
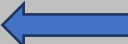


2022 National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report

| National Enforcement Priority: GOVERNANCE - RMCEI Review & Reporting | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year | <p style="color: #0070c0;">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 though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p style="color: #0070c0;"><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p> |
| <p style="color: #0070c0;">Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – 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>Each year the Environment Section of WCC prepares an RMCEI Plan for the year ahead that is based on a number of parameters. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing the national enforcement priorities (NEPs) for Water, Waste and Air. Responding to environmental complaints recorded on the CRM system. Addressing local priority issues. The staff resources available to carry out the inspections and enforcement actions. <p>The numbers of scheduled inspections are based in part on the compliance history or level of activity at each facility or site and in part on ensuring that all required inspection types are addressed. Particular emphasis is based on appropriate inspections for the NEPs which are unchanged for a three year period. This allows for an evolving strategy for these issues and a need for a re-focussing of inspection numbers annually depending on results.</p> <p>Progress on the implementation of the Plan within WCC is monitored a number of times during the year. The waste enforcement and inspection activity data is compiled monthly for the LGMA on the NEMIS system and waste and pollution control inspection data is provided monthly for the WCC Chief Executive's Report, and updates on progress on the NEPs are provided to EMWERLA. Progress on the Plan's implementation and targets plus an update on the status of the environmental complaints is also compiled and reviewed at Waste Management and Pollution Control quarterly team meetings which are generally attended by the Director of Service, the senior engineer and the senior executive officer.</p> <p>The annual RMCEI Plan is a dynamic plan that needs to adapt over the year to address issues that may evolve as the year progresses and/or changes to the staff resources that are available for its implementation.</p> |

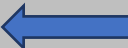
| National Enforcement Priority: GOVERNANCE - Environmental Complaint Handling | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year | <p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year. This is an opportunity 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 previous reporting year – 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>WCC changed the management of environmental complaints in 2020 from an outdated E-Direct programme to a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system. The complaints co-ordinator who managed the E-direct system has continued in the role and manages the CRM system. In addition the Waste Enforcement Officers were issued with tablets to facilitate electronic notification of complaints and the submission of reports to the complaints co-ordinator. This measure has improved the efficiency of the process by providing an electronic record of actions and eliminated the need for paper records and printing photographs except where further enforcement actions or prosecutions are required.</p> <p>WCC allocates a substantial amount of staff resources to the appropriate management of environmental complaints as this is an important interface between the public and the local authority. The Waste Management Section allocates four environmental waste enforcement officers to the investigation of the waste and litter complaints. Each complaint is given a case number by the complaints co-ordinator and allocated to one of the waste enforcement officers to investigate. The county is divided into four areas with one waste enforcement officer responsible for each area. Complaints received from the EPA relating to fly-tipping of waste or authorised waste activities are investigated by the waste enforcement officers, issues relating to water, air or noise are investigated by technicians from the Pollution Control Section and any S.63 Notices are addressed by the environmental scientists.</p> <p>The majority of complaints relate to waste issues, followed by litter. In 2022, the breakdown of complaints was 75.5% waste, 23.5% litter and 1% water/noise/air. It should be noted that the number of complaints received in the past two years has been decreasing due, WCC believes, to the work completed over previous years by the Enforcement and Awareness Sections of the Council. In parallel with this, the volume of dumped waste removed by WCC and PURE is also continuing to decrease. The total number of complaints received decreased from 2810 in 2020 to 2264 in 2021 to 1545 in 2022.</p> <p>Complaints and waste enforcement actions that are open at the end of a year are classified as a Routine Waste Inspection in the RMCEI Plan for the year and allocated to 6.1.16 [Other routine inspections {not included in the above numbers}]. There were 633 complaints from 2021 open at the start of 2022. Work by the waste enforcement officers closed 592 on these during 2022.</p> <p>In 2022 53 water complaints were received, half the number of recorded in 2021 (97). Most complaints related to construction sites (15), followed by sewage overflows (9), septic tanks (8), Oil leaks (4) and Agriculture (4),</p> |


Misconnections (2), Abstraction (1) and 7 complaints where the cause couldn't be traced. 43 were resolved in 2022 with 10 remained open at the end of the year (20%), compared to 14 complaints carried into 2022 (14%) 7 of which were closed in 2022, leaving 17 carried into 2023. Half the complaints were closed within a week, and 25% closed within a month, leaving 25% open longer some more than 2 years.

