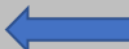

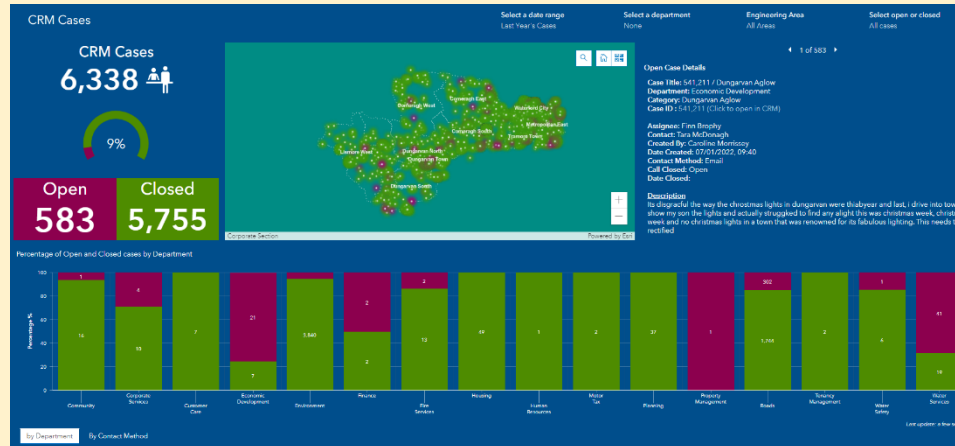


2022 National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report

National Enforcement Priority:	GOVERNANCE - RMCEI Review & Reporting
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>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'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity <u>in the previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Monthly meetings commenced between the enforcement teams and department head and director of services in 2022, to review the planned inspections.</p> <p>The complaints received from the public are recorded on the CRM system and the number of complaints closed and open are reviewed at management team meeting.</p>


National Enforcement Priority: GOVERNANCE - Environmental Complaint Handling	
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>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'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>Waterford City and County Council operate a Customer Relations Management (CRM) system to manage complaints received. These complaints are generally received through our customer services office, by either phone call or email, or through a webform on our website.</p> <p>The complaints are categorised by the customer service operatives into certain headings and are automatically directed to the relevant contact for the particular heading.</p> <p>For complaints relating to Waste, Air and Noise, they are directed to the complaints co-ordinator who allocates the complaint to the appropriate environmental inspector for investigation.</p> <p>For water pollution, the complaint is directed to the executive scientist, who can allocate it to one of her team for action.</p> <p>Complaints are investigated and details of the investigation are recorded on the CRM system. When complaints are resolved, they are closed on the CRM system. The CRM system can reply automatically by email, or the inspector communicates directly with the complainant.</p> <p>Reviews of CRMs are undertaken at management team through a dashboard which shows the number of complaints received by department and by geographical area, showing the number of complaints received and the numbers open and closed, and allowing the drilling down into any complaint.</p>




Complaints which require an ongoing response, are moved into a planned response for ongoing investigations and the complaint is closed on the CRM system. Complaints which can be handled within a shorter timeframe are recorded and closed directly in the CRM system. Any complaints which reoccur at a future date can be reopened if necessary.

NEP Assessment Criteria		CORE
A	For regulated / authorised sites, a compliance rate documented and compared over the previous years, and analysed or explained;	
B	Demonstrate appropriate site selection methodology and inspection implementation and/or early interventions;	
C	Demonstration that non-compliances/unauthorised activities are being detected and are being followed up – and some progress in the NEP is shown;	
D	Clear example(s) of a positive environmental outcome(s) – something was achieved to improve the environment (not simply reached a target of inspections);	

E	Clear useful learning in a NEP area (positive or negative e.g. what to do, or what not to do, or identification of illegal sites or unauthorised operators);	Complementary
F	Collaborative work with WERLA, NTFSO, RWMPO, LAWPRO, EPA, Catchment Care Projects, inter-departmental within the local authority or with other local authorities; cross cutting NEP collaboration;	
G	Demonstration of a proactive approach , or innovation in dealing with a problem or demonstration of an enforcement curiosity ;	
H	Compliance promotion and awareness raising activities;	
I	Activities on data validation, data analysis, systems development, website development ;	
J	Significant enforcement actions/prosecutions and the outcomes such as remediation, sharing of lessons learnt to aid national consistency of enforcement;	
K	Case studies written up and shared that encompass any of the above properties.	


