



WATER



AIR



WASTE
& PRI



ENFORCEMENT
SYSTEMS

Local Authority Environmental Enforcement

Guidance Booklet B

Performance Indicator Workbook:
Practitioners Guide to Understanding Indicators

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for protecting and improving the environment as a valuable asset for the people of Ireland. We are committed to protecting people and the environment from the harmful effects of radiation and pollution.

The work of the EPA can be divided into three main areas:

Regulation: *We implement effective regulation and environmental compliance systems to deliver good environmental outcomes and target those who don't comply.*

Knowledge: *We provide high quality, targeted and timely environmental data, information and assessment to inform decision making at all levels.*

Advocacy: *We work with others to advocate for a clean, productive and well protected environment and for sustainable environmental behaviour.*

Our Responsibilities

Licensing

We regulate the following activities so that they do not endanger human health or harm the environment:

- waste facilities (e.g. landfills, incinerators, waste transfer stations);
- large scale industrial activities (e.g. pharmaceutical, cement manufacturing, power plants);
- intensive agriculture (e.g. pigs, poultry);
- the contained use and controlled release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs);
- sources of ionising radiation (e.g. x-ray and radiotherapy equipment, industrial sources);
- large petrol storage facilities;
- waste water discharges;
- dumping at sea activities.

National Environmental Enforcement

- Conducting an annual programme of audits and inspections of EPA licensed facilities.
- Overseeing local authorities' environmental protection responsibilities.
- Supervising the supply of drinking water by public water suppliers.
- Working with local authorities and other agencies to tackle environmental crime by coordinating a national enforcement network, targeting offenders and overseeing remediation.
- Enforcing Regulations such as Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), Restriction of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) and substances that deplete the ozone layer.
- Prosecuting those who flout environmental law and damage the environment.

Water Management

Monitoring and reporting on the quality of rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters of Ireland and groundwaters; measuring water levels and river flows.

National coordination and oversight of the Water Framework Directive.

Monitoring and reporting on Bathing Water Quality.

Monitoring, Analysing and Reporting on the Environment

- Monitoring air quality and implementing the EU Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive.
- Independent reporting to inform decision making by national and local government (e.g. *periodic reporting on the State of Ireland's Environment and Indicator Reports*).

Regulating Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Preparing Ireland's greenhouse gas inventories and projections.
- Implementing the Emissions Trading Directive, for over 100 of the largest producers of carbon dioxide in Ireland.

Environmental Research and Development

- Funding environmental research to identify pressures, inform policy and provide solutions in the areas of climate, water and sustainability.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- Assessing the impact of proposed plans and programmes on the Irish environment (e.g. *major development plans*).

Radiological Protection

- Monitoring radiation levels, assessing exposure of people in Ireland to ionising radiation.
- Assisting in developing national plans for emergencies arising from nuclear accidents.
- Monitoring developments abroad relating to nuclear installations and radiological safety.
- Providing, or overseeing the provision of, specialist radiation protection services.

Guidance, Accessible Information and Education

- Providing advice and guidance to industry and the public on environmental and radiological protection topics.
- Providing timely and easily accessible environmental information to encourage public participation in environmental decision-making (e.g. *My Local Environment, Radon Maps*).
- Advising Government on matters relating to radiological safety and emergency response.
- Developing a National Hazardous Waste Management Plan to prevent and manage hazardous waste.

Awareness Raising and Behavioural Change

- Generating greater environmental awareness and influencing positive behavioural change by supporting businesses, communities and householders to become more resource efficient.
- Promoting radon testing in homes and workplaces and encouraging remediation where necessary.

Management and Structure of the EPA

The EPA is managed by a full time Board, consisting of a Director General and five Directors. The work is carried out across five Offices:

- Office of Climate, Licensing and Resource Use
- Office of Environmental Enforcement
- Office of Environmental Assessment
- Office of Radiological Protection
- Office of Communications and Corporate Services

The EPA is assisted by an Advisory Committee of twelve members who meet regularly to discuss issues of concern and provide advice to the Board.



LOCAL AUTHORITY ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT GUIDANCE BOOKLET B

Performance Indicators Workbook:
Practitioners Guide to Understanding Indicators

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About This Workbook

This workbook has been developed to support users in their understanding and use of the performance indicators selected. It contains:



- ▲ Background notes, a description of the indicator, how it is defined, how points and assessments are assigned against the indicator score, the rationale for the set performance standard and how the indicator relates to others within the enforcement relative to its importance.
- ▲ A description of the standards applied to ensure scoring consistency and fairness in the reported data.
- ▲ An explanation of how indicator scores within each of the five enforcement areas are combined to give an overall enforcement score/assessment for each local authority, and in turn, how the assessments under the five enforcement assessments are combined into one overall assessment for each local authority and adjusted to take account of the operating capacity and capability of the Environmental Enforcement team in each authority

A total of 26 indicators were selected from data provided by the local authorities and specific performance standards were defined for each indicator. These indicators have been grouped into five enforcement areas illustrated in Table 1 resulting in a composite assessment for each enforcement area.

Enforcement Areas	
1	Enforcement Systems
2	Waste
3	Water
4	Producer Responsibility Initiatives
5	Air

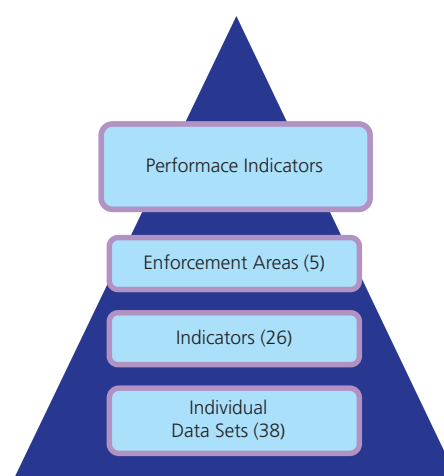


Table 1 – Enforcement Areas

Each enforcement area and its associated indicators are outlined over the remainder of this Guide.

How to Read this Workbook

A sample indicator is highlighted below to illustrate how it works:

Waste Collection Permit Enforcement - Background

The National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO – within Offaly County Council) manages the waste collection permit system in the Republic of Ireland. In addition this office manages waste data and each waste collection permit holder is required to submit a return annually detailing their waste activity. This is an important source of waste data particularly at a regional and national level for determining policy, waste management planning and ensuring environmentally sound management and transfer of waste.

Local authority enforcement in this area is very important and more specifically each local authority is required to carry out a number of data verification audits of waste collection permit holders data returns. This is to ensure that the quality of the data being reported nationally to the NWCPO is good. This performance indicator looks at the completion rates of these audits by local authorities.

Performance Indicator 2.4: Waste – NWCPO Audit completion %																																			
Criterion:	This compares the amounts of data verifications audits completed by the local authority as reported to the NWCPO – against the number requested to be carried out by the NWCPO.																																		
Units of measurement:	It is measured as %-completion of the target requested by the NWCPO.																																		
Assessment:	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>NWCPO Score</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>100%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>>95%-99%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>>90%-95%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>>80%-90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>>70%-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>>0%-70%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Assessment	Points	NWCPO Score	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	100%+	Target	50	>95%-99%	Below Target	40	>90%-95%	Minimum	30	>80%-90%	Unsatisfactory	20	>70%-80%	Unacceptable	10	>0%-70%	Unacceptable	0	0%
Assessment	Points	NWCPO Score																																	
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Target	50	>95%-99%																																	
Below Target	40	>90%-95%																																	
Minimum	30	>80%-90%																																	
Unsatisfactory	20	>70%-80%																																	
Unacceptable	10	>0%-70%																																	
Unacceptable	0	0%																																	
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at >55%-60% of audits requested by NWCPO. It is considered that less than this level should be a baseline – as any less will not allow an acceptable level of assessment of national waste data quality to be made.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at >65%-70% of audits requested by NWCPO.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 20% within the waste theme as it contributes to the quality of national waste data.</p>																																		

These notes try to give the reader an understanding of why the indicator is important.