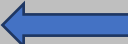
10 Air complaints were received in 2022, a huge reduction on 2021 (46). Complaints related to odour nuisance (4), then smoke (3) and dust (3). Of the 4 complaints carried into 2022, 2 were closed out and the remaining 2 are engaging. 1 complaint from 2022 remains open leaving 3 carried into 2023.

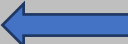
40 Noise complaints were received in 2022 up on 33 received in 2021. Complaints are varied from fan noise, crow bangers, dogs, machinery & entertainment. 35 were resolved within the year and 5 were carried into 2023. Of the 6 carried into 2022, 4 were closed leaving 7 carried into 2023.


There is one live Section 63 notice issued in 2021 relating to ongoing oil pollution ongoing enforcement. This case is ongoing and the EPA are kept updated on progress.

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| National Enforcement Priority: | | WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection and storage) | |
| Local Authority: | | Activities | |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | | <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 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. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to loss of staff responsible for Agricultural inspections in 2022, numbers of Inspections were cut from 3 to 0 following our mid-year review. • 1 inspection did take place to check for slurry and soiled water storage in the Rathnew_10 waterbody (Poor Status). The site was targeted using the LAWPROs list of waterbodies impacted by agricultural pressures and by using PIP maps and preferential flow-path maps. The Broadlough, a Transitional WB at Moderate Status, is also downstream of the Rathnew_10, and fails for Oxygen Status at one monitoring location near the Rathnew_10 inflow. The farm was found to be compliant with the GAP regulations and no follow up actions were required. The Rathnew_10 improved to Good Status in the 2022 status update due to Q-Value improvement from Poor to Good in 2020. • There was 4 follow-up inspection of one farm in the Goldmine_10 waterbody (High Status), following a cross report in 2021 with soiled water issues. Good progress was noted and good visual improvement in the receiving water. This site will be closed-out in mid-2023 following further inspection to confirm if the downgradient water body recovers. This case is an example of how time consuming and difficult it can be to close out dairy farm yard leaks on steep sites over culverted springs. Measures carried out included installation of additional slurry storage, diversion of surface water from farm lane above the yard, sealing of downpipe junctions within the yard and silage pit leak testing. The Q-value remained at Q4-5 in 2020 in the Goldmine_10. • There were no cross reports to the Dept. of Agriculture in 2022, a reduction on 4 Cross reports in 2021. <p>All inspections were recorded using the EPA reporting spreadsheet and will be returned to the EPA by the required timeframe.</p> | |

| National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertiliser spreading) | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No agricultural lands were inspected to check compliance with slurry and fertiliser spreading in 2022. <p>This was due to the loss of a staff member responsible for Agricultural inspections in 2022, and numbers of Inspections were cut following our mid-year review, due to no replacement till the end of the year.</p> |

| National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wicklow inspected 47 domestic wastewater systems in 2022 against 44 required in the National Inspection Plan (NIP). This was an increase of 15 sites on 2021 due to an increase in our inspection target from 31 to 44 in the NIP. Sites were selected using the new EPA’s 3 Risk Zone Maps and taking account of the risk, significant pressure and prioritisation for action for each waterbody in the River Basin Management Plan and liaising with LAWPRO. Pre site visits were carried out to meet the homeowners and explain the process and reasons for inspections. Information leaflets were posted to inform the person selected what to expect from the inspection. Where homeowners did not respond, an inspector called to hand-deliver the notice and confirms the inspection date. Our website provides info on well protection, maintenance, inspection process and the new grants schemes available through the rural development fund for NIPS, PAAs and High Status objective sites. 36% of sites inspected in 2022 were non-compliant, an improvement on 2021 (62%), 2020 (53%) and 2019 (41%) which may reflect improved attitudes on foot of our public engagement activities. Wicklow continues to have one of the highest advisory notice closure rates nationally with 93% fixed by end 2021. By the end of 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 0 advisory Notices open before 2021. There were 2 advisory notices open from 2021 with both home-owners engaging (1 following legal notice). There were 4 advisory notices open from 2022, 2 of which are overdue but are engaging. Where advisory notices are issued, contact is made one month prior to the remedial date to check for completion of works. Advisory notice close out continues to take up considerable portion of our resource. When the remedial date passes, a warning letter is issued and regular contact made until the works are complete. This involves providing ongoing consultation with the home owner until they have engaged a specialist, submitted a proposal and sent in compliance certs for completion of works. The top reasons for failure were similar to previous years; desludging, surface/roof water entering, Ponding and leakages from the system Many of the sites inspected in 2022 (as per 2021) were chosen in the Vartry_10 waterbody (a High Status Water body that had fallen below Good Status). This waterbody returned to High Status in the latest EPA update in 2022. Another tranche of inspections were targeted in the Rathnew_10 waterbody and this too has improved from Poor to Good in the latest EPA updates. It is not obvious in either case if our inspections had any bearing on these improvements. Inspections were also chosen in the Potters & Three Mile Water PAA where LAWPRO had issued letters of grant eligibility. |

