

Monaghan County Council

National Environment Priorities (NEP)

End-of-Year Report for 2022

Prepared By Environmental Services Unit of Monaghan County Council



2022 National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report

National Enforcement Priority: GOVERNANCE - RMCEI Review & Reporting

Local Authority: Activities

←
Looking back at the year
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'.
[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]

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

- 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.
- RMCEI reviews should evaluate progress of NEPs and assess if planned inspection targets are on track.
- RMCEI reviews should provide reasons for any deviation from targets, planned activities or objectives set out in the plan.
- 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.
- The RMCEI Plan, RMCEI Data Return and NEP Progress Report should be submitted to the EPA on schedule.

From an RMCEI viewpoint in 2022, Monaghan County Council had essentially 2 separate units these being the waste enforcement team and the water/Air team. During 2022 both teams were managed by the A/Senior Executive Engineer based in the Environmental Services Unit. Management support to the section is provided primarily by the A/Senior Engineer and the Director of Services for Climate Action Environment and Water Services. At the February SPC meeting of the Climate Action and Environment Strategic Policy Committee which was also attended by Senior management the A/SEE gave a presentation on the RMCEI process and that National Enforcement Priorities in the RMCEI thematic areas of water, waste and air/noise. An overview of the proposed areas of work in each area with respect to the resources available in Monaghan County Council to deliver the RMCEI targets was provided. During monthly meetings with management RMCEI was an agenda items which allowed progress and targets to be evaluated. At one such meeting in October 2022 the A/SEE gave a presentation on the additional €60K received by MCC to undertake additional agricultural inspection work. As a result of this meeting management agreed to provide technical resources from another non-RMCEI area of the council which allowed to deliver on this additional work which had not been originally planned in our 2022 RMCEI Plan.

During 2022 regular meetings were held with the waste and water/air teams to assess RMCEI Progress. In late 2022 governance processes were further improved when 2 new Senior Executive Technician posts were assigned to the waste and water/air teams to enhance the units and improve on the linkages and communication between the teams and management in the section the benefits of which we are likely to see during 2023. At both the monthly team meetings with management meetings with the units RMCEI review was a standing item on the agenda of both meetings.

At our meetings with the enforcement teams and with management and in order to evaluate progress in respect of the NEPs and to assess whether our planned inspections are on target we have developed a simple excel based RMCEI tracking tool for both the waste and the water/air thematic areas. These are closely linked to the MEMIS return tabs and the Excel based RMCEI returns tab to capture the data in a simple but effective way. An extract from our tracking tools we use is provided below for demonstration purposes for both water and waste.

Section 6	Inspection Types	Planned for 2022	Completed	January				February				ROUTINE INSPECTIONS - WATER				JANUARY				FEBRUARY			
				Caitriona	Kevin	Donal	Peter	Caitriona	Kevin	Donal	Peter	Work Area	rmcei Ref	Planned For 2022	Completed in 2022	Shane	Lisa	Donna	Tina	Shane	Lisa	Donna	Tina
	Waste																						
6.1	Routine Waste Inspections																						
6.1.1	Waste Permitted Facilities	62	90	1			1	3	3														
6.1.2	Joint inspections with NTFSO	2	6																				
6.1.3	Inspections of Cert of Registration sites (private)	31	37						1		1												
6.1.4	Inspections of LA Cert of Registration sites	60	33																				
6.1.5	Multi-agency inspections, including vehicle inspections and multi agency site inspections	5	21																				
6.1.6	Hazardous waste sectoral inspections (e.g. WTF, garages, mini-labs, industrial, healthcare, POPs & others)	35	38				1																
6.1.7	Inspections in relation to segregation, recovery and disposal of C&D waste at construction/development sites to include major public projects (e.g. Waste Mgt. Plans, Gypsum handling, etc.)	25	0																				
6.1.8	Inspections of notifications under Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning Inspections	75	32	5					2														
6.1.9	Registration of Sewage Sludge Facility inspections	0	0																				
6.1.10	Household Waste Surveys	5	1																				

Our monthly meetings are typically held in the middle of each month so that enforcement staff have an opportunity to input inspections figs for the preceding thereby ensuring we have real-time up to date data when we are considering the status of the plan. By presenting the tracking tool at our meetings during 2022 this assisted in identifying where we are in relation to our inspection targets for the year and whether we need to reallocate resources and the impact of same on our NEP outcomes. Again in 2022 Monaghan County Council submitted the RMCEI returns and Plans to the EPA well in advance of the February 28th deadline. Again as in previous years our 2022 plan was prepared with input from all enforcement staff within the section under the supervision of the A/SEE. Again draft RMCEI submission documents were reviewed by both the Senior Engineer and the Director of Services and any comments or observations were incorporated prior to submission to the EPA by the submission deadline of February 28th.

National Enforcement Priority: **GOVERNANCE - Environmental Complaint Handling**

Local Authority:

Activities

← Looking back at the year

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'.
[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]

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

- Assignment of a dedicated Environmental Complaints Co-ordinator.
- Implementation of the National Environmental Complaints Procedure.
- Appropriate systems in place for recording and tracking environmental complaints.
- Adequate resources assigned to complaint investigation in the RMCEI Plan.
- Appropriate handling of EPA referred complaints and Section 63 Notices received by the local authority.
- 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.
- Analysis of complaints numbers and inspection intelligence that may have potential impacts on NEPs and other thematic areas.
- Details of environmental complaint handling should be provided in the appropriate section of the NEP Progress Report.
- Reporting of complaint numbers and investigation for each thematic area in the RMCEI Data Returns.

During the course of 2022 Monaghan County Council investigated a total of 497 complaints which consisted of 450 complaints received during 2022 and 11 open complaint open from 2021. All environmental complaints logged with the environmental services unit are recorded in the Environmental Complaints database by our clerical officers via our Korec complaints System. The logging of the complaint via the Korec system also allows the complaint to be sent directly to the hand-held units that each of our enforcement officers have. This means that once a complaint has been logged it is sent to the appropriate team for investigation (i.e litter, waste, water and air). For example the 3 members of our waste enforcement team each have a Korec handheld unit which with each unit assigned as follows i.e Waste-1, Waste-2, and Waste -3. Once the complaint is assigned to the waste unit all 3 members of the team will receive a notification with details of the complaint. Whilst it can be difficult to originally classify the complaints as per the RMCEI classifications when originally received by our admin team, the complaints are subsequently classified by our environmental officers on site. A summary of the complaints investigated during 2022 as per the RMCEI classifications is shown in the table below and again these figures are presented in our 2022 NEMIS returns.

Complaints Classification	Complaint received in 2022	Complaint open from previous years	No investigated	Complaints Closed	Complaints open as of 31/12/2022
Litter	7	0	7	7	0
Waste (Non C&D)	283	11	294	279	15
Waste (C&D)	31	12	43	31	12
Waste and wastewater	118	19	137	117	20
Air and Odour	8	2	10	6	4
Noise	3	3	6	4	2
Totals	450	47	497	444	53

Our complaints database has a number of queries set up on the system which allows a series of reports to be generated. The reports that can be generated include the following: Report on the number of complaints open or closed over a specified timeframe. A report on the type of complaints received over a specified period (e.g Litter, waste, air, noise).

Previously the administrative officer held the role of Environmental Complaints Coordinator. At the end of 2021 our administrative officer moved to another unit within Monaghan County Council and this position was not filled until mid 2022. In the interim the RMCEI coordinator took on the role of Environmental Complaints Coordinator.

Monaghan County Council aim to investigate all complaints in a timely manner and in line with our Environmental Enforcement policy. For more serious complaints such as water pollution of waste complaints that pose an immediate threat to the environment we aim to investigate these as soon as is practicable and ideally with 1-3 days from date of receipt of a complaint. Tracking of the status of complaints is discussed at our scheduled team meetings. At our monthly team meetings a report on the number and status of complaints received (as described above) is produced and any further action or work need to close out a particular complaint is discussed and if required is escalated up the chain of management for further consideration if required.

Complaint investigation and handling remains a priority for Monaghan County Council and During 2022 4 no water enforcement officers, 43 number waste enforcement officers, 2 No environmental health officers, and an Environmental Patrol officer were all involved in the investigation of Environmental complaints and these personnel will also be assigned to investigate complaints again during 2023. Accordingly when preparing our annual RMCEI plan we ensure that resources are assigned to handle environmental complaints in line with the National Enforcement Priorities and this is incorporated into Section 5.1 of our RMCEI plan in Table 9 : Planned Routine and Non-Routine Inspections.

Our Environmental Complaints Co-Ordinator in Monaghan also has responsibility for the handling of any complaints referred by the EPA including and Section 63 notices. No Sec 63 notices were issued to Monaghan County Council in 2021. Five complaints were referred to Monaghan County Council by the EPA in 2021 and the status of these referred complaints are as follows:

- COM015230 / COM016011 – Noise from yard – Site is going through planning presently but historical disagreements between neighbours will make it difficult to fully resolve.
- COM016404 – malfunctioning septic tank – Enforcement progressing VIA a Section 12 notice under WPA 1977.
- COM01524 – Waste Dumping – Complaint closed
- COM014829 – Rat infestation – Complaint closed

National Enforcement Priority: **WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage)**

Local Authority: **Activities**

← Looking back at the year

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'.
[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances.
- Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.
- Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.

Monaghan County Council planned to carry out 80 farm inspections in 2022. The total number of inspections completed in 2022 was 173. The types of inspection carried out included focused farm inspections, agriculture related complaint inspections and agriculture related planning inspections. 90% of farms inspected in 2022 were within waterbodies where Agriculture has been identified as a significant pressure.

These inspections are made up of 148 initial inspections and 26 follow up inspections. The lower number of follow-up inspections is due to the fact that a significant number of inspections were carried out in Q4 2022, and these will be followed up in the next calendar year.

In 2022 a total of 72 warning letters were issued; 5 Section 12 notices were issued, and 6 files were cross reported to DAFM in 2022 (2 of these related to slurry spreading during the closed period). In 2022 a significant amount of work went into recording all inspections on the New EPA Reporting on Farm Inspections excel sheet.

