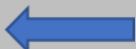




## 2022 National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report


National Enforcement Priority:	GOVERNANCE - RMCEI Review & Reporting
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RMCEI Plan frequency of reviews should be bi-annual at a minimum. The review frequency and the outcomes should be included in the progress report.</li> <li>• RMCEI reviews should evaluate progress of NEPs and assess if planned inspection targets are on track.</li> <li>• RMCEI reviews should provide reasons for any deviation from targets, planned activities or objectives set out in the plan.</li> <li>• RMCEI reviews should be presented to the Director of Services/Senior Engineer/Senior Management/Environment Strategic Policy Committee at least once during the earlier part of the year, to facilitate plan review.</li> <li>• The RMCEI Plan, RMCEI Data Return and NEP Progress Report should be submitted to the EPA on schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>The RMCEI return and plan for 2022 was completed , presented to and signed by Director of Services and submitted on- time to the EPA by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022.</p> <p>While planned quarterly reviews on RMCEI progress did not proceed as envisaged, RMCEI was incorporated into monthly meetings where activities of the section are reviewed up to Head of Section level. Waste activities are being tracked monthly for the LGMA with all returns submitted initially by e-mail and from May via the new NEMIS reporting system. Other areas will be included on NEMIS on a monthly basis in 2023. A full mid-year review was decided on with inspection figures reviewed. Targets were generally on track at that point with no adjustments required.</p> <p>A vacancy at Senior Executive Scientist was filled and the role of RMCEI co-ordinator was moved to this level to ensure in so far as possible the focus on NEP. Subsequent staffing vacancies were also filled to ensure the staff resource was maintained.</p> <p>Presentations on certain aspects of RMCEI were presented to SPC group meetings, including a presentation on improving bathing water quality and work carried out using the ADI funds. Further presentation of this nature are planned in 2023, commencing with Septic tanks at the March SPC.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:		GOVERNANCE - Environmental Complaint Handling
Local Authority:	Activities	
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment of a dedicated Environmental Complaints Co-ordinator.</li> <li>• Implementation of the National Environmental Complaints Procedure.</li> <li>• Appropriate systems in place for recording and tracking environmental complaints.</li> <li>• Adequate resources assigned to complaint investigation in the RMCEI Plan.</li> <li>• Appropriate handling of EPA referred complaints and Section 63 Notices received by the local authority.</li> <li>• Ensuring timely investigation of complaints and reporting of complaints outcomes. This should include progress on complaints outstanding from previous years and the timeframes for complaint investigation.</li> <li>• Analysis of complaints numbers and inspection intelligence that may have potential impacts on NEPs and other thematic areas.</li> <li>• Details of environmental complaint handling should be provided in the appropriate section of the NEP Progress Report.</li> <li>• Reporting of complaint numbers and investigation for each thematic area in the RMCEI Data Returns.</li> </ul>	<p>Mayo County Council has a complaints co-ordinator in place with a team to record and allocate complaints received. The complaints co-ordinator also deals with FOI and AIE requests which require input from the Environment section. Mayo County Council operates a CRM (Microsoft Dynamics) system to record, assign and manage environmental complaints. While this system is slightly dated it provides the majority of functions to gather and collate this information. Mayo County Council engaged with the LGMA on the development of a cloud based CRM system (NEMIS) to improve recording, improve assignment and to reduce the time it currently takes to not only update the system but also to extract the data for reporting including RMCEI reporting. This system was used initially for waste inspections from May 2022, and has evolved for the RMCEI reporting requirements for 2023. No S63 notices or directions were received by Mayo County Council in 2022, and other EPA referred complaints via the NECL are dealt with as they are received.</p> <p>Complaints can also be received via the website, phone system, via the EPA complaints system, by e-mail or occasionally by standard post. All complaints are included on the CRM system, categorised and assigned to the relevant officer for investigation, report and enforcement action if required.</p> <p>A DRAFT enforcement policy was prepared and submitted to management in 2022. It is intended that any comments on this will be incorporated into the policy in early 2023 and the policy fully adopted.</p>	

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

National Enforcement Priority:		<b>WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)</b>	
Local Authority:		Activities	
 Looking back at the year		<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections of farmyards in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas, as defined in the National Agricultural Inspection Programme for local authorities.</li> <li>• Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concern (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agricultural Measures Map.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances.</li> <li>• Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.</li> <li>• Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.</li> </ul>		<p>The site selection process for Mayo County Council’s farm inspections in 2022 was predominantly in <i>at risk</i> waterbodies where agriculture was identified as a significant pressure. The Doolough and Clooneen waterbodies in North Mayo were selected. These water bodies were selected for targeted farm inspections as they are two of the few <i>at risk</i> river waterbodies in County Mayo which are not included in a LAWPRO Area for Action.</p> <p>Mayo County Council identified the main landowner in the Doolough catchment as Bord Na Mona (BNM), and liaised with them and advised them of poor farming practices being undertaken on their lands i.e. cattle and horses being fed beside a stream with unfettered animal access to same. BNM in turn liaised with the owner of these animals which were subsequently removed. The outcome of this action will be reviewed in 2023 to determine if there are any improvements in water quality in this area.</p> <p>In total, 8 inspection days were undertaken in the Doolough and Clooneen waterbodies. As part of the inspections, 11 Small Stream Risk Score assessments were completed, together with a number of river bank walks. Four farmers were contacted and written to as part of the Doolough catchment survey. Correspondence was received from one farmer; two on site farm inspections were carried out while the fourth farm is believed to be under change of ownership.</p> <p>In terms of non-compliance, the main issues detected were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Poor FYM management where animals kept</li> <li>- Poaching adjacent to a small stream</li> </ul> <p>Cattle access to stream adjacent to EPA monitoring point.</p>	

	<p>One compliance letter was sent with close out periods for minor breaches for the GAP regulations and specific actions required to ensure compliance.</p> <p>Zero issues were cross reported to DAFM for more serious breaches of the GAP regulations in these catchments.</p> <p>The biggest issue observed was FYM storage</p> <p>A number of other complaint related farm inspections were also carried out.</p> <p>Arrangements are being made to document and report all 2022 farm inspection to the EPA on the designated spreadsheet in accordance with prescribed deadlines.</p>
--	--