| National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Discharge Licences / Misconnections | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 59 inspections were carried out in 2022 against a target of 51. This is a similar number to 2021 (67) and 2020 (44) • There were 78 licenced sites in 2022 ranked into 3 risk categories based on their discharge volumes, compliance history and any impacts on receiving water, with the 8 high risk sites receiving 2 visits each, the 27 medium risk sites receiving 1 visit each and 7 of the 39 low risk sites receiving a visit. Some medium risk sites were inspected again to confirm improvement works resulted in improved WWTP performance. • Of the 59 inspections carried out, 34 were compliant, 22 were non-compliant (3 had no discharge at the time of sampling). • After an inspection, all facilities were issued with a letter and sample results. Compliant sites were given positive feedback while non-compliances received a warning letter to investigate the reasons for the non-compliances and to submit plans for remediation within a specific time frame. All licensees were reminded of their obligation to submit self-monitoring results in accordance with license conditions to demonstrate compliance with emission limit values • Compliance with Licence ELVs was similar in 2022 at 61% when compared to 2021 (62%), 2020 (72%), 2019 (67%). More time is needed to follow-up on non-compliances to improve this compliance rate; however other water inspections are increasing each year (Septic Tanks and Agriculture) meaning this will be impossible without more resources. • Compliance with required sample frequencies remains low with 35 sites not returning compliance monitoring data in 2022 (47%), compared with 36 in 2021 (50%). More time will be needed to follow-up on these non-compliances in 2023. • Of the 5 waterbodies impacted by S4 discharges, The Aughrim_20 Status improved from Moderate to Good Status following the latest EPA update. There are three discharges in this waterbody and consultation on licence review commenced in 2022. • Another site impacting the Ballyronan_10 is progressing through the design stage to connect to public sewer through a DPI Fund • 1 unauthorised discharge to ground was sampled in the Potters_20 (Good Status), Brittas Bay (Excellent) area and the owner has upgraded the system and engaging with us. • There were no referrals relating to S4 discharges and non-open from previous years <p>Misconnections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 misconnection surveys were undertaken in 2022 in the Kilcoole_10 waterbody (Poor Status). Both related to commercial premises. Misconnected sinks in a supermarket were resolved while a car wash will involve further dye testing and investigation to clarify any misconnection. |

