

Local Authority Environmental Enforcement Performance Report 2024



Key Messages

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing much of Ireland's environmental protection legislation, playing a vital role in protecting our environment. Enforcement of environmental law is fundamental to the protection of the environment, to identify polluters and non-compliant operators, and to hold them to account.

The EPA has a supervisory role over local authorities and assesses their environmental inspection and enforcement performance under the EPA's Local Authority Performance Framework. This framework measures and reports on performance against the delivery of environmental outcomes under National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) across waste, water, air and noise. The framework operates on a three-year cycle. This report relates to the final year of the 2022-2024 cycle and reflects on the progress over the three years.

Local Authority Performance 2022 to 2024 – Delivery of the National Enforcement Priorities

High performance

Low performance

Local Authority	Number of NEPs that met the required standard (Strong or Excellent)		
	2022 (20 NEPs in total)	2023 (20 NEPs in total)	2024 (19 NEPs in total)
Meath	18	19	19
Dublin City***	13***	16***	16***
South Dublin	12	16	19
Kildare	20	20	18
Fingal	17	13	18
Cork City	13	12	18
Monaghan	17	18	17
Carlow	14	17	17
Wicklow	8	17	17
Cork County	14	17	17
Galway County	7	16	17
Tipperary	9	15	17
Louth	13	14	17
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown*	11*	12*	16*
Waterford	3	9	17
Westmeath	11	8	17
Kilkenny	6	10	16
Kerry	13	16	15
Laois	12	15	15
Roscommon	7	15	15
Cavan	15	16	15
Mayo	12	12	15
Limerick	12	16	14
Wexford	6	10	14
Longford	11	16	13
Offaly	4	12	13
Donegal	16	17	12
Clare	11	14	11
Sligo	9	10	10
Galway City**	12**	8**	7**
Leitrim	17	12	6

* One NEP does not apply to this Local Authority

** Two NEPs do not apply to this Local Authority

*** Three NEPs do not apply to this Local Authority

Key Messages

What did local authorities do well in 2024?

- ▲ Six local authorities achieved a Strong or Excellent score across almost all National Enforcement Priorities in 2024. These were Meath, Dublin City, South Dublin, Kildare, Fingal and Cork City Councils.
- ▲ 17 of the 31 local authorities achieved a Strong or Excellent score in 16 or more of the 19 National Enforcement Priorities in 2024.
- ▲ Resources were allocated to waste enforcement which delivered positive environmental outcomes, with 29 local authorities meeting the standard of Strong or Excellent in tackling illegal waste activities, and the enforcement of construction & demolition waste.

What did local authorities not do well in 2024?

- ▲ Five local authorities scored Moderate or Limited in 7 or more of the National Enforcement Priorities. These were Leitrim, Galway City, Sligo, Clare and Donegal.
- ▲ Resources were not adequately assigned to water, air and noise enforcement. While performance in those NEPs improved over the three years 2022-2024, these areas lagged behind the waste NEPs.

What local authorities need to do:



- ▲ Prioritise and resource the delivery of the National Enforcement Priorities to improve air and water quality and to achieve greater recycling and re-use of waste.
- ▲ Carry out more farm inspections and follow-up enforcement to reach the National Agricultural Inspection Programme annual target of 4,500 farms, to drive compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice regulations and reduce the impact on water quality.
- ▲ Prioritise the inspection and enforcement of Section 4 Discharge Licences, in particular those that are a significant pressure on receiving water quality.
- ▲ Maintain the inspection campaign of solid fuel producers, retailers and distributors, to ensure only approved solid fuels are available for sale and to protect public health from harmful air pollutants.
- ▲ Reduce people's exposure to transport noise by delivering the measures set out in each local authority's Noise Action Plan.
- ▲ Target waste enforcement actions at household and commercial sites, to promote waste segregation and use of the three bin system.

1. Introduction

This report sets out the results of the EPA's assessment of local authority environmental enforcement performance for 2024. This assessment is based on the EPA's [Local Authority Performance Framework \(LAPF\)](#) where performance is measured and reported against National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs). The assessment process is focused on improving environmental compliance and achieving positive outcomes for waste, water, air and noise. The LAPF operates on a three-year cycle. This report relates to the final year of the 2022-2024 cycle and also reflects on the three years.

The performance of each local authority was assessed primarily based on their annual returns (RMCEI¹ Plan, RMCEI data and NEP Progress Reports), with EPA and third-party data and intelligence also taken into account.

The EPA also carries out audits of local authorities to examine their environmental enforcement activities in greater detail, with a focus on implementation of the NEPs.

The [EPA State of Environment Report 2024](#) outlined the key environmental challenges facing Ireland, which include:

- ▲ Water quality is not meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and nutrient trends in water are not improving.
- ▲ Waste recycling rates are not keeping pace with the increasing rate of material resource consumption, making it likely Ireland will not comply with EU targets.
- ▲ Exposure to air and noise pollution is harmful to our health and wellbeing and our environment.
- ▲ Serious deficits remain in Ireland's implementation of environmental legislation and related plans and programmes.

Local authorities play a key role in tackling these environmental challenges through their enforcement responsibilities. They are responsible for enforcing much of Ireland's environmental protection legislation, playing a vital role in protecting our environment.

Enforcement of environmental law is fundamental to the protection of the environment, to identify polluters and non-compliant operators, and to hold them to account.





National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs)

- ▲ Local authorities were required to focus on 19 NEPs in 2024, under four themes: Waste, Water, Air and Noise, and Governance Processes. These are reviewed and agreed annually by the environmental regulatory bodies, including the EPA. See Appendix 2 for detailed description of the NEPs objectives, outcomes and activities for focus in 2024.
- ▲ Each NEP was assessed according to a four-point scale: Excellent, Strong, Moderate or Limited.
- ▲ To achieve a Strong or Excellent score, local authorities must provide evidence of satisfactory risk-based selection of inspections and appropriate follow-up of issues, focused on improving compliance and environmental outcomes. The assessment criteria and scoring scale are explained in Appendix 3.
- ▲ The objective was that all local authorities should be performing at a Strong or Excellent level across all NEPs by the end of the three-year cycle, 2022-2024.

¹ Recommendation 2001/331/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, providing for minimum criteria for environmental inspections in Member States (RMCEI).

1. Introduction

Table 1: National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) 2024

Waste		Water	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Tackling illegal waste activities and Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Pressures from Agriculture (Farm Yards) – slurry/soiled water collection and storage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Construction and Demolition Waste 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) – slurry and fertiliser spreading
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ End of Life Vehicles and Metals 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems/Septic Tanks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Household and Commercial Waste 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Discharge Licences/Misconnections
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring
Air and Noise		Governance Processes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Solid Fuel 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ RMCEI Plan: Planning for the NEPs
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ RMCEI Plan: Environmental Resource Planning
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Environmental Noise Directives (ENDs) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ RMCEI Plan: Review and Reporting
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Air and Noise Control (including Planning) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Environmental Complaint Handling
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work 		

The unauthorised extraction of peat is a significant environmental issue in some local authority areas. In June 2025, the EPA published a report on [Large Scale Illegal Peat Extraction](#) which identified seven local authorities that must take enforcement action against illegal operators; Offaly, Westmeath, Tipperary, Roscommon, Longford, Kildare and Sligo. While peat extraction is not a National Enforcement Priority, it is relevant to at least the seven local authorities, whose enforcement activity has been evaluated separate to the Local Authority Performance Framework. Local authorities need to ensure that where peat extraction is taking place, that it is properly authorised and approved under Planning legislation.

2. Environmental Enforcement Activity and Performance

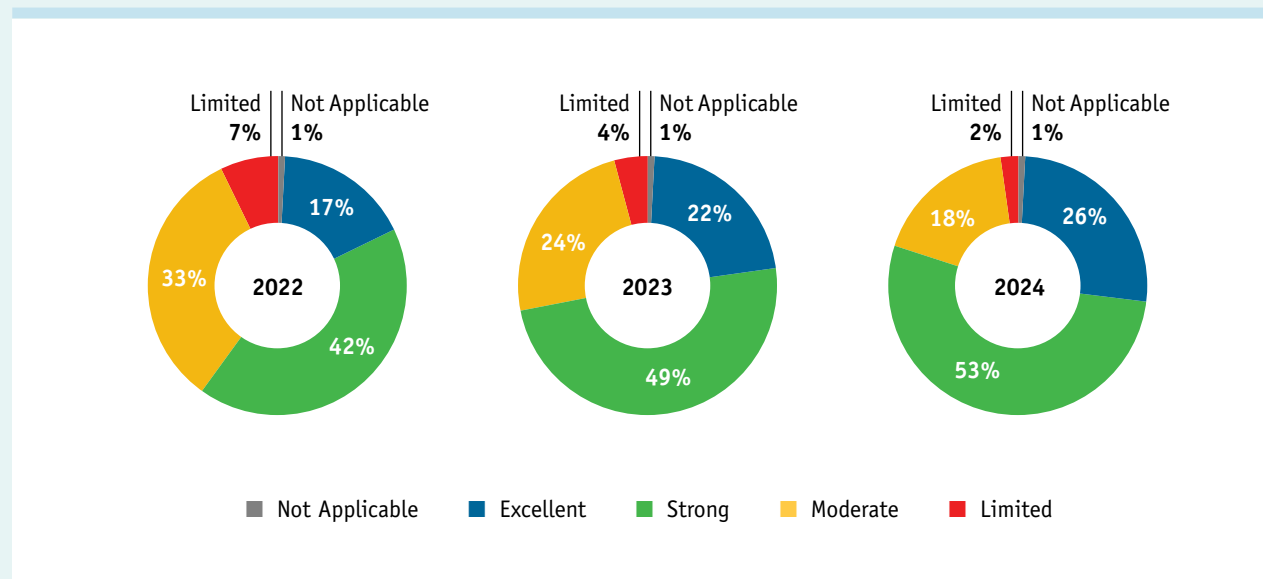
The scale of environmental inspection and enforcement work carried out by local authorities in 2024 is shown in Table 2 (see Appendix 1 for full dataset).

Table 2: RMCEI² data

Total Number	2022	2023	2024
Environmental Staff	522	547	630
Licences/Permits/Certificates enforced	14,500	13,800	10,700
Inspections undertaken	197,300	212,100	227,400
Environmental Complaints Received	69,700	70,300	76,500
Enforcement actions taken	17,700	17,800	18,050
Prosecution initiated ³	621	470	414

Figure 1 shows that local authorities improved their performance over the three-year cycle, 2022-2024. In 2024, 79% of the 589⁴ NEP assessments were rated as Strong or Excellent, up from 59% in 2022 and 71% in 2023⁵.

Figure 1: Local Authority Performance Results 2022-2024



² Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections

³ Does not include 728 litter prosecutions.