In September 2022, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage offered funding for Local Authorities to carry out additional farm inspections. Monaghan County Council decided to avail of this €60k funding and put together a plan to carry out additional farm inspections. This plan involved the redeployment of resources to assist the water team in completing these additional inspections. 3 waterbodies, where agriculture has been identified as a significant pressure were selected for focused GAP inspections in November / December 2022. A summary including the reasons for selection of these waterbodies are outlined in table 1 below. *(Note : our Farm inspection work under the Supplemental funding is also presented as case study in the NEMIS returns)*

Table 1 Reasons for selection:

Waterbody Name	Risk	Status 13-18	Chemistry Available	Failing Element Details	Significant Issue	Reasons for Selection
Gentle Owens lake Stream -20	At Risk	Moderate	Investigative Monitoring, Station 80; MRP Avg 2021, 2022= 0.039mg/l P, 0.052mg/l P, Ammonia Avg 2021, 2022= 0.039mg/l N, 0.054mg/l N. Station 100 Avg 2022(to date) = MRP 0.014mg/l P Ammonia 0.039mg/l N	Station 100 _Br 1.5km d/s Muckno Mill (Frankford Br) Q3-4	Phosphorus & possibly sediment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentle Owens 10 is Good Status (2013-2018), Gentle Owens 20 drops to moderate • Group Water Supply Source within this waterbody – Muckno Mill Lough • Build on ongoing work as part of Monaghan County Councils Lough Muckno Project • Proposed 3rd cycle PAA for NFGWS • Elevated E Coli levels (relative to other L Muckno tributaries) 2022 during summer period
Magherarney_10	At Risk	Poor	Operational Monitoring RS36M010150 _ Br E of Smithborough MRP Avg 2021, 2022 0.039mg/l P, 0.067mg/l P Ammonia Avg 2021, 2022= 0.091mg/l N, 0.128mg/l N	Station 150 Magherarney - Br E of Smithborough Q2-3	Phosphorus, possible sediment & Ammonia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor status waterbody • Joins up with the Maghera PAA in the Finn • Build on LAWPRO work within the Maghera PAA (2nd cycle PAA)
Clontibret_20	At Risk	Poor	Investigative Monitoring Six mile lake stream RS03S030930 - Private concrete Br at Corlusk, MRP Avg 2021, 2022 0.035mg/l P, 0.043mg/l P, Ammonia Avg 2021, 2022, 0.035mg/l N, 0.042mg/l N	Grouping technique _review waterbody	Phosphorus & possibly sediment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High PIP -P throughout the waterbody • Investigative monitoring results available, some spikes in MRP and increasing levels in 2022. • Clontibret _20 part of proposed 3rd cycle Clontibret – Cor PAA

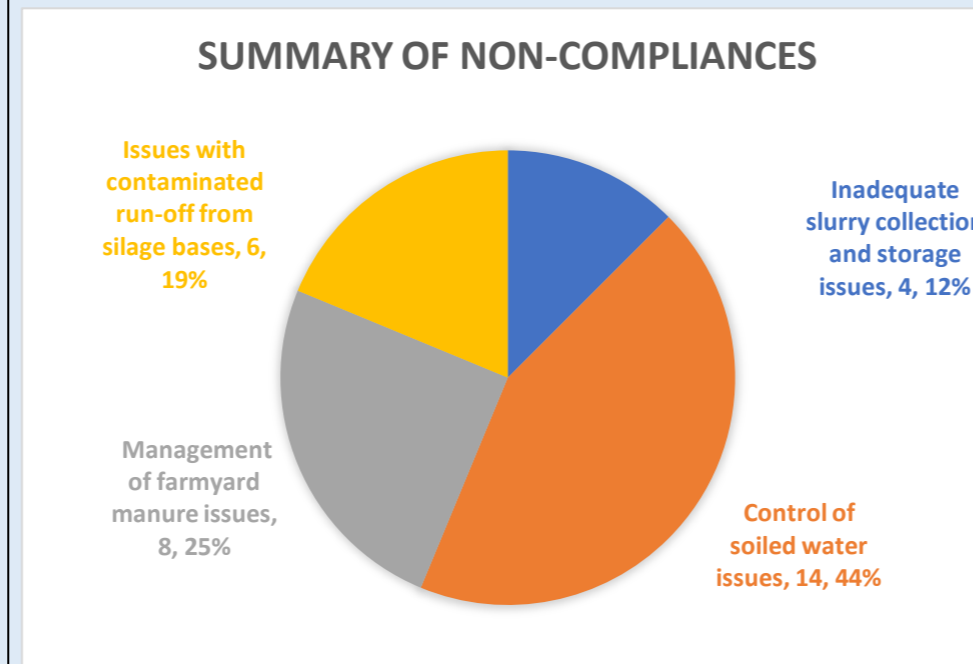
After selecting the waterbodies for focus, the EPA PIP maps, the DAFM LPIS (2019) data and local knowledge was used to further prioritise and to select farms for inspections focusing on the critical source areas and the significant issues in each waterbody. This was then followed by a catchment walkover to ground truth any queries arising and prepare for the inspections. IFI have a significant local knowledge in the Gentle Owens-20, IFI and MCC completed the catchment walkover in this waterbody.

Letters, waterbody maps and information leaflets were prepared specifically for each waterbody. We ran a query to identify the list of farmers with land parcels in each of the waterbodies. A total of 470 letters were sent to the farmers in the 3 waterbodies prior to the commencement of the inspection programme. 128 letters in Clontibret_20, 221 letters in the Magherarney_10 and , 121 letters in the Gentle Owens_20. This element of the project was primarily awareness raising, the aim was to send the information to all and but to focus on the high-risk areas for inspection. It was very much a whole team effort; our admin team were briefed on the inspections, so they were able to assist in answering calls in relation to the letters. On the ground the feedback was good from most farmers, they welcomed the information we had shared with them, and we were reassured that the word had spread in the locality about our presence and most importantly about the quality of the local rivers.

In total 76 farm inspections were carried out within the 3 waterbodies in Nov / Dec 2022.

60 % of the initial inspections were compliant on the day of inspection.

A summary of the non-compliances detected during these inspections is shown in the pie chart below (note 1 holding may have had more than 1 issue).



The following enforcement actions were issued after the focused inspections in the 3 waterbodies:

2 verbal instructions were given

26 warning letters with close out periods were issued

1 section 12 notice was issued.

1 file was cross reported to DAFM

6 follow up inspections were carried out before the year end and further re-inspections are being carried out in Q1 2023 to ensure issues have been resolved.

Any remaining non-compliances will be closed out in 2023. Water Chemistry will be reviewed in 2023 to determine if there has been any change in nutrient trends .

National Enforcement Priority: **WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)**

Local Authority: **Activities**

← Looking back at the year

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'.
 [Guideline of 500 words per priority area]

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

- 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.
- 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.
- Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances.
- Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.
- Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.

Monaghan County Council ran a slurry spreading awareness campaign which involved placing adverts on social media, in the local newspaper and via local radio in January before the opening date for organic fertiliser application. The local radio ad was aired after the farming news to engage the most suitable audience.

During 2022 our in-house Environment GIS viewer was updated to include the EPA-PIP maps and the EPAs Targeting Agricultural Measures map. This allowed us to identify and select farms for inspection using the LPIS data (2019) and the critical source areas. This will be further improved in 2023 when up to date LPIS information is available.

In Q4 as part of our focused farm inspection programme Monaghan County Council wrote to 470 farmers within 3 At risk waterbodies where diffuse losses of from agriculture are a significant pressure. Each of these farmers were sent specific information about the water quality in their local catchment area and the reasons why the river it is not meeting its WFD objectives, each farmer was also sent an awareness brochure produced by MCC in relation to Good Land Spreading Practices. The farm inspections were also a great opportunity to engage with farmers on a 1 to 1 basis around the diffuse loss of P issues.

33 complaints in relation to spreading of organic fertilisers were received and investigated by Monaghan County Council in 2022. These complaints were recorded and assigned to the water technicians for inspection via the Korec system. A summary of the outcomes of these inspections is as follows:

- For 6 complaints insufficient location details were given by the complainant and although staff attempted to locate the issue, they were unable to do so.
- There were 12 complaints where no issue was found, the majority of these were in relation to slurry smells. Land spreading was in accordance with GAP requirements.
- 1 verbal warning was given, 8 advisory letters were issued & 5 warning letters were issued, these were primarily in relation to the maintenance of buffers from water features. A number of these farms have been added to our inspection list for 2023 to check that farmers have the required 22 weeks slurry storage capacity prior to winter 23.
- 2 Cross reports were sent to DAFM in relation to incidents of slurry spreading during unsuitable conditions and in the prohibited period - Q4 2022.
- Photos of very poor practices were put up on social media during the closed period to inform farmers that MCC were responding to complaints and reminding farmers of their obligations under the GAP regs.

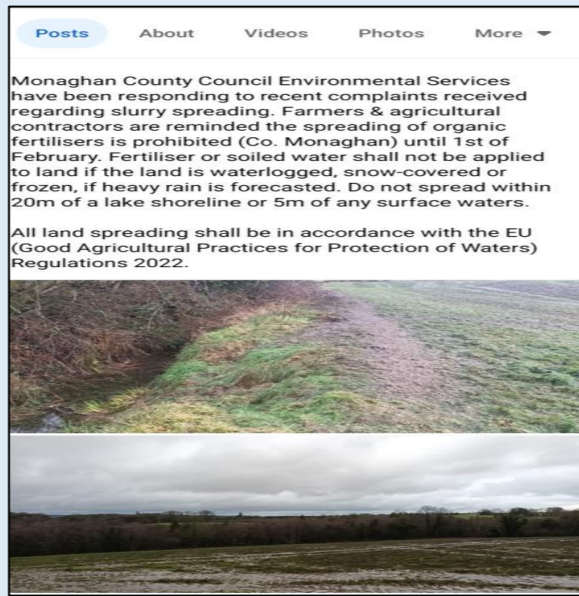
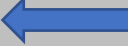