| National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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 | <p>WFD Monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Annual Sample Plan for WFD monitoring of Rivers and Lakes was agreed with the Dublin and Kilkenny EPA Labs. • 100% of planned samples were taken from our rivers and lakes as per previous years with 590 river and 138 lake samples taken. • The 2021 monitoring results were downloaded from the WFD App and reviewed for increasing trends helping identify waterbodies to target for Local Catchment Assessments; Notable increases in Mine_10, Greese_10 & Derry_10. • Status failures were noted due to metals downstream of 4 historic mining sites in Glenealo_10, Glendassan_10, Avonbeg_20, Avoca_10. We liaised with the Dept. of Environment about progressing further measures in the Avoca Mines. • WFD Status changes were tracked and showed overall improvement in Wicklow’s waterbodies with 71% at Good or High Status (2016-2021) up from 64% (2013-2018) and 49% (2010-2015). Updates were given to Council and the public via press release. <p>WFD Implementation & Engagement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council worked on 57 engagement activities in 2022 similar to 56 in 2021 and 31 in 2020. • We continue to assist the Water Community Officer and the East Wicklow Rivers Trust on fish barrier projects; Derry Water & 3Trouts • We made a submission to the EPA on heavily modified waterbody classification consultation • Updates on Wicklow’s implementation activity were made to Regional Operational and Senior Management Committees • Consulted with Planning Dept. on protection of waters in CDP & Local Area Plans; a 25m buffer to water is now policy • Our District Engineers attended training on nature based solutions for surface water. Roadside tree pits were installed in Greystones <p>Investigative Monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Staff attended LAWPRO run Catchment Management Training Course • 3 Local Catchment Assessments carried out and 18 investigative samples were taken on three waterbodies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kick samples on the Derry Water_10 (Good Status) indicated a return to Q4-5, while local cattle access is a pressure ○ A river walk in Ballycreen_20 (High Status) highlighted Agriculture and house construction as a pressures ○ Nutrient Sampling on the Hollywood Stream (Liffey_50, Good Status) showed Hollywood WWTP (cert) as local pressure. • 2 climate related investigations are ongoing relating to low flow conditions impacting rivers – Ballyronan_10 & Vartry_40 • 2022 Ambient monitoring data was reviewed up and downstream of 34 IW WWTPs to help IW target investment/optimisation works. • 1 LAWPRO referral was received and progressed regarding a septic tank in the Potters PAA. |


of RBMP Actions.

Bathing Water Monitoring:

- 113 inspections of bathing waters were completed in 2022 against a target of 110. This was similar to 2021 & 2020
- We have 6 designated beaches, 3 of which are blue flag; 1 less than 2021 as Bray lost its blue flag due to deteriorating quality. Investigations in Bray in 2022 have so far not identified any change or obvious source responsible for the drop in quality
- Designated bathing waters were tested 10 times during the bathing.
- There are 7 non-designated bathing water locations monitored 5 times as they are popular bathing areas.
- The results are uploaded to EDEN for display on beaches.ie and also posted at the beaches, council offices and our website.
- There were 4 prohibition notices issued in 2022 (Clogga, Brittas Bay South, The Cove Arklow & Arklow South) requiring follow up samples confirming bacteria numbers had returned to acceptable levels. Consultation with the HSE took place in each instance and the Bathing Water Response matrix was followed to ensure bathers were protected and informed.
- 12 investigative samples were taken of inflowing waters to Wicklow Harbour Bathing Area in 2022 to help ascertain the causes of poor bathing water quality. The study is ongoing but quality improved in 2022 with all 5 samples meeting Excellent quality.
- 28 Investigative samples were taken from 4 other inflowing streams to other beaches to help continue build a picture of loadings.
- Bathing water quality remained Excellent at our 16 monitored beaches in 2022 with the exception of Bray South Promenade with 2 Good results, and The Cove Arklow had 2 Sufficient results.
- The Council held community days at Brittas Bay to promote biodiversity and help with invasive species removal (Sea Buckthorn).

Private Water Supplies:

- There were 116 regulated supplies in operation ranging from B&B's, Hotels, Schools, Caravan Parks, Golf Clubs, Cafe's, and Crèches.
- Supplies were monitored twice and a fee was charged towards cost of analysis with early bird offer to encourage prompt payment.
- Supplies were risk assessed on geography, activity, source-type and compliance history to determine which parameters to test for.
- A sampling plan was drawn up in consultation with the HSE and quarterly meetings held to review progress and advice
- Where a supply fails to meet a parametric limit the HSE gives immediate verbal notification to the owner and we, following consultation with the HSE, issue either a merits action letter or a boiling water notice or do not consume notice based on what failed.
- The owner is required to submit an action plan to the Local Authority in-order to address the matter within a specified timeframe and to provide verification of successful action in the form of service reports and compliant results.
- Checks on supplies are also carried out on caravan parks and camping sites and as part of the licensing process. This has resulted in a reduction in the number of issues with water supplies (visual inspection, draining stagnant water, disinfection of tanks, servicing)
- Where a supplier fails to submit a response or action plan, an update is sought and advice given. When a satisfactory response is not received, a warning letter is issued noting that failure to respond may result in the commencement of enforcement action.
- When works are completed an independent sample is also taken by the HSE, the notice is lifted following consultation with the HSE.
- 8 Boiling notices issued (10 in 2021, 8 in 2020) effecting 495 consumers. 14 Boiling notices were lifted leaving a balance of 5 Supplies.
- 5 Do Not Consume notices issued 5 in 2021. By the end of 2021 there were 9 supplies on boil notice (3 less than 2020) and 5 on do not consume notices (2 more than 2020), affecting a combined population of 1572(Higher than 1057 in 2020).
- 97.9% samples were compliant with the microbiological parameters (4 failures for ecoli, 2 for Enterococci), (2021, 97.9%, 2020, 98.0%)
- 99.3% were compliant with the chemical parameters (2 failures for Nitrate, 1 for Arsenic, Selenium & Mercury), (99.8% in 2021 & 2020)
- 87.7% were compliant with the indicator parameters (58 failures for pH, 40 for colony count, 12 for Coliforms, 1 for Clostridium, 3 for Manganese, 3 for Sodium, Chloride & Conductivity, 1 for Iron), slightly lower compliance than 2021, 89.3% and 2020 87.8%).