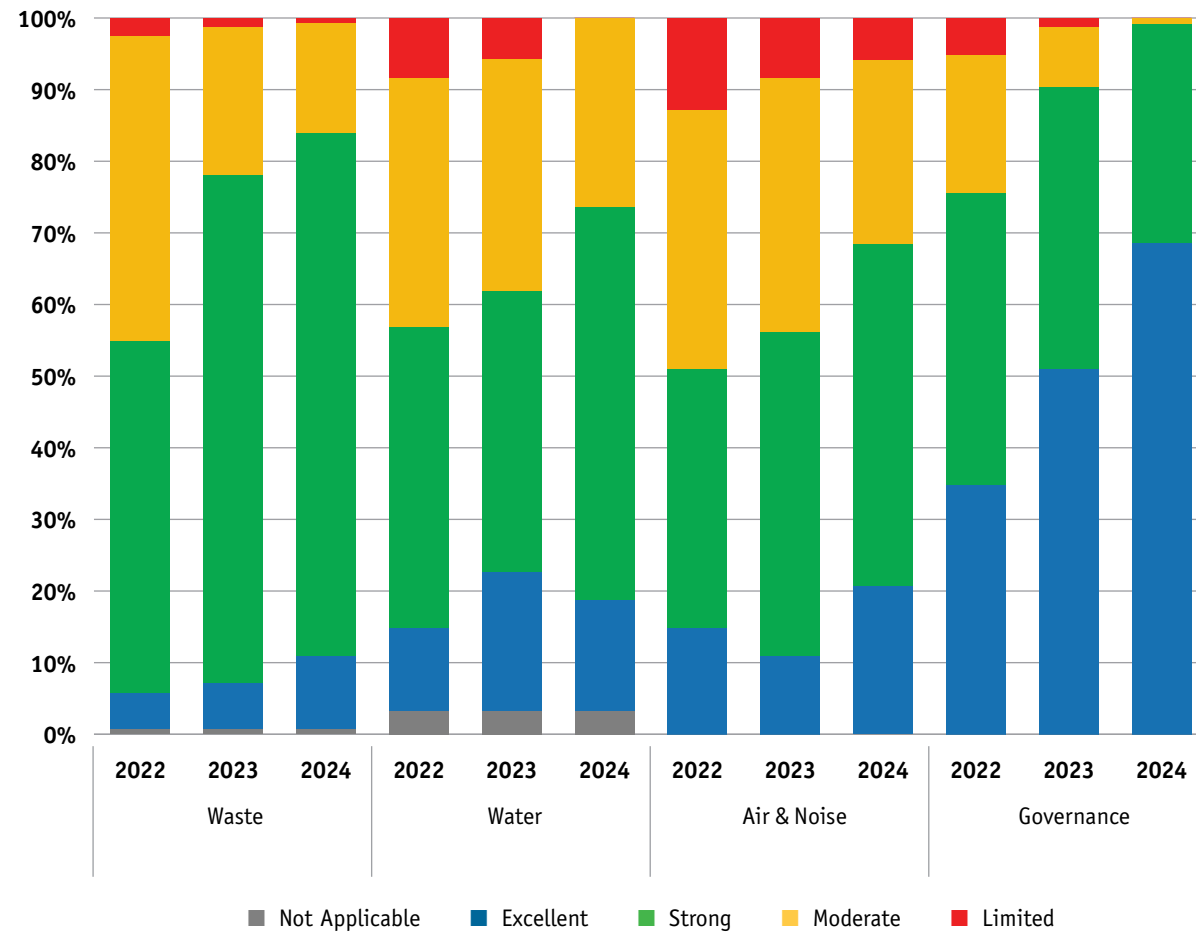
⁴ 19 NEPs x 31 local authorities

⁵ There were 620 NEP assessments in 2022 and 2023 (20 NEPs x 31 local authorities). The governance NEP 'RMCEI Plan: Environmental Outcomes' was removed in 2024.

2. Environmental Enforcement Activity and Performance

Figure 2 shows the breakdown of results into the four themes over the three-year cycle, 2022-2024. Waste showed the most improvement, rising from 54% to 83%. Water increased from 54% to 70%. Air and Noise rose from 51% to 69% but still lagged behind the other areas. Governance processes improved from 75% to 99%.

Figure 2: NEP Assessment Results by Thematic Area, 2022-2024



2. Environmental Enforcement Activity and Performance

Table 3 shows the performance results for each local authority over the three-year cycle, 2022-2024. The ranking in the table is based on 2024 results. By the end of the cycle, six local authorities achieved the standard (Strong or Excellent) across almost all NEPs: Meath, Dublin City, South Dublin, Kildare, Fingal and Cork City Councils. Three further local authorities consistently achieved good performance results over the cycle; Monaghan, Carlow and Cork County Councils.

The most notable improvers over the three-year cycle were Galway County, Kilkenny and Waterford City and County Councils.

Overall 17 of the 31 local authorities achieved the standard in 16 or more of the 19 NEPs. On average, local authorities achieved the standard in 15 NEPs in 2024, an increase from an average of 12 in 2022 and 14 in 2023.

Generally local authorities met the standard in an increasing number of NEPs each year over the cycle, however Leitrim, Galway City and Donegal County Councils showed a notable drop in performance.

Five local authorities scored Moderate or Limited in 7 or more of the NEPs in 2024: Leitrim, Galway City, Sligo, Clare and Donegal.

Figures 3 and 4 on the following pages present the breakdown of 2024 performance scores for each local authority and for each NEP.

Table 3: Local Authority Performance 2022 to 2024 – Delivery of the National Enforcement Priorities

High performance	Low performance
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Local Authority	Number of NEPs that met the required standard (Strong or Excellent)		
	2022 (20 NEPs in total)	2023 (20 NEPs in total)	2024 (19 NEPs in total)
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Monaghan	17	18	17
Carlow	14	17	17
Wicklow	8	17	17
Cork County	14	17	17
Galway County	7	16	17
Tipperary	9	15	17
Louth	13	14	17
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown*	11*	12*	16*
Waterford	3	9	17
Westmeath	11	8	17
Kilkenny	6	10	16
Kerry	13	16	15
Laois	12	15	15
Roscommon	7	15	15
Cavan	15	16	15
Mayo	12	12	15
Limerick	12	16	14
Wexford	6	10	14
Longford	11	16	13
Offaly	4	12	13
Donegal	16	17	12
Clare	11	14	11
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Galway City**	12**	8**	7**
Leitrim	17	12	6

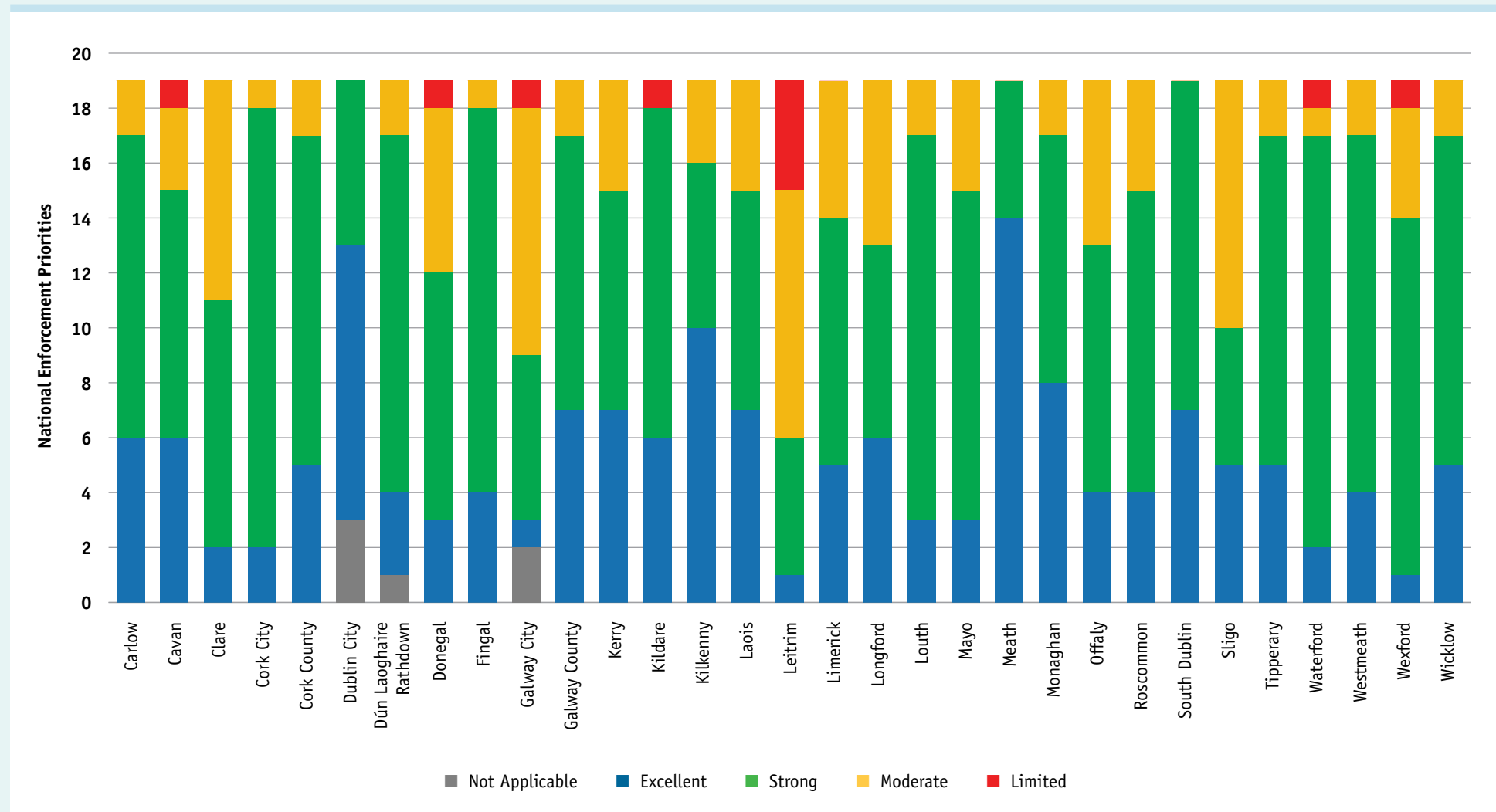
* One NEP does not apply to this Local Authority