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

<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>No full farm inspections were carried out in Waterford City and County Council in 2022 due to a lack of trained farm inspectors and staff changes.</p> <p>In 2022, 31 farm inspections for slurry spreading were carried out in Waterford City and County Council to follow up complaints. Some of these inspections were referred to Inland Fisheries and Teagasc.</p> <p>In 2022, 12 warnings were issued to farmers for spreading slurry outside the permitted season or during very heavy rainfall. One incident involved the issue of a boiling water notice for an area of 50 PE.</p> <p>35 farms were inspected by DAFM under the Nitrates Directive and 34 cross reports of non-compliance were reported to DEFM. One farm was found to be using wetlands as a SUDS and another farm has planning permission to use ICW as a wastewater treatment system.</p> <p>Waterford City and County Council is in process of developing a discharge wastewater licence for ICW.</p>
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<p>National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading)</p>	
<p>Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<p> Looking back at the year</p>	<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"> • 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. 	<p>No full farm inspections were carried out in Waterford City and County Council in 2022 due to a lack of trained farm inspectors and staff changes.</p> <p>In 2022, 31 farm inspections for slurry spreading were carried out in Waterford City and County Council follow up complaints. Some of these inspections were referred to Inland Fisheries and Teagasc.</p> <p>In 2022, 12 warnings were issued to farmers for spreading slurry outside the permitted season or during very heavy rainfall. One incident involved the issue of a boiling water notice for an area of 50 PE.</p> <p>35 farms were inspected by DAFM under the Nitrates Directive and 34 cross reports of non-compliance were reported to DEFM. One farm was found to be using wetlands as a SUDS and another farm has planning permission to use ICW as a wastewater treatment system.</p> <p>Waterford City and County Council is in process of developing a discharge wastewater licence for ICW.</p>
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<p>National Enforcement Priority:</p>	<p>WATER – Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks</p>
<p>Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<p> Looking back at the year</p>	<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"> • Undertake the allocated number of DWWTS / Septic Tank inspections under the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2022 - 2026. • Take all necessary steps to follow up and ensure advisory notices are closed out. • When selecting households for inspection, consider areas where LAWPRO have issued letters of grant eligibility and homeowners have not taken action. 	<p>Waterford City and County Council was expected to carry out 20 DWWTS inspections per annum between 2021 and 2022. The sites were selected in March 2022 using the EPA’s Risk Zone Maps and any significant pressures identified for each waterbody. However, due to staff changes there was only one licenced inspector available. Four DWWTS inspections were carried out by one inspector licenced by the EPA (the new Exec Scientist) and one non licenced technician during the third quarter of the year due to staff shortages.</p> <p>The inspections were initiated by households’ visits providing engagement with household owner and passing on DWWTS information including available grants. 4 septic tank inspections were carried out and 3 failed for malfunctioning treatment systems. Where a DWWTS system has failed the owner was immediately informed and provided with the reasons for the failure and given a certain time to rectify the issue. The owner was also informed that they will be receiving an advisory notice outlining the reason for the failure and given a deadline for completion of the work.</p> <p>All inspections were entered to EDEN and any Advisory Notice/Cert of Compliance together with a Memo were sent to the Senior Exec Scientist 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 a follow up contact was made with the owner a month before the deadline to identify the progress of remediation works and serve as a reminder for approaching final deadline. When the remediation date had passed, a warning letter was issued, and regular contact was made until the works were completed. On completion of the works, a verification inspection was carried out and a cert of compliance was issued.</p> <p>The 2022 target of 20 DWWTS inspections is scheduled to be 100% completed in the Q1 and Q2 of 2023 as 3 inspectors will receive their new licences. The new target for 2023 is to complete 36 DWWTS inspections with the remaining 20 ST inspections for 2023 to be carried out in Q3 and Q4.</p> <p>In 2022 additional 24 DWWTS inspections were carried out with regards to pollution complaints and planning issues.</p>
<p>National Enforcement Priority:</p>	<p>WATER – Discharge Licences / Misconnections</p>
<p>Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<p> Looking back at the year</p>	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>