| National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Tackling significant illegal waste activities & Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – 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>The Waste Enforcement Section in the Council devoted approximately 55% of the available enforcement staff resources to addressing this issue during 2022. Illegal waste activities are very variable and can range from relatively large scale commercial activities to individuals illegally disposing of their household waste. The Enforcement team uses frequent inspections of permit sites and interactions with facility and collection permit holders to minimise the possibility of sites being used for the recycling or disposal of inappropriate wastes. In addition, use is being made of social media advertising to identify potential unauthorised collectors and stop the collection of waste from houses.</p> <p>The investigations completed by WCC staff during 2022 resulted in the following prosecutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 198 litter fines were issued • 62 court prosecutions were completed during the year (45 of these were initiated 2020 or 2021). 28 of the prosecutions were for the non-payment of litter fines, 17 prosecutions were taken under S.32 of the Waste Management Act and 17 prosecutions under S.14, S.34 and S.39 of the Act. • 59 prosecutions were initiated during 2022 including 36 for non-payment of litter fines, 14 for offences under S.32, 2 for offences under S.34 and 3 for offences under S.39. <p>In 2022, WCC continued to scale back on the use of CCTV cameras due to the uncertainty regarding the GDPR status of their use. The only places where they were used during 2022 were outside two charity shops and at one bottle bank where there was frequent small scale dumping.</p> <p>Waste enforcement officers participated with members of An Garda Síochána at 14 roadside check points</p> |

during the year. On occasions personnel from the Road Safety Authority or Revenue were also in attendance. All the check points were either on the N81 in the west of the county or on other roads in the south of the county. These resulted in the issuing of 6 FPNs for non-compliance with conditions of waste collection permits. No check points were held on the much busier N11 in the east of the county this year due to the scale of resources that would be required for a check point on this road.


WCC organised six projects under the 2022 ADI. Three of these were hazardous waste collections and two were mattress amnesties. These types of waste collections provide the public with a convenient and practical outlet for problematical waste streams and are much appreciated by the public. The collections also reduce the risk of some of these wastes being given to unauthorised collectors or illegally dumped.

Multi-Agency Sites of Interest

There were no significant unauthorised sites identified in Co. Wicklow in the past two years which would warrant a multi-agency response and as such there were no inspections, investigations or discussions undertaken with EMWERLA concerning this national priority issue. The Waste Enforcement Section commits significant staff resources to endeavouring to minimise the opportunity for a significant unauthorised site or activity to develop within the county.