The name of the specific indicator within the enforcement area, e.g. Waste.

The indicator definition.

A description of what exactly is being measured.

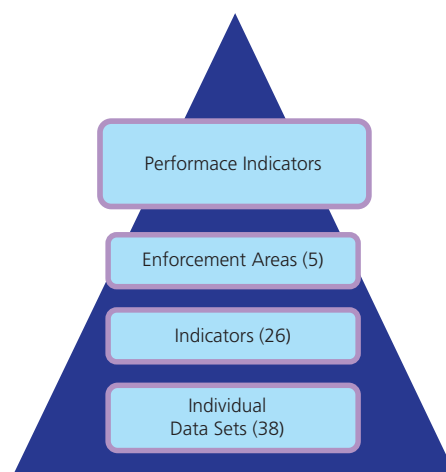
A Score or number of points is allocated to the indicator result based on reported data, with a corresponding description of the score in short form called a assessment. (e.g. "Target")

'Unacceptable - 0 points' assessment is included. This covers for example a situation where it is not considered fair that a 49% NWCPO score receives the same 10 points as a 0% score. So the additional '0 points' options is included to apply where no completion whatsoever of the relevant target has been reported.

An explanation of why the standards were set and how the indicator is weighed relative to others within the enforcement area.

Enforcement Area 1: Enforcement Systems

Enforcement Areas	
1	Enforcement Systems
2	Waste
3	Water
4	Producer Responsibility Initiatives
5	Air



Introduction

This enforcement area examines strategic issues within the management and enforcement of environmental law by local authorities. It looks at the designation of appropriate contacts between EPA and local authorities, evaluation of their RMCEI/Enforcement plans and enforcement actions taken by EPA against local authorities. While involvement in RMCEI/Enforcement Planning is largely a cooperative effort between EPA and local authorities, there is a requirement based on a circular¹ to carry out this planning.

In this circular letter (Circular EPS 09/02), the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG) stated that “*A consistent approach to implementation of the Recommendation is desirable*” and that the EPA had been asked to co-ordinate the preparation of guidance for local authorities on its implementation. The circular letter further directed local authorities to develop RMCEI plans for their functional areas (based on the guidance from the EPA); report on inspections in line with the Recommendation and to prepare, where needed, returns on their inspections to facilitate the compilation of national reports for submission to the European Commission.

¹ Circular EPS 09/02

Complaints & RMCEI Contacts - Background:

As members of NIECE ² all local authorities agree to maintain a designated contact person as an 'RMCEI Co-ordinator' and also an 'Environmental Complaints Co-ordinator'.

The main functions of the '**RMCEI Coordinator**' role are as follows:

- ▲ be the point of contact between the Agency and the Local Authority;
- ▲ assist in the driving of the ethos of inspection planning within the local authority
- ▲ coordinate the input from varying groups within the local authority e.g. from different directorates or teams
- ▲ ensure the plan is monitored and reported on, on a regular basis.

The '**Environmental Complaints Coordinator**' is a distinct role and acts a specific contact between the EPA and local authorities in the handling and coordination of responses to environmental complaints.

The main functions of the 'Environmental Complaints Co-ordinator' role are as follows:

- ▲ assist in effective complaint coordination;
- ▲ be the point of contact/link between the Agency and the Local Authority;
- ▲ assist in the driving of continuous improvement within local authorities relating to complaint handling.

These positions are strategically important to effective enforcement for both the local authority and EPA and as such are included as performance indicators.

Performance Indicator 1.1 & 1.2: Complaints & RMCEI Contact assigned		
Criterion:	This looks at whether a Complaints and an RMCEI Contact person are assigned in the local authority.	
Units of measurement:	A designated person is assigned in the local authority.	
Assessment	Assessment	Points
	RMCEI & Complaint Contact assigned?	
	Target	30
	Unacceptable	0
Assessment rationale:	<p>Unsatisfactory: A designated person is not assigned.</p> <p>Target: A designated person is assigned.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of each of these parameters is 8% (16% total) within the Enforcement systems theme as it is considered important to have such contacts assigned.</p>	

² Network for Ireland's Environmental Compliance and Enforcement

RMCEI 2015 Plan Evaluation - Background

The purpose of **RMCEI - Enforcement Planning & Implementation** is to improve the organisation and effectiveness of environmental inspections and enforcement. The Office of Environmental Enforcement (OEE), through NIECE, co-ordinates and provides guidance to local authorities on the implementation of RMCEI/Enforcement Planning. This is based on an EU Recommendation which requires that authorities, with responsibility for regulating activities subject to permitting or licensing, undertake their inspection duties in accordance with the Recommendation.

The key requirements of the Recommendation are that an authority;

- ▲ Produce an environmental inspection plan;
- ▲ Do inspections of regulated installations in implementation of the plan; and,
- ▲ Review and report on those site inspections.

RMCEI plans are risk based, implemented in all local authorities and contain local authority priorities, which are linked to the national priorities agreed between local authorities, the EPA and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG). Along with enforcement planning, an integral part of RMCEI is reporting on enforcement activities (See performance indicator below). The EPA recommend that all environmental inspections and associated activities carried out by a local authority should be encompassed within the scope of their inspection plan under RMCEI to provide for consistency in regulation locally and nationally and for efficiency.

These plans are considered a vital part of local authorities' enforcement strategy on an ongoing basis and are assessed and evaluated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) annually. These evaluations focus mainly on three areas:

1. Adequate highlighting of environmental priorities
2. Enforcement Resourcing & Plan Review
3. Development of environmental outcomes

The assessment mechanism outlined below is based on this assessment of these three principal areas.

Performance Indicator 1.3: RMCEI/Enforcement Plan 2015 evaluation																																
Criterion:	This looks at the rating assigned to the 2015 RMCEI Plan.																															
Units of measurement:	A 0-17 rating is possible based on scoring for the 3 main areas of Environmental Priorities, Environmental Outcomes, and Enforcement Resourcing & Plan Review.																															
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>RMCEI Plan 2015 evaluation</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>11-12</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>8-9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><8</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	RMCEI Plan 2015 evaluation	Exceptional	90	17	Outstanding	80	16	Excellent	70	15	Above Target	60	14	Target	50	13	Below Target	40	11-12	Minimum	30	10	Unsatisfactory	20	8-9	Unacceptable	10	<8
Assessment	Points	RMCEI Plan 2015 evaluation																														
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Below Target	40	11-12																														
Minimum	30	10																														
Unsatisfactory	20	8-9																														
Unacceptable	10	<8																														
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: 10 points assigned or greater – indicates a reasonable plan in the three main areas identified – but shortcomings noted.</p> <p>Target: 13 points assigned or greater – indicates a broadly good plan in the three main areas identified – with no poor areas noted</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 25% within the Enforcement systems theme as it is considered very important as a single measure of enforcement.</p>																															

RMCEI Plan & Annual Statistical submission - Background:

The purpose of **RMCEI - Enforcement Planning & Implementation** is outlined above. The performance indicators below look at the timeliness of submission of the plan, along with the Annual statistical returns to the EPA.