<p>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><u>Discharge Licences:</u></p> <p>Waterford City and County Council has 29 authorised discharges under S4. The risk assessment tool was used to prioritise site inspections. One audit was completed in 2022. In 2021, two additional sites (private businesses) were identified as requiring remedial work and follow-up monitoring. The local authority referred one case to its legal representatives and legal action is ongoing. The other business has closed and no further action has been taken.</p> <p>Waterford CCC considers it necessary to engage more with licensees to encourage compliance and raise awareness of the importance of annual monitoring and compliance. One new licence was granted to Flahavan’s in Kilmacthomas. A further two licences are under review following an S12 notice for two unauthorised discharges and the installation of new wastewater treatment plants.</p> <p>At present, Waterford City and County Council is working closely with Irish Water and private developers on four sites to resolve issues relating to the take-over of the facility.</p> <p><u>Misconnections:</u></p> <p>Additional investigations related to river and bathing waters pollution incidents were investigated. The incidents are directed through the Customer Relations Management (CRM) system, the Environment Protection Agency, or the Inland Fisheries Board. The pollution incident investigation triggers additional action with relation of the source of the pollution. If pollution is related to slurry spreading the response programme triggers farm inspections. Wastewater pollution would be investigated through licenced premisses audits or misconnections require detailed investigation on the read drainage network. Water source pollution incidents would require a follow up catchment investigation. Issues with bathing waters noncompliance require catchment and drainage investigations approach. 126 pollution inspections were carried out in 2022.</p>
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<p>National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring</p>	
<p>Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council</p>	<p>Activities</p>
<p> Looking back at the year</p>	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</p>


	<i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i>
<p><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></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><u>WFD Monitoring:</u></p> <p>Waterford City and County Council (WCCC) follows a set monitoring programme under the WFD and collects 364 samples annually from designated rivers. All required samples were collected for 2022 (100% compliant).</p> <p><u>Investigative Monitoring:</u></p> <p>Additional investigations related to river and bathing waters pollution incidents were investigated. The incidents are directed through the Customer Relations Management (CRM) system, the Environment Protection Agency, or the Inland Fisheries Board. The pollution incident investigation triggers additional action with relation of the source of the pollution. If pollution is related to slurry spreading the response programme triggers farm inspections. Wastewater pollution would be investigated through licenced premisses audits or misconnections require detailed investigation on the read drainage network. Water source pollution incidents would require a follow up catchment investigation. Issues with bathing waters noncompliance require catchment and drainage investigations approach. 123 pollution inspections were carried out in 2022.</p> <p><u>Bathing Water Monitoring:</u></p> <p>There are five Blue Flag beaches and twelve Green Coast beaches in WCCC. They are monitored under a set monitoring programme. For 2022 there were 169 inspections carried out including non-designated bathing waters (additional 32 none-designated bathing waters are located within the Council catchment area). All routine samples were collected for 2022.</p> <p><u>Private Water Supplies:</u></p> <p>During 2022, Waterford City and County Council carried out 364 private water wells inspections from which 24 inspections were related to Group Water Schemes and 286 to individual wells. Chemical and microbiological samples were collected to identify compliance with the drinking water regulations standards. Where non-compliances were identified additional information was provided in relation to available treatment systems and installation grants available for water quality improvement. A follow up sampling and testing events were conducted to ensure that the drinking water is safe for human consumption.</p>