| National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Construction and Demolition Activity | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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"> • 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>The appropriate management of the wastes streams generated by the C&D industry has been a major issue for WCC over the years. This is primarily due to the Wicklow's proximity to Dublin and the very large volume of C&D waste generated annually there. During 2021, WCC devoted a significant amount of the waste enforcement resource time to this priority issue. The actions undertaken to address this priority comprised:</p> <p>35 inspections of construction sites were undertaken. 32 first time inspections and 3 follow-up inspections were completed. Inspections are based primarily on large construction projects or projects that require the demolition of old buildings. The number of inspections was less than planned due in part to the loss of a member of the enforcement team during the year and also due to a noticeable slow down in construction activity in the second half of 2022. The inspections check that wastes materials are removed by hauliers with a valid waste collection permit and that the wastes are going to authorised waste facilities. The waste enforcement officers use a combination of commencement notices and local knowledge to prioritise the sites to be inspected. The inspections found a very high compliance rate with the waste management regulations.</p> <p><u>Validation and inspection of Waste Collection Permit (WCP)/Waste Facility Permit (WFP) (including Soil Recovery Sites)</u></p> <p>WCC completed desktop validations of all Wicklow based waste collection permits and waste facility permits during the year and this included all the permits that manage C&D wastes. The reported tonnages from the waste collection permits were cross referenced with the waste facility permit data and site register data.</p> <p>At the end of 2022, there were 15 waste facility permit and 3 certificate of registration sites that take in waste soil and 4 waste facility permit sites that recycle waste concrete (one of these had not started by the end of the year). 39 inspections were made to sites that take in soil to check that the soil transported by hauliers</p> |

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| | <p>with valid waste collection permits and that only soil and not mixed loads of soil and concrete are deposited at the sites. 7 inspections were made to the concrete recycling facilities to check the quality of the concrete being imported and that the crushed concrete that is produced is clean. None of the crushed concrete being produced by these facilities has received Art-28 EOW status. At least one licensed facility and one of the permit sites are waiting for a number of years for a decision from the EPA on applications that were submitted.</p> <p><u>Article 27 Notifications Activity (Sites of Origin and destination)</u></p> <p>Twenty (20) Article 27 notifications were received by WCC from the EPA. Seventeen (17) of the notifications were for soil or rock, two (2) for road planings and one (1) for C+D materials. Four (4) of the source areas were outside of Wicklow and the destination area for six (6) of the notifications were outside of Wicklow. The notifications were reviewed and checked against the reported planning permissions and followed by site inspections of the source and destination sites in Wicklow. Where required a comment on the Article 27 notification was submitted to the EPA. WCC does not inspect road planings notifications. The biggest problem with the Article 27 notification process remains the length of time it takes the EPA to make a decision and inform the notifier. In most cases, the by-product material has been transported and deposited before the decision from the EPA has been made.</p> |
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| National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector | |
| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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> |

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

- 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.

At the start of 2022 there were four Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) with waste facility permits. . Three of the ATFs de-pollute vehicles and recover car parts for re-use as used-parts. The used-parts from two of these facilities were for export. The fourth facility, Multimetals Recycling Limited, is primarily a metal recycling facility and de-pollutes very few cars. During 2022, one of the AFTs ceased operating following a large fire at the facility in Arklow which totally destroyed the facility. This facility was depolluting cars and recovering used body and engine parts for export to Russia.

In 2022, the Waste Enforcement Section reviewed on-line the Annual Returns for the ATFS that were submitted to the National Waste Collection Permit Office and validated these. This was followed up later in the year by site inspections. A back-office audit in conjunction with personnel from EMWERLA and EMWMPRO was undertaken on the Multimetals facility in Wicklow town. This site was selected because it is a large metal recycling facility as well as an ATF. The results of this audit indicated:

- The record keeping by the company is very good with the weights of all loads of materials arriving at or leaving the facility recorded by the weighbridge.
- There were only minor discrepancies between the reported tonnages recorded in the annual return for the facility and by the annual returns for the various waste collection permit holders that transported metal waste to or from the facility.
- Minor improvements could be made in the consistency of use of EWC Codes for waste metals arriving and/or leaving the facility.

Fortunately for Wicklow when it comes to ELVs, there has not been a history of large-scale scrap yards in the county and it is the aim of the Waste Enforcement Section of the Council to ensure that this remains the case.


Waste enforcement officers investigated a number of sites where minor accumulations of vehicles were either noted or reported and there were no significant ELV / scrap yards present in Wicklow at the end of 2022.