The Annual statistical returns are an important source of national enforcement data compiled by all local authorities and utilised at a national level in policy setting, national and international reporting and assessment of progress in the enforcement area. Its timely submission by all local authorities is important to allow a full data set to be created which can then inform decisions nationally. It includes such data as:

- ▲ Number of inspections carried out
- ▲ Number of enforcement actions carried out
- ▲ Court cases taken
- ▲ Staff resource information
- ▲ Number of various environmental permits in force etc.

A significant part of this local authority Performance Tool is based on the data submitted through this route.

Performance Indicator 1.4 & 1.5: RMCEI/Enforcement Plan & Annual Statistical returns -submission dates																																			
Criterion:	This looks at the timeliness in receipt of both the RMCEI Plan and Annual statistical returns.																																		
Units of measurement:	The number of days early or late – or on time as the case may be.																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>RMCEI Plan/Statistical returns submission – Number of days late</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>-7 or earlier</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>-6 to +7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>+8 to 15</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>+16 to 21</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>+22 to 28</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>+29 to 59</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>+60</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	RMCEI Plan/Statistical returns submission – Number of days late	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	-7 or earlier	Target	50	-6 to +7	Below Target	40	+8 to 15	Minimum	30	+16 to 21	Unsatisfactory	20	+22 to 28	Unacceptable	10	+29 to 59	Unacceptable	0	+60
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Unacceptable	0	+60																																	
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: 16-21 days late is considered the minimum that allows EPA to adequately use the data submitted.</p> <p>Target: 1 week early to 1 week late is considered a benchmark which will fully allow use of the data in a timely fashion by the Agency.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 10% each (20% total) within the Enforcement systems theme as it is considered quite important to have such data/reports submitted in a timely manner.</p>																																		

Sections 63 Notices & Directions issued – Background:

Section 63 of the EPA Act allows the EPA to investigate the performance of statutory functions in relation to environmental protection by local authorities. In cases where issues have not been investigated or dealt with adequately the EPA may decide to issue a notice to request a report from the authority, or go further and issue a formal direction. In the majority of cases these powers are not required to be used however occasionally they are needed to progress the resolution of certain issues. 'Section 63 Directions' issue less frequently than 'Section 63 Notices'.³

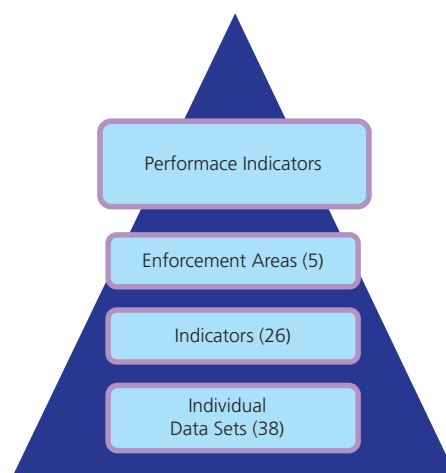
Performance Indicator 1.6: Number of complaint files with Section 63 notices ³ issued																																	
Criterion:	This looks at the number of Sections 63 notices issued to each local authority.																																
Units of measurement:	The number of Sections 63 notices issued.																																
Assessment:	<table><tr><th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>No. S63(1) or 3(a) issued</th></tr><tr><td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>>3</td></tr></table>			Assessment	Points	No. S63(1) or 3(a) issued	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	-	Target	50	0	Below Target	40	1	Minimum	30	2	Unsatisfactory	20	3	Unacceptable	10	>3
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Below Target	40	1																															
Minimum	30	2																															
Unsatisfactory	20	3																															
Unacceptable	10	>3																															
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: Two S63 notices issued is considered a baseline.</p> <p>Target: Zero S63 notices issues is considered the target to reach.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 19% within the Enforcement systems theme as it is considered an important general indicator.</p>																																

Performance Indicator 1.7: Number of Sections 63 Directions issued to local authority																																	
Criterion:	This looks at the number of Sections 63 Directions issued to each local authority.																																
Units of measurement:	The number of Sections 63 Directions issued.																																
Assessment:	<table><tr><th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>No. Directions Issued</th></tr><tr><td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>-</td></tr><tr><td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>>2</td></tr></table>			Assessment	Points	No. Directions Issued	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	-	Target	50	0	Below Target	40	-	Minimum	30	1	Unsatisfactory	20	2	Unacceptable	10	>2
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Below Target	40	-																															
Minimum	30	1																															
Unsatisfactory	20	2																															
Unacceptable	10	>2																															
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: One S63 Direction issued is considered a baseline.</p> <p>Target: Zero S63 Directions issued is considered the target to reach.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 20% within the Enforcement systems theme as it is considered a very important general indicator.</p>																																

³ S63(1) and/or S63(3)(a) of EPA Act

Enforcement Area 2: Waste

Enforcement Areas	
1	Enforcement Systems
2	Waste
3	Water
4	Producer Responsibility Initiatives
5	Air



Waste Inspections (Planned/routine only)-Background

The Waste Framework Directive sets out the management regime applicable to waste and is enshrined in Irish law principally by the Waste Management Act. Irish waste policy is set out in A Resource Opportunity (July 2012). Local authority enforcement plays a vital role in the enforcement of waste legislation. The aims of national policy which relate directly to local authority enforcement activities include ensuring:

- ▲ waste is recovered or disposed of without causing risks to human health and the environment.
- ▲ the abandonment or uncontrolled disposal of waste is prohibited
- ▲ a system of permits/registration for all involved in collecting, disposing of recovering waste is in place.
- ▲ all those involved keep a record of all the details of their operations (the quantity, nature and origin of the waste) and are subject to periodic inspections
- ▲ the costs of waste management are borne by the waste producer in line with polluter pays.

The inspections included in performance indicator 2(i) are inspections of the regulated waste community, as listed in the table below, but exclude litter patrols, food and tyre inspections (included elsewhere) and pre-shipment inspections of TFS loads (low numbers and by request, so unplanned).

Range of waste inspections	
▲ Waste Permitted Facilities	▲ Inspections of Cert of Registration sites
▲ Vehicle Checkpoints	▲ Inspections of waste collection permit holders
▲ Multi-Agency inspections/Joint Inspections	▲ ECJ sites Inspections/Sites under Reasoned Opinion from EU
▲ Registration of Sewage Sludge Facility inspections	▲ C&D handling inspections at development sites (e.g. Waste Mgt. Plans)
▲ Hazardous waste sectoral inspections	▲ Prohibition of Waste Disposal by Burning Inspections

Local authorities also carry out very significant enforcement efforts in dealing with non-routine issues such as waste related complaints/incidents (e.g. diesel fuel laundering), along with Producer responsibility inspections (e.g. packaging, etc.) which are dealt with in performance indicator PRI, (Enforcement Area 4).

Note: An environmental inspection is defined under the RMCEI, and it should be remembered that an environmental inspection encompasses a range of activities - not only site visits. It includes for example site visits, verifying operator self-monitoring, and monitoring the achievement of emission limit values as set out in a permit. This should be considered when planning and reporting on numbers of inspections.