National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Tackling significant illegal waste activities & Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern	
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'. 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><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></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>Complaints from members of the public, elected officials and council staff are recorded on the councils CRM systems and allocated for investigation and close out. Where cases are more significant, following the initial inspection, these are moved to planned investigations.</p> <p>Multiagency checkpoints were carried out with An Garda Síochána at various points Waterford, targeting heavily trafficked roads, such as the National Primary Route N25, the National Secondary Route, N72 and the regional road, the Waterford Outer Ring Road. Another location, the Kilbarry Road was selected as it was on the approach to two waste facilities, which accepted general waste.</p> <p><u>Multi-Agency Sites of Interest</u></p> <p>An unauthorised waste operator was identified advertising on Facebook and with a website. This operator had a company name. Financial information related to the company was examined which showed a significant turnover and profit since the company was founded in 2020.</p> <p>Further details are being withheld at this stage, so as not to compromise the ongoing investigation.</p> <p>Background information regarding the company principals show a history of criminality. We will work with An Garda Síochána as part of a multiagency operation in 2023 to bring this investigation to a satisfactory closure.</p> <p>A multiagency case with the Gardai and Customs was successfully brought to a conclusion in 2022, with a prosecution in relation to a diesel laundering case resulting in a conviction under Section 32 of the WMA with a sentence of 3 years and 3 months being applied, with the last 6 months suspended. This case was originally</p>


discovered in 2013, but a previous court case resulted in a hung jury, and due to the defendant then being in custody abroad on an unrelated matter, the case was only able to proceed again in 2022.


National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Construction and Demolition Activity	
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	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 <u>in the previous reporting year</u> – 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>Sites which were likely to generate significant amounts of of C&D waste were selected and inspected to identify the quantities of waste generated from them and checks on waste which was leaving the site to ensure that it was being sent to appropriate sites. 7 Sites were inspected in 2022, of these three were found with issues and were given directions under section 14 to improve. One of the sites was given a notice under section 18 to submit information on a monthly basis for waste arisings. Three of these sites were inspected as a result of complaints, and one site which was inspected in 2021 was reinspected as a result of a complaint.</p> <p>The sites inspected represented developments of over 500 residences combined, a large industrial development in a greenfield site and a redevelopment of roads in an industrial estate.</p> <p>Proof of testing of the soil, prior to its recovery, from the roads redevelopment in the industrial estate was sought from the soil recovery site.</p> <p><u>Validation and inspection of Waste Collection Permit (WCP)/Waste Facility Permit (WFP) (including Soil Recovery Sites)</u></p> <p>All permitted site AERs were checked against information from collector AERs for discrepancies and queries were raised on any permits where the figures didn't correspond. Sites were unexpected quantities, either increases or decreases from previous years, or differences from that expected from local knowledge were also queried.</p> <p>7 sites which had not submitted their AER were issued warning letters.</p> <p>Waste collectors based in Waterford also had their AERs examined, and queries raised where necessary.</p> <p>3 waste collectors who did not submit their AER in time were issued FPN notices. One collector who did not pay this FPN, had legal proceedings commenced against him.</p>

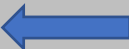
	<p>It became apparent in early 2022, following the receipt of the 2021 AERs that a number of waste sites were likely to exceed their lifetime tonnages. Other sites were felt likely to exceed their annual tonnages from local knowledge of waste movements. These were contacted and warned to ensure that they didn't exceed their tonnages. All C&D facilities were then asked to provide quarterly tonnage figures to ensure that they didn't exceed their tonnages. In total 4 sites were prevented from accepting more soil and stone, one for the remainder of the calendar year. The others were closed permanently.</p> <p>One site was identified as having placed soil outside their permitted area, and were sent a section 55 notice requiring them to remove this and place it within their permitted area.</p> <p>One skip hire company was selected to carry out spot checks to ensure they were recording and weighing all waste which was brought into their site. This entailed observing the site at various times to identify movements into the site, and then during an audit looking to see where these were recorded. This site will require follow up due to the unsatisfactory nature of the response received.</p> <p><u>Article 27 Notifications Activity (Sites of Origin and destination)</u></p> <p>There was one article 27 notification for soil and stones in Waterford in 2022. The relevant sites were inspected and found to be consistent with the article 27 requirements.</p>
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National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector	
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	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><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk based inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities and other ELV sites using WERLA intelligence 	<p>In 2022, enforcement effort was primarily around existing sites.</p> <p>One site which was operating without a permit was provided with compliance assistance in 2022 and received its permit to operate as an ATF.</p>