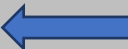
One of the notable features of 2022 and an issue that was reported to WCC on a number of occasions was that there was a significant decrease compared to previous years in the number of cars being scrapped in Ireland during the year. This was due to a shortage of new cars and good quality second-hand cars in the Irish market resulting in cars that previously may have been scrapped being repaired and continued to be used.


| National Enforcement Priority: | WASTE - Waste Collection - Household & Commercial |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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"> • 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>The 2021 Annual Returns of the seven waste collectors that provide services to households in the county were assessed and the data compiled. The data shows that the three main collectors (Bord na Mona, Panda and Thorntons) account for 93% of the houses with accounts, i.e. 40,930 out of the 43,886 accounts. 27,082 of the accounts have brown bins. These figures indicate that 66% of the households have brown bins. The remaining four companies have only 2956 accounts in the county with 1076 (equal to 36.4%) of these having brown bins. The overall percentage of household account holders having brown bins is 64.2%. This is up 2% from 62.2% for Annual Return data submitted for 2020. No back-office inspections were completed during the year due to a loss of a staff member and a round of inspections is planned for 2023.</p> <p><u>Commercial Waste</u></p> <p>WCC recommenced food waste inspections during 2022 following a halt to such inspections in recent years due to the Covid-19 restrictions. 202 inspections of 158 business premises that produce food waste were carried out during the year with 44 of the inspections being follow-up second and/or third inspections. WCC's food waste database lists 472 premises in the county. The inspections in 2022 prioritised restaurants, takeaways, public houses or shops / garages with deli counters. The results of the inspections indicated that 36 (23%) were not compliant with the brown bin regulations and further inspections or enforcement actions will be undertaken on these in 2023. This non-compliance figure is significantly higher than the figures pre-Covid and one of the main reasons for this is the large turnover of staff in these sectors resulting in a lack of experience or awareness of staff working in some of these premises.</p> <p><u>Waste collection permit validations</u></p> <p>The Annual Returns of 113 waste collection permit holders and 31 waste facility permit holders were assessed and validated during the year. 103 waste collection permit ARs were submitted. The 10 that didn't submit an</p> |


Annual Return are either no longer using the permit or the permit has been replaced by a different permit. 34 of the Annual Returns recorded Nil returns. 11 permit holders were either emailed or telephoned with queries regarding discrepancies between tonnages recorded in ARs from waste collection permit and waste facility permits. These discrepancies were subsequently clarified and the data validated.


30 Annual Returns were received from the waste facility permit holders. These were assessed with regards to the tonnages recorded compared to available waste collection permit data and site registers. In addition, the EWC codes were also checked and compared with the collection permit annual return data. The 30 annual returns were validated. No Annual Return was received for one facility due to the permit holder exiting the business.


| National Enforcement Priority: | WASTE - Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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"> • 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>PRIs</u></p> <p>There are 245 companies listed as members of Repak in Co. Wicklow at the end of 2022. WCC was informed by EMWERLA of three businesses during 2022 that could potentially be major producers. These were investigated, resulting in two of them contacting Repak concerning membership and the third being under the threshold for membership. In addition, another business was identified by WCC as a potential major producer. This was headquartered in Dublin and details were forwarded to EMWERLA and Repak. Four companies continued to be packaging self-compliers during 2022.</p> <p>Fifteen WEEE and battery inspections were completed during the year plus three plastic bag compliance inspections. All the inspected premises were compliant with the regulations. No inspections had been completed in recent years due to the Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>There are 111 businesses registered with CircoELT at the end of 2022. 16 inspections of premises were completed during the year. 4 of these were non-compliant with the tyre regulations and will require further follow-up inspections or enforcement actions in 2023.</p> <p><u>Local Priority</u></p> <p>The problem of litter left behind by weekend campers was an issue that became apparent during the summer of 2020. This issue was a particular problem in places like the Glenmalure Valley and it was identified as a continuing Local Priority by the Waste Management Section for 2022. The issue was tackled by a waste enforcement officer meeting with campers on either Friday evenings or Saturday afternoons, informing the campers where the nearest bottle banks were located, distributing small plastic bags for waste and indicating where the bags should be left on the Sunday. The bags were then collected by WCC or PURE from the collection point on the Monday. Ideally, WCC would like campers to take their waste away with them but this doesn't always happen. Alternatively, WCC could provide litter bins but is reluctant to do this as these would be attract further unauthorised dumping.</p> |