Performance Indicator 2.1: Waste – Waste Inspection Completion																																			
Criterion:	This compares the number of waste inspections planned with the number completed as reported in RMCEI annual statistical returns. It excludes litter patrols, food and tyre inspections (included elsewhere) and Pre-shipment inspections of TFS loads.																																		
Units of measurement:	The number of waste inspections carried out, versus those completed as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistics.																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Waste Inspections Completion %</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>>100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>>80%-100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>>60%-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>>40%-60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>>20% -40%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Waste Inspections Completion %	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	>100%	Target	50	>80%-100%	Below Target	40	>60%-80%	Minimum	30	>40%-60%	Unsatisfactory	20	>20% -40%	Unacceptable	10	<20%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Unacceptable	10	<20%																																	
Unacceptable	0	0%																																	
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at >40%-60% of planned waste inspections. As the target set is risk-based, and founded on the local requirements as considered by the local authority in their RMCEI/Enforcement plan – it is considered that achieving close to this level should be a minimum.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at <80%-100% of planned level of waste inspections. Achieving the target set by the local authority is considered to be a benchmark of good progress.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 30% within the waste theme as it is considered a very important area of influence for local authority waste enforcement.</p>																																		

Litter Enforcement - Background

Litter pollution is a threat to the quality of Ireland's environment. The Litter Pollution Acts 1997 to 2009 provide the statutory framework to combat litter in Ireland. Under the acts, the primary management and enforcement response to litter is from the local authorities. It is a matter for each authority to investigate individual instances of littering and to take the appropriate enforcement and clean up actions.

While local authorities are involved in many Anti-Litter Awareness Initiatives, nevertheless enforcement of litter laws through inspections is a vital part of the response to this issue. As such litter inspections are examined below as part of the waste enforcement area.

Performance Indicator 2.2: Waste – Litter Inspection																																			
Criterion:	This compares the number of litter inspections planned with the number completed as reported in RMCEI annual statistical returns.																																		
Units of measurement:	The number of litter inspections carried out, versus those completed as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistics.																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Litter Inspection Completion</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>> 100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>>80%-100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>>60%-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>>40%-60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>>20%-40%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Litter Inspection Completion	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	> 100%	Target	50	>80%-100%	Below Target	40	>60%-80%	Minimum	30	>40%-60%	Unsatisfactory	20	>20%-40%	Unacceptable	10	<20%	Unacceptable	0	0%
Assessment	Points	Litter Inspection Completion																																	
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Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at >40%-60% of planned waste inspections. As the target set is risk-based, and founded on the local requirements as considered by the local authority in their RMCEI/Enforcement plan – it is considered that achieving close to this level should be a minimum.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at >80%-100% of planned level of litter inspections. Achieving the target set by the local authority is considered to be a benchmark of good progress.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 21.6% within the waste theme as it is considered a relatively important area of influence for local authority waste enforcement.</p>																																		

Note: Litter patrol/inspections are a difficult type of inspection to count, as there are a variety of mechanisms for organising these inspections. The current definition for a litter patrol is “a two hour patrol by a litter or community warden for the purpose of implementing the Litter Management Act”. If the norm within a local authority is to carry out three-hour patrols these should be counted as 1.5 litter patrols. The number reported should also include litter quantification surveys.

EPA Licence Compliance - Background

Certain local authority facilities are required to hold waste licences from the EPA (which can be found on the EPA website⁴). This is due to the polluting potential from such facilities which consists mainly of landfills or integrated waste management facilities and waste transfer stations.

Non-compliances, complaints, incidents and investigations⁵ recorded by the EPA against each licensed site are each considered – however, these vary in level of significance. This is reflected in how these individual items are considered under this indicator. For example one compliance investigation (which could cover a number of related issues) is more significant than a single complaint or incident.

Performance Indicator 2.3: Waste – EPA Waste Licences Score																																
Criterion:	This sums the total of the enforcement record of local authority waste sites that are EPA Licensed.																															
Units of measurement:	It counts all non-compliances, complaints, incidents and compliance investigations recorded by the EPA against each licensed site and sum them to a single number for each waste licence. All of these numbers are then totalled for each local authority.																															
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Waste Licences Score</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>>0-9</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>10-<20</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>20<30</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>30-<40</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>40-<50</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>50-<60</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>60-<70</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>70-</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Waste Licences Score	Exceptional	90	0	Outstanding	80	>0-9	Excellent	70	10-<20	Above Target	60	20<30	Target	50	30-<40	Below Target	40	40-<50	Minimum	30	50-<60	Unsatisfactory	20	60-<70	Unacceptable	10	70-
Assessment	Points	Waste Licences Score																														
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Below Target	40	40-<50																														
Minimum	30	50-<60																														
Unsatisfactory	20	60-<70																														
Unacceptable	10	70-																														
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: A score of 30-40 points is considered baseline. This equates to for example more than one high and medium compliance investigation, coupled with a number of incidents/non-compliances for more than one licensed site.</p> <p>Target: A score of 50-60 points is considered target. This equates to for example a high and medium compliance investigation coupled with a number of incidents for a single licensed site or lesser numbers across a number of licensed sites.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 16.6% within the waste theme as it is considered a somewhat important area, directly under the control of local authorities.</p>																															

⁴ www.epa.ie/terminalfour/waste/

⁵ Also known as 'compliance investigations': where EPA investigates an issue which may be at the root of complaints, incidents and/or non-compliances

Waste Collection Permit Enforcement - Background

The National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO – within Offaly County Council) manages the waste collection permit system in the Republic of Ireland. In addition this office manages waste data and each waste collection permit holder is required to submit a return annually detailing their waste activity. This is an important source of waste data particularly at a regional and national level for determining policy, waste management planning and ensuring environmentally sound management and transfer of waste.

Local authority enforcement in this area is very important and more specifically each local authority is required to carry out a number of data verification audits of waste collection permit holders data returns. This is to ensure that the quality of the data being reported nationally to the NWCPO is good. This performance indicator looks at the completion rates of these audits by local authorities.

Performance Indicator 2.4: Waste – NWCPO Audit completion %				
Criterion:	This compares the amounts of data verifications audits completed by the local authority as reported to the NWCPO – against the number requested to be carried out by the NWCPO.			
Units of measurement:	It is measured as %-completion of the target requested by the NWCPO			
Assessment:	Assessment		Points	NWCPO Score
	Exceptional		90	-
	Outstanding		80	-
	Excellent		70	-
	Above Target		60	100%
	Target		50	>95%-99%
	Below Target		40	>90%-95%
	Minimum		30	>80%-90%
	Unsatisfactory		20	>70%-80%
	Unacceptable		10	<0%-70%
Unacceptable		0	0%	
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at >80%-90% of audits requested by NWCPO. It is considered that less than this level should be a baseline – as any less will not allow an acceptable level of assessment of national waste data quality to be made.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at >95%-99% of audits requested by NWCPO.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 20% within the waste theme as it contributes to the quality of national waste data.</p>			

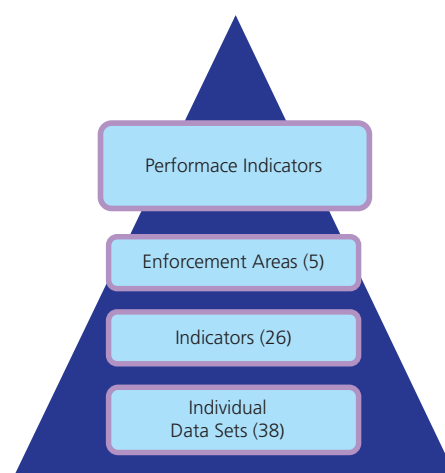
Waste Data Survey Reporting - Background

This indicator is concerned with the quality of nationally collected waste data and is similar to performance indicator 2.4 above. However, in this case it examines the data being submitted directly from local authority to EPA. This data consists of information on waste quantities and types collected by a local authority at civic amenity sites, bring banks, certificate of registration sites (i.e. construction & demolition waste), end of life vehicles and certain packaging information (self-compliers). The timeliness of submission and response to queries in order to ensure its accuracy is very important and as such a score is assigned which reflects this.