<b>National Enforcement Priority:</b>	<b>WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)</b>
<b>Local Authority:</b>	<b>Activities</b>
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>

<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections of farmlands in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas, as defined in the National Agricultural Inspection Programme for local authorities.</li> <li>• Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concern (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agricultural Measures Map.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances.</li> <li>• Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.</li> <li>• Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.</li> </ul>	<p>Mayo County Council Carried out a number of complaint related farm inspections in 2022. Full details of these will be compiled and forwarded to the EPA later using the designated spreadsheet under the National Agricultural Inspections Programme.</p> <p>12 Agricultural planning applications were received in 2022. Each of these applications was assessed for their potential to impact on water quality and for compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. 4 applications were for agricultural sheds, 5 applications were received for slatted sheds and 2 applications for milking parlours were received. Any issues identified during site inspections were dealt with either through the planning process or by separate warning letter.</p> <p>During these planned farm inspections, no evidence of inappropriate spreading practices were observed during in 2022. Opportunities were taken when meeting farmers to remind them of their requirements to observe buffer distances when spreading, advice was also given on the best times of year in which to spread slurry to help avoid impacts on water quality in adjacent waterbodies.</p> <p>With the increased national focus on Local Authority farm inspections anticipated for 2023, we are liaising with our GIS Team to create a specific map viewer for farms on ARC GIS to help identify farms and farm owners in line with national priorities.</p>
---	---

<p><b>National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks</b></p>	
<p><b>Local Authority:</b></p>	<p><b>Activities</b></p>
<p> Looking back at the year</p>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>

**Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.**

- Undertake the allocated number of DWWTS / Septic Tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 - 2026.
- 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.

	2022	2021	2020	2019
<b>Total No. Inspections completed</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>67</b>
<b>Passed initial inspection</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Fails - Advisory Notices issued</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>% Fail Rate</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>85</b>
<b>% Pass Rate</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>


The five year period of 2022 to 2026, MCC are required to carry out 270 DWWTS inspections, broken down as follows into risk zones, 140 in Zone 1, 64 in Zone 2 and 66 in Zone 3.

In 2022, MCC carried out 74 inspections, 24 in Zone 1, 0 in Zone 2 and 50 in Zone 3. The yearly plan was developed liaising with MCC Environment staff on significant pressures within the county on bathing waters and their WFD sampling regime.

The approval of the plan allows the inspectors organise the inspections throughout the calendar year, avoids any inspection requests and maintains a work commitment and load for inspectors.

Once areas are identified, inspector staff will initially engage in an information campaign in the locality. 20 to 30 houses will be visited, where homeowners are met, they will be provided with two EPA leaflets, 'What you need to know about your Septic Tanks' and 'What to expect from a Septic Tank Inspection'. If no-one is at home the leaflets will be left with contact information for the inspectors. 80 pre engagement visits were carried out in 2022. Plus, an information campaign on MCC social media feeds, Facebook and Twitter, plus local radio adverts, MCC website was updated to include information on care and maintenance, grants availability, and registration.

These visits are used in conjunction with land registry maps and Eircode's to confirm the identity of homeowners to whom inspection notices will issue. Inspections are carried out by two inspectors, and houses are selected in pods of 5 to 6. This has been a significant factor in improving how inspectors are received by homeowners, i.e. that they see they are not being singled out for inspection.

	<p>Inspections are entered to EDEN within 21 days of inspection, and Advisory Notices and Compliance notices are issued thereafter by the Environment Section of MCC. The fail rate for 2022 was 64%, a decrease from 2021, 71% and 2020 at 76%. Homeowners are given a remedial date to complete the works. They will be issued a sequence of three reminder letters if the date passes and works are not complete. Should it remain so after the third reminder letter, MCC refer the files for legal proceedings, two files were referred for legal proceedings in 2022.</p> <p>43 files were closed out during 2022, and remaining open files are receiving ongoing recorded communications to move towards closure.</p> <p>Inspection targets were exceeded in 2022, with the extra inspections used to target areas where MCC Environmental staff had identified issues. Inspections and remedial works in the area of Old Head beach, Louisburgh, have contributed to the return of Blue Flag status for 2023. Compliance rates have also improved over the last three years, 2022, 36%, 2021, 29% and 2020, 24%.</p> <p>Public engagement and awareness are continuing and use of social media to provide information is being used. Targeted areas of inspection are also proving more beneficial for successful outcomes.</p>
National Enforcement Priority:	<b>WATER – Discharge Licences / Misconnections</b>
Local Authority:	<b>Activities</b>
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>

**Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.**

- Ensure all Section 4 Discharge Licence conditions are consistent with the requirements of the Surface Waters and Groundwater regulations.
- Undertake risk based inspections/monitoring of Section 4 Discharge Licences. Inspect all licences in areas where discharge licensing is a significant pressure.
- Ensure that all licensable discharges are authorised by a Section 4 Discharge 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.

Discharge Licences:

During 2022, MCC is prioritised engagement with licensees to promote compliance and raise awareness of the importance of the discharge licence process.

In 2022, 4 new discharge licences were received and 2 new licences were issued and further information was requested on the remaining 2 licences.

18 existing discharge licences were prioritised for inspection in 2022, based on a WFD assessment of risk associated with the size and location of the discharge. These included licensed discharges in priority areas for action (x7), licenced discharges in priority areas for action with a high status objective (x3). The programme also focused on 3 quarries in good status water bodies with a protect objective, 2 licenced discharges in a sensitive bathing water catchment. Three discharge licences which were known to be problematic were also targeted for inspection in 2022.

The shared services laboratory in Roscommon County Council was used to analyse all samples collected. Results of all monitoring was uploaded to our LIMS system and reports were generated. The results of all monitoring was assessed relative to discharge limits set in licenses. Where non-compliances were detected, follow up correspondence issued to licensees with timelines for compliance. Work is on-going to ensure long term resolution of any issues detected. Follow up monitoring at these sites will be prioritized in 2023.