Photo No 1: Example of Social Media Post

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Discharge Licences / Misconnections	
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Discharge Licences:</p> <p>At the beginning of 2022 there was limited works carried out by Monaghan County Council under this National Enforcement Priority due to a lack of resources. In Q2 our team member who deals with S4 licences returned from maternity leave.</p> <p>At the end of Q2 letters regarding the commencement of the monitoring programme were sent to all S4 licenced facilities. In Q3 sampling commenced, 22 S4 licence monitoring inspections were carried out. 72% of the sample results were compliant with licence emission limit values in 2022.</p> <p>During the monitoring inspection as well as the routine inspection and sampling, guidance on licence conditions and compliance was given to staff at lot of the facilities. Staff changes were noted at some facilities.</p> <p>21 warning letters were issued to Licenced facilities in 2022. Follow up and guidance has been issued to a lot of these non-compliant facilities throughout Q3 & Q4 to progress licence compliance. 32% of licence holders submitted AERs in 2023, this is a proactive measure by MCC, companies receive a discount on their licence fee for submission of own monitoring results and maintenance records.</p> <p>The monitoring inspections in 2022 were focused on the highest risk premises. The inspection risk rating is based on the compliance history, complaints, nature of the discharge, the risk and status of the receiving waters and if it has been identified as a significant pressure.</p> <p>Other work in the monitoring and enforcement of S4 licences in 2022 included carrying out a detailed site meeting/inspection at a licence facility, this facility is not meeting their ELV's set out in the licence conditions and are planning to upgrade their wastewater treatment system, works are progressing. Another site meeting was carried out at a pre licenced site, this facility was preparing information to be submitted along with the licence application. This premises discharges to a <i>Poor</i> Status waterbody.</p> <p>During 2022 Monaghan County Council identified 3 quarry facilities that are operational and may require a S4 licence. At present there is only 1 quarry in the county that has a S4 licence and under this project it is intended to progress the licence of all quarries that have an active discharge.</p> <p>A proactive approach to licensing is taken in MCC, planning applications with potential to impact on water quality are assessed by the environment section. During 2022 4 facilities were identified at planning stage by Monaghan County Council as facilities requiring a Section 4 licence. Section 4 licence applications for these sites are expected for these sites prior to commencement of developments.</p> <p>Misconnections:</p> <p>In 2022 MCC had a CCTV inspection carried out of approx. 500m of the storm line on Main Street Emyvale. Urban run-off was identified in the EPA characterisation as a significant pressure for this waterbody. The survey identified one misconnection from a premises.</p> <p>As part of the Lough Muckno project, urban investigations were carried out in Castleblayney in 2022. 2 issues were referred to Water Services. There was one direct discharge to the lake observed and while some evidence was gathered it was difficult to determine the source and attach a significance to the discharge. Dye tests were carried out and further works are planned for 2023 to assess the volume and load entering the lake from this discharge.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	WATER – Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks																																				
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>																																				
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <p>Undertake the allocated number of DWWTs / Septic Tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 - 2026.</p> <p>Take all necessary steps to follow up and ensure advisory notices are closed out.</p> <p>When selecting households for inspection, consider areas where LAWPRO have issued letters of grant eligibility and homeowners have not taken action.</p>	<p>The National Inspection Plan (NIP) for Domestic WasteWater Treatment systems (DWWTs) is prepared by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and implemented by water services authorities. The current inspection plan covers the period 2022-2026 and sets out requirements for minimum inspection numbers and risk-based allocation of inspections for Local Authorities over the five-year plan. The EPA's risk-based methodology and allocation of inspections for each County considered the potential risk posed by domestic wastewater to both human health and the environment in particular areas resulting in three mapped zones:</p> <p>Zone 1 – areas with higher relative risk to surface water</p> <p>Zone 2 – areas with higher relative risk to household wells</p> <p>Zone 3 – areas of lower relative risk outside of the above zones</p> <p>Monaghan's allocation of inspections required in each risk zone is presented in Table 1:</p> <p>Table 1:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="804 863 1926 1108"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th colspan="4">Inspections 2022-2026 (5yr plan)</th> <th rowspan="2">Minimum in 2022</th> <th rowspan="2">Minimum per annum 2023-2026</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Zone 1</th> <th>Zone 2</th> <th>Zone 3</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Monaghan</td> <td>149</td> <td>28</td> <td>20</td> <td>197</td> <td>33</td> <td>41</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>All information available – EPA National Inspection Plan DWWTs 2022-2026</p> <p>Table 2 presents an update on DWWTs inspections, compliance certificates issued, advisory notices issued and grants paid for 2022.</p> <p>Table 2:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="804 1318 2211 1549"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total number Inspections carried out</th> <th>Compliance Certificates issued following inspection</th> <th>Advisory Notices issued</th> <th>Compliance Certificates issued following Advisory works</th> <th>Grants paid**</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>30</td> <td>18</td> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>**Advisory notices requiring minor works such as desludging are not eligible for a grant.</p> <p>As per previous years Prior on an inspection during 2022, householders were informed of the pending inspection through the issue of 2 letters, one a standard letter and one a registered letter. Land registry and Eircode Finder were used to correctly identify the name and address of the occupier. These letters were typically sent 2 weeks in advance of the proposed inspection date and informed the householder of the proposed date and time of using 3 information leaflets to inform the person selected what to expect from the inspection. The letters also informed the householders of the following i.e. what they needed to do in respect of the system inspection, namely:</p> <p>Confirm that access to the property will be available on day of inspection.</p> <p>Make sure you know where the septic tank / DWWTs is located</p> <p>If the septic tank/DWWTs has been registered please show copy of registration cert to the inspector</p>								Inspections 2022-2026 (5yr plan)				Minimum in 2022	Minimum per annum 2023-2026	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Total	Monaghan	149	28	20	197	33	41	Year	Total number Inspections carried out	Compliance Certificates issued following inspection	Advisory Notices issued	Compliance Certificates issued following Advisory works	Grants paid**	2022	30	18	12	5	6
	Inspections 2022-2026 (5yr plan)				Minimum in 2022	Minimum per annum 2023-2026																															
	Zone 1	Zone 2	Zone 3	Total																																	
Monaghan	149	28	20	197	33	41																															
Year	Total number Inspections carried out	Compliance Certificates issued following inspection	Advisory Notices issued	Compliance Certificates issued following Advisory works	Grants paid**																																
2022	30	18	12	5	6																																

	<p>Provide any evidence that your septic tank/DWWTS has been property maintained.</p> <p>Provide proof that your septic tank has been desludged.</p> <p>Inspections are subsequently uploaded to the EDEN system by the Environmental Health Officers following the inspection and any advisory Notice/Cert of Compliance plus a memo were sent to the Senior Exe Chemist for their approval. The Advisory notice/Cert of compliance and inspection reports were issued within 21 days of the inspection. Where advisory notices were issued, contact was made with the person one month prior to the expected remedial date to check if the completion works had been undertaken and reminded them that the date for completion was approaching. When the remedial date passed, a warning letter was issued and regular contact was made until the works were complete. On completion of the works, a verification inspection was carried out and a cert of compliance was issued where the system was in compliance. In line with Health and Safety protocols Inspections during 2022 were carried out in pairs for safety reasons and it also speeds up and dye testing or other investigative work whilst on site carrying out the inspection. Where an inspection fails, and if the householder is on-site he/she is advised of the reason for the failure. This is subsequently followed up with Monaghan issuing an advisory notice indicating the reason for a failure along with a timeline in which the remedial works are to be carried out.</p> <p>As per Table 2 above, 33 inspections were planned under the NIP in Monaghan for 2022, however, at year end 30 inspections were completed with 3 deferred to 2023 due to circumstances beyond the Local Authority's control. Of the 30 inspections carried out in 2022, 18 systems were issued with a compliance notice following the initial inspection (60%) whilst 12 were issued with advisory notices (40%). Out of the 12 householders that were issued with advisory notices, 5 were subsequently issued with compliance notices at the end of 2022. In 2023 it will be the intention to close out through follow-up actions the remaining 7 advisory notices plus 15 outstanding advisory notices from previous years that were still open at the end of 2022. Main reasons why advisory notices were issued in Monaghan were the following:</p> <p>Inadequate desludging</p> <p>Rainwater intrusion</p> <p>Mechanical issues in respect of proprietary systems</p> <p>During 2022, 6 NIP grants for upgrade works totaling €21,448 were paid out to householders under the grant scheme in 2022 to progress remedial/improvement works for these DWWTs. No grants were paid out in 2022 in respect of the PAA or High-Status Objective Status Sites.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council website in 2022 was again updated to include information to the public on the grants schemes available through the rural development fund for NIPS, PAAs and High Status objective sites. A presentation on the new grant schemes was again presented during a meeting of our Climate Action Environmental and Water Services SPC meeting during 2022.</p>
--	---

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring	
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <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. • 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. 	<p>WFD Monitoring:</p> <p>99.9% of the samples required as part of the EPA WFD sample programme were taken and delivered to the EPA in 2022. These samples were made up of 208 river samples at 37 locations and 136 lake samples at 19 locations. This sampling included surveillance, operational and Investigative sampling. Lake open water sampling re-commenced in June 2022. Lake sampling is carried out by Monaghan County Council staff using a rigid inflatable boat. Sampling is carried out and field equipment is maintained in accordance with the requirements of the WFD Sampling Manual.</p> <p>In December the water team met with the EPA regional lab in Monaghan to review progress for the year and to plan for 2023. This meeting is a great opportunity to discuss the programme and any issues arising so that we can continue to ensure its smooth and successful implementation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Boat being launched at Muckno Lake for WFD sampling</i></p>  <p>Investigative Monitoring</p> <p>The river investigative sample programme is a targeted plan. The programme includes 44 river stations where chemistry is required by MCC, LAWPRO or IFI for further characterisation or where chemistry is required to identify or confirm significant issues as part of our “protect against deterioration function”. 30 of the stations on the programme are within At Risk , 7 within Review and 7 within Not At-Risk waterbodies .</p> <p>In 2022 a total of 249 investigative samples were taken. 5 stations were removed in 2022, and 6 new stations were added to help us to identify or confirm significant issues in specific waterbodies. In 2022, one example of where we used the data, was prior to carrying out our focused farm inspections. Interrogation of the chemistry data allowed us to identify the significant issues (Phosphorus in 2 waterbodies and Ammonia & Phosphorus in 1 waterbody). As a result, our farm inspections were more focused on the significant issue.</p> <p>During 2022 we upgraded our existing chemistry data management system to the Labworks system, this has improved the overall quality control and data management. The rivers investigative data for 2022 was uploaded to EDEN and the data is now available for implementing bodies and the public to download from www.catchments.ie</p> <p>As well as additional investigative chemistry, river walks and/or SSRS were carried out in 6 waterbodies in Monaghan in 2022 as part of our further characterisation of these waterbodies in advance of inspections, again this was to ensure our inspections were targeted in the right places.</p> <p>The Scotstown Blue Dot has been proposed as a “protect against deterioration” Priority Area for Action in the 3rd cycle. In 2022-2024 MCC will prepare and implement a “protection” plan for this waterbody. In 2022 a discharge of silage effluent to a tributary of the Scotstown_10 was identified by MCC. A Section 12 notice was issued, the farmer complied with the notice and implemented measures to contain the discharge. The two operational monitoring stations In Scotstown_10 remained at Q4-5 in 2022. In May /June posts were put on the council’s social media reminding farmers to be vigilant in managing silage effluent.</p>