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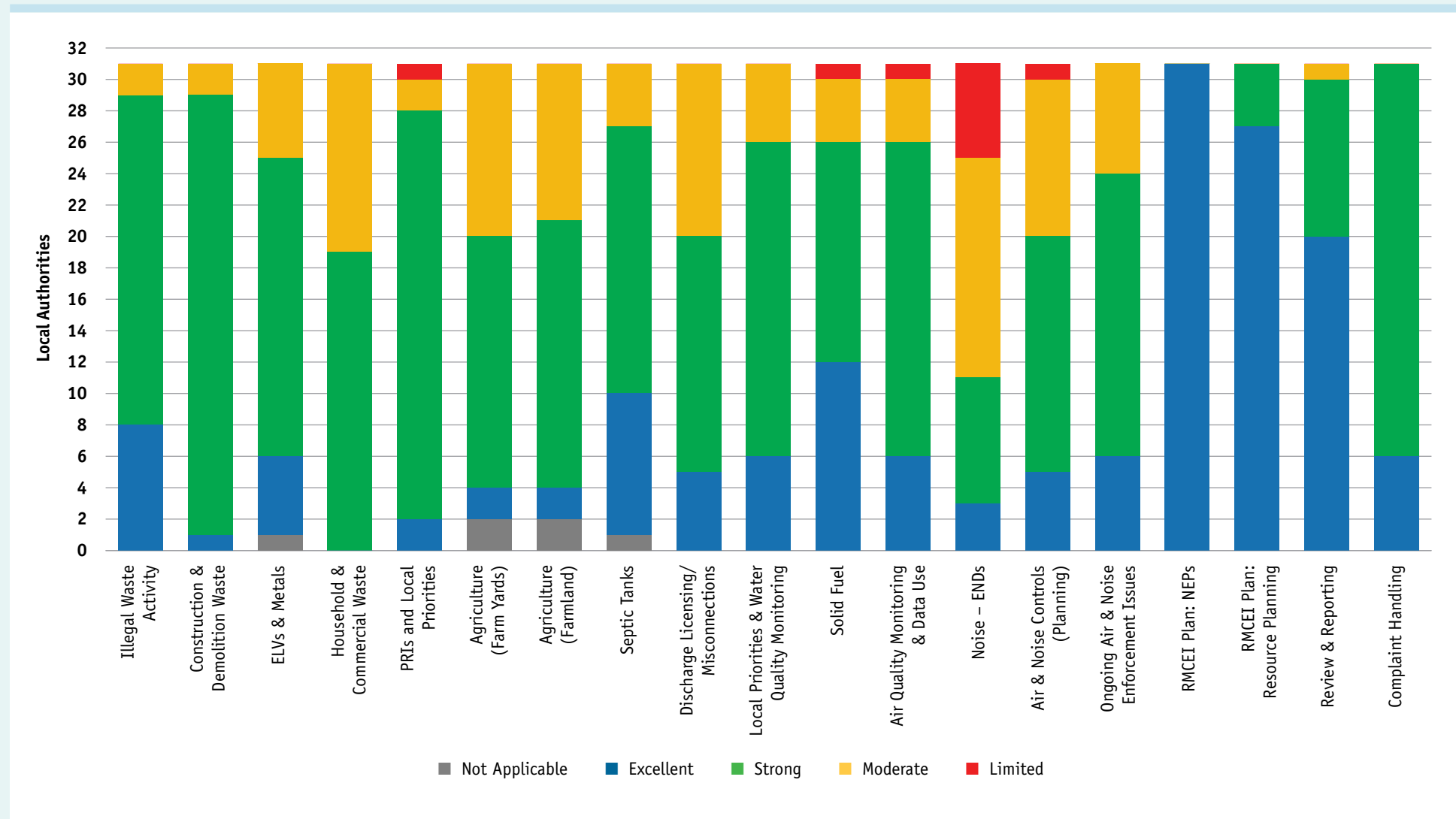
2. Environmental Enforcement Activity and Performance

Figure 3: 2024 Performance Scores for each Local Authority



2. Environmental Enforcement Activity and Performance

Figure 4: 2024 Results for each National Enforcement Priority

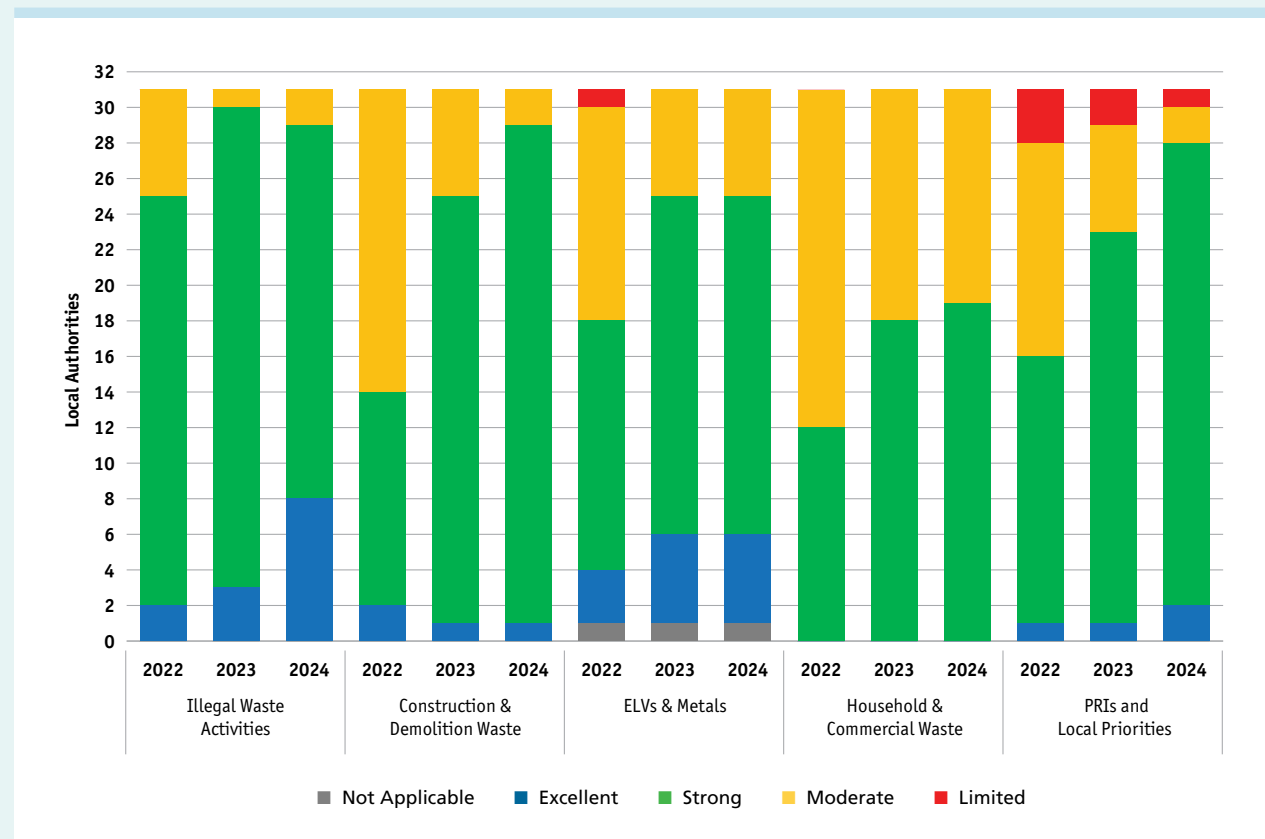


3. Waste Enforcement

The EPA's latest [national waste statistics](#) show that Ireland's waste generation is too high, and there has been no significant progress to reach the mandatory recycling targets that apply from 2025. Construction waste is Ireland's largest waste stream, reaching nine million tonnes in 2023. Recent interventions, such as the Deposit Return Scheme, statutory roll-out of the organic waste collection service, recovery levy and national end-of-waste and by-product decisions, are positive developments that must be fully implemented in the transition to a circular economy, with local authorities playing a key role through effective enforcement to ensure compliance and drive meaningful change.

Figure 5 presents the performance results for the Waste NEPs. The results are compared across the three years (2022 - 2024) to analyse performance trends over the first cycle of the Local Authority Performance Framework. The key findings for the Waste NEPs are presented on the following page.

Figure 5: Waste NEPs: 2022-2024



3. Waste Enforcement

1. Tackling Illegal Waste Activities and Multi-Agency Sites/ Operators of Concern

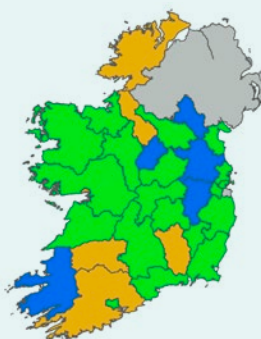
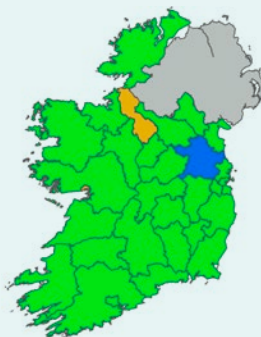
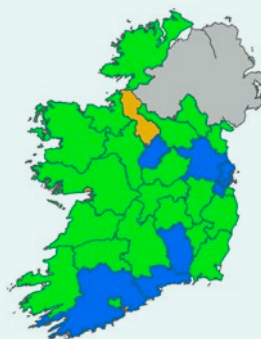
The objective is the detection and cessation of unauthorised waste collection and dumping activities and remediation of polluted sites. In 2024, 29 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 25 in 2022. There was proactive and challenging enforcement work undertaken by all local authorities.

2. Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste

The objective is effective and authorised management, movement and disposal of C&D waste. In 2024, 29 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 14 in 2022. Inspections at construction/development sites increased. There was good compliance reported at permitted sites and collectors. This work area is expanding with the introduction of the waste recovery levy and national by-product criteria for greenfield soil and stone, which will require inspections and follow-up.

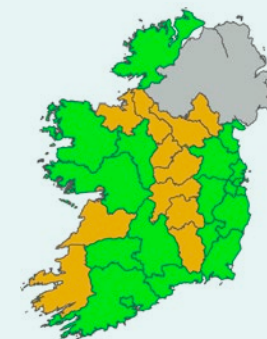
3. End of Life Vehicles (ELVs) and Metals

The objective is that all relevant ELV facilities are authorised and maintain a high level of compliance for acceptance, classification, segregation, recycling and disposal of ELVs. In 2024, 24 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 17 in 2022. Compliance was generally good, but some local authorities did not conduct risk-based inspections of all ELV sites.



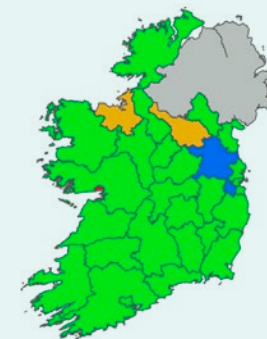
4. Household and Commercial Waste

The objective is to maximise segregation and recycling of municipal waste through the roll-out and use of the three bin system. This was the lowest performing waste NEP over the three years, with 19 local authorities meeting the standard (Strong or Excellent) in 2024, up from 12 in 2022. Most local authorities focused on either household or commercial waste, not both. Enforcement approaches vary across local authorities, with some at an education and awareness campaign level, while others are issuing a high level of fixed penalty notices and taking legal action.



5. Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRI) and Local Priorities

The objective is that all PRI operators (such as retailers selling electronics and batteries) register with appropriate organisations and achieve good regulatory compliance at all waste facilities, including those owned by local authorities. In 2024, 28 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 16 in 2022. There was a focus on three PRIs in 2024 (WEEE, Deposit Return Scheme and Suspected Major Packaging Producers), and inspections increased by approximately 800. There was good compliance and registration levels across the PRIs. Continued work is needed to follow up on non-compliant sites.