MCC also engaged with the owners of an unauthorized discharge in an at risk bathing water catchment during 2022. This engagement will complement other catchment management work being done to improve and protect the status of this bathing area, where status has fluctuated from excellent to good over the last number of years. This discharge was monitored and the operation of the plant was reviewed. The owners will submit as application for a discharge license in Feb 2023. This catchment will form part of an Area for Action led by Mayo County Council in the 3<sup>rd</sup> cycle WFD Plan.

Interim arrangements were made to protect water quality in two sensitive catchments on foot of engagement from Mayo County Council, where the owners of two unauthorized discharges were requested to tanker all discharges to municipal wastewater treatment plants until their discharge license applications were processed and determined.

Misconnections:

A number of misconnection reports were received throughout the year, where there was no direct impact of water courses, these issues were referred directly to Irish Water for attentions. One instance of a direct

	<p>misconnection to a water body was reported to MCC in 2022. We engaged with the property owner, who identified the issue and resolved same within prescribed timelines.</p>
--	---

<b>National Enforcement Priority:</b>	<b>WATER – Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring</b>
<b>Local Authority:</b>	<b>Activities</b>
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>

**Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.**

- 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.
- Registration and monitoring of all private drinking water supplies. Investigate supplies that fail to meet drinking water quality standards and take necessary enforcement action.
- Engage with LAWPRO and Regional Committees on the implementation of RBMP Actions.

**WFD Monitoring:**

Mayo County Council prepared a sampling schedule for rivers and lakes in accordance with requirements of the 2022 WFD monitoring programme. In Mayo, 21 lakes and 55 Rivers were sampled in 2022. The total number of 316 lake samples were taken. The total number of river samples taken was 635. Mayo has the most extensive WFD programme in the country and requires a significant resource allocation. There was a 98% sampling compliance rate, 2% non-compliance was due to logistic issues with courier in December, where PAS sample bottles weren't delivered back to MCC from the EPA in Dublin on time. A discussion was had with the EPA Manager in Castlebar and arrangement was made to prioritise certain elements of the outstanding samples to ensure characterisation of water bodies could take place. All samples taken were delivered on time to the relevant EPA laboratories. There are multiple benefits to this sampling programme, including familiarity with waterbodies, which allows for identification of pressures and follow up inspections where required. The familiarity with catchments also contributes to the overall characterisation of water bodies.

**Investigative Monitoring / Assessment:**

Investigative monitoring and assessment during 2022 focused on water bodies which were identified as *at risk* of not achieving their WFD objectives (discussed under agricultural inspections above). Bathing water catchments where the annual classification of identified bathing areas dropped from *excellent* to *good* were also prioritised for action. Focusing on bathing water management, an information campaign was rolled out within the Old Head agglomeration in early July in collaboration with IW as part of the Clean Coast initiative asking local residents to check all wastewater and greywater connections. Investigative monitoring of Old Head Stream still indicates a possible misconnection(s). The use of temporary mobile toilet facilities was introduced during the 2022 bathing season as part of a Pilot Project at Bertra Beach to assess the impact of the existing public facilities on bathing water quality. Bathing water quality results for Bertra Beach for 2022 show an overall significant improvement in bathing water quality as a result of the pilot project and strongly indicates the wastewater treatment system serving the existing public facilities is longer capable of operating effectively. Catchment inspections continued in the Bunowen catchment leading to Carrowmore Beach and additional investigative monitoring was undertaken in the lower and middle sections. Elevated results were detected on a number of occasions and preliminary results indicate that the source may be originating from the middle or upper catchment of the Bunowen River. MCC continued to engage with IW throughout the bathing season in relation to the storm water overflows associated with the Louisburgh agglomeration and potential risks associated. Inspections of a number of domestic wastewater treatment systems within close proximity Clare Island bathing area catchment. Remedial works are ongoing.


**Bathing Water Monitoring:**

Thirty bathing areas were monitored in Mayo during the 2022 bathing season, this includes 15 Identified Bathing Areas (IBA) and 15 Non-Identified Bathing Areas (NIBA). A total of 287 routine bathing water samples were taken and 29 Investigative/Follow-up samples. Prior Warning Notices were issued on 89 occasions, where it was felt that short term pollution could occur and cause bathing water quality to deteriorate and impact on public health. Temporary bathing water restrictions were issued at some bathing areas. An advice not to swim notice was issued at one bathing area due to elevated results, and DO NOT SWIM notices were erected at 5 other bathing areas. Follow up monitoring and catchment investigations were carried out and restrictions were lifted in accordance with HSE protocols. 14 of the 15 IBA's achieved Excellent water quality during the 2022 bathing season, an increase of 3 on the 2021 bathing season.

**Engagement Activities with LAWPRO**


The local authority worked with LAWPRO in 2022 as required, and input into Regional Operational Committed Meetings. A number of meetings were held to progress the Blue Dot Awareness Pilot Project in Mayo. It is hoped that a number of the campaigns discussed in 2022 will be rolled out with LAWPRO during 2023. It is hoped that these will be innovative and will capture the public's attention and in turn raise awareness of the importance of these high status waterbodies and the potential for other water bodies to achieve an improved status.

The EPA water quality report 2016-2021, published in October 2022 shows there has been an increase in the number of high status water bodies from 33 in the period 2013-2018, to 38 in 2016-2021, and the number of poor status sites has decreased from 15 in the 2013-2018 period to 11 in the latest reported monitoring period. At risk water bodies were prioritised for investigative work in 2022.