Lough Muckno Road to Recovery Project

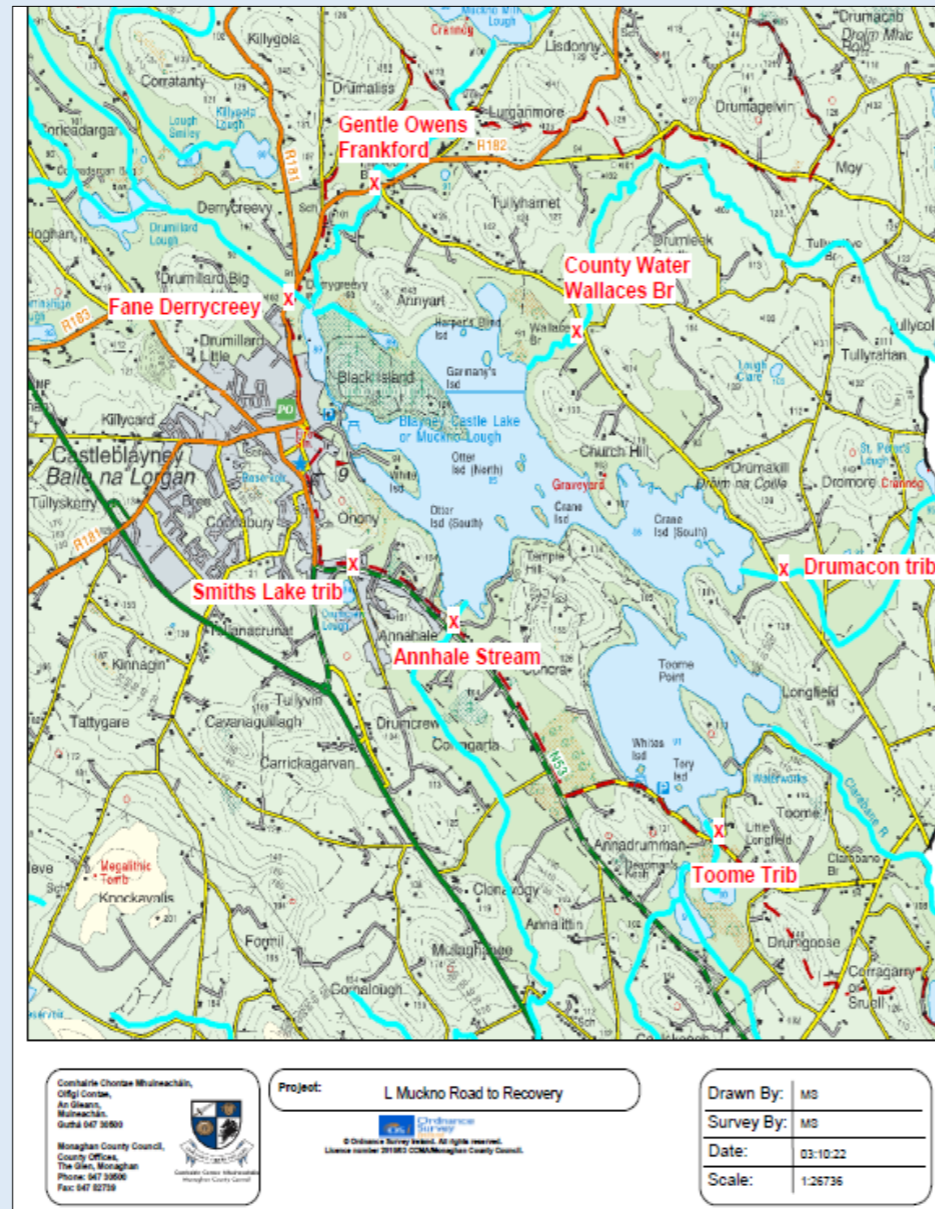
This MCC led project will involve load apportionment from the Lough Muckno catchment area and detailed lake core analysis to determine legacy issues within the lake sediment. This project will subsequently help inform the development of an Integrated Catchment Management (ICM) Plan. Work commenced on this project in 2021 and continued through 2022. In 2022 MCC with the support of LAWPRO, MCC made a submission on the draft River Basin Management Plan to have the Lough Muckno Catchment area included as a 3rd cycle Area for Action.

In 2022 several on the ground actions were carried out /commenced:

- 2m deep sediment cores were taken from the deepest basins of the Lake. This was a collaborative effort by NUIG, our consultant working on the project, Environment Technicians and Civil Defence in MCC.
- Flow loggers were installed on 8 tributaries to the lake
- Samples from the lake tributaries are being taken and analysed on a monthly basis
- Lake DO profiling was carried out on a monthly basis. This monitoring will continue for the duration 2023

Map 1: Location of monitoring stations on inputting tributaries

Photos: Lough Muckno Sediment Coring in May 2022



A significant amount of effort went into raising awareness about the water quality issues in Lough Muckno during 2022. Staff from the water team and LAWPRO addressed a Council Meeting in March 2022. The project as presented to the Council meeting was subsequently reported in the Northern Standard. A presentation was delivered to the Environment SPC in May 2022. In October 2022 staff attended a public consultation session in relation to a vision for the Lough Muckno Amenity Areas, this was a good opportunity to engage with the local community around the water quality issues. In October 2022 an article was published in the Northern Standard newspaper to raise awareness of the project. *(Note: The Muckno project is also presented as a case study in the NEMIS returns)*

Bathing Water Monitoring:

Whilst there are no designated bathing waters in Co Monaghan, Monaghan County Council took samples at 8 popular amenity sites on a monthly basis from June to September in 2022. These samples were analysed for bathing water parameters. In total 37 samples were taken, results of these samples were made available to the public on a monthly basis via the Monaghan County Council website. <https://monaghan.ie/environment/bathing-waters/>

Parameters for Assessment of Inland Waters					
Parameter	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Sufficient Quality	Poor	
Intestinal Enterococci (cfu/100ml)	<100	<400	<130	>130	
Faecal coliform (cfu/100ml)	<500	<1000	<500	>500	

Individual sample results/quality are shown below. Samples are taken on a monthly basis from June to September. The planned monitoring is aimed at providing an overall assessment of water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on the day you choose to visit there may not be a problem. Water quality can vary significantly during the day, and from day to day, due e.g. to the influence of rain or sunshine and also the number of bathers using the water at any time. Bathing water quality is however at its most vulnerable after heavy rainfall, or in stormy conditions, which may give rise to higher bacterial counts than normal.

June 2022 Results					
Sample Date	Sample Location	E Coli MPN/100ml	Intestinal Enterococci cfu/100ml	Visual Assessment	Water Quality
23/06/2022	Greaghmore Lake X275636 303008	50	9	OK	Excellent Quality
23/06/2022	Gortawinnemey Lake X251370, 328454	12	14	OK	Excellent Quality
23/06/2022	Lough Muckno Water Sports Area X283302, 319401	27	32	OK	Excellent Quality
23/06/2022	Lough Muckno X 283162, 319820	145	6	OK	Excellent Quality
23/06/2022	Emy Lough X269215, 343468	3	2	OK	Excellent Quality
23/06/2022	Crevey Lake X283077 307066	16	14	OK	Excellent Quality
23/06/2022	Hallon's River (Dromore Lake System) X259884 Y315257	2	1	OK	Excellent Quality
23/06/2022	Hollywood Lake X260812, 335626	130	25	OK	Excellent Quality

Parameters for Assessment of Inland Waters					
Parameter	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Sufficient Quality	Poor	
Intestinal Enterococci (cfu/100ml)	<100	<400	<130	>130	
Faecal coliform (cfu/100ml)	<500	<1000	<500	>500	

Individual sample results/quality are shown below. Samples are taken on a monthly basis from June to September. The planned monitoring is aimed at providing an overall assessment of water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on the day you choose to visit there may not be a problem. Water quality can vary significantly during the day, and from day to day, due e.g. to the influence of rain or sunshine and also the number of bathers using the water at any time. Bathing water quality is however at its most vulnerable after heavy rainfall, or in stormy conditions, which may give rise to higher bacterial counts than normal.

August 2022 Results					
Sample Date	Sample Location	E Coli MPN/100ml	Intestinal Enterococci cfu/100ml	Visual Assessment	Water Quality
16/08/2022	Greaghmore Lake X275636 303008	20	7	OK	Excellent Quality
16/08/2022	Gortawinnemey Lake X251370, 328454	100	48	OK	Excellent Quality
16/08/2022	Lough Muckno Water Sports Area X283302, 319401	30	5	OK	Excellent Quality
16/08/2022	Lough Muckno X 283162, 319820	850	710	OK	Poor Quality
16/08/2022	Emy Lough X269215, 343468	40	14	OK	Excellent Quality
16/08/2022	Crevey Lake X283077 307066	30	9	OK	Excellent Quality
16/08/2022	Hallon's River (Dromore Lake System) X259884 Y315257	<10	1	OK	Excellent Quality
16/08/2022	Hollywood Lake X260812, 335626	50	16	OK	Excellent Quality

Parameters for Assessment of Inland Waters					
Parameter	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Sufficient Quality	Poor	
Intestinal Enterococci (cfu/100ml)	<100	<400	<130	>130	
Faecal coliform (cfu/100ml)	<500	<1000	<500	>500	

Individual sample results/quality are shown below. Samples are taken on a monthly basis from June to September. The planned monitoring is aimed at providing an overall assessment of water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on the day you choose to visit there may not be a problem. Water quality can vary significantly during the day, and from day to day, due e.g. to the influence of rain or sunshine and also the number of bathers using the water at any time. Bathing water quality is however at its most vulnerable after heavy rainfall, or in stormy conditions, which may give rise to higher bacterial counts than normal.

July 2022 Results					
Sample Date	Sample Location	E Coli MPN/100ml	Intestinal Enterococci cfu/100ml	Visual Assessment	Water Quality
18/07/2022	Greaghmore Lake X275636 303008	<10	2	OK	Excellent Quality
18/07/2022	Gortawinnemey Lake X251370, 328454	40	12	OK	Excellent Quality
18/07/2022	Lough Muckno Water Sports Area X283302, 319401	<10	4	Possible Algal Bloom	Excellent Quality
18/07/2022	Lough Muckno X 283162, 319820	490	81	Possible Algal Bloom	Excellent Quality
18/07/2022	Emy Lough X269215, 343468	150	20	OK	Excellent Quality
18/07/2022	Crevey Lake X283077 307066	<10	15	Possible Algal Bloom	Excellent Quality
18/07/2022	Hallon's River (Dromore Lake System) X259884 Y315257	30	17	OK	Excellent Quality
18/07/2022	Hollywood Lake X260812, 335626	700	87	OK	Good Quality

Parameters for Assessment of Inland Waters					
Parameter	Excellent Quality	Good Quality	Sufficient Quality	Poor	
Intestinal Enterococci (cfu/100ml)	<100	<400	<130	>130	
Faecal coliform (cfu/100ml)	<500	<1000	<500	>500	

Individual sample results/quality are shown below. Samples are taken on a monthly basis from June to September. The planned monitoring is aimed at providing an overall assessment of water quality and there is no absolute guarantee that on the day you choose to visit there may not be a problem. Water quality can vary significantly during the day, and from day to day, due e.g. to the influence of rain or sunshine and also the number of bathers using the water at any time. Bathing water quality is however at its most vulnerable after heavy rainfall, or in stormy conditions, which may give rise to higher bacterial counts than normal.