3. Waste Enforcement

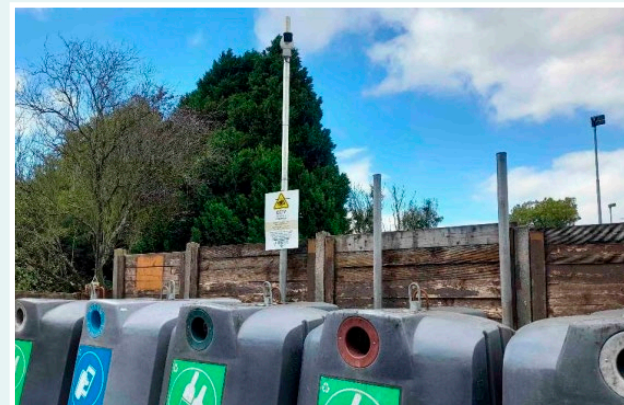
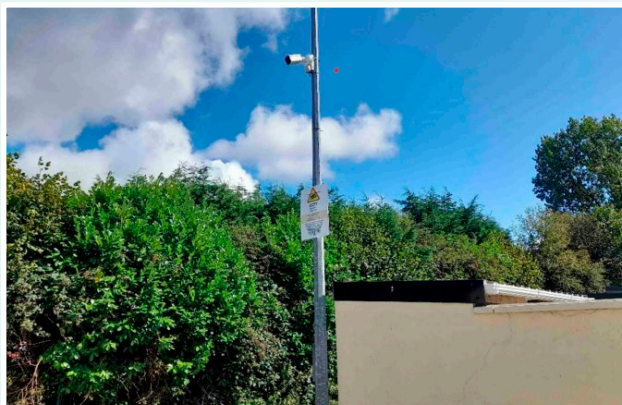
Longford County Council – Use of CCTV for Litter and Dumping Prevention and Enforcement

The use of CCTV has proven successful in investigating and enforcing littering and illegal dumping in Longford. In the past, efforts to address littering and illegal dumping were hindered by the absence of a legal framework allowing the use of CCTV monitoring as a tool to deter and investigate such activities. The introduction of the *Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022* remedied the legislative gap by providing for the GDPR-compliant use of a range of technologies, such as CCTV, for waste enforcement purposes to support efforts to tackle illegal dumping and littering, while protecting the privacy rights of citizens, subject to statutory codes of practice.

In 2024 the Local Government Management Agency in conjunction with the WERLAs developed the relevant codes of practice and data protection impact assessment templates for the operation of CCTV for these purposes, enabling local authorities to progress with enforcement action.

Longford County Council was the first local authority to successfully install CCTV monitoring adhering to these new codes of practice. The project required working with data protection officers to choose sites, completing a data protection impact assessment and assigning litter wardens to monitor levels of dumping and to progress fines and enforcement. The project involved the installation of nine cameras at nine urban and rural locations throughout County Longford.

A total of 71 incidents of littering and illegal dumping were recorded and submitted for investigation. 37 fines were issued, with 31 offenders identified using vehicle registrations and six walk-ups identified by either Longford County Council Enforcement Staff or An Garda Síochána. 19 fines were paid to date, with Longford County Council progressing prosecutions for the outstanding fines.

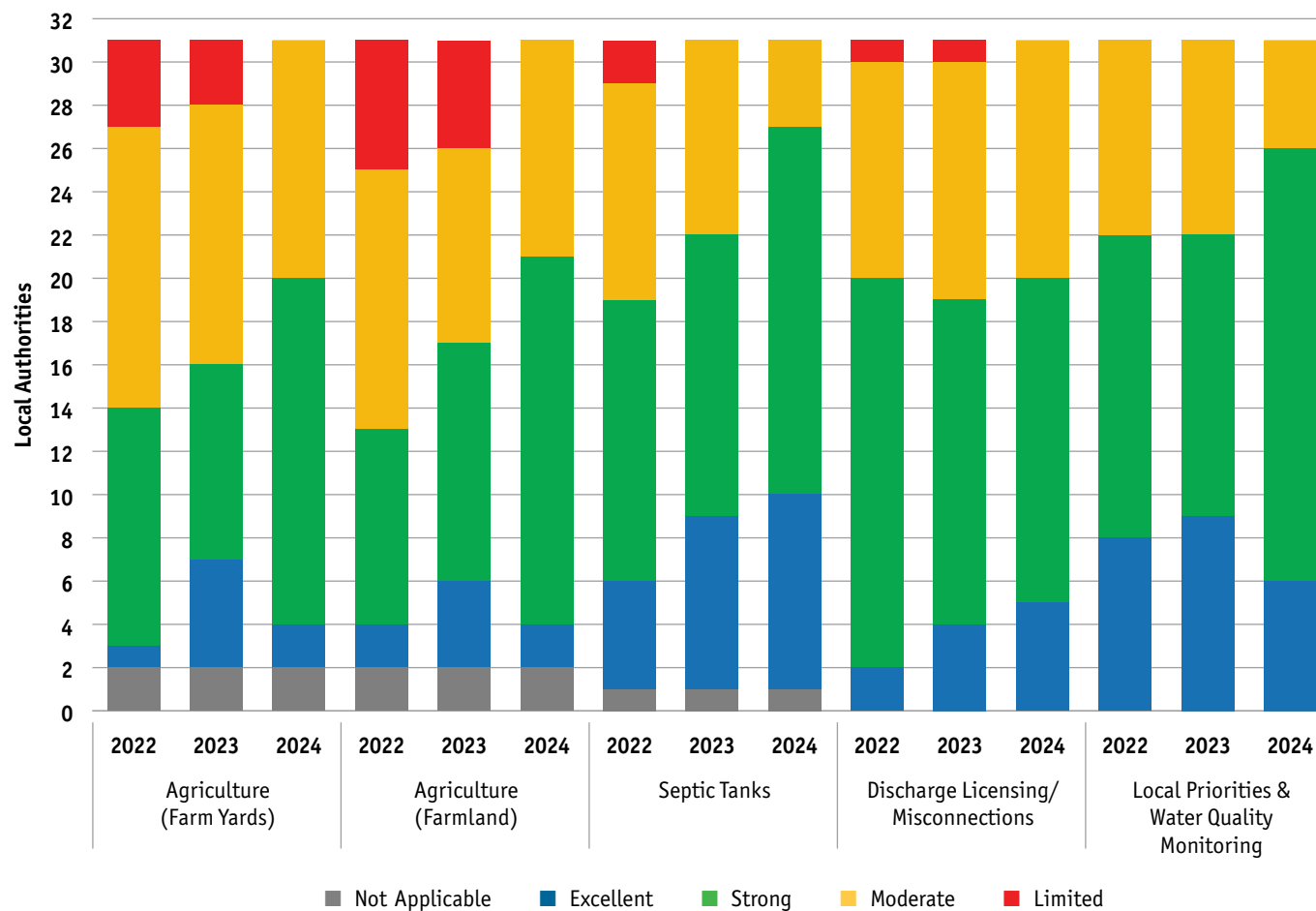


4. Water Enforcement

The EPA State of the Environment Report 2024 outlines that water quality trends remain mixed, with no net improvement in river or lake water quality in recent years, and a sharp decline in the number of monitored estuaries in satisfactory ecological condition. Significant challenges remain for achieving full compliance with relevant EU obligations and national policy objectives.

Figure 6 presents the performance results for the Water NEPs. The results are compared across the three years (2022 - 2024) to analyse performance trends over the first cycle of the Local Authority Performance Framework. The key findings for the Water NEPs are presented on the following pages.

Figure 6: Water NEPs: 2022-2024



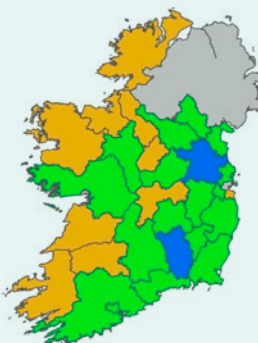
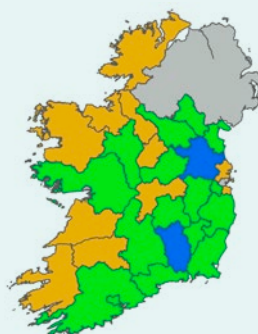
4. Water Enforcement

1. Pressures from Agriculture (Farm Yards) – slurry/soiled water collection and storage

The objective is to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. In 2024, 18 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 12 in 2022. Improvements were seen in inspection, enforcement and stakeholder collaboration. Nonetheless, further improvement is required, as local authorities must increase the number of farm inspections to achieve the annual target of 4,500 inspections, as set out in the National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) and the Water Action Plan 2024. In addition, local authorities must take a stronger enforcement approach, including cross reporting to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and/or prosecutions. The NAIP Summary Report 2024 can be read [here](#).

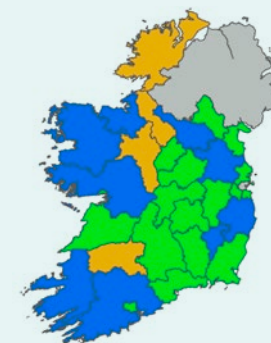
2. Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) – slurry and fertiliser spreading

The objective is also to reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality, with a focus on the agricultural activities on farmland. In 2024, 19 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 11 in 2022. Improvements were seen in inspection activity, compliance promotion and stakeholder collaboration.



3. Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTS)/Septic Tanks

The objective is to reduce the impact of domestic waste water discharges on water quality through implementation of the [National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022-2026](#) (NIP). In 2024, 26 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 18 in 2022. While the national inspection programme is well established, four local authorities missed their inspection targets in 2024. Notably, there was a national decrease in open advisory notices in 2024, indicating completion of remedial actions by householders to fix their faulty septic tank systems.



4. Water Enforcement

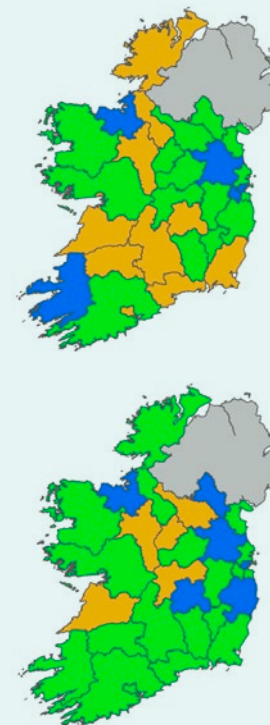
4. Discharge Licences⁶/Misconnections

The objective is to reduce the impact of licensed discharges on water quality by ensuring compliance with discharge licence conditions, and to reduce the impact of misconnections by ensuring remedial works are undertaken by property owners and businesses. This is the only NEP where no improvement was observed over the three years, however there were more Excellent results (up from 2 to 5). This area lacks prioritisation and many local authorities did not demonstrate action on discharge licences that are identified as a significant pressure on a waterbody. Activity on misconnections varied, with proactive efforts by some urban local authorities and reactive work by other local authorities in response to complaints or incidents.

5. Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring

The objective is to deliver the Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring programme and ensure that any local water quality issues are addressed. In 2024, 26 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 22 in 2022. While statutory monitoring programmes (WFD and Bathing Waters) are well established, investigative monitoring (to examine local water quality issues) was inconsistent across local authorities. Under *The Water Action Plan 2024: A River Basin Management Plan for Ireland*, local authorities need to tackle water quality issues in the Areas for Action where they are the lead organisation.