Performance Indicator 2.5: Waste – EPA National Waste Survey Returns																																
Criterion:	This looks at the timeliness of returning waste data to the EPA, along with the responsiveness to queries after submission of the data.																															
Units of measurement:	<p>In the first instance, it assesses whether the returns were on time, >2 weeks or >4 weeks late.</p> <p>Secondly, it also assesses responsiveness into 4 levels (from very responsive to non-responsive). These factors are given points that are then combined to give a final score for the indicator.</p>																															
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>EPA Nat Waste Returns Score</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>9</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	EPA Nat Waste Returns Score	Exceptional	90	1	Outstanding	80	2	Excellent	70	3	Above Target	60	4	Target	50	5	Below Target	40	6	Minimum	30	7	Unsatisfactory	20	8	Unacceptable	10	9
Assessment	Points	EPA Nat Waste Returns Score																														
Exceptional	90	1																														
Outstanding	80	2																														
Excellent	70	3																														
Above Target	60	4																														
Target	50	5																														
Below Target	40	6																														
Minimum	30	7																														
Unsatisfactory	20	8																														
Unacceptable	10	9																														
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is a score of 7 which for example could equate to being late with data but with good responsiveness.</p> <p>Target: The target score is 5, which for example could equate to: being on time with data, but slight slowness in response.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 11.6% within the waste theme as it contributes to the quality of national waste data.</p>																															

Enforcement Area 3: Water

Enforcement Areas	
1	Enforcement Systems
2	Waste
3	Water
4	Producer Responsibility Initiatives
5	Air



Water Framework Directive Investigative Assessments – Background

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) includes Investigative Monitoring requirements for situations:

- ▲ where the reason for any exceedances is unknown;
- ▲ where surveillance monitoring indicates that the objectives set under Article 4 for a body of water are not likely to be achieved and operational monitoring has not already been established, in order to ascertain the causes of a water body or water bodies failing to achieve the environmental objectives; or
- ▲ to ascertain the magnitude and impacts of accidental pollution;
- ▲ and shall inform the establishment of a programme of measures for the achievement of the environmental objectives and specific measures necessary to remedy the effects of accidental pollution.

The Investigative Monitoring Programme contains screening and risk assessment methods that will assist in focussing Programme of Measures (POMs) and in pinpointing pollution sources to more accurately positioning primary monitoring sites for the definition of status. Investigative monitoring can include biological sampling and Small Stream Risk Scoring (SSRS), catchment studies and “river walks”, remote sensing and imagery, and other relevant assessment methods.

Performance indicator 3.1: Water Framework Directive Investigative Assessments																																			
Criterion:	Compares the number of WFD investigative assessments/monitoring completed by the local authority against the number planned to be carried out in the reporting year (data obtained from RMCEI returns)																																		
Units of measurement:	Percentage completion of planned inspections																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>WFD Investigative Assessments % inspections planned/completed</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>100%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>95% - <100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>90% - 94%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>85% - 89%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>81% - 84%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>1% - 80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	WFD Investigative Assessments % inspections planned/completed	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	100%+	Target	50	95% - <100%	Below Target	40	90% - 94%	Minimum	30	85% - 89%	Unsatisfactory	20	81% - 84%	Unacceptable	10	1% - 80%	Unacceptable	0	0%
Assessment	Points	WFD Investigative Assessments % inspections planned/completed																																	
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Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: As this is based on conscientious planning of a national priority, a completion rate of between 85% and 89% is considered minimum.</p> <p>Target: Meeting the planned inspection number, between 95% and 99%, is considered "Target".</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 25% of the total Water Performance Indicator assessment, given that WFD assessment and implementation is a national enforcement priority.</p>																																		

Farm Inspections & Enforcement - Background:

The objective of the *Council Directive 91/676/EEC* (Nitrates Directive) is to reduce and prevent water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources. Implementation of the Nitrates Directive and the associated *European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (GAP) (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)* are regarded as one of the 'basic measures' required by Article 11 of the *Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC)*, providing an emission-oriented approach to the protection of water. Thus the successful implementation of the GAP Regulations and the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 as amended, are essential for the achievement of the objectives of maintaining and restoring water quality status set out in the WFD. Enforcement through cross-reporting of non-compliances to the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine (DAFM) for single farm payment (SFP) penalties is a national enforcement priority for Ireland.

Performance indicator 3.2: Farm Inspections & Enforcement																																			
Criterion:	Compares the number of farm inspections completed by the local authority against the number planned to be carried out in the reporting year (data obtained from the Agriculture & Water Quality Working Group and RMCEI returns)																																		
Units of measurement:	Percentage completion of planned inspections																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Farm Inspections % farm inspections planned/completed</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>100%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>95%-99%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>90%-94%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>85%-89%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>80%-84%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>>0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Farm Inspections % farm inspections planned/completed	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	100%+	Target	50	95%-99%	Below Target	40	90%-94%	Minimum	30	85%-89%	Unsatisfactory	20	80%-84%	Unacceptable	10	>0%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Unacceptable	0	0%																																	
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: As this is based on conscientious planning of a national priority, a completion rate of between 85% and 89% is considered minimum.</p> <p>Target: Meeting the planned inspection number, between 95% and 99%, is considered "Target".</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 15% of the total Water Performance Indicator assessment, given that farm inspections are a national enforcement priority.</p>																																		

Performance indicator 3.3: Farm non-compliances cross reported to DAFM																																			
Criterion:	Compares the number of farm non-compliances cross reported by the local authority to DAFM against the total number of non-compliances discovered in the reporting year (data obtained from the Agriculture & Water Quality Working Group)																																		
Units of measurement:	Percentage of non-compliances cross reported to DAFM																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>GAP % of non-compliances cross reported to DAFM</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>80%-100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>60%-79%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>40%-59%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>20%-39%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td>1%-19%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	GAP % of non-compliances cross reported to DAFM	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	-	Target	50	80%-100%	Below Target	40	60%-79%	Minimum	30	40%-59%	Unsatisfactory	20	20%-39%	Unacceptable	10	1%-19%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Minimum	30	40%-59%																																	
Unsatisfactory	20	20%-39%																																	
Unacceptable	10	1%-19%																																	
Unacceptable	0	0%																																	
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: Given the current low level of cross-reporting (approx. 15% of all non-compliances in 2014), a cross reporting rate of between 40% and 59% is considered the minimum. (This will be reviewed in subsequent reporting years).</p> <p>Target: Meeting the national requirement for cross reporting of 100%, i.e. between 80% and 100%, is considered "Target" (allows for 1-in-5 resolution via other means, subject to review in subsequent reporting years).</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 15% of the total Water Performance Indicator assessment given that cross reporting of farm non-compliances is a national enforcement priority.</p>																																		

Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems - Background:

The aim of the Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (DWWTs) National Inspection Plan (NIP) is to protect water and human health by using a two-strand approach of education and awareness strategies linked with a risk-based inspection process. This is an innovative approach which is in keeping with the current drive towards risk-based enforcement and compliance promotion across Europe.

Local authorities are responsible for the implementation of the Plan at a local level, i.e. for the delivery of the engagement strategies in the Plan and for carrying out inspections. This includes applying the criteria outlined by the EPA to select sites for inspection, carry out the inspection and undertake follow up enforcement action. Local authorities also maintain a public register of treatment systems within their functional area.