| National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Solid Fuel Inspections | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inspection of retailers and suppliers continued with efforts made to expand the known locations of such actors and to update GIS accordingly. • Despite the imminent change in legislation 23 solid fuel inspections were carried out for the year. A similar high level of compliance was found as in previous years reinforcing the knowledge gained that the burning of any non-compliant solid fuels was arising from such fuels being sourced either from outside the jurisdiction, outside of the county or from part-time traders delivering door-to-door at irregular hours. • Searches on social media continued. But the lack of identifiable information (regarding addresses) other than a name and mobile number makes follow up activities difficult and legally fraught. • The pending change in Regulations rendered the existing radio campaign redundant. To avoid confusion it was not run during the end of the 2022 home-heating season and preparation of a new campaign was commenced. • Posters from the DECC Clean Air campaign were maintained in public places to help promote awareness of the issue. • A lack of internal resources prevented an intended multi-agency operation from taking place. • Participated in workshops organised by the Department |

| National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site selection process for the Council-acquired air quality monitor (Palas AQ Guard) was carried out by WCC in collaboration with the EMS Ltd and the EPA and completed with the preferred location of the Wexford Road in Arklow being agreed upon. • A power supply was required to be made available before installation and commissioning can be completed. • The data (PM2.5 and PM10) will be made available in real time on the Councils website and also to the EPA for its use on airquality.ie, if desired. • WCC intends to expand this network by installing a second monitor in Blessington. |

| National Enforcement Priority: | AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities/ Noise Plans |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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"> • 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 No</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WCC reviewed the speed limits in a number of sensitive areas which should help reduce road noise. • Noise action plan was incorporated into the County Development Plan to ensure new developments in areas with potential noise disturbance (identifiable via noise mapping) incorporate appropriate noise mitigation measures. • Highlighted the lack of funding to carry out mitigation work in priority areas highlighted by the noise mapping. |

| National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Air & Noise Controls in Planning Assessments | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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"> • 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications with the potential to cause noise or noise nuisance are reviewed for same by the Environment section with suitable conditions recommended as appropriate. • WCCs Noise Protocol provides for noise sources that are subject of noise-related planning conditions to be referred to Planning Enforcement to follow up. A standard noise condition in such cases requires that the developer submit a noise monitoring report upon request with any actions to be based on same. • Where the noise complained of relates to or arises from an activity covered by another Section of a Local Authority the matter is referred to them to action under their own statutory functions |

| National Enforcement Priority: AIR – Local Enforcement Issues | |
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| Local Authority: | Activities |
|  Looking back at the year 2022 | <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Inspections of relevant retailers and vehicle refinishers were carried out. In addition to checking the required data was displayed, the purpose for such information was highlighted as well as legal consequences for non-compliance. Searches of new or unrecorded garages were also carried out to identify any unknown operators. One vehicle refinishing operator was prosecuted at Bray District Court for operating without certification. They were fined and received the benefit of the Probation Act. Worked was ongoing in ensuring that operators reapplied for certification in a prompt and timely manner. 24 of the 25 registered vehicle refinishers hold valid certificates and the 25th has the Approved Auditors inspection. <p><u>Solvents Regulations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 inspections of dry cleaners were carried out to ensure compliance with certification requirements. Worked was ongoing in ensuring that operators reapplied for certification in a prompt and timely manner. All 5 dry cleaning installations hold valid certificate of compliance. <p><u>Petroleum Vapour Regulations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Inspections of new and established service stations were undertaken to ensure applications for Certificate of Installation were made and to ensure that logbooks were being maintained. 15 of the 16 service station with Stage II PVR installed are registered. The outstanding one has made an application. <p><u>Licensed sites under the Air Pollution Act:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continued to get the licence holder to record and submit the required monitoring data. New monitoring equipment and contractors were put in place and new monitoring locations agreed upon. Follow ups to ensure that the data were recorded in the correct format was ongoing as was ensuring compliance with the other conditions. <p><u>Local air and noise issues:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complainants were dealt with directly by the investigating officer and advised and updated throughout the process. Complainants were encouraged to seek to resolve the matter locally in the first instance. They were also encouraged to record a log or to submit audio or video recordings of the complaint to enable appropriate targeting of Council resources. Any developments with the party responsible for the complaint is relayed to the complainant to keep them updated to ensure a satisfactory outcome. |