<p>and inspection templates (at least one inspection per annum of permitted sites).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>One existing permitted site which had major non-compliance issues regarding its operating area was resolved in 2022. This site required planning permission for the necessary changes which then allowed the waste permit to be renewed with the new permit template produced by the regional planning office. This required a number of meeting and discussions with both planning staff and representatives of the site to get the planning issues resolved, after two previous applications failed.</p> <p>Legal advice was also sought in 2022 regarding another site, which has operated for a number of years, but does not have planning permission to operate, but is unenforceable under the planning regulations, on whether we could renew the permit. The advice was that although new permits cannot be issued, the renewal of permits was permissible where planning wasn't in place.</p> <p>A site which closed in 2020 following the death of the operator also required work with the late operator's wife to ensure that all remaining waste is removed, and the permit surrendered.</p> <p>Work also was undertaken with the Regional Planning Office to bring to fruition the screening tool and guidance for the requirement to provide an ELRA for ATFs under the new permit templates</p>
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National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Waste Collection - Household & Commercial	
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	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><u>Household Waste</u></p> <p>In areas where there were repeated incidents of flytipping of household waste, household surveys were undertaken, of houses and apartments in the vicinity to identify properties which haven't facilities to dispose of waste. Surveys were also sent to premises which we had received complaints about regarding holding of waste or backyard burning. A total of 303 surveys were sent with a response received in 182 cases. Warning letters were sent in 55 cases.</p> <p>An incidence of a waste collector mixing green and brown bin waste when it was being collected was investigated following a complaint. The waste collector was visited, and they said it was a result of a vehicle breakdown, and that it wasn't a regular occurrence. A warning letter was issued to the collector.</p> <p><u>Commercial Waste</u></p> <p>Section 18 notices were sent to seven waste collector collecting commercial waste in Waterford seeking information on waste they collected from commercial customers with a breakdown of their number of bin lifts and weights collected in each of the waste streams, Residual, Mixed dry recyclable and food waste. This information was then used to identify 9 commercial premises for inspection under the food waste regulations. While these inspections of premises did find a high level of compliance in having waste segregation in place, 3 of the premises only appear to have recently acquired segregated bins</p>