Performance Indicator 3.4: DWWTs % of NIP inspections completed																																
Criterion:	Compares the number of DWWTs inspections completed by the local authority against the number specified to be carried out in the National Inspection Plan (NIP) for the reporting year (data obtained from NIP reporting) ⁶																															
Units of measurement:	Percentage completion of NIP inspections																															
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>DWWTs % of non-compliances cross reported to DAFM</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>105%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>100%-104%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>95%-99%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>90%-94%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>80%-89%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><80%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	DWWTs % of non-compliances cross reported to DAFM	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	105%+	Target	50	100%-104%	Below Target	40	95%-99%	Minimum	30	90%-94%	Unsatisfactory	20	80%-89%	Unacceptable	10	<80%
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Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: As the NIP inspection number is a regulatory requirement for local authorities, a completion rate of between 90% and 94% is considered "baseline" satisfactory.</p> <p>Target: Meeting or slightly exceeding the NIP requirement, i.e. between 100% and 104%, is considered "Target".</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 10% of the total Water Performance Indicator assessment.</p>																															

⁶ The data used is for the first year of inspections – 1st July 2013 – 30th June 2014. In future years the reporting will be on a calendar basis – and targets will be assigned to each LA rather than to each county.

Section 4 Discharge Licences - Background:

Licensing of trade and sewage effluents is regulated under Section 4 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, as amended. The local authority is responsible for licensing and enforcement of discharge licences through inspection, monitoring, auditing and review. The enforcement and review of discharges licences is a key component of the regulation of water pollution and Water Framework Directive implementation.

Performance indicator 3.5: Section 4 Waste Discharge Licence inspections																																			
Criterion:	Compares the number of Section 4 inspections completed by the local authority against the number planned to be carried out in the reporting year (data obtained from RMCEI returns)																																		
Units of measurement:	Percentage completion of planned inspections																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Farm Inspections % farm inspections planned/completed</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>100%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>95%-99%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>90%-94%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>85%-89%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>80%-84%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Farm Inspections % farm inspections planned/completed	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	100%+	Target	50	95%-99%	Below Target	40	90%-94%	Minimum	30	85%-89%	Unsatisfactory	20	80%-84%	Unacceptable	10	<80%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Unacceptable	10	<80%																																	
Unacceptable	0	0%																																	
Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: As this is based on conscientious inspection planning, a completion rate of between 85% and 89% is considered minimum.</p> <p>Target: Meeting the planned inspection number, between 95% and 99%, is considered "Target".</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 25% of the total Water Performance Indicator assessment given that Section 4 licensing is the main regulatory function of local authorities for point source pollution.</p>																																		

Groundwater & Hydrometric Activities - Background

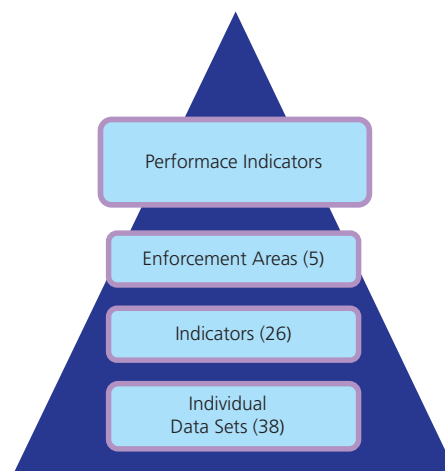
The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires the establishment of programmes of monitoring for groundwater. These programmes primarily focus on providing information that can be used to assess the environmental status of groundwater bodies but also provide information to assess whether the environmental objectives of the WFD are being met. In addition, the EPA is also required by the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992 as amended, to prepare a national programme for the collection, analysis and distribution of surface water quality data. These programmes are carried out with co-operation between multiple state agencies and the local authorities. The co-operation and implementation by local authorities in these programmes is assessed by this indicator.

Performance Indicator 3.6: Groundwater and Hydrometric Activities			
Criterion:	Examines local authority performance in five key areas of groundwater and hydrometric activities (data obtained from EPA)		
Units of measurement:	Good, adequate, poor or non-responsive performance		
Assessment:	Sub-Scoring		
	Cooperation and Communication: Score		
	Good	3	Contact person in place, good cooperation and responds to phone calls and emails.
	Adequate	2	Contact person and cooperation is adequate.
	Poor	1	Poor cooperation - response only after continued and persistent attempts to make contact
	Non Responsive	0	No engagement from LA - no designated contact person or no response.
	Sufficient Budget Allocated: Score		
	Good	3	Budget in place sufficient to meet the needs of the LA hydrometric programme
	Adequate	2	Budget in place but can be difficult to get sufficient funds to complete necessary work
	Poor	1	No budget in place and extremely difficult to get replacement equipment
	Non Responsive	0	No budget and no monies allocated for hydrometric work whatsoever
	H&S Completed: Score		
	Good	3	LA fully aware of its H&S responsibilities - all H&S work carried out and can be called upon to address any issues that arise
	Adequate	2	LA has carried out H&S work
	Poor	1	LA has carried out some H&S but still have outstanding work to be done
	Non Responsive	0	LA have not carried out any H&S work at active sites or abandoned stations

Performance Indicator 3.6: Groundwater and Hydrometric Activities contd.			
Assessment contd.:	Sub-Scoring contd.		
	Maintenance Programme in Place: Score		
	Good	3	LA is aware of its responsibility and has annual maintenance programme in place. All stations well maintained
	Adequate	2	LA has no maintenance programme in place but work is undertaken though often delayed.
	Poor	1	LA undertakes minimum maintenance after repeated requests for action
	Non Responsive	0	Stations are not maintained and are in poor condition
	Equipment replaced Score		
	Good	3	LA has budget available to regularly replace equipment if needed
	Adequate	2	LA will procure funds to replace equipment although there can be a delay and loss of data
	Poor	1	LA may eventually replace equipment delay can lead to major loss in data
	Non Responsive	0	LA refuse to replace equipment

Enforcement Area 4: Producer Responsibility Initiatives & Food Waste

Enforcement Areas	
1	Enforcement Systems
2	Waste
3	Water
4	Producer Responsibility Initiatives
5	Air



Introduction:

Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRIs) allow product producers to devise schemes that have the capacity to fulfil the basic objectives of waste management legislation without resort to a “command and control” approach. The principal PRIs in Ireland are in the areas of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), batteries, packaging, end-of-life vehicles (ELVs), tyres and farm plastics. For packaging waste, WEEE, batteries, tyres and farm plastics, producers in Ireland have developed a collective approach to meet general objectives which would otherwise be imposed by detailed regulatory requirements on individual producers.

The majority of these PRI schemes have operated very successfully and have enabled Ireland to reach our domestic and EU recycling targets. In 2011 Ireland had the 4th highest recycling rate for packaging in Europe, was among the top tier of European recyclers of agricultural plastic, collected nearly double the target quantity of WEEE and exceeded the collection targets for portable batteries. They have also successfully contributed to Ireland meeting our overall environmental goals and have diverted substantial amounts of waste from landfill⁷.

Local Authorities regulate the various schemes (inspections, data collections, enforcement measures, reporting to the EPA and DoEHLG) to ensure the producers are conforming to the legislation. Four schemes are included as performance indicators below. Other schemes which local authorities have some responsibility for enforcing are not included as planned and/or completed inspections data returns is very limited and insufficient for use as an indicator.

⁷ Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Main Report (Redacted) July 2014 entitled ‘Review of the Producer Responsibility Initiative Model in Ireland’ with link at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Environment/Waste/WasteManagement/FileDownload,34649,en.pdf>

Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)⁸ - Background:

Many everyday consumer items are electrical and electronic equipment (EEE), such as mobile phones, computers, drills, hairdryers, as well as industrial items such as medical devices, and laboratory equipment. When these items reach their end of life they are defined as **W**aste **E**lectrical and **E**lectronic **E**quipment (WEEE). Most electronic goods contain hazardous materials like heavy metals or batteries. These materials can cause serious environmental damage and are dangerous to human health. Recycling rather than dumping means valuable components can be used again in new products and there will be less mining of raw materials.