Enforcement work on private water supplies also varied across local authorities. The total number of small private supplies remains unknown as there is no legal obligation on small private suppliers to register. Unregistered supplies are not monitored by local authorities. Local authorities must monitor all private drinking water supplies and take necessary enforcement action where supplies fail to meet drinking water quality standards. The EPA report on Drinking Water Quality in Private Group Schemes and small Private Water Supplies 2024 can be read [here](#).



⁶ Discharge to water licences issued under Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, as amended, such as discharges from commercial/business activities and privately operated waste water treatment plants.

4. Water Enforcement

Waterford City & County Council – Tackling Improper Storage of Silage

Waterford City & County Council successfully addressed a significant environmental risk through enforcement action, resulting in the removal of silage bales that had been inappropriately stored adjacent to a lake. This intervention effectively safeguarded the local water environment.

During a routine patrol an agricultural inspector observed a large quantity of silage bales stored in close proximity to a surface water body, visible from the roadway. A farmland inspection was initiated to assess compliance with storage requirements set down in the *Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters (GAP) Regulations 2022 (S.I. 113 of 2022)*. The silage bales were stored less than 20 meters from a transitional lake, directly connected to a coastal waterbody designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC)/Special Protection Area (SPA). The silage bales were stored in a designated flood zone and the land was severely poached from heavy machinery movements (loading and unloading of silage bales) resulting in large volumes of silage effluent being discharged to the SAC. Grasses around the bales were blackened due to consistent exposure to silage effluent run-off.

The landowner and farm advisor were informed of the significant non-compliances with the GAP Regulations and potential impacts on water quality in the SAC/SPA. A cross-compliance report was submitted to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, who subsequently applied a penalty to the landowner's payments. During a follow-up inspection by the local authority, the silage bales had been removed from this location and the poached area had been reseeded. Pressure on the water quality in the SAC/SPA was removed effectively and promptly.

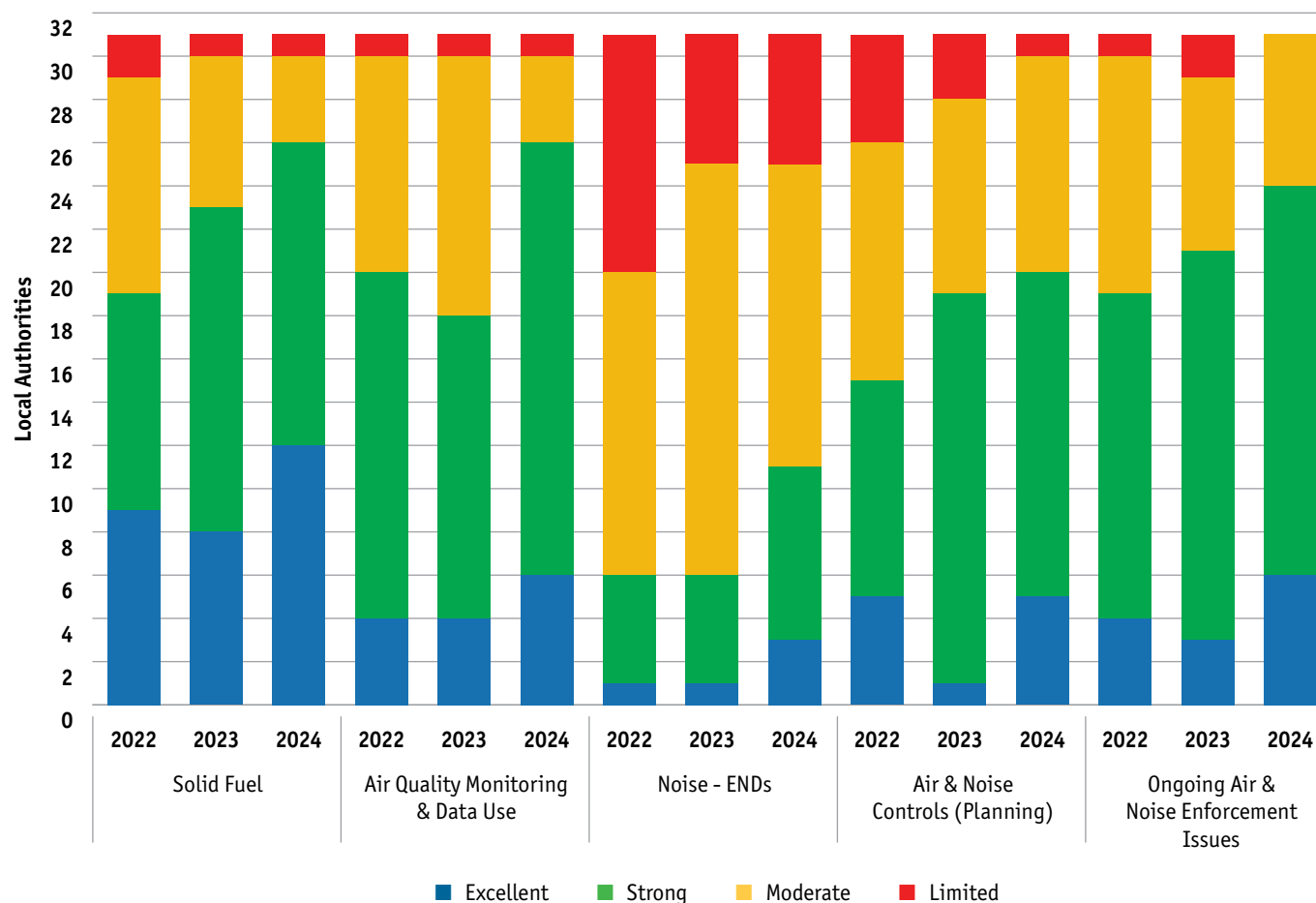


5. Air and Noise Enforcement

According to the [EPA Report on Air Quality in Ireland 2024](#), air quality is generally good and met the legal limits set by the EU, however it did not meet the stricter health guidelines from the World Health Organization (WHO), and our air quality is falling behind on targets set in Ireland's Clean Air Strategy. The strategy commits Ireland to achieving the WHO guideline values for air quality by 2040, with progress to be measured against interim targets by 2026 and 2030. Achieving the ambitions of the Clean Air Strategy will be challenging but will have a significant positive impact on health.

Figure 7 presents the performance results for the Air and Noise NEPs. The results are compared across the three years (2022 - 2024) to analyse performance trends over the first cycle of the Local Authority Performance Framework. The key findings for the Air and Noise NEPs are presented on the following pages.

Figure 7: Air and Noise NEPs: 2022-2024



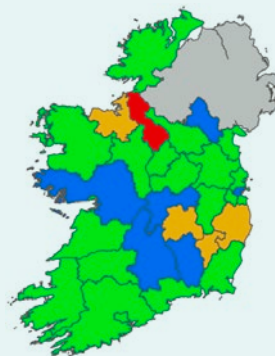
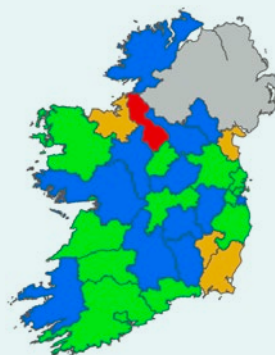
5. Air and Noise Enforcement

1. Solid Fuel

The objective is that only approved solid fuel products are available for purchase by householders. In 2024, 26 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 19 in 2022, which represents good work in tackling the sale and distribution of unapproved solid fuels. Enforcement activity increased, with more multi-agency inspections and follow-ups, roadside checks and sample analysis. Inspections of retailers and producers found an increasing trend of non-compliances, in particular unregistered wood producers and incorrectly labelled fuels. While inspection activity has increased, there is a need for more enforcement because of the high level of non-compliances detected. In particular, sampling of coal products showed low compliance with the 2% sulphur limit, therefore further enforcement action is needed to drive compliance in this area.

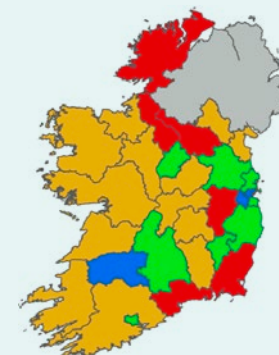
2. Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use

The objective is to deliver enhanced real-time information to improve air quality forecasting and identification of priority areas for action, and to encourage greater understanding and involvement of the public in air quality issues. In 2024, 26 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 20 in 2022. Most local authority websites provide public access to real-time local air quality information via weblink to www.airquality.ie. However, many local authorities failed to demonstrate the use of air quality data to target solid fuel inspections and increase awareness of air quality at local level.



3. Environmental Noise Directive

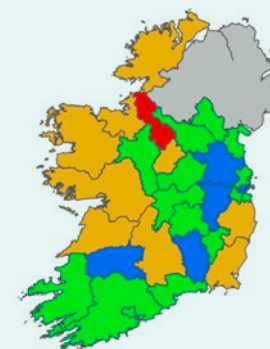
The objective is to reduce the amount of people chronically disturbed by transport noise as well as preserve environmental noise quality where it is good. This was the lowest performing of all NEPs, with only 11 local authorities meeting the standard (Strong or Excellent) in 2024, up from 6 in 2022. All local authorities submitted their Round 4 Noise Action Plans and made noise maps publicly available. However, the implementation of Noise Action Plans continues to be an issue due to lack of funding to carry out priority noise mitigation measures. Local authorities, in collaboration with transport infrastructure bodies, need to focus implementation of Noise Action Plans on the priority areas identified using strategic noise mapping. This requires collaborative effort between the Environment, Roads and Planning Sections within local authorities.



5. Air and Noise Enforcement

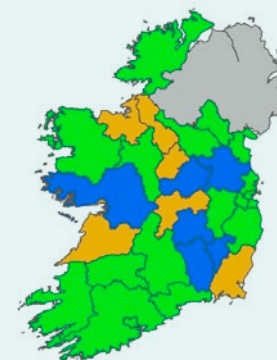
4. Air and Noise Controls (including Planning)

The objective is that appropriate air and noise controls are in place. In 2024, 20 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 15 in 2022. Most local authorities demonstrated that their Environment Section liaised with their Planning Section to assess air and noise impacts of developments and set appropriate air and noise controls in planning permissions. However, they did not adequately demonstrate that planning permission conditions were effectively enforced to prevent air and noise nuisance associated with certain activities such as quarries, industrial developments or construction activities.



5. Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work

The objective is to ensure appropriate controls are in place to minimise, reduce or prevent air and noise emissions that may be harmful to the environment or to human health. In 2024, 24 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent), up from 19 in 2022. Local authorities assess compliance through inspections under the Solvents, Decorative Paints, Petroleum Vapours Regulations, and sites licensed under the Air Pollution Act. They also investigate air and noise incidents or complaints reported by the public. In 2024, there was a good level of inspection and enforcement activity of certified operators under the Solvents, Decorative Paints and Petroleum Vapours Regulations, however continued effort is needed to identify and target unauthorised operators.