September 2022 Results					
Sample Date	Sample Location	E Coli MPN/100ml	Intestinal Enterococci cfu/100ml	Visual Assessment	Water Quality
15/09/2022	Greaghmore Lake X275636 303008	30	5	OK	Excellent Quality
15/09/2022	Gortawinnemey Lake X251370, 328454	30	18	OK	Excellent Quality
15/09/2022	Lough Muckno Water Sports Area X283302, 319401	30	14	OK	Excellent Quality
15/09/2022	Lough Muckno X 283162, 319820	540	47	OK	Excellent Quality
15/09/2022	Emy Lough X269215, 343468	10	4	OK	Excellent Quality
15/09/2022	Crevey Lake X283077 307066	230	30	OK	Excellent Quality
15/09/2022	Hallon's River (Dromore Lake System) X259884 Y315257	<10	126	OK	Excellent Quality
15/09/2022	Hollywood Lake X260812, 335626	<10	2	OK	Excellent Quality

Sampling results taken in 2022 indicated that water quality was excellent quality at all non-designated bathing locations apart from a “a good quality” classification at Hollywood lake in July and a “poor quality” classification at Lough Muckno in August. A warning notice was erected at 1 site at Lough Muckno in August notifying the public that a poor-quality sample result had been detected. This information was also posted on the council’s social media account. Follow up and investigative sampling was carried out in response to this incident and The HSE were consulted. The investigation concluded that it was a localised issue. Repeat sampling continued on a weekly basis until the water quality improved. The warning notice was in place for 20 days. Warning notices regarding Algal bloom notices were also erected at 4 lakes in County Monaghan in July 2022.

Private Water Supplies:

During 2022 Monaghan County Council successfully delivered its proposed annual private group water sampling programme. Under this program 12 GWSs were subject to sampling runs and auditing in addition to 10 small private water supplies which primarily serve rural pubs, hotels, factories and service stations (see tables below). Sampling prioritisation in respect of the number of samples runs per GWS was determined by the size of the scheme i.e. based on the amount of water produced by the scheme and the scale of the population served by the scheme. The 10 small private supplies had 2 checks and 1 audit sampling run per supply. Based on this prioritisation the following sampling program was implemented in 2022.

Scheme name	Annual No Checks	Annual No Audits
Aughnashalvey GWS	4	1
Churchill Dram GWS	4	1
Corduff GWS	4	1
Donaghmoynne GWS	10	2
Doohamlet GWS	4	1
Drumgole GWS	4	1
Glaslough/Tyholland GWS	7	2
Killanny GWS	7	2
Magheracloone GWS	7	2
Stranooden GWS	7	2
Truagh GWS	4	1
Tydavnet GWS	7	2

Premises Name	Monitoring frequency
Nuremore Hotel	2 C 1 A
Hillgrove Hotel	2 C 1 A
Rye Valley Foods	2 C 1 A
Mullyash Community Centre	2 C 1 A
McCaughneys Service Station	2 C 1 A
Four Seasons Hotel	2 C 1 A
Cuil Daragh Pub and Lounge	2 C 1 A
Mc Connells Pub, Bellatrain	2 C 1 A
Kama Hemp, Clones	2 C 1 A
Abbots	2 C 1 A

The results for 2022 show that the compliance rate was 98.9% out of 3026 parameters analysed. There were 34 exceedances noted throughout the year and HSE consulted were relevant. The main exceedances were THM, Manganese, E Coli, Coliform Bacteria, Pesticides, Colony Count, Iron and Aluminium. The 34 exceedances were identified through our own sampling program, notified by the lab, and then notified to the scheme. Among the corrective actions taken by the schemes to close out exceedances were, repeat sampling to verify compliance, investigations into treatment plant processes and escalating to a site audit if necessary.

Compliance rate for 2022 has dropped when compared to last year 99.4% and previous years 2019 and 2020 which were 99.03% and 99.33%, respectively. This may be due to levels of non compliance for 1 scheme who had issues with raw water manganese.

The following table shows exceedances that were identified and the status of these exceedances as of 31/12/2022

Scheme	Date	Parameter	Value	Location on network	Open/Closed
Magheraclone GWS	Monday 17 January 2022	Trihalomethanes - Total	108.5 ug/l	Enagh	closed
Churchill - Oram GWS	Monday 7 February 2022	Colony count 22'	135 cfu/ml	Lisnagrieve	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 7 February 2022	Manganese	119 ug/l	Drumcrew	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 7 March 2022	Manganese	87 ug/l	Corrinshigo	closed
Glaslough - Tyholland GWS	Monday 14 March 2022	Aluminium	266ug/l	Eanagh Kiosk	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 28 March 2022	Manganese	88 ug/l	Corrinshigo	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 13 June 2022	Manganese	292 ug/l	Cloughvalley	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 13 June 2022	Manganese	603 ug/l	Tattyboy	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 13 June 2022	Manganese	470 ug/l	Kilmurry	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Manganese	723 ug/l	Corrinshigagh	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Colony count 22'	>300 cfu/ml	Tattyboy	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Free Chlorine	0.05 mg/l	Tattyboy	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Free Chlorine	0.04 mg/l	Corrinshigagh	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Manganese	786 ug/l	Tattyboy	closed
Tydavnet GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Escherichia coli [E.Coli]	7 cfu/100ml	Tirnaneill	closed
Tydavnet GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Coliform bacteria (Total)	7 cfu/100ml	Tirnaneill	closed
Tydavnet GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Colony count 22'	119cfu/ml	Tirnaneill	closed
Magheraclone GWS	Monday 4 July 2022	Free Chlorine	0.02 mg/l	Enagh, Cmx	closed

Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 11 July 2022	Manganese	778 ug/l	Tattyboy	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 11 July 2022	Free Chlorine	0.04 mg/l	Corrinshigagh	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 11 July 2022	Manganese	977 ug/l	Corrinshigagh	closed
Doohamlet GWS	Monday 25 July 2022	Free Chlorine	0.03 mg/l	Cordevlis, Castleblayney	closed
Drumgole GWS	Monday 25 July 2022	Free Chlorine	0.03 mg/l	Dyan	closed
Churchill - Oram GWS	Monday 25 July 2022	Free Chlorine	0.01 mg/l	Allycaghney, Castleblayney	closed
Churchill - Oram GWS	Monday 25 July 2022	Escherichia coli [E.Coli]	78 cfu/100ml	Allycaghney, Castleblayney	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 25 July 2022	Manganese	1188 ug/l	Corrinshigagh	closed
Glaslough - Tyholland GWS	Monday 29 August 2022	Aluminium	451ug/l		closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 12 September 2022	Trihalomethanes - Total	126.2 ug/l	Whelan, Creeve	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 12 September 2022	Free Chlorine	0.05mg/l	Whelan, Creeve	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	Monday 3 October 2022	Free Chlorine	0.09mg/l	20 Fortview, Lisdoonan	closed
Magheraclone GWS	Monday 3 October 2022	Free Chlorine	0.05 mg/l	Ward, Drumgoan	closed
Drumgole GWS	Monday 3 October 2022	Free Chlorine	0.01 mg/l	Taylor, Tanmaconally	closed
Glaslough - Tyholland GWS	Monday 24 October 2022	Clostridia Perfringens	1 cfu/100ml	New Houses, Tyholland	closed
Truagh GWS	Monday 24 October 2022	Clostridia Perfringens	1 cfu/100ml	Davagh Etra	closed
Truagh GWS	Monday 24 October 2022	Glyphosate	0.392 ug/l	Davagh Etra	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	14th October 2022	Manganese	62 ug/l	Finnegan	closed
Drumgole GWS	7th Nov 2022	Colony count 22'	122	Smith Carson	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	7th November 2022	Manganese	146 ug/l	Tullyvaragh	closed
Killanny - Reaghstown GWS	7th November 2022	Free Chlorine	0.07 mg/l	Tullynaskeagh	closed
Donaghmoyne GWS	12th Dec 2022	Manganese	73 ug/l	Donaghmoyne	closed

In addition to the regulatory sampling program, there is also a program of sampling raw water – taken from each source.



This is in addition to the daily samples taken by the schemes themselves. All raw water samples taken by MCC in 2022 provides additional information in respect to substances of interest such as herbicides and PAH. Newly started in 2022 is an Operational sampling programme for 2 schemes who are undergoing assessments for upgrades. This data will be used to contribute towards reporting when required.

There was 1 boil water notice issued and 1 do not consume notice issued in 2022. Both notices were lifted as soon as possible following consultation with the HSE and the group water scheme. One notice related to excess manganese above public health guidance values. The second notice related to an E Coli exceedance which may have been caused by low residual chlorine in the network.

In addition to the sampling and monitoring work as outlined above Monaghan County Council carried out 3 audits of private GWS treatment plants and small private supplies during 2022. The plants were selected on priority based on their last date of inspection or a particular water quality issue.

The audits identified some operational issues regarding plant performance, plant process, and available treatment. Among the measures proposed in the audit report and being implemented by the GWS and small private supply are.

- Installation of additional CFC controls.
- Review of alarms and inhibits.
- Review of monitoring carried out at plant and network.
- Proposals for treatment plant upgrade works.