WEEE is one of the fastest growing waste streams in the developed world. Up to recently, a lot of WEEE was disposed of in landfill. Also, many electrical items are powered by batteries which can contain heavy metals (mercury, cadmium, lead), which are the main cause for environmental concern. Householders can return 'WEEE' such as fridges, video players, radios etc. free of charge either to the shop (new-for-old) or to a Local Authority Recycling Centre.

The minimum recovery targets for WEEE are set out in Schedule 10 of the European Union (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations 2014 and based on various classes of WEEE. While Ireland has met previous targets, the targets for 2016 to 2018 and beyond are more stringent and require an improved effort on behalf of the local authorities to achieve this.

Performance Indicator 4.1: Producer Responsibility PRI - Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)																																			
Criterion:	This compares the number of WEE inspections completed by the local authority as reported in the RMCEI returns – against the number planned to be carried out.																																		
Units of measurement:	It is measured as %-completion - the completed inspections vs planned according to RMCEI return for the local authority.																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>WEE</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>110%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>90% - <110%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>70% - <90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>50% - <70%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>30% - <50%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><30%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	WEE	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	110%+	Target	50	90% - <110%	Below Target	40	70% - <90%	Minimum	30	50% - <70%	Unsatisfactory	20	30% - <50%	Unacceptable	10	<30%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at 50%-70% of visits.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at 90%-110% of visits as reported in the RMCEI return by the local authority.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 15% within the PRI theme as its considered an established area with a (relatively) less central role for local authorities.</p>																																		

8 EU Directive 2002/96/EC, The European Union (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) Regulations 2014.

Tyres - Background:

The Department of Environment Community and Local Government is currently negotiating the introduction of a single compliance scheme to ensure the proper management of end of life tyres under a producer responsibility initiative with the main stakeholders in the Irish tyre industry. This is necessary due to the lack of consistent and accurate data on tyres placed on the market, including waste tyres and it is difficult to monitor the performance of the existing PRI.

It is intended that the new scheme will be introduced under regulation and will include enforcement and compliance measures. In the meantime it is important that local authorities continue to actively enforce the current Tyre and Waste Tyre Regulations.

Performance Indicator 4.2: Producer Responsibility PRI – Tyres Inspections																																			
Criterion:	This compares the number of PRI tyre inspections completed by the local authority as reported in the RMCEI returns against those planned to be carried out.																																		
Units of measurement:	It is measured as %-completion - the completed inspections vs planned according to RMCEI return for the local authority.																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Tyre Inspections</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>110%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>90% -<110%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>70% -<90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>50% -<70%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>30% -<50%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><30%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Tyre Inspections	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	110%+	Target	50	90% -<110%	Below Target	40	70% -<90%	Minimum	30	50% -<70%	Unsatisfactory	20	30% -<50%	Unacceptable	10	<30%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at >50%-70% of visits. It is considered that this level should be a baseline.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at >90%-110% of visits as reported in the RMCEI return by the local authority.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 30% within the PRI theme as it is considered a significant and developing area for local authorities.</p>																																		

Food Waste - Background:

While food waste is not subject of a PRI, it is deemed worthy of specific attention and therefore included in this section, given its significance as a priority waste stream. Food waste is produced in large quantities by every household (on average 16.6% of household waste arising) and in quantity by a number of commercial facilities (on average 31.3% of commercial waste arising) (RPS, 2009).

Food waste is a subset of biodegradable waste and there are specific targets for diversion of biodegradable waste from landfill in the Landfill Directive. The EPA (2013) has reported that the Republic of Ireland is achieving its current EU obligations but the achievement of 2013 and 2016 targets remains at risk.

Regulations⁹ which place obligations on waste collectors to provide a food waste collection service and obligations on the commercial sector and householders to segregate food waste and make it available for separate collection, are key to ensuring Ireland meets future Landfill Directive targets. The EPA (2013) indicated the 2009 Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations which place obligations on the commercial sector to segregate food waste have yet to result in appropriate behavioural change. An estimated 16% of food waste is recovered. There is therefore significant room for progress¹⁰.

Performance Indicator 4.3: Food Waste Inspections																																			
Criterion:	This compares the number of food waste inspections completed by the local authority as reported in the RMCEI returns – against those planned to be carried out.																																		
Units of measurement:	It is measured as %-completion - the completed inspections vs planned according to RMCEI return for the local authority.																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Food Waste</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>110%+</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>90% - <110%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>70% - <90%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>50% - <70%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>30% - <50%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><30%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Food Waste	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	110%+	Target	50	90% - <110%	Below Target	40	70% - <90%	Minimum	30	50% - <70%	Unsatisfactory	20	30% - <50%	Unacceptable	10	<30%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at 50%-70% of visits. It is considered this level should be a baseline – as any less will not allow an acceptable level of assessment of national waste data quality to be made.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at 90%-110% of visits as reported in the RMCEI return by the local authority.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 40% within the PRI theme as its considered a significant area for local authorities.</p>																																		

9 European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-Waste) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 71 of 2013)575 and Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 (S.I. No. 508 of 2009)576

10 Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Main Report (Redacted) July 2014 entitled 'Review of the Producer Responsibility Initiative Model in Ireland' with link at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Environment/Waste/WasteManagement/FileDownload,34649,en.pdf>

Batteries - Background

The Batteries Regulations¹¹ facilitate the collection, treatment and recycling of waste batteries and accumulators (rechargeable batteries). If waste batteries are not disposed of correctly, heavy metals may leak when the battery corrodes, and so can contribute to soil and water pollution and endanger human health.

The Regulations provide the public with free take back of all portable waste batteries and accumulators in-store and at designated locations.

This PRI serves to

- ▲ Reduce hazardous waste,
- ▲ Increase Resource efficiency,
- ▲ Reduction in energy use and greenhouse gases as less primary production

Ireland exceeded the EU collection target of 25% for portable batteries for September 2012. However an increase in the collection rate in Ireland will be required to achieve the EU collection target of 45% for portable batteries set for September 2016, which will be challenging given the short timeframe.¹²

Local authorities have an enforcement role in this area and as such it is included as a performance indicator.

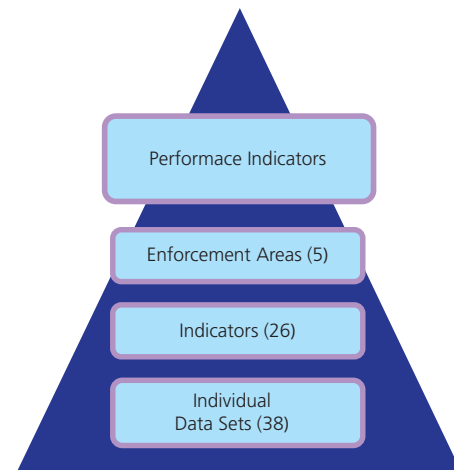
Performance Indicator 4.4: Producer Responsibility (PRI) – Battery Inspections																																			
Criterion:	This compares the number of battery inspections completed by the local authority as reported in the RMCEI returns – against those planned to be carried out.																																		
Units of measurement:	It is measured as %-completion - the completed inspections vs planned according to RMCEI return for the local authority.																																		
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Assessment rationale:	<p>Minimum: The baseline is set at >50%-70% of visits. It is considered that less than this level should be a baseline – as any less will not allow a an acceptable level of assessment of national waste data quality to be made.</p> <p>Target: The target is set at >90%-110% of visits as reported in the RMCEI return by the local authority.</p> <p>Weighting: The weighting of this parameter is 15% in PRI, as it's considered an established area with a (relatively) less central role for local authorities.</p>																																		

¹¹ the Waste Management (Batteries and Accumulators) Regulations 2008 as amended.