5. Air and Noise Enforcement

Kerry County Council – Air Quality and Solid Fuel Regulation

Kerry County Council's initiatives under the Solid Fuel Regulations led to improved compliance, contributed to enhanced air quality, and increased public awareness of the environmental and health impacts associated with the use of solid fuels.

In response to local air quality concerns, Kerry County Council implemented a comprehensive enforcement and monitoring programme under the Solid Fuel Regulations in 2024.

Kerry County Council conducted a total of 78 inspections of solid fuel retailers and premises across the county in 2024. For coal sales, compliance rates were generally satisfactory and showed an improvement from 2023. A small number of outlets were identified to be selling fuels supplied by producers not listed on the EPA's [Solid Fuel Register](#). Kerry County Council contacted the producers in question and liaised with the EPA, resulting in the producers completing the required EPA registration process.

Kerry County Council also monitored online and print advertisements for unapproved fuel sales and took enforcement action, including contacting publishers and removing non-compliant advertisements. They also investigated and stopped the sale of turf from public places under the provisions of Regulation 4 (2) of the Solid Fuel Regulations.

Multi-agency roadside checkpoints were also undertaken, with the support of An Garda Síochána, to monitor the transport and movement of unapproved solid fuels. Hauliers and couriers were stopped, manifests were checked, and advice was given on the legal requirements for the transport of solid fuels. A satisfactory level of compliance was recorded during roadside checkpoints.

In 2024, localised air quality issues continued in Tralee, namely elevated levels of particulate matter (PM₁₀), as evidenced by data recorded at the ambient air quality monitor in Tralee. These air quality issues were primarily evident during cold and calm weather conditions.

While the number of particulate matter exceedances (daily Limit for PM₁₀) recorded by the ambient air quality monitor in Tralee has shown an overall decrease (14 exceedances in 2022, 2 in 2023 and 5 in 2024), the issue remained a concern. As a result, Kerry County Council continued to focus on the sale and distribution of solid fuels in the Tralee area, where the majority of inspections took place. These included mobile patrols of residential areas to monitor the door-to-door sale and supply of solid fuels.

No PM₁₀ exceedances were recorded at the ambient air quality monitor in Killarney in 2024. EPA monitoring data will continue to be used to guide enforcement work by the local authority.

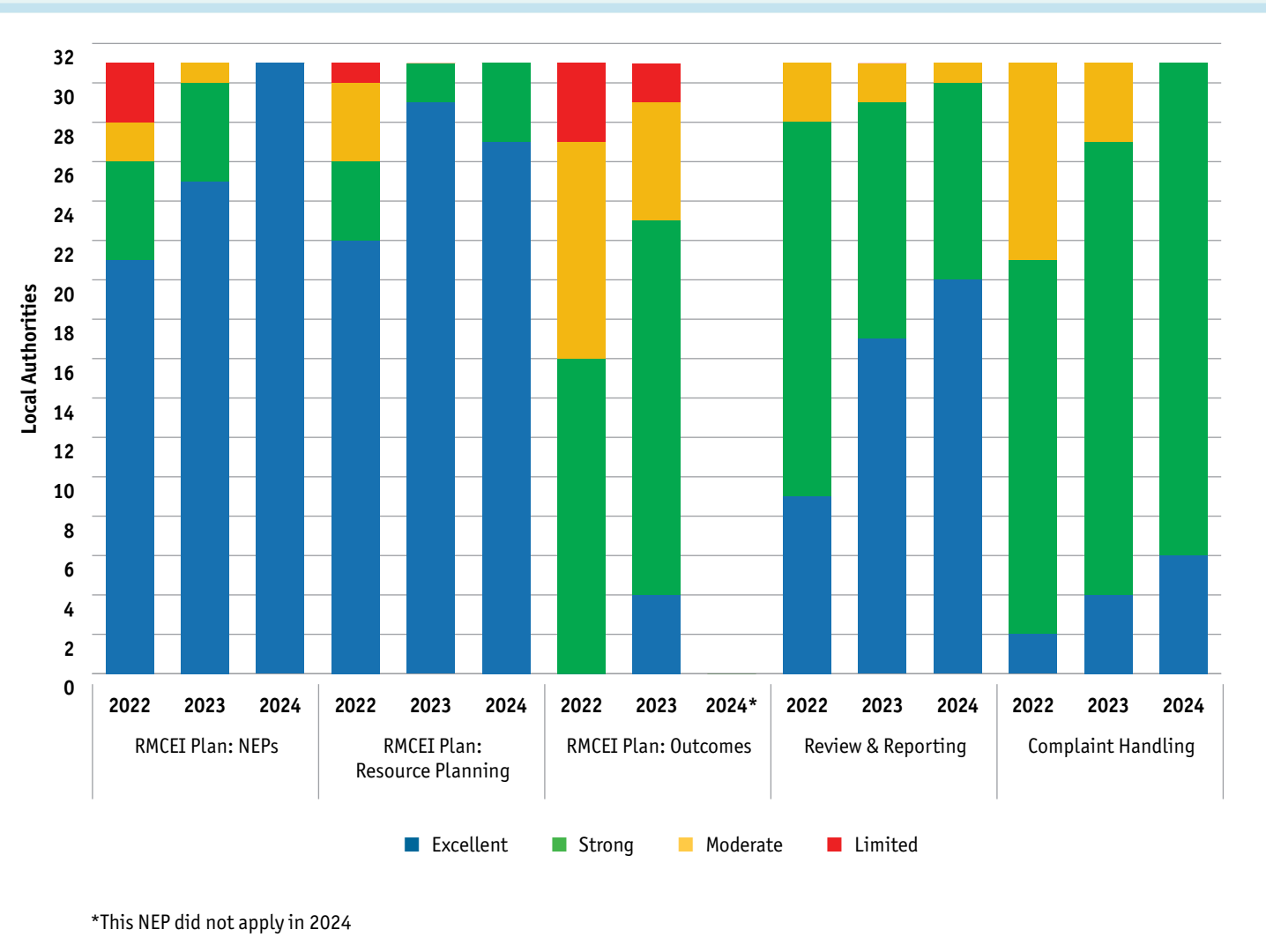
Kerry County Council raised awareness through a local media campaign on air quality and solid fuel regulations. This included an interview on Radio Kerry's "Ours to Protect" series. Kerry County Council's [website](#) was also updated with information on air quality and solid fuel regulation.

6. Governance Processes

The governance process NEPs measure how local authorities plan their environmental inspections and enforcement duties. Each local authority prepared a RMCEI (Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections) after RMCEI plan in accordance with European Parliament and Council Recommendation 2001/331/EC, on the Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI) in member states.

Figure 8 presents the performance results for the Governance Process NEPs. The results are compared across the three years (2022 - 2024) to analyse performance trends over the first cycle of the Local Authority Performance Framework. The key findings for the Governance Process NEPs are presented on the following page.

Figure 8: Governance Process NEPs: 2022-2024



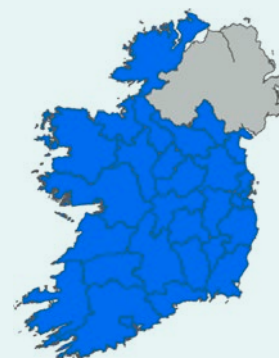
6. Governance Processes

1. RMCEI Plan: Planning for the NEPs, Environmental Resource Planning, Environmental Outcomes and Review and Reporting

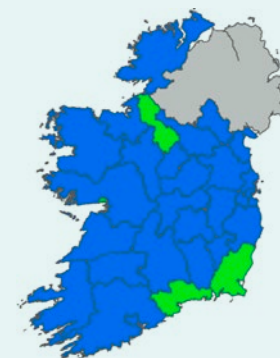
Local authorities have developed annual enforcement plans (RMCEI Plans) since 2006 to improve the organisation and effectiveness of environmental inspections and enforcement. These RMCEI Plans are well embedded within the local authorities and have integrated the NEPs into the enforcement and resource planning. In 2024, all 31 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent) for RMCEI Plan: Planning for the NEPs and Environmental Resource Planning, both up from 26 in 2022. 30 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent) for RMCEI Plan: Review & Reporting, up from 28 in 2022. One of the governance process NEPs (RMCEI Plan: Environmental Outcomes) was removed in 2024 because the objectives of each NEP are clearly defined at the beginning of the three-year cycle.

2. Environment Complaint Handling

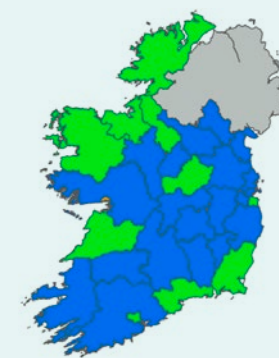
This priority relates to local authority processes and systems in place to manage environmental complaints. All 31 local authorities met the standard (Strong or Excellent) in 2024, up from 21 in 2022. Local authorities receive a large volume of complaints from the public each year, with approximately 76,500 environmental complaints in 2024. Complaints are a key source of intelligence for local authorities to identify illegal or unauthorised activities which are potentially damaging the environment. In 2024, local authorities generally had good complaint management systems in place. Local authorities must ensure that complaints are investigated in a timely manner and that complaints open from previous years are resolved. The introduction of the National Environmental Management Information System (NEMIS)⁷ complaints module will drive more consistency in this area.



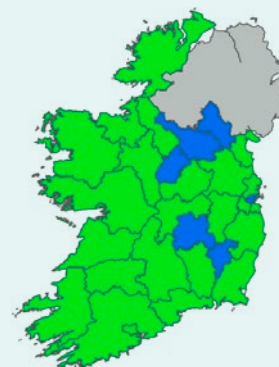
**RMCEI Plan:
Planning for the NEPs**



**RMCEI Plan:
Environmental
Resource Planning**



**RMCEI Plan:
Review & Reporting**



⁷ NEMIS was developed by the Local Government Management Agency to support local authorities in the entry and processing of inspections and enforcement data.

7. EPA Audits of Local Authority Performance

The EPA carries out audits of local authorities under the Local Authority Performance Framework. The audits are carried out in accordance with Section 63(2) of the Environmental Protection Agency Acts 1992 and 2003. These audits focus on implementation of the NEPs and provide an opportunity for the EPA to offer advice and support to help improve statutory performance. The audits allow the EPA to examine the nature, scope and impacts of the local authority enforcement activities in greater detail. The audits engage with senior management in local authorities, as well as operational staff.

The EPA audited all 31 local authorities in the first cycle of the Local Authority Performance Framework, 2022-2024. These in-person audits were followed up with audit review meetings to check implementation of the audit recommendations.

During each audit, the audit team concentrated on the NEPs where the relevant local authority had not met the standard (Strong or Excellent) in the previous year, to drive improvements in those areas.

The audits have identified the need for greater consistency in the following areas:

- ▲ Enforcement approach to household waste activity
- ▲ Monitoring and enforcement of Section 4 discharge licences to waters
- ▲ Increasing the number of farm inspections carried out and escalating enforcement action for non-compliances identified during farm inspections
- ▲ Use of waste inspection templates developed by WERLA⁸.