National Enforcement Priority:		<b>WASTE - Tackling significant illegal waste activities &amp; Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern</b>	
Local Authority:		Activities	
 Looking back at the year		<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'. Note that Criteria A (to provide a compliance rate and comparison with previous years) is not specifically applicable under this NEP.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted inspections and follow up enforcement actions of unauthorised collectors and site operators using intelligence from waste data flows, complaints and other available data.</li> <li>• Co-ordination with, and input from Revenue/Social Protection/An Garda Síochána in relation to unauthorised activity and identified sites of concern.</li> <li>• Multi-agency investigations for sites of concern.</li> <li>• Roadside check points.</li> <li>• Relevant Anti-Dumping Initiatives implemented.</li> <li>• Traceability requirements to be enforced at Permitted/Licensed sites.</li> <li>• Focus on those who are facilitating the unauthorised treatment of waste.</li> </ul>		<p><b><u>Illegal Waste Activity</u></b></p> <p>The Council have learned that the majority of unauthorised waste collectors are garnering business through social media platforms with one member of the waste enforcement team assigned to monitor online advertisements and reporting of same to Facebook for notification and removal as a proactive early intervention measure. Following collaboration with Gardaí in March 2022, the residence of an unauthorised collector advertising unauthorised waste collection on multiple Facebook Buy &amp; Sell pages was located, a Section 14 direction given to remove the advertisements and to warn of the prohibition on this activity under S34. At the end of April 2022, three illegal dump sites from one household were traced to use of this unauthorised collector following site remediation works (&lt;0.5tonne removed) and case investigation. A S34 and S32 legal file was prepared and is due to be heard in 2023 with a successful prosecution anticipated as the alleged offences were carried out with foresight. Waste enforcement intend to capitalise upon the anticipated reporting of this prosecution in local papers as a deterrent to further offenders. Updates are provided to the Communications and Environmental Awareness Teams to update the LA social media channels and local radio station slots on the prohibition and effects of using unauthorised waste collectors.</p> <p><b><u>Multi-Agency Sites of Interest</u></b></p> <p>A meeting was held with Community Gardaí in June 2022 to inform on LA suspected illegal waste activities and sites/ operators of concern, and two multi-agency checkpoints were carried out north and south of the County in Jan-22 (with Gardaí) and Dec-22 (with Gardaí and customs) respectively with unauthorised waste collection highlighted as a priority interest. There were no new multi-agency sites of concern identified in the reporting year during complaint investigation, surveillance and routine inspections. There are &lt;5 legacy sites of concern in the County, one of which has been progressed through identification of the site 'occupier' through</p>	

surveillance and follow-up on findings from complaint investigation in the locality. Prioritised due to the level environmental risk associated with illegal activity occurring at the site (burning and illegal dumping of C&D and bulky waste), the site occupier was given a S14 Direction by way of a warning letter to regularise the site within four weeks with anticipated inaction expected to lead to the service of a S55 Notice and potential preparation of a legal file in 2023 once the registered site owner is also located following ongoing interagency collaboration with Gardaí and Dept. of Social Protection. Liaison with the Council's legal agent is intended for 2023 around the steps to be taken for the prosecution of an 'occupier' of a site in the absence of locating the registered owner to serve Section Notices under the Act.

Cross-cutting to progress enforcement on the ELV Directive and the Waste Metal Industry, analysis of waste data flows (utilising the WERLA SOP on Information for ATF and Metal Sites), site surveillance and inspections at the seven ATFs in the County took place in the reporting year and builds upon drone footage taken by CUWERLA prior to COVID-19 to further build a case against one legacy suspected unauthorised scrap yard.

National Enforcement Priority: <b>WASTE - Construction and Demolition Activity</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk based inspections of construction sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates.</li> <li>• Inspection of Article 27 sites of origin and destination to include material notified under Article 27 being accepted at WFP/Licensed sites.</li> <li>• Inspection of soil recovery sites to ensure only appropriate materials accepted.</li> <li>• Validation and inspection of WCP/WFP and licensed sites dealing with C&amp;D waste.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues including the selling of crushed concrete from WFPs/Licensed sites without EoW decision.</li> <li>• Incorporate proposed improvements to the Article 27 notification system.</li> <li>• Tracking of waste delivered to Licensed sites.</li> <li>• Based on researched data and local knowledge, identify authorised operators for further investigation and/or enforcement action.</li> <li>• Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site audits at waste facilities/waste collectors.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Risk based inspection of construction sites</u></b>  Construction and demolition inspection sites were selected through consultation of planning commencement notices, planning applications made and planning permissions granted. Projects with a demolition element are prioritised. Inspection sites were also identified by routine environmental patrols, and through local knowledge. Developments targeted for inspection included renovation works where planning permission may not have been required. 39 routine inspections of C&amp;D sites were carried out, the same number as the previous year. 27 non-routine inspections of unauthorised fill sites were carried out. Waste management practices and procedures were assessed on the sites, including waste management plans where available. Larger developments were generally found to have waste management plans. Developers were directly engaged with, non-compliances addressed and options for appropriate waste management, including by product notifications discussed. Contractors/developers were made aware of guidance documentation, including '<i>epa Best Practise Guidelines document for the preparation of resource and waste management plans for construction and demolition projects</i>'. 46 enforcements were issued overall. Five new WFP/COR permits were granted in 2022 and seven reviewed reflecting the growing awareness of operators of the continuing need for compliance. In 2021, 5 WFP/COR were granted in respect of C &amp; D and 2 reviewed. A contractor identified bringing waste to an unpermitted site in the previous year made an application for a WFP in 2022 which was granted earlier this year. One major infrastructural project has 7 current WFPs.</p> <p><b><u>Validation and inspection of Waste Collection Permit (WCP)/Waste Facility Permit (WFP) (including Soil Recovery Sites)</u></b>  AER data was validated for 35 WCP holders permitted to collect C&amp;D Waste, and 47 WFP/COR operators permitted to accept C&amp;D waste. Two FPNs were issued to one waste collection permit holder for failure to submit an annual return. The NWCP was notified. This permit has since expired. In a second instance another WCP operator was issued with an FPN for failure to submit an annual return, again the NWCP was</p>


notified. This permit has since been renewed. The operator was followed up with an on-site inspection and the AR return assessed at the time. Discrepancies/gaps in figures were routinely followed up with WFP/COR permit holders and WCP holders and errors rectified to the satisfaction of the local authority. Nil returns were confirmed by contact with the permit holders. Thirty-one routine inspections of WFP/COR sites and 7 routine WCP inspections of C&D related permit holders were carried out. The overall standard of data including more accurate use of LoW codes, the timeliness of the submissions of annual returns has shown improvement in recent years.

