environmental incidents and site closure and aftercare.

There are over **800 operational EPA licensed sites** and the Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE) uses a number of compliance assessment tools (Fig.2) to ensure licensee's comply with their licences.

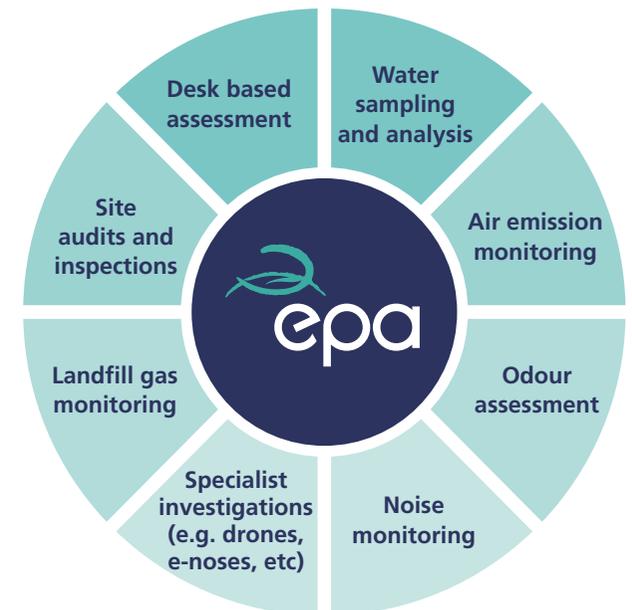


Figure 2 – Compliance Assessment Tools

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**Headquarters**

PO Box 3000,  
Johnstown Castle Estate,  
County Wexford, Ireland

T: +353 53 916 0600

F: +353 53 916 0699

E: [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie)

W: [www.epa.ie](http://www.epa.ie)

LoCall: 0818 335599