The issues identified during the audits are followed up by the EPA to ensure the necessary actions are undertaken.

Recent EPA Audit Reports on Local Authority Performance can be found [here](#).







8. Local Authority Performance Framework: Cycle 2 (2025-2027)

The second cycle of the Local Authority Performance Framework covers the period 2025-2027. Lessons from the first cycle have informed changes to improve the process. Some NEPs and activities for focus have continued from the first cycle while others have been amended to reflect new legislation and emerging areas of concern.

The number of NEPs has been reduced from 19 to 15 to ensure local authorities focus their efforts more effectively. The 15 NEPs are outlined in Table 4; Waste (5), Water (4), Air and Noise (4), Governance Processes (2).

Table 4: National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) 2025-2027

Waste		Water	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Tackling illegal waste activities and Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern ▲ Construction & Demolition Material ▲ Household Waste ▲ Commercial Waste ▲ Plastics and Producer Responsibility Initiatives 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Pressures from Agriculture (Farm Yards) – slurry/soiled water collection and storage ▲ Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) – slurry and fertiliser spreading ▲ Discharge Licences / Misconnections ▲ Local Water Quality Pressures including Septic Tanks and Private Water Supplies
Air and Noise		Governance Processes	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Solid Fuel ▲ Air Quality Monitoring & Data Use ▲ Environmental Noise Directives (END) Activities ▲ Local Air & Noise Investigations 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Planning for Environmental Inspections & Compliance ▲ Recording & Reporting of Environmental Inspections, Compliance and Enforcement Data

Appendix 1:

National Environmental Enforcement and Inspection Data, 2022-2024

Total Number	2022	2023	2024
Licences/Permits/Certificates	14,500	13,800	10,700
Inspections undertaken	197,300	212,100	227,400
Environmental Complaints received	69,700	70,300	76,500
Enforcement Actions taken	17,700	17,800	18,050
Prosecutions initiated ¹	621	470	414
Waste			
Waste and Litter Complaints received	62,400	62,800	67,400
Illegal Dumping Inspections	17,900	16,000	18,000
Multi-Agency Inspections	280	410	480
Household Waste Surveys	7,830	8,130	7,090
Commercial Food Waste Inspections	1,100	1,270	1,250
C&D Handling Inspections	1,500	1,450	1,550
Litter Patrols	48,730	47,220	68,600
Waste Collection Permit Inspections	2,500	1,690	2,570
Producer Responsibility Initiatives Inspections (WEEE, Batteries, Tyres, ELV, Packaging, Farm Plastic, Plastic Bags and DRS)	2,850	2,690	3,480
Water			
Water/Wastewater Complaints Received	2,800	3,100	3,700
WFD Monitoring and Investigations ²	17,480	16,300	26,670
Water Pollution Incidents/Complaints Investigations	3,080	2,900	2,630
Farm Inspections – initial GAP inspections undertaken	1,041	1,137	2,598
Other types of farm inspections undertaken (in response to planning applications, incidents and complaints)	879	1,474	1,666
Septic Tank Inspections under the National Inspection Plan	1,140	1,275	1,390
Discharge Licence (Section 4) Inspections	2,090	2,400	2,600

Appendix 1:

Total Number	2022	2023	2024
Air & Noise			
Air/Odour and Noise Complaints received	4,600	4,500	5,400
Solid Fuel Regulation Inspections	1,160	1,690	1,490
Decorative Paint Regulation Inspections	470	480	460
Petroleum Vapour Regulation Inspections	440	470	550
Solvent Regulation Inspections	200	170	180
Enforcement Actions Initiated			
Waste Enforcement Actions	14,400	14,000	13,300
Water/Wastewater Enforcement Actions	1,660	2,130	3,680
Air Enforcement Actions	980	1,210	690
Noise Enforcement Actions	650	410	330
PRI Enforcement Actions	10	4	40
Total Enforcement Actions Initiated	17,700	17,754	18,050
Prosecutions Initiated			
Waste Prosecutions Actions ¹	580	423	376
Water/Wastewater Prosecution Actions	35	39	31
Air Prosecution Actions	5	2	5
Noise Prosecution Actions	1	6	2
Total Prosecutions Initiated	621	470	414

¹ Does not include litter prosecutions

² This includes Water Framework Directive (WFD) operational, surveillance and investigative sampling programmes undertaken by local authorities.

Appendix 2:

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 – Waste			
NEP (2022-2024)	Objective (2022-2024)	Outcome (2022-2024)	Activities for Focus in 2024
Tackling illegal waste activities and Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern	Detection and cessation of unauthorised collection and dumping activities and remediation of polluted sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unauthorized collectors and operators detected and closed down. Consistent policy agreed and implemented for dealing with illegal waste deposits in the ground. Authorised (permitted and licensed) facilities should not facilitate the unauthorised treatment of waste. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted inspections and follow up enforcement actions of unauthorised collectors and site operators using intelligence from waste data flows, complaints and other available data. Co-ordinate enforcement activity with other regulators through the NWESC, NIECE, Garda Multi Agency forums and by multi-lateral concerted actions. Other regulators include inter alia, Social Welfare, An Garda Síochána and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners. Relevant Anti-Dumping Initiatives implemented. Traceability requirements to be enforced at Permitted/Licensed sites. Focus on those who are facilitating the unauthorised treatment of waste. Keep the Convictions Register up to date.
Construction and Demolition Waste	Effective and authorised management, movement and disposal of C&D waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorised waste treatment facilities accepting waste from authorised collectors/sources only. Compliance of construction sites with inspection template checks including waste classification, segregation and waste movement, Article 27. Accurate waste classification and quantification of waste data in AERs from WCP/WFP and licensed operators. Ensure Article 27 and Article 28 are used efficiently to support the circular economy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk based inspections of construction sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates. Inspection of Article 27 sites of origin and destination to include material notified under Article 27 being accepted at WFP/Licensed sites. Inspection of soil recovery sites to ensure only appropriate materials accepted. Validation and cradle to grave inspection of WCP/WFP and licensed sites dealing with C&D waste. Identify and resolve issues concerning the selling of waste materials (such as crushed concrete) without EoW decision from WFPs/Licensed sites. Based on research data and local knowledge, identify authorised operators for further investigation and/or enforcement action.

Appendix 2:

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 – Waste			
NEP (2022-2024)	Objective (2022-2024)	Outcome (2022-2024)	Activities for Focus in 2024
ELV and Metals	All relevant ELV and metal facilities are authorised and maintain a high level of compliance for acceptance, classification, segregation, recycling and disposal of ELVs and metals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authorised (permitted and licensed) waste treatment facilities to accept waste from only authorised, exempted or excluded sources. Accurate waste classification and quantification of waste data in AERs from WCP/WFP and licensed operators Hazardous components and WEEE are adequately segregated and transferred to appropriate recycling/treatment facility. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk based inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities and other ELV sites using WERLA/EPA intelligence and inspection templates (at least one inspection per annum of permitted/Licensed sites). Multiagency inspections to be carried out as appropriate and/or as identified by the local government sector and the EPA. Validation and inspection of records for WCP/WFP and licensed operators dealing with ELV and metal waste including traceability checks as per the relevant legislation and conditions. Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues.
Household and Commercial Waste	Maximise segregation, and recycling of municipal waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved diversion of waste from landfill and thermal treatment to meet the 2025 EU Recycling Targets and reduce burden/pressure on the national waste capacity. 3 bin systems are in place and being utilised appropriately (i.e. high rate of separation and low rate of contamination) at all commercial sites. High level of compliance amongst households availing of a kerbside waste collection service or a suitable alternative. Accurate waste classification and quantification of waste data in AERs from WCP and WFP/licensed operators of municipal waste. Reduce contamination in residual and mixed dry recycling streams. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of WCP operators for provision of 3 bin system. Inspections of identified household and commercial sectors requiring appropriate intervention to ensure proper use of 3 bin system, segregation and use of authorised collectors. Focus on waste acceptance at authorised facilities to help combat misclassification of wastes and ensure waste acceptance criteria are complied with. AER Validations on WCP and WFP priority lists. Establishment of a register under Section 34C of the Waste Management Act, as required.

Appendix 2:

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 – Waste			
NEP (2022-2024)	Objective (2022-2024)	Outcome (2022-2024)	Activities for Focus in 2024
Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities	<p>All operators subject to producer responsibility initiatives registered with appropriate compliance schemes.</p> <p>Good regulatory compliance at all waste facilities including those owned by local authorities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producers and distributors of WEEE, Packaging, Farm Plastics, Tyres, Batteries and ELV Regulations, comply with Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations. Ireland meets the WEEE collection target. Compliance with Single-use Plastics Regulations. Compliance with the Deposit Return Scheme Regulations. Effective liaison with compliance schemes, PRL and other stakeholders in relation to enforcement issues. All local authority owned waste facilities in compliance with authorisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA and Local authorities continue to identify, inspect and monitor all obligated producers under existing compliance schemes having regard to sectoral and local issues. Inspections of sectors where WEEE takeback is low. Enforcement of market restrictions (banned items) under the SUP Directive as per SUP Enforcement Work Plan. Enforcement of SUP labelling requirements as per SUP Enforcement Work Plan. Enforcement of producer, retailer and operator obligations under the Deposit Return Scheme Regulations. Inspection and follow up of sites and operators of local concern not covered by the other waste NEPs.

Appendix 2:

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 – Water			
NEP (2022-2024)	Objective (2022-2024)	Outcome (2022-2024)	Activities for Focus in 2024
Pressures from Agriculture (Farm Yards) – slurry/soiled water collection and storage	Reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. Issues at farm level are identified and resolved through farm inspections both in areas identified with agriculture as a significant pressure with a lesser percentage in areas where agriculture has not been identified as a significant pressure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Adequate slurry collection and storage. ▲ Adequate soiled water collection and storage. ▲ Local issues identified and resolved through the National Agriculture Inspection Programme (NAIP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Inspections of farmyards in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a lesser percentage in other areas, as defined in the National Agriculture Inspection Programme for local authorities. ▲ Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concerns (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPA Targeting Agriculture Measures map. ▲ Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances detected by inspections or complaints. ▲ Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM. ▲ Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.
Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) – slurry and fertiliser spreading	Reduce the impact of agricultural activities on water quality. Issues at farm level are identified and resolved through farm inspections in areas identified with agriculture as a significant pressure with a lesser percentage in areas where agriculture has not been identified as a significant pressure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Spreading of slurry and fertilisers must not take place in the closed season or under unsuitable weather and/or soil conditions. ▲ Local issues identified and resolved through the National Agriculture Inspection Programme (NAIP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Inspections of farmlands in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a lesser percentage in other areas as defined in the National Agriculture Inspection Programme for local authorities. ▲ Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concerns (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPA Targeting Agriculture Measures map. ▲ Inspections/surveillance of farmlands to monitor that spreading of slurry and fertilisers does not take place in the closed season or under unsuitable weather and/or soil conditions. ▲ Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances detected by inspections or complaints. ▲ Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM. ▲ Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.
DWWTS/ Septic Tanks	Reduce the impact of domestic waste water discharges on water quality through implementation of the National Inspection Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Non-compliant systems are Identified via risk-based inspections, and subsequently followed up and resolved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Undertake the allocated number of DWWTS/Septic Tanks inspections under the National Inspection Plan. ▲ Take all necessary steps to follow up and ensure advisory notices are closed out. ▲ When selecting households for inspection, consider areas where LAWPRO have issued letters of grant eligibility and homeowners have not taken action. ▲ Undertake engagement activities, as specified in the National Inspection Plan, to ensure homeowners understand how to maintain septic tanks and the risks to human health and water quality from poorly maintained systems.