**Article 27 Notifications Activity (Sites of Origin and destination)**


Six By-Product Notification inspections (Article 27) were carried out in 2022. There was an increase of two notifications from 2021. By-Product Notifications to the EPA were made in respect of road plainings, inert subsoil and soil and stone. Source and destination sites were inspected. The By-Product notification documentation was reviewed and planning applications consulted. Developers/contractors were engaged with. Inspections found that the by-product materials notified were consistent with materials identified on site and conditions at the destination sites suitable. MCC considers the Article 27 system to have had an environmental benefit since it started, as clean material is re-used closer to its point of origin, encouraging the proximity principle.

**Anti-Dumping Initiative**

ADI projects removed illegally dumped construction waste from commonage in two remote areas of the county. 300t of illegally dumped waste were removed from one location by an ADI project by a WCP holder to a permitted facility. Inspections of C&D sites in the area were carried out in connection with this project. In the same area an individual was directed to remove waste, including C&D waste from an area of commonage, which was complied with. Follow-up inspections as part of routine patrols of the area have found this area to be clear of waste. In another part of the county illegally dumped asbestos tiles were removed from four areas of commonage. Development/renovation sites in the area were inspected. This area has remained clear of waste and further follow-up engagement with the local community is planned for 2023. Engagement is also planned with DAFM to determine the possibility of penalising commonage owners where waste activities are taking place.

<b>National Enforcement Priority:</b>		<b>WASTE - End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) &amp; the Waste Metal sector</b>
<b>Local Authority:</b>	<b>Activities</b>	
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk based inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities and other ELV sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates (at least one inspection per annum of permitted sites).</li> <li>• Validation and inspection of records for WCP/WFP and licensed operators dealing with ELV and metal waste.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues.</li> </ul>	<p>During 2022 all six Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) in Co. Mayo were inspected with the aid of both the guidance documents and the inspection form templates that the WERLA office circulated. In accordance with the national priorities, the focus was on one ATF, who had a history of non-compliances since becoming permitted in the year 2020. In 2020, 17 non-compliances were recorded following an inspection by Enforcement Officers (EOs). A warning letter was issued, and a detailed list/breakdown of the non-compliances was included also, as an aid to compliance. An inspection in 2021 showed significant improvements on-site, however, 10 non-compliances were recorded. The permit holder was not available at the time of the inspection, however, the person managing the site in the interim was present and a copy of the previous warning letters were reissued, as requested. EOs worked alongside the site manager and permit holder to assist in guiding them toward full compliance.</p> <p>In 2022, two separate inspections were carried out throughout the year. 8 non-compliances were noted, some of which were due to the records being off site because of a fire on-site. Whilst improvements and compliance continued to improve, there were some outstanding issues and thus the permit holder was not compliant. EO advised that the follow up inspection would be announced, and all records were to be available at such time. Discrepancies were identified when the annual return was being validated via the NWCPO portal. Using the assistance of the ATF anomaly dashboard, as produced by the WERLA, the AR data submitted appeared to be under reported. As a result of this, an onsite inspection of the data was conducted. Discrepancies were identified, highlighted and rectified. The annual return was reversed to enable the operator entry to the NWCPO portal to correct and amend their figures accordingly. As an outcome of this, the AR was submitted correctly, which improves the integrity and cross-checking function of the data nationally.</p>	

In addition to the inspections above, an illegal ATF was brought to the attention of EOs in the form of a complaint by a member of the public. One garage was storing and dismantling unpolluted ELVs at a site across from their premises. An EO carried out an inspection of the site and found that there was approximately 17 cars and a stockpile of scrap metal on the site. Whilst on site the EO met with the owners of the garage and the legalities and implications of the unauthorised activities were explained and discussed. A direction was issued, and a timeframe given for the site to be cleared and the ELVs and scrap metal removed by an authorised WCP. A follow up inspection took place which clearly revealed that the direction had not been adhered to. The EO collaborated with the Enforcement team and agreed an additional 5-day time period for the operator to clear the site and provide receipts of same, otherwise further enforcement action would take place. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day, the EO returned and met with the operator who had since cleared the site and provided receipts of authorised WCP and WFP operators that were used in the process. The remediation of the site resolved the environmental risk being posed by the operation, particularly to water.

National Enforcement Priority: <b>WASTE - Waste Collection - Household &amp; Commercial</b>																									
Local Authority:	Activities																								
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>																								
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection of WCP operators for provision of 3 bin system.</li> <li>• Surveys of retail, hospitality and industrial sectors to ensure proper use of 3 bin system, segregation and use of authorised collectors.</li> <li>• Sampling/analysis of treated waste outputs</li> <li>• AER Validations on WCP and WFP priority lists.</li> <li>• Maintenance of register of households with/without a waste collection service and targeted inspections in areas with low compliance.</li> <li>• Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site audits at waste facilities/waste collectors.</li> <li>• Monitoring of waste acceptance criteria at authorised sites e.g. WFP, Waste Transfer Sites, Landfills and Waste to Energy Plant.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Household Waste</b></p> <p>2022 saw the conclusion of the Section 18 brown bin project in MCC. Notices had been served in 2019 on the 6 municipal waste collectors operating in MCC, requiring them to submit monthly returns on the roll out of household brown bins in agglomerations of over 500 people.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="853 651 2094 1077"> <thead> <tr> <th>Operators</th> <th>Start of project</th> <th>Conclusion of project</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>78.6%</td> <td>90.44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>24.3%</td> <td>n/a business taken over by operator 5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>34.47%</td> <td>90.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>49.1%</td> <td>84%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>54.3%</td> <td>93.38%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>16.6%</td> <td>76.18%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>16.8%</td> <td>75.83</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>This project demonstrates a significant increase in the roll out of brown bins to households over the course of the project. The aim is to encourage the collectors to 100% roll out. A learning from the project is the issue with householders not using the bins once rolled out. MCC engaged with the Regional Office, who are working on an awareness campaign to encourage wider use of brown bins.</p> <p>Of the collectors listed above, 4 are based in the MCC functional area and have Waste Facility Permits (WFP). All 4 were identified as requiring an on-site validation of their AR figures, due to the volume and variety of waste streams being collected and passing through their permitted sites. This involved analysis of records on site, in</p>	Operators	Start of project	Conclusion of project	1	78.6%	90.44%	2	24.3%	n/a business taken over by operator 5	3	34.47%	90.53%	4	49.1%	84%	5	54.3%	93.38%	6	16.6%	76.18%	7	16.8%	75.83
Operators	Start of project	Conclusion of project																							
1	78.6%	90.44%																							
2	24.3%	n/a business taken over by operator 5																							
3	34.47%	90.53%																							
4	49.1%	84%																							
5	54.3%	93.38%																							
6	16.6%	76.18%																							
7	16.8%	75.83																							

order to validate the calculated tonnages presented in the AR. One operator was identified for a joint-validation as part of the Regional Waste Planning Office project. The validation took place in conjunction with MCC, and involved a thorough cross-checking of all records. Anomalies were identified and the AR was reversed by MCC. The permit holder rectified the anomalies, and an accurate AR was submitted. This permit holder handled over 22,000t of waste in 2022, so accurate reporting is vital in monitoring national waste flows, both for environmental and statistical purposes.