National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Tackling significant illegal waste activities & Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern	
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 through 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.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <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-ordination with, and input from Revenue/Social Protection/An Garda Síochána in relation to unauthorised activity and identified sites of concern. • Multi-agency investigations for sites of concern. • Roadside check points. • 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. 	<p><u>Illegal Waste Activity</u></p> <p>During 2022 Monaghan County Council in comparison to previous years did not experience a significant level of illegal waste activity. In relation to a number of legacy sites further work took place in respect of 3 separate sites in the west of the County. One site as detailed in 1 below. In relation to 2 other sites these had been expected to be before the courts in late 2022 but these cases will be held in early 2023 for the following offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to comply with a Notice under Section 18 of the Waste Management Act • Failure to comply with a Notice under Section 55 of the Waste Management Act, • Offences under Sections 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended). • An offence under Section 39 of the Waste Management Act 1986 (as amended). <p>1. <u>Unauthorised Site in North Monaghan</u></p> <p>In 2022 Monaghan County Council continued to use aerial photography, as a proactive approach in identifying illegal waste activity. No such a significant activity was noted in 2022, however the staff have continued to follow enforcement actions on 5 sites where court proceedings are pending, and a number of small-scale sites have been identified in this way.</p> <p>A landowner pleaded guilty to non-compliance of a Section 55 notice and Section 32(1) and 39(1) under the Waste Management Act for the illegal disposal of Construction and Demolition Waste in Clones. The individual was fined €3,000 plus costs to Monaghan County Council of €2,800 and ordered to engage with the Monaghan County Council for the removal of the waste/ remediation of the site before March 2022 when the case will be up again for mention. In 2023 Monaghan County Council intends to continue to peruse this matter and look to try and get site remediated or if leaving in situ, that a Tier 1 and 2 assessments shall be completed to demonstrate that the site is not posing an environmental risk. Whilst this site had been expected to be before the courts in late 2022, the case has since been adjourned until Q2 2023.</p>  <p>Prosecution proceedings have been initiated by staff from Monaghan County Council in relation to a site in North Monaghan. This site was accepting unauthorised C & D, approximately 1,200 tonnes and burning a small fraction of this. This site is in the catchment of the River Finn which status at “good” is currently under review. The groundwater vulnerability at the site is also high. It is hoped that legal enforcement in this case will reduce such activity in this part of Monaghan.</p>

2. Tyre Dump in South Monaghan

In January 2022, Monaghan County Council received a complaint regarding a tyre dump in south Monaghan. This was investigated by a Waste Enforcement Officer (WEO) where it was found that a large quantity of car, lorry and agricultural tyres had been dumped in a field. No evidence was available that could be used to identify the person(s) responsible for dumping the tyres. Due to the circumstances of the landowner, it was decided by Monaghan County Council to carry out the clean-up works through ADI funding. The total quantity of tyres removed from the site totalled 6.64 tonnes at a cost of €2,334.



Multi-Agency Sites of Interest

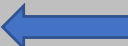
In 2022, Monaghan County Council carried out 21 multi-agency inspections. 6 of these were with the NTFSO which included roadside inspections and inspections of two ATF's. 15 separate roadside checkpoints were carried out with An Garda Síochána. 22 vehicles were inspected as part of these checkpoints with 3 Fixed Payment Notice's and 13 warning letters being issued to the relevant WCP holder. 4 inspections were carried out with the EPA under the WEEE and battery Regulations. In 2022, Monaghan County Council issued Waste Collection Permit holders with 15 x warning letters and 20 x €500 Fixed Payment Notices for non-compliances with their respective Waste Collection Permit. These non-compliances included not displaying the WCP name or number, depositing waste at facilities not listed on their WCP and the use of vehicles not listed on their WCP. These non-compliances were detected through multi-agency checkpoints and through observations by WEO's while travelling between inspections.

Note: A case study on FPNs has been include in NEMIS Returns

In February 2022, Monaghan County Council conducted two joint inspections with An Garda Síochána, CU WERLA and the National Transfrontier Shipment Office (NTFSO) of two Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF) in Co. Monaghan as part of Operation Kanban. Operation Kanban focused on the inspection of ATF's and metal sites following the theft of high value metal cable from surrounding counties. These sites were identified by CU WERLA with the inspections being led by Monaghan County Council. Both sites' waste register and customer charter were inspected as well as a walk of the site. The focus of the inspection of the waste register was for EWC codes for copper (17 04 01), mixed metals (17 04 07) etc. The inspection of the customer charter was to detect any repeat customers who could be involved in the unauthorised collection of these high-value wastes. No issues were noted during the two site inspections, however one of the operators was able to provide some intelligence to the Gardaí which could be of interest.

ADI

During 2022 Monaghan again utilised the ADI to increase awareness in respect of illegal waste activity. A number of small localised illegal dumping hotspots were remediated as detailed in our ADI report which can be collected centrally from WERLA. In addition, under ADI Monaghan County Council arranged a successful subsidised bulky waste collection at our 2 civil amenity sites which helped remove bulky waste items that otherwise could possibly have ended up being dumped illegally sites around the Monaghan countryside. 81,640 Kgs of bulky goods were collected under this ADI project in 2022 including 380 mattresses..

National Enforcement Priority:	WASTE - Construction and Demolition Activity
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <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 inspection of WCP/WFP and licensed sites dealing with C&D waste. • Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues including the selling of crushed concrete from WFPs/Licensed sites without EoW decision. • Incorporate proposed improvements to the Article 27 notification system. • Tracking of waste delivered to Licensed sites. • Based on researched data and local knowledge, identify authorised operators for further investigation and/or enforcement action. • 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. 	<p><u>Risk based inspection of construction sites</u></p> <p>Waste enforcement staff within Monaghan County Council review and report on planning applications weekly from a waste management perspective. Environmental reports are prepared by staff in which conditions ensuring best practice in dealing with C&D waste are stipulated for inclusion in any grant of permission e.g. for waste management plans and asbestos removal plans to be submitted prior to commencement of development.</p> <p>. If required Further information may be sought by the time if insufficient detail is included at application stage to properly assess the application. Monaghan County Council proposed to carry out 25 inspections of construction and demolition sites during 2022 but a total of 32 inspections were actually completed. Sites were selected using local knowledge of developments being undertaken and as a result of submission of planning compliance documentation that we received from our planning department. The aim of the inspections was to determine compliance with the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.</p> <p><u>Example of Planning compliance:</u> One such development relating to a large housing development the county which involved demolition to be undertaking as part of the works. The waste management plan for the site, Asbestos Demolition Survey Report (Cement slates, felt and lathe on roof contained asbestos) and TFS Documentation for the removal of asbestos was submitted for review. Following review of the documentation a planning compliance report was submitted to the planning authority. In the report for this particular site it was recommended that the developer is advised that waste concrete that was proposed to be used for general fill/Hardcore cannot be reused for this purpose without appropriate authorisation being in place i.e. certificate of registration. The developer was also advised that in accordance with Section 3 (1)(c) of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended the act does not apply to the following: “uncontaminated soil and other naturally occurring material excavated in the course of construction activities where it is certain that the material will be used for the purposes of construction in its natural state on the site from which it was excavated”. A final inspection at the development site will be undertaken in 2023 to ensure full compliance with the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended.</p> <p><u>Cradle to grave inspections:</u> Another site which environment staff dealt with in 2022 involved a development site which required the removal of a significant quantity of C&D waste.. Staff when dealing with this site adopted a cradle to grave approach to ensure waste management compliance. Both onsite and paperwork inspections of the development site were undertaken. Dockets demonstrating the removal of waste were requested from the developer. The dockets obtained, demonstrated that waste removed from the site was removed by an authorised waste collector to an authorised site. In total 3438 tonnes of waste was removed to the authorised site. This development was found to be compliant therefore no enforcement action had to be undertaken.</p> <p><u>Waste facility permitted sites:</u> During 2022 inspection work was also undertaken with particular emphasis on 2 waste facility permitted sites who are also skip operators collecting c&d waste. The sites were selected using local knowledge and also through the WERLA programme of work. AER data was checked for these sites. The skip facility inspection form was used when undertaking these inspections. Documentation for the intake and removal of codes 19 12 12, Chapter 17 waste, ewc codes 16 02 and 20 01 36 were inspected. AER data was validated for both sites. Both sites remained compliant in 2022, therefore no enforcement action was required.</p> <p><u>Recovery and disposal of construction and demolition waste – complaint investigations</u></p> <p>Monaghan County Council investigated 43 number of complaints in relation to the disposal of construction and demolition waste. One such complaint was in relation to the disposal of concrete rubble waste at an unauthorised site. Through an investigation undertaken by Monaghan County Council it was noted that c. 23 tonnes of concrete rubble waste was disposed of at the unauthorised site. A section 55 notice and Section 18 notice in accordance with the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended was issued to the landowner. A section 14 direction in accordance with the act was also issued to the landowner to immediately cease the acceptance, recovery and disposal of waste on the land. The landowner complied with the notices and direction and employed the services of an authorised waste collector to remove the waste. Dockets were submitted to Monaghan County Council demonstrating 23 tonnes of waste was removed and brought to an authorised site. A site inspection was carried out as a follow up to ensure compliance. As the landowner complied with the enforcement notices issued, the file was closed.</p>

[Validation and inspection of Waste Collection Permit \(WCP\)/Waste Facility Permit \(WFP\) \(including Soil Recovery Sites\)](#)

In 2022, a great focus was placed on the 2021 Annual Return validations of Waste Collection Permit (WCP) holders and Waste Facility Permit (WFP)/Certificate of Registration (COR) holders. Monaghan County Council carried out validations on a total of 27 WCP holders and 18 WFP/COR's in relation to C&D waste. The most frequent anomalies was, variations in tonnages between the WCP's and the source or destination facility.

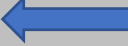
On average, each Annual Return took approximately 0.75 days to review the data submitted, contact the permit holder where anomalies were found, and reassess the data when changes were made. However, the validation time varied greatly from one return to the next depending on the quantity and quality of data submitted. In the cases where returns required changes and resubmission, this required reviewing the full return again, and in many cases required the permit holder to make further changes. Only one Waste Collection Permit Holder's Annual Returns was marked as inconclusive as the permit holder did not fully submit their AR, despite numerous warning letters and a Fixed Payment Notice being issued. This number was a reduction from the 3 Annual Returns marked as inconclusive in 2021. Only 1 COR site was marked as inconclusive as the permit holder did not fully submit their AER. This is an increase on 1 from the previous year.