Appendix 2:

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 – Water			
NEP (2022-2024)	Objective (2022-2024)	Outcome (2022-2024)	Activities for Focus in 2024
Discharge licences/Misconnections	<p>Reduce the impact of licensed discharges on water quality by ensuring compliance with discharge licence conditions.</p> <p>Reduce the impact of misconnections on water quality by ensuring remediation works are undertaken by property owners.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ All Section 4 licenses associated with significant pressures are compliant with emission values. ▲ Misconnections impacting on water quality are followed up and remediated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Ensure all licence conditions are consistent with the requirements of the Surface Waters and Groundwater regulations. ▲ Undertake risk-based inspections/monitoring of Section 4 licences. Inspect all licences in areas where discharge licensing is a significant pressure. ▲ Ensure that all licensable discharges are authorised by a Section 4 licence. ▲ Ensure compliance with discharge licence conditions and follow up and close out non-compliances and LAWPRO referrals on Section 4s and misconnections. ▲ Follow up on misconnections that have been identified as impacting on water quality to ensure that works are undertaken by property owners to remediate such misconnections.
Local Priorities and water quality monitoring	<p>Deliver the WFD monitoring programme and ensure that any local water quality issues (not covered by other NEPs) are addressed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ The monitoring data is available for characterisation and to support targeting of local authority inspections and enforcement actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲ Complete statutory monitoring for WFD surveillance and operational monitoring, investigative monitoring and bathing water monitoring. ▲ Inspect and follow up any local issues (not covered by other NEPs), including non-compliances with water quality standards and LAWPRO referrals. ▲ Address any climate related water quality issues, e.g. impacts due to extreme weather events. ▲ Monitoring and enforcement of private drinking water supplies. ▲ Engage with LAWPRO and Regional Committees on the implementation of the RBMP Actions. ▲ On publication of the 3rd Cycle RBMP, develop schedule for the local authority led Areas for Action outlining when work will start on each AFA. ▲ Take all necessary steps to risk assess and close out complaints relating to water quality.

Appendix 2:

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 – Air and Noise			
NEP (2022-2024)	Objective (2022-2024)	Outcome (2022-2024)	Activities for Focus in 2024
Solid Fuel	Only compliant fuel products are available for purchase by the end-user.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fuel products used by the end-user comply with standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tackle the sale of non-compliant fuel (including online sales) and its use via compliance promotion, inspection and enforcement of fuel merchants and retailers. Participate in multi-agency operations investigating the sale of non-compliant fuels. Carry out awareness programme to promote compliance by increasing the awareness of how the choices people make in heating their homes impacts on their air quality and health and legal obligations. Establish and/or maintain a list including the number and profile of solid-fuel merchants operating in each local authority area including those using social media platforms to market solid fuels. Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other Local Authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events. Develop and implement a programme for the sampling and analysis of fuel types (this can be carried out per individual local authority, or a joint approach can be adopted with other local authorities).
Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use	Deliver enhanced real-time information to improve air quality forecasting and identification of priority sites/ areas for action; encourage greater understanding and involvement of the public in air quality issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality data to be used to identify priority sites/areas for action. All Local Authorities to display real-time data on local air quality via their websites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Unit to: Assist EPA to troubleshoot issues at existing air quality monitoring stations, including the nomination and notification to the EPA of a primary and secondary contact person. Assist (where possible, to the best extent possible) EPA to maintain existing and new air quality monitoring stations. Review air quality data within the local authority functional area to identify and address areas for action due to poor air quality and to prioritise sites/areas for action. Provide public access to air quality data within the local authority functional area including a map to the public for each local authority. As a minimum, a link to the relevant page(s) of the EPA site should be placed on each Local Authority website. Awareness raising campaigns or information on LA websites or social media campaigns.
Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs)	Reduce the share of people chronically disturbed by transport noise as well as preserve environmental noise quality where it is good.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide public access to noise maps on Local Authorities' websites to communicate information to the public. The LAs should also provide a link to all Round 4 maps on the EPA website. Prepare and submit the Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report for Round 3 of Action Plans to the EPA by 29th February 2024. Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report should demonstrate progress on the key issues and priority areas for action. Public consultation on Draft Noise Action Plans. Results of public consultation to be considered when finalising Noise Action Plans (NAPs) 2024-2028. Final Plans to be submitted to the EPA by 18th July 2024.

Appendix 2:

National Enforcement Priorities 2022-2024 – Air and Noise			
NEP (2022-2024)	Objective (2022-2024)	Outcome (2022-2024)	Activities for Focus in 2024
Air and Noise Control (Including Planning)	Appropriate Air and Noise controls are in place.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment staff assessing environmental impacts from air and noise emissions and liaising with planning staff on appropriate air and noise controls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-planning assessments of air and noise impacts associated with proposed developments. Environment staff assist in follow up of air and noise issues to ensure compliance with planning conditions, including use of Sections 107 and 108 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, the Air Pollution Act and liaising with planners where planning enforcement is more appropriate.
Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work	Appropriate controls in place to minimise, reduce or prevent air and noise emissions that may be harmful to the environment or to human health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulatory compliance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions of facilities/activities as specified in the RMCEI template and/or as otherwise determined by the Local Authority including sites registered under Solvent, Deco Paints and Petroleum Vapours Regulations and sites licensed under the Air Pollution Act. Make available on their websites, up-to-date registers under Solvent and Deco Paints Regulations, Best Practice Guidelines for Dry Cleaning, Best Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Refinishing, and EPA Vehicle Refinishers video and use appropriate channels to promote these materials. Investigating air and noise complaints. Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions under the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, as amended and the Air Pollution Act, 1987, as amended to limit air and noise nuisance. Make available on their websites information on how to make air and noise complaints and associated procedures for affected parties. Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other Local Authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events.

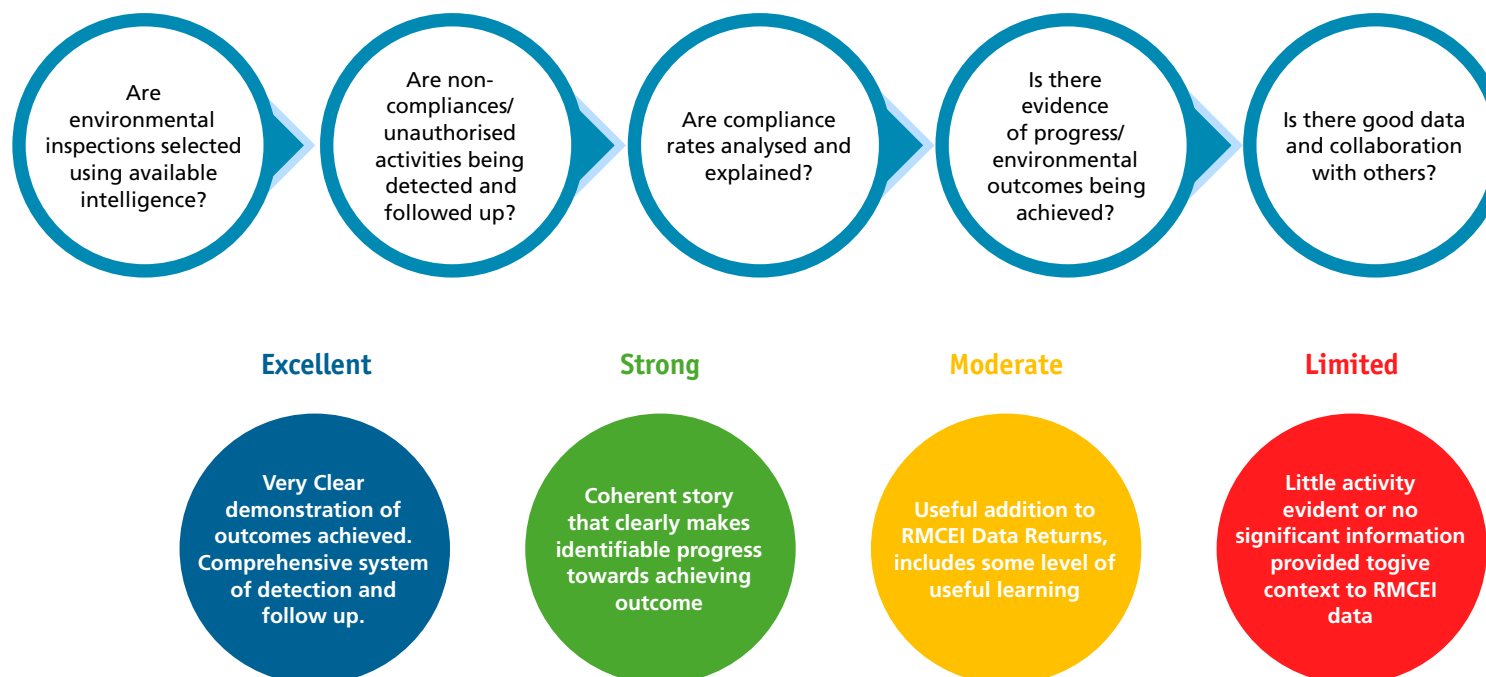
Appendix 3:

National Enforcement Priorities – Assessment Criteria

NEP Assessment Criteria		
A	For regulated/authorised sites, a compliance rate documented and compared over the previous years, and analysed or explained;	CORE
B	Demonstrate appropriate site selection methodology and inspection implementation and/or early interventions;	
C	Demonstration that non-compliances/unauthorised activities are being detected and are being followed up – and some progress in the NEP is shown;	
D	Clear example(s) of a positive environmental outcome(s) – something was achieved to improve the environment (not simply reached a target of inspections);	
E	Clear useful learning in a NEP area (positive or negative, e.g. what to do, or what not to do, or identification of illegal sites or unauthorised operators);	COMPLEMENTARY
F	Collaborative work with WERLA, NTFSO, RWMPO, LAWPRO, EPA, Catchment Care Projects, inter-departmental within the local authority or with other local authorities; cross cutting NEP collaboration;	
G	Demonstration of a proactive approach, or innovation in dealing with a problem or demonstration of an enforcement curiosity;	
H	Compliance promotion and awareness raising activities;	
I	Activities on data validation, data analysis, systems development, website development;	
J	Significant enforcement actions/prosecutions and the outcomes such as remediation, sharing of lessons learnt to aid national consistency of enforcement;	
K	Case studies written up and shared that encompass any of the above properties.	

National Enforcement Priorities – Scoring Scale

NEP Scoring Scale



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