253 routine inspections were carried out under the Mayo County Council (Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste) Bye-Laws 2020. These are proactive inspections to establish appropriate waste management. Some of these inspections focused on estates within the agglomerations above where the brown bins have been rolled out, to encourage use of the 3 bin system. In addition, 2 areas were targeted for Bye-Law inspections following substantial clean-ups under ADI. Evidence of waste disposal receipts were requested leading to a complete cessation in dumping at both sites, which is a good environmental outcome. A learning from this was the difficulty in pursuing offenders if there is no answer at the door and no response to the letter, as the offenders name cannot be definitively identified (even after utilising all tools available e.g. landdirect). Even in these cases there is an awareness aspect, but full enforcement cannot be pursued.


#### **Commercial Waste**

Further to the AR validations (all permit holders AR's are validated), which encompass commercial waste, 'Routine' commercial waste inspections usually form part of a PRI or food waste inspection, for best use of resources. Businesses across Mayo have a high level of compliance with residual and recycling bin use. Commercial food waste inspections continue to be an area of focus. Inspections carried out on businesses in a small town in Mayo in 2022, saw a 91% compliance rate. Commercial brown bin uptake in the town has been steadily improving, but some issues with presentation and segregation were observed in the past. This has significantly improved in 2022. A learning from this shows that repeated inspections raises awareness of obligations and educates on appropriate bin use.

#### **Awareness**

In 2022, Environment Awareness campaigns continued to support householders and businesses in improving their waste management. The use of the My Waste Commercial Waste Assets was encouraged and promoted. An increased focus in 2022 was with local GAA clubs in the run up to the launch of the Green Club resources. Workshops were ran with schools, scouting groups, GAA clubs and the wider community. Use of local print, radio and social media continued to promote and encourage correct waste segregation.



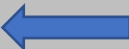
National Enforcement Priority: <b>WASTE - Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and inspection of all suspected producers who require registration.</li> <li>• Examination of potential for information exchange between Local Government Sector and other Agencies, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Relevant PRIs with local impact and local priorities, not covered by the other waste NEPS, should be reported (e.g. where suspected producers are not registered or are non-compliant).</li> <li>• (RMECI PRIs: WEEE Regs, Battery Regs, Suspected Vehicle Importers (ELV Regulations 2016), Farm Plastics, Plastic Bag Levy, Packaging Regs – Suspected Major Producers and Registered Self Compliers, Tyre Regs – Tyre Retailers).</li> </ul>	<p><u>Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)</u></p> <p>In May 2022 WEEE Ireland in conjunction with MCC organised two half day ‘wagon collections’ at Westport Town and Roonagh Pier near Louisburgh both located in the southwestern area of Co. Mayo which resulted in a combined weight of 9.7 tonnes of household WEEE being collected.</p> <p>It was decided to follow up the ‘wagon collections’ with ‘on the ground’ inspections of EEE distributors &amp; producers located in Westport town and environs which is the largest urban centre in the southwestern area of Co. Mayo. with a population of more than 6,000. In addition to this only two retailers were inspected (2019) in the Westport area since 2016. Producers identified would be communicated to the EPA.</p> <p>Nine inspections were undertaken with six of the premises inspected (66%) already members of compliance scheme with a high level of compliance. The main non-compliance issues noted during inspections was the statutory notice not being displayed along with up-to-date membership certificates. The retailers were directed to contact WEEE Ireland for updated notices. The remaining three consisted of a newly opened business and two existing businesses, one of which has recently ceased trading. The importance and benefits of signing up to a compliance scheme were communicated to the retailer and contact details for WEEE Ireland were provided. Follow up inspections are proposed for 2023 to reinspect these retailers.</p> <p><u>Batteries</u></p> <p>Battery inspections were generally carried out in tandem with WEEE inspections. The main non-compliance issue noted during inspections was similar to the WEEE inspections with the statutory notice for ‘retailer of batteries’ not being displayed at the point of sale with fifteen of the twenty-one retailers (71%) inspected falling into this category. The retailers were directed to check the WEEE Ireland website to download and erect the correct notice at the point of sale. Follow up inspections to be carried out in early 2023 to check compliance with the regulations.</p>

### Packaging


Under the European Union (Packaging) regulations 2014, a list of Suspected Major Producers are assigned to MCC each year by the Department, via the WERLA. These premises are prioritised for inspection. The difficulty in proving whether a company is a major producer or not has been identified as a challenge to enforcement. MCC have feel that the best way to overcome this challenge is to serve Notices under Regulation 25 on premises who refuse to cooperate following inspection. 3 Notices were served in 2022. One Notice was complied with, one is outstanding and a third made no effort to comply. The third company operates across 3 counties, and MCC have liaised with our counterparts in the other LA areas to ascertain their level of engagement with the company. Further to this, MCC prepared a file recommending the prosecution of the company which was sent to the solicitor. A summons was issued, and the matter is returnable for March 24th, 2023. The outstanding Notice has also reached its deadline, and a similar case will be taken.