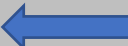
[Article 27 Notifications Activity \(Sites of Origin and destination\)](#)

Monaghan County Council proposed 10 inspections of sites notified under the Article 27 process for 2022. In 2022 a total of 6 site inspections were carried out on sites notified under the Article 27 process, two of which were by-product notifications relating to soil and stone. This is a continuation of the trend from 2021 where we seen Article 27 notifications slowing down, perhaps relative to an increase in the number of authorised facilities in the County over the past number of years. The remaining four notified sites in 2022 involved the use of road planning's by Monaghan County Council Roads Section. Monaghan County Council Environment Section have been consulting with the Roads section and the EPA regarding road planning by-product notifications

[Handling of C&D waste on Monaghan County Council Projects. \(A case study of this is also presented in NEMIS Returns\)](#)

In addition to the work detailed above, The Environmental Services department in late 2022 developed a simple in-house guidance document to assist the other council departments with Monaghan County Council such as Housing, roads, and the MD offices in complying with their waste management obligations whilst delivering projects in their respective units. This is outlined further in as a case study and is an area that Environmental Services will be striving to implement further through the council during 2023

National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector	
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • Validation and inspection of records for WCP/WFP and licensed operators dealing with ELV and metal waste. • Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues. 	<p>In this priority for 2022, activities can be divided into three areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management of authorised sites 2. Identification and action on unauthorised sites 3. Joint inspections <p><u>1. Management of Authorised Sites</u></p> <p>There are 9 Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF) currently operating in County Monaghan with one of these sites also permitted to accept scrap metal. Each of these sites are inspected three times per year to assess compliance with each sites' respective Waste Facility Permit (WFP). One of these site inspections is dedicated to reviewing the facility's Annual Return data. The number of inspections for each site is based on the Risk Rating Matrix carried out each year. In general, compliance among the sites is good with some minor non-compliances noted. The most common non-compliances found were records or monitoring results not being available on the day of the inspection. However, the permit holder would forward a copy of these records or tests in the weeks after the site inspection. In some cases, non-compliances arose where noise, dust or water monitoring may not have been carried out in accordance with the frequency set-out in the WFP.</p> <p><u>2. Identification and action on unauthorised sites</u></p> <p>In 2022, 5 unauthorised end-of-life vehicle (ELV) sites were identified by Monaghan County Council through aerial photography, complaints, and through the proactive work of Monaghan County Council employees. These sites consisted of the storage of ELV's and scrap-metal, but also some small-scale dismantling of vehicles, ranging from two to nine vehicles onsite. In total, 16 onsite inspections were carried out on these four sites, with all of the sites now remediated through the use of Section 14 Directions and Section 55 Notices. Overall, remediation of the sites was generally good, due to good cooperation from the landowners involved and high scrap metal prices in 2022. No major unauthorised ELV or scrap metal sites were detected in County Monaghan in 2022.</p> <p><u>3. Joint Inspections</u></p> <p>In 2022, Monaghan County Council conducted two joint inspections with An Garda Síochána, CU WERLA and the National Transfrontier Shipment Office (NTFSO) of two Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF) in Co. Monaghan as part of Operation Kanban. Operation Kanban focused on the inspection of ATF's and metal sites following the theft of high value metal cable from surrounding counties. These sites were identified by CU WERLA with the inspections being led by Monaghan County Council. Both sites' waste register and customer charter were inspected as well as a walk of the site. The focus of the inspection of the waste register was for EWC codes for copper (17 04 01), mixed metals (17 04 07) etc. The inspection of the customer charter was to detect any repeat customers who could be involved in the unauthorised collection of these high-value wastes. No issues were noted during the two site inspections, however one of the operators was able to provide some intelligence to the Gardaí which could be of interest.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>Monaghan County Council does not believe there are currently any major unauthorised sites dismantling ELVs in the County. However, we remain vigilant and continue to monitor and investigate sites where a build-up of ELVs is evident.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	WASTE - Waste Collection - Household & Commercial
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of WCP operators for provision of 3 bin system. • Surveys of retail, hospitality and industrial sectors to ensure proper use of 3 bin system, segregation and use of authorised collectors. • Sampling/analysis of treated waste outputs • AER Validations on WCP and WFP priority lists. • Maintenance of register of households with/without a waste collection service and targeted inspections in areas with low compliance. • 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. • Monitoring of waste acceptance criteria at authorised sites e.g. WFP, Waste Transfer Sites, Landfills and Waste to Energy Plant. 	<p>Waste Annual Return Data Validation</p> <p>In 2022, a great focus was placed on the 2021 Annual Return validations of Waste Collection Permit (WCP) holders and Waste Facility Permit (WFP)/Certificate of Registration (COR) holders. Monaghan County Council carried out validations on a total of 62 WCP holders and 37 WFP/COR's. Of the 62 WCP Annual Returns, only 32 of these could be validated immediately, with the remaining 30 requiring further contact due to anomalies and queries. The most frequent anomalies encountered were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The wrong EWC codes being used for wastes. An example of this is where the source facility used 16 01 17 (ferrous metal), however the WCP holder stated this as 17 04 05 (iron and steel). The WCP Annual Return was incorrect as the source facility was a facility dismantling vehicles. - Variations in tonnages between the WCP's and the source or destination facility. - The input of the wrong site as the source or destination facility. - WCP Annual Returns not including waste taken from permitted facilities in Tab 2 of their return. - WFP/COR's stating that waste was taken to their site by the general public, whereas it was in fact taken to their site by a WCP holder. <p>159 inspections of WCP holders were carried out including initial inspections of AR data and reviewing amended data. On average, each Annual Return took approximately 0.75 days to review the data submitted, contact the permit holder where anomalies were found, and reassess the data when changes were made. However, the validation time varied greatly from one return to the next depending on the quantity and quality of data submitted. This required approximately 74 days to complete the validation process for the 62 WCP's and 37 WFP/COR's. In the cases where returns required changes and resubmission, this required reviewing the full return again, and in many cases required the permit holder to make further changes.</p> <p>Case 1: One Waste Collection Permit Holder's Annual Return was marked as inconclusive as the permit holder did not fully submit their AR. Further action involved the issue of 2 warning letters and a Fixed Payment Notice being issued. This case is now closed.</p> <p>This number was a reduction from the 3 Annual Returns marked as inconclusive in 2021.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council conducted 30 back-office inspections of Waste Collection Permit holders in 2022 to assess compliance with the conditions of their respective permit and to review their AR data. These permit holders were inspected for a number of reasons:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The WCP holder had submitted nil returns but were known to be operating in the construction industry. 2. The WCP holder are known by Monaghan County Council to be serious non-compliers with conditions of their WCP's. <p>Case 2: One back-office inspection found a significant number of non-compliances. These non-compliances included the use of vehicles not listed on their permit, wrong EWC codes being used, vehicles not displaying the WCP holder's name or NWCPPO number. Further Action including reinspection by staff to assess compliance will be carried out in 2023.</p> <p>Household Waste</p> <p>In 2022, Monaghan County Council completed Annual Return validations of two of the three kerbside bin collectors based in County Monaghan. The third kerbside collector's 2021 Annual Return was validated by the RWMPO. No major discrepancies were noted during the validation process. Some minor anomalies encountered included the wrong destination facility being listed. Where this occurred, it is usually where a destination facility operates a number of facilities, and the wrong facility was selected by the kerbside collector by mistake.</p> <p>Commercial Waste</p> <p>In 2022, Monaghan County Council carried out 22 inspections of industrial and commercial premises including factories, takeaways and delis. The main non-compliances noted were;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Food waste mixed with general waste 2. Traces of recyclable and general waste in brown bin 3. Improper storage of food waste

4. Use of macerator


These non-compliances were followed up by an advisory letter.

6 premises were issued with advisory letters and one of these premises is due for reinspection in 2023.

Of the 6 facilities issued with an advisory letter 5 were deemed to be compliant by 31/Dec/2022. Followup with respect the outstanding advisory letter is scheduled in our 2023 RMCEI plan.

Conclusion

2022 saw Monaghan County Council devote a considerable amount of time to 2021 waste Annual Return validations. It is intended to devote similar amount of time in 2023 as a means to ensure waste collectors are complying with the provisions of their respective permit.

National Enforcement Priority:	WASTE - Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification and inspection of all suspected producers who require registration. • Examination of potential for information exchange between Local Government Sector and other Agencies, where appropriate. • 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). • (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). 	<p><u>Self-Compliance under the European Union (Packaging Regulations) 2014 as amended</u></p> <p>Four packaging self-compliers are located within County Monaghan. All four self-compliers reported to Monaghan County Council during the 2022 period using the standardised forms issued by the WERLA. These guidance documents have assisted the Waste Enforcement Officers in the evaluation of applications for self-compliance including registration, quarterly and annual reports. An inspection of all four facilities was also undertaken by a Waste Enforcement Officer. In 2022 all four self-compliers continued to remain compliant with their obligations as major producers in accordance with the Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2014 as amended, therefore, no enforcement action was taken in this regard during the 2022 period.</p> <p><u>Suspected Major Producers (SMP's)- European Union (Packaging Regulations) 2014 as amended</u></p> <p>In 2022, Monaghan County Council has continued to successfully engage with SMPs ensuring compliance with the regulations. This engagement included continued liaison with an outstanding 2021 SMP. This SMP registered with Repak in June 2022. Also, in 2022, following the receipt of the details of the three suspected major producers for the 2022 period, Monaghan County Council engaged with the three companies during the year. An introductory letter was issued to each company during May 2022 outlining their requirements as suspected major producers of packaging. An inspection of one of the sites by the Waste Enforcement Officer determined that the SMP was not obligated under the regulations. The second SMP became a member of Repak in August 2022. Following continued engagement with the third SMP, the SMP submitted their application to Repak in November 2022 and are currently going through the process of registering with the compliance scheme. Successful engagement by Monaghan County Council with self-compliers and suspected major producers has increased their understanding of their requirements in accordance with the European Union (Packaging) Regulations 2014 as amended as well as aiding overall compliance.</p> <p><u>Inspections Under the Waste Management (Tyres and Waste Tyre) Regulations 2017</u></p> <p>In 2022, there were 42 businesses in County Monaghan registered with Circol ELT as either producers, retailers, or Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF). Monaghan County Council conducted 5 inspections of 4 non-compliers of the Regulations as identified by Circol ELT. Two of the non-compliers re-joined the scheme after receiving warning letters from Monaghan County Council. Monaghan County Council will be initiating legal proceedings against the remaining three non-compliers in early 2023 if compliance is not achieved.</p> <p><u>European Union (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) (Batteries and Accumulators) Regulations 2014</u></p> <p>In 2022, there were 26 WEEE and Battery inspections, 8 of which were carried out in a multi-agency approach with the EPA. Two businesses were identified as being non compliant and were requested to implement corrective actions. Monaghan county council have since been satisfied that corrective actions have been implemented and have been closed out.</p>

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Solid Fuel Inspections

Local Authority: Activities

← Looking back at the year

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'.
 [Guideline of 500 words per priority area]

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

- Tackle the sale of non-compliant fuel 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.
- 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).
- 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 medial platforms to market solids fuels.
- Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events.

To coincide with the introduction of the new Solid Fuel Regulations (S.I. No. 529 of 2022), an preliminary action plan was devised by Monaghan CoCo to progress compliance in this area. Whilst Monaghan County Council did make an application to the Department for funding for an awareness program this application was not successful, nevertheless Monaghan County Council did proceed with an awareness program. This plan focussed on the raising of awareness, facilitating consistent implementation, and delivering effective enforcement. The first stage was to commence preliminary to compile a database of Solid Fuel Producers, Transporters and Retailers which were currently operational within the county. In preparing this initial database, cross-checking was undertaken against the EPA list of registered solid fuel producers, whilst local newspapers and online telephone directories were reviewed. Guidance documentation was then issued via post and social media platforms to raise awareness and highlight statutory changes under S.I. No. 529 of 2022. 2023 will see additional work take place in building on the work carried out in 2022 to develop a more comprehensive database of Solid Fuel Producers, Transporters and Retailers with a particular focus on the towns of Monaghan, Castleblayney, Clones, Ballybay and Carrickmacross and the larger villages in the county. In Q4 2022 a total of 11 unannounced informal visits were subsequently undertaken at retailer's premises which enabled Monaghan CoCo to establish a 'point of contact', discuss statutory obligations and assess the premises to determine if any unapproved solid fuel was being traded on-site. This inspection programme proved highly productive, with informal visits empowering retailers with the confidence & ease to seek specific guidance on concerning issues. One of the key concerns consistently raised during discussions was the sourcing of unapproved fuel from N. Ireland. Moving forward into 2023, Monaghan CoCo plan to undertake a series of multi-agency checkpoints focused on tackling the transportation and distribution of non-compliant fuel from NI.