National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities	
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	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 <u>in the previous reporting year</u> – 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>A site which had a large quantity of farm plastics built up on site, which was the subject of a action under section 57/58 of the WMA was finally remediated in 2022.</p> <p>The site on which 5300 tonnes had been deposited on land adjacent to a waste permit site by the operator of the site, who also had a waste collection permit.</p> <p>In previous years these permits were revoked or had expired, and the waste remained on site.</p> <p>In 2021 a clean up under section 56 of the WMA which was completed in 2022. A total of 179 loads of waste plastic were removed from the site.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR - Solid Fuel Inspections
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<p>The new solid fuel regulations came into force in 2022. Enforcement effort was concentrated on these regulations.</p> <p>2 premises were inspected checking to ensure they were aware of the new regulations and were not seeking to sell non-compliant coal after the coming into effect of the regulations. These premises were selected from local intelligence. One of these was found to be only have 'low smoke coal', but another, who is located in a low smoke zone, under the previous regulations, was found to have purchased a significant quantity of bituminous coal in the run up to the new regulations. He was instructed to return this fuel to his supplier and evidence of this was supplied to the council.</p> <p>Potential solid fuel retailers were identified through a trawl of geo-directory commercial property lists, selecting premises that were likely to sell solid fuel, such as convenience stores, agricultural and building suppliers, as well as known fuel suppliers. These were all written to explaining the new regulations. In total 125 letters were sent out.</p> <p>Social media, such as facebook and done deal were also monitored for people advertising solid fuel and these were contacted via social media messages or email were available informing them of the new regulations. 23 advertisers were contacted in this manner.</p> <p>Research was carried out on behalf of DECC in relation to a complaint that they received regarding online advertising of turf for sale.</p> <p>In 3 cases retailers of turf were identified in nearby counties. The details of these cases were passed on to the adjoining counties.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity <u>in the previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the EPA to complete the expansion of the Ambient Air Monitoring Programme network including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>The council continued to assist the EPA through the maintenance of the existing ambient air monitors in Browne's Road and Dungarvan.</p> <p>An additional planned NOx monitor, to be located at the Quay, Waterford was going to be affected by the Waterford Greenway extension, which required the location of the planned station to be relocated. The council liaised with the owner of the site to agree the revised location and arranged, with the contractor carrying out the civil works to put in the base and supply the power to facilitate this additional monitor. The cabinet for the monitor was installed in December 2022.</p> <p>The council continued to assist the EPA in the deployment and collection of NOx diffusion tubes around Waterford City, locations of which were selected following consultation with the EPA to give a mix of traffic dominated locations, based on the traffic flow at the locations and a background location to be used for comparison.</p> <p>The council also facilitated an EPA funded project under the Life Emerald programme being undertaken by UCC in Dungarvan. This involved, the council erecting 13 low-cost air pollution monitors, (Clarity and Purple Air) on behalf of UCC around Dungarvan, at locations selected by UCC following consultation with the council to utilise local knowledge of the area. These monitors were erected in local schools and on public lighting columns throughout the town.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities/ Noise Plans
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air & Noise Controls in Planning Assessments	
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	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><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></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>All planning lists were checked to identify potential developments which will either have an adverse noise impact on neighbouring properties or be adversely affected by environmental noise from roads as identified in the Noise Mapping programme carried out under the Environmental Noise Directive.</p> <p>Developments that were likely to have an adverse noise impact include, entertainment venues and public houses, industrial developments and quarries.</p> <p>Any developments which could give rise to a noise impact were assessed for their noise impact and noise conditions are applied to them as required, including the imposition of noise limits and where necessary the imposition of noise monitoring requirements.</p> <p>Residential developments in the area identified as affected by noise from major roads are requested to undertake an assessment of the impact of noise on the proposed development and provide details of any mitigation measures to be carried out in line with the guidance, "ProPG: Planning & Noise Professional Practice Guidance on Planning & Noise: New Residential Development" dated May 2017.</p> <p>Any applications with an EIAR submitted were also assessed.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR – Local Enforcement Issues
Local Authority: Waterford City and County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – 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>Warning letters were sent out to 10 vehicle refinishers that didn't renew their certificates of compliance, requiring them to arrange an inspection by the approved assessor.</p> <p>One premises failed their assessment by the AA, and hadn't rebooked. A section 26 notice was served on him to cease operation until such time as he was received a certificate of compliance</p> <p><u>Solvents Regulations:</u></p> <p>One dry cleaner proved problematic in 2022, having failed their original inspection in late 2021, due to a failure to demonstrate that their emissions were below the ELV. They were requested to submit further information within 3 months which again failed to show compliant solvent use. They were contacted by the council to remind them of their requirement and checks were made to ensure that they booked a re-test. This retest still showed compliance issues, and this premises was brought forward to 2023 for enforcement proceedings.</p> <p><u>Petroleum Vapour Regulations:</u></p> <p>Routine reminders were sent to all service stations before their certificates expired. 7 Service stations that didn't respond to these notices were then given a final reminder letter.</p> <p>3 service stations required a warning letter, of which 2 still haven't complied and will be brought forward to 2023 for enforcement proceedings</p> <p><u>Licenced sites under the Air Pollution Act:</u></p>

There are no licenced sites under the Air Pollution Act in Co Waterford

Local air and noise issues:

Noise issues from entertainment venues continued to pose issues. 4 of the 7 noise warning letters issued related to loud music from commercial premises. 3 venues in particular generated the most complaints. These venues were monitored using the environmental noise monitors and site visits to ascertain the level of noise generated. These frequently necessitated visits at night and weekends, as this is when this noise issues tend to occur.

The primary source of air complaints in 2022 related to agricultural burning. One case of burning in a protected area caused a significant area of damage to a protected area within a NHA and SAC. The extent of this damage was mapped using drone photography and utilising the sentinel satellite imagery, and this information was provided to the NPWS for action.