### Tyres

Inspections under the tyre regulation totalled twenty-five and included inspections of twelve existing members which were compliant with the regulations, six (24%) from the Circol ELT Local Authority Enforcement Portal which require a follow-up inspection in 2023 to assess progress from the initial inspection, and seven facilities (28%) which potentially traded in tyres which included garages, facilities which had previously operated and ceased trading and facilities which operated without prior knowledge. Of the seven potential facilities inspected, two had ceased trading, two were not trading in tyres with the remaining three requiring a follow up inspection in 2023 to assess progress with regards to becoming members of the compliance scheme.

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR - Solid Fuel Inspections
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle the sale of non-compliant fuel and its use via compliance promotion, inspection and enforcement of fuel merchants and retailers.</li> <li>• Participate in multi-agency operations investigating the sale of non-compliant fuels.</li> <li>• 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).</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events.</li> </ul>	<p>With the introduction of the new Solid Fuel Regulations, Mayo went from 2 Low Smoke Zones to a county wide ban on the sale and distribution of smoky coal. During 2022, 55 inspections were carried out, with the majority deliberately taking place in towns which had not previously been obligated. There was a non-compliance rate of 25.45%. The non-compliant premises were given a verbal warning and advised on the new regulations, in line with Department guidance. A county wide comparison of compliance rates with previous years is not relevant as the new Regulations were introduced in 2022.</p> <p>Since the introduction of the new Regulations, 14 premises were inspected within the previous LSZ, and only 2 were found to be non-compliant. The only non-compliant premises in the previous LSZ of Castlebar had been overlooked during the previous 2 years inspections, demonstrating that repeat inspections work to achieve compliance. The non-complaint premises in the previous LSZ of Ballina was identified on foot of a complaint, and had been subject to a number of inspections to improve compliance. A warning was issued, and appropriate action will be taken if the premises remains non-compliant during the 2023 inspection programme.</p> <p>5 multi-agency checkpoints were carried out, 3 in February and 2 in November. While limited numbers of solid fuel suppliers were stopped (and only at the February checkpoints) the operation served as a valuable tool in increasing awareness and demonstrating to compliant businesses that we are endeavouring to detect non-compliant operators.</p> <p>Intelligence in Ballina in early 2022 informed us that evening surveillance was required. This resulted in the detection of a door to door sale of smoky coal within the LSZ. The driver was approached and a full investigation followed, which led to a €1000 FPN being issued and paid. This FPN was mentioned to enforcement officers while carrying out their duties subsequently, demonstrating an increased awareness of the consequences of</p>

	<p>non-complying. Another FPN (€500) was issued and paid in early 2022, on foot of a Dec 21 surveillance operation. The company are now compliant.</p> <p>Following the introduction of the new regulations on October 31<sup>st</sup>, the Department invited applications for funding for a pilot enforcement project. MCC submitted an application for funding to engage an investigator to focus primarily on the online sales of smoky coal, and possible imports from Northern Ireland, as well as assisting enforcement officers in compiling a list of non-compliant retailers. MCC were successfully awarded funding, and the project ran from mid-November into 2023 (ongoing). The investigation has identified a list of premises who are selling non-compliant fuel. Several online sellers have also been identified, with one in particular recommended for further action. This seller is falsely posing as a legitimate registered company. Initial contact has been made by the investigator posing as a potential customer, and a test purchase will be arranged in the coming weeks. This is an innovative investigation into solid fuel sale and supply, with the investigator drawing on expertise from a previous law enforcement career, as well as contacts in other agencies.</p> <p>Resources from the 'Clean Air Campaign' have been publicised on social media by the Environmental Awareness Officer.</p>
--	---

<b>National Enforcement Priority:</b>		<b>AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use</b>
<b>Local Authority:</b>	<b>Activities</b>	
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	

<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the EPA to complete the expansion of the <b>Ambient Air Monitoring Programme</b> network including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist EPA to determine viable locations for air quality monitoring stations.</li> <li>2. Assist EPA to progress the siting of air quality monitoring stations.</li> <li>3. 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.</li> <li>4. Assist (where possible, to the best extent possible) EPA to maintain existing and new air quality monitoring stations.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Review local air quality data to identify hotspots and to prioritise sites/areas for action.</li> <li>• Ensure local air quality data, including a map, is made available to the general public as soon as technically possible 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.</li> </ul>	<p>In 2022, Mayo County Council worked with the EPA to complete the expansion of the Ambient Air Monitoring Programme network in Mayo, bringing the total number of air monitoring sites in Mayo to four, (Castlebar, Claremorris, Ballina and Achill) Achill Island was chosen by the EPA to be Ireland’s only island with an ambient air monitor, located in Zone D “rural” and the fourth ambient air monitoring location in Mayo.</p> <p>In 2022, MCC staff worked with the EPA to select a viable site location on the island. Once a suitable site was agreed, at the fire station in Achill sound, MCC acted as client for the project installation works. A risk assessment and method statement were prepared by the contractor and agreed with all parties. Works were completed by contractors, the EPA and MCC staff in line with risk assessments and relevant Health and Safety procedures. The Achill Air quality monitor went live in December 2022.</p> <p>Links to live data from each of the four monitoring locations is displayed on Mayo County Councils website and on the EPA’s website <a href="http://www.airquality.ie">www.airquality.ie</a> . The health information daily threshold for Ozone, PM10 and Nitrogen dioxide was not exceeded at any of the locations monitored in Mayo in 2022. For this reason to-date it has been difficult to target fuel inspections from the monitors as the results are good. Data from the Achill Station was not validated for 2022, however there are initial indications of spikes in particulates at this location for further investigation in 2023.</p> <p>Any issues identified at these sites are reported to the EPA so that measures can be put in place to resolve same and ensure on going collection of data MCC will assist the EPA in maintenance of air quality monitoring stations as required. Unfortunately, there has been an issue with the operation of the air quality monitor at the Ballina site during the majority of 2022. This issue is supplier related and the EPA are working to resolve this. To date no training has been offered to MCC staff in order to assist with servicing/maintenance issues.</p>
<p><b>National Enforcement Priority:</b></p>	<p><b>AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities/ Noise Plans</b></p>
<p><b>Local Authority:</b></p>	<p><b>Activities</b></p>
<p> <b>Looking back at the year</b></p>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>

**Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.**

- Deliver the Round 4 Noise Mapping requirements as set out in the Environmental Noise Regulations of 2018. This includes the timely submission of any relevant datasets and information in the required format as requested by the RMO/Urban Agglomeration Project Team and/or any other specified body.
- Prepare and submit the Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report to the EPA by 28<sup>th</sup> February.
- Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report should demonstrate progress on the key issues and priority areas for action.