In 2022, a total of 8 samples of smokeless coals were strategically sourced from the main solid fuel retailers within our functional area (see photo on LHS) . These samples were then presented to the laboratory in clear unmarked bags labelled with a designated reference number. This ensured that the specific details relating to the supplier was known only by Monaghan CoCo. This study proved somewhat interesting, with overall results indicating an 87.5% compliance rate for specified sulphur levels. However, on closer analysis it was indicated that 2 of these sulphur compliant samples were not manufactured fuels and could be classified as bituminous coal based on their volatile levels. Currently, an approved laboratory for solid fuel testing has not yet been identified which inhibits any enforcement. Monaghan CoCo endeavour to further seek guidance on sampling and laboratory testing from the EPA to enable full implementation of the new Solid Fuel Regulations (S.I. No. 529 of 2022). . *(Also presented as a case study in the NEMIS returns).*

Engagement with the local public in relation to Air Quality has been intensified throughout 2022. Real-time data sourced from the two operational AQMS in Co. Monaghan has been fully accessible on our website since Q1, with regularly updates also provided on social media platforms. Monaghan Co Co has continued to participate in the Local Authority Implement for Solid Fuel Regs with designated staff attending the EPA Local Authority Air Quality Workshop which was delivered in October

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use

Local Authority:

Activities

← **Looking back at the year**

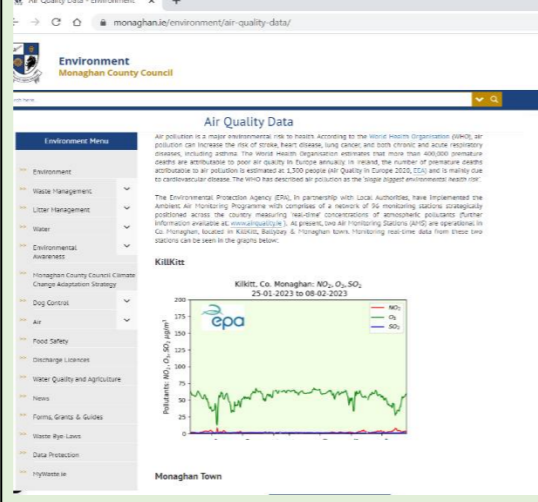
Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.
[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]

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

- Work with the EPA to complete the expansion of the **Ambient Air Monitoring Programme** network including:
 1. Assist EPA to determine viable locations for air quality monitoring stations.
 2. Assist EPA to progress the siting of air quality monitoring stations.
 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.
 4. Assist (where possible, to the best extent possible) EPA to maintain existing and new air quality monitoring stations.
- Review local air quality data to identify hotspots and to prioritise sites/areas for action.
- 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.

In 2022, Monaghan Co Co continued to assist the EPA with collection of real-time air quality data under the Ambient Air Monitoring Programme (AAMP). Support was provided with the troubleshooting of any technical issues identified, along with undertaking quarterly system maintenance (i.e. air-flow calibration, filter replacement). It is believed that rapid assistance from Monaghan Co Co has enabled accurate and representative collection of air quality data due to minimal system downtime.

In Q1, the EPA was approached by Monaghan Co Co to explore the potential of installing an additional AQMS in south Monaghan with proposal of siting at our Civic Offices, Carrickmacross. Two individual AQMS's are operational in North Monaghan (Monaghan town & Kilkitt, Ballybay) with Monaghan Co Co envisaging that an additional AQMS in Carrickmacross would provide a more representative overview of air quality throughout the entire county. It was later established by the EPA that funding restrictions





would not permit the installation of an additional AQMS. Moving forward in 2023, Monaghan Co Co have committed to exploring the viability of installing an AQMS in Carrickmacross, the second largest town in the County after Monaghan town, with the aim of visualising real-time data to the public on entry to the building. It is believed that this method of awareness would prove highly productive given the fact that the public library is located within the same building.


fig.1 [Air Quality available on Monaghan CoCo website](#)

Since Q1 2022, all real-time air quality data associated with the two AQMS's within the county have been fully accessible on the Monaghan CoCo website.

A hyperlink has also been provided to the www.airquality.ie portal to compare and review data from other AQMS's participating in the AAMP.

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities/ Noise Plans
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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 28th February. • Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report should demonstrate progress on the key issues and priority areas for action. 	<p>Submission of the local authority Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report by the 28th of February 2022:</p> <p>Yes - Monaghan did submit Noise Action Plan (NAP) to EPA.</p>

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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-planning assessments of air and noise impacts. • 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. • Increased public awareness of noise induced health impacts. 	<p>Environmental staff within Monaghan County Council through liaison with our planning department have developed a set of planning conditions that re applied to various types of development in the County including housing, commercial, community, and agricultural developments which addresses a range of issues from waste management, water quality protection, and air and noise mitigation measures. These conditions include conditions with respect to emission limits for the various phases of development including the construction and operational phases for the larger development types where noise and air emissions might possibly be an issue.</p> <p>During 2022 Monaghan County Council's Environment department carried out 221 inspections associated with planning applications whilst an additional 33 inspections were carried out in respect of existing planning permissions.</p> <p>In addition to the above Environmental services staff would have been involved in pre-planning meetings for proposed developments which proved particularly useful in dealing at with any potential air and odour issues at pre-planning stage.</p> <p>An example during 2022 of one such preplanning process related to a noise complain relating to a waste permitted facility in the south of the County. It was confirmed through a subsequent site inspection that the facility had implemented cost saving measures because of the high energy costs which involved working outside the hours of operation. A number of preplanning meetings were held during late 2022 in respect of seeking a planning application to regularise the hours of operation and to change work practices on site and also to provide noise abatement infrastructure on site.</p> <p>As of February 2023, Planning documentation is presently been finalised by the operator with a view to lodging planning in Q2 2023. This facility will upon granting of planning approval will also be subject to revised Waste Facility Permit to reflect the above changes.</p> <p>In respect of breaches of planning conditions, Monaghan County Council planning enforcement team have in previous years carried out inspections to investigate reported breaches in planning from an air/noise perspective. During 2022 no such breaches were observed, and no Sec 107 / 108 notices were issued in 2022.</p> <p>Planning control was again used in the County during 2023 to minimise the impact of ammonia on NATURA 2000 Sites. Again in 2022 no applications were approved for any new poultry enterprises within 10km of the NATURA sites in the county, and only a small number of existing facilities received approval for expansion if they were able to demonstrate that ammonia emissions were lower than as per the existing development.</p> <p>Further work in this regard has also seen Monaghan County Council engage with the poultry industry to set up force to look at the industry's sustainability with a particular focus on alternative approaches for handling poultry litter. Preliminary work has been carried out on the possibility of developing an AD plant similar to the Stream Energy facility in Ballymena which if progressed has the possibility of realising not only odour improvements in the county but also the possibility of attributing to water quality improvement in the county as well as helping the industry contribute to climate action.</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 through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <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. Make available on their websites, the EPA vehicle refinishers video and use appropriate channels to promote it. Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions under Sections 107 and 108 of the EPA Act 1992, in order to limit noise nuisance. Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events. 	<p><u>Deco Paints Regulations:</u></p> <p>In 2022, a total of 23 formal inspections were undertaken by Monaghan CoCo in accordance with the EU (Paints, Varnishes, Vehicle Refinishing Products and Activities) Regulations 2012. Within this period, 6 certificates of compliance were issued following inspection and recommendation from the Approved Assessor. At end of Q4 2022, the DECO register for our functional area consisted of 27 fully compliant VR operators with a further 2 recently expired VR's scheduled for inspection by the approved assessors in January 2023. Throughout the year, Monaghan CoCo highlighted via social media platforms the human health and environmental implications associated with using solvent-based paints containing Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). Monaghan County Council is presently dealing with one outstanding operator who to date has not progressed through the VOC authorisation process. Despite previously been issued with a FPN this operator has still not addressed his authorisation status and may be subject to legal proceedings in 2023 to progress compliance.</p> <p><u>Solvents Regulations:</u></p> <p>In 2022, a total of 14 unannounced inspections were undertaken by Monaghan CoCo in accordance with the EU (Installations and Activities using Organic Solvents) Regulations 2012. With this period, 3 renewal applications were made for a certificate of compliance following inspection and recommendation from the Approved Assessor. At the end of Q4 2022, there were 4 VOC facilities identified within the County Monaghan functional area and all were authorised and deemed compliant under the VOC regulations. 1 additional facility that was previously authorised under the VOC regulations ceased operations during 2022.</p> <p><u>Petroleum Vapour Regulations:</u></p> <p>During 2022 our Fires Services department made further progressing in the authorisation of vapour recovery facilities within County Monaghan. A total of 18 inspections were carried out and by the end of 2022 there was a total of 25 facilities in the county which represented a 47% in the number of certified facilities in the county over a 12 month period. Our fire department has identified an addition 13 facilities in the county which still require authorisation. During 2022 an addition 2 approved assessors were added to the Monaghan listing which brought the total number of Approved Assessors in the County up to eight.</p> <p><u>Licensed sites under the Air Pollution Act:</u></p> <p>To date Monaghan County Council has never had any sites liable for licensing under the Air Pollution Act. In Q4 2022 Environmental Services did identify an activity within a quarrying operation in the west of the county that may be liable for licencing as this quarry is involved in the production of bitumen materials for road making which may be subject to licensing under the Air Pollution Act.</p> <p><u>Local air and noise issues:</u></p> <p>In comparison to waste and water, Monaghan County Council typically receives a relatively few numbers of complaints relating to air/noise. During 2022, a total of 11 air/noise complaints were received of which 8 were closed. One of the 3 remaining open one facility which is a waste permitted facility is proposing infrastructural improvements on site and will be lodging a planning application for same in Q1 2023 which we hope will address the outstanding noise issue. The other open complaints relates to two separate piggeries which it is hoped will be closed in 2023.</p> <p>We also had 3 outstanding air/odour complaints from previous years that were still open at the end of 2022, 1 facility has carried out improvements works on site whilst the other 2 facilities are going through planning so again it is hoped that these outstanding complaints can be closed during 2022.</p> <p>As reported in the previous NEP Template, no Sec 107 / 108 notices were issued in 2022.</p>