Submission of the local authority Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report by the 28th of February 2022:


Yes:  No

The annual progress report was submitted to the EPA as required by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 for 2021. The Noise Action Plan and the relevant maps are available on the Mayo County Council website link below and the mapping which is under the remit of Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), as the relevant roads are national routes, is also available on their website, link below. There are no airports, no rail lines and no regional or local roads in Mayo which exceed the END thresholds.

<https://www.mayo.ie/environment/pollution-control/noise>

<https://www.tii.ie/technical-services/environment/noise-maps/>

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air & Noise Controls in Planning Assessments	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-planning assessments of air and noise impacts.</li> <li>• Environment staff assist in follow up of air and noise issues including use of Section 107 and 108 of the EPA Act, the Air Pollution Act and liaising with planners where planning enforcement is more appropriate.</li> <li>• Increased public awareness of noise induced health impacts.</li> </ul>	<p>Referrals from Planning made to the Environment section (93 in 2022) in relation to planning applications are assessed for all environmental criteria and a report produced and submitted. If there are concerns relating to Air &amp; Noise in relation to any proposed development, which have not been addressed in the application a Further Information request is made via the Planning section requiring the applicant to carry out assessments to provide background information, air/noise models or include additional works as part of their application to address the concerns. There are usually 2 aspects looked at for Air &amp; Noise emissions, construction phase emissions and subsequently operational phase emissions. If the development comes within the activity types or exceeds thresholds of the relevant legislation they will be informed of the requirement to apply for an Air pollution licence or IED licence should planning be granted. Controls on Air &amp; Noise emissions in general permissions may include limiting construction/operating times and days, ensuring machinery is suitable and serviced and maintained as per manufacturers instructions, requiring roads to be cleaned, watered in dry weather etc. Distances from nearest receptors will be taken into account. Where necessary suitable cladding, fencing around the development may be required. The planning process is an open and public process with all information on applications including environmental reports available digitally on the MCC website <a href="https://www.eplanning.ie/mayocc/searchtypes">https://www.eplanning.ie/mayocc/searchtypes</a> , all decisions made by MCC are subject to appeal. It is worth noting that while referrals are made to the Environment section the decision and specific conditions attached to any application are solely the remit of the Planning section.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:		AIR – Local Enforcement Issues
Local Authority:	Activities	
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Make available on their websites, the EPA vehicle refinishers video and use appropriate channels to promote it.</li> <li>Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions under Sections 107 and 108 of the EPA Act 1992, in order to limit noise nuisance.</li> <li>Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Deco Paints Regulations:</u></b></p> <p>28 Vehicle Refinisher inspections were carried out under the deco paint regulations in 2022. The register required to be maintained by MCC under the regulations is updated regularly and available on the website <a href="https://www.mayo.ie/environment/pollution-control/air">https://www.mayo.ie/environment/pollution-control/air</a> . Also on this site is a link to the EPA youtube video , best practice guidelines and the application form for a new /renewal of the Certificate of Compliance. All reports submitted by the Approved Assessors are reviewed with Certificates of Compliance issued based on these findings. In the course of inspections on registered VR operators including compliance promotion and raising awareness of obligations under SI 564 of 2012, information was received to the team in December 2021 alluding to an alleged unregistered VR operating in the north west of the County. The site was identified, inspected and shut down in January 2022 following a verbal and written warning resulting in removal of the unregistered VR operator from the market.</p> <p><b><u>Solvents Regulations:</u></b></p> <p>15 inspections of Dry Cleaners were carried out under the solvent regulations in 2022. The register required to be maintained by MCC under the regulations is updated regularly and available on the website <a href="https://www.mayo.ie/environment/pollution-control/air">https://www.mayo.ie/environment/pollution-control/air</a> . The website also contains a link to, best practice guidelines and the application form for a new /renewal of the Certificate of Compliance. All reports submitted by the Approved Assessors are reviewed with Certificates of Compliance issued based on these findings. Where possible DC's are encouraged when updating machinery to move away from solvent based cleaning. The number of solvent emitting dry-cleaning operators in the County (9 operators registered Q1 2022) has fallen to 8 following one rurally based operator declaring in December 2022 their intention to exit the market due to it no longer being financially viable to uphold compliance standards as per the requirements of SI 565 of 2012. This operator was determined as non-compliant in 2020 (2no. inspections – second inspection carried out due</p>	

to elevated environmental risk) and 2021 (1no. inspection) following repeat failure to arrange a test date with the Approved Assessor in addition to failure to arrange appropriate secondary containment bunds for storage of fresh and waste solvent as per EPA Best Practice Guidelines for Dry Cleaning (2013). Non-compliances were issued to this Operator by way of written and verbal warnings but Covid-19 hindered progress of escalation of enforcement action (FPN) due to the premises being closed for extended periods. The Council received information in December 2022 of an alleged unregistered dry-cleaning operator in the south of the County, an inspection of the premises will be undertaken in Q1 2023 to identify this operator and bring about compliance by way of Warning Letter/ FPN as required. Three enforcement staff members attended the LA Solvent & Deco Training Workshop led by the EPA and Enviroguide Consulting in April 2022 resulting in significant knowledge sharing and information that the annual report (Article 13 of SI 565 of 2012) is no longer required to be submitted to the LA as it was deemed unnecessary.

**Petroleum Vapour Regulations:**

Currently 50% of the facilities (41) in County Mayo with Certificates of testing and these are done in conjunction with Flammable Liquids and Fuels Licencing (DSA). It is expected to get to 100% completion by the end of 2023. Interaction and engagement with Revenue commenced in 2022 will assist in getting to this target. This engagement resulted in Revenue not issuing a Fuel Traders Licence until an application to Store Flammable Liquids is lodged with Mayo County Council. This in turn results in the operators approaching MCC to apply rather than MCC having to track down these operators. Delays can be caused where works requiring planning permissions are required to meet the compliance standards.