¹² Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Main Report (Redacted) July 2014 entitled 'Review of the Producer Responsibility Initiative Model in Ireland' with link at <http://www.environ.ie/en/Publications/Environment/Waste/WasteManagement/FileDownload,34649,en.pdf>

Enforcement Area 5: Air

Enforcement Areas	
1	Enforcement Systems
2	Waste
3	Water
4	Producer Responsibility Initiatives
5	Air



Deco Paint and Solvent Regulations Enforcement - Background

The Decorative Paints Directive (Directive 2004/42/EC), and Solvents Directive (1999/13/EC) limit the volatile organic compounds (VOC) content of widely used paint products and how such solvents are used (e.g. in dry cleaners). VOCs pose a risk to health and the environment. Motor factors, vehicle refinishers, paints suppliers and dry cleaners are the main groups that are controlled under these regulations.

A local authority's main enforcement role in this area is to issue certificates to compliant users, and to pursue non-registered or non-compliant users. The number of completed inspections by local authorities is used as an indicator in this sense.

Performance Indicator 5.1: Air – Inspections ¹³ of sites - Decorative Paints Regulations																																			
Criterion:	This compares the number of Deco Paints inspections planned with the number completed as reported in RMCEI annual statistical returns.																																		
Units of measurement:	The number of deco paints inspections planned, versus those completed as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistics.																																		
Assessment:	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Inspections of sites under Deco Paints</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>> 100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>>80%-100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>>60%-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>>40%-60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>>20%-40%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Inspections of sites under Deco Paints	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	> 100%	Target	50	>80%-100%	Below Target	40	>60%-80%	Minimum	30	>40%-60%	Unsatisfactory	20	>20%-40%	Unacceptable	10	<20%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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13 Reviews of AIC (**Accredited Inspection Contractor**) reports/certificates for those who have registered are considered an inspection. However, this should not include inspections carried out on behalf of licenced facilities by AICs (Accredited Inspection Contractors) – only inspections carried out by or on behalf of the Local Authority

Performance indicator 5.2: Air – Inspections of sites - Solvent Regulations																																			
Criterion:	This looks at the number of 'Solvents Regulations' inspections carried out in 2014 as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistical returns.																																		
Units of measurement:	The number of 'Solvents Regulations' inspections planned, versus those completed as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistics.																																		
Assessment	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Inspections of sites under Solvents Regulations</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>> 100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>>80%-100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>>60%-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>>40%-60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>>20%-40%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Inspections of sites under Solvents Regulations	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	> 100%	Target	50	>80%-100%	Below Target	40	>60%-80%	Minimum	30	>40%-60%	Unsatisfactory	20	>20%-40%	Unacceptable	10	<20%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Note: Where Solvents inspections are 0 because there is no requirement for inspections to be done during the year in question (e.g. all AICs completed in 3 year cycle) then the score is adjusted to be 'On Target'. Local authorities must note this in annual statistical returns – otherwise an 'Unacceptable' grade will be assigned.

Petroleum Vapours Regulations - Background

These regulations¹⁴ put controls on petroleum vapour emissions resulting from the storage and distribution of petrol which is intended for use as fuel for motor vehicles. Facility owners and operators are obliged to ensure that their facility¹⁵ is designed and operated in accordance with these Regulations. All petrol station owners are required to engage the services of an independent approved assessor to carry out an assessment of the vapour recovery system at the service station. The local authority is the competent authority with responsibility for these regulations and this is often shared between the fire service and environmental section of the local authority.

Performance Indicator 5.3: Air–Inspections – Petroleum Vapours Regulations																																			
Criterion:	This looks at the number of 'Petroleum Vapour' inspections carried out as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistical returns.																																		
Units of measurement:	The number of 'Petroleum Vapour Regulations' inspections planned versus those completed as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistics.																																		
Assessment	<table> <tr> <th>Assessment</th><th>Points</th><th>Petroleum Vapour Regulations completion</th></tr> <tr> <td>Exceptional</td><td>90</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outstanding</td><td>80</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Excellent</td><td>70</td><td>-</td></tr> <tr> <td>Above Target</td><td>60</td><td>>100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Target</td><td>50</td><td>>80%-100%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Below Target</td><td>40</td><td>>60%-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Minimum</td><td>30</td><td>>40%-80%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unsatisfactory</td><td>20</td><td>>20%-40%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>10</td><td><20%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unacceptable</td><td>0</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table>		Assessment	Points	Petroleum Vapour Regulations completion	Exceptional	90	-	Outstanding	80	-	Excellent	70	-	Above Target	60	>100%	Target	50	>80%-100%	Below Target	40	>60%-80%	Minimum	30	>40%-80%	Unsatisfactory	20	>20%-40%	Unacceptable	10	<20%	Unacceptable	0	0%
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Note: The above targets are not differentiated per county or risk-based. This is due to the fact that many local authorities did not provide any data on planned inspections in these areas and therefore this method of including a risk-based aspect (i.e. % completion of planned inspections) could not be used.

¹⁴ The *Air Pollution Act, 1987*, (Petroleum Vapour Emissions) Regulations, 1997.

¹⁵ existing petrol storage installations, loading installations, service stations, mobile containers and terminals

Solid Fuels Regulations Enforcement - Background

These Regulations provide for the ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous fuel (or often referred to as the 'smoky coal ban'). They serve to limit emissions of particulates and SO_x in built up areas – which can cause significant health/respiratory problems particularly during winter weather conditions.

The main legislative provisions of the smoky coal ban are as follows:

- ▲ ban on marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous fuel inside specified ban areas;
- ▲ requirement to sell smokeless coal in sealed bags with a printed notice;
- ▲ restrictions on storage and transport of bituminous fuel inside ban areas.

The ban now applies in more than twenty five cities and towns¹⁶. Air quality monitoring by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has shown levels of particulate matter (PM10) are lower in these areas than in towns where the ban does not apply.

Local authorities may undertake inspections of premises and vehicles being used for the sale and distribution of solid fuel as well as collect samples. The effectiveness of the ban is ensured by sufficient enforcement – principally of distributors, bell-men and garages selling such products. It is an important factor in human health in designated areas and as such is included in the air indicator.

Performance Indicator 5.4: Air – Inspections of sites under Solid Fuel Regulations (Smoky Coal)																																			
Criterion:	This looks at the number of 'Smoky Coal' inspections carried out as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistical returns.																																		
Units of measurement:	The number of 'Smoky Coal' inspections planned versus those completed as reported in RMCEI Annual Statistics.																																		
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16 Not all local authorities have areas assigned within their boundaries.

Scoring Standards

These standards are intended to apply scoring consistency and fairness in data reported by local authorities.

The following terms mean:

“Data” – amounts of activity expressed in numbers reported by local authorities.

“Factual Data” – actual activity which has been or could have been carried out

“Planned Data” – activity that was or could have been planned or estimated in advance

“Activity” – usually numbers of inspections of various kinds

“Reported” – data reported by local authorities to the EPA

“Recorded” – a score attributed to data reported based on defined standards

“Score” – a number of points allocated to data reported by a local authority in accordance with defined standards

“Assessment” – a written description of a score in short form (e.g. “Target”) and long form (e.g. “This indicates good performance generally, and is considered to represent the standard to be reached”)

“Imputation” – a score attributed to a local authority where no data has been reported based on defined standards

“Weighting” – relative importance of an indicator or enforcement area expressed as a percentage out of 100%.

Standard 1: No Activity No Score

Where no factual data is reported by an local authority for activity that could and should have been carried out then a zero score will be recorded.

Standard 2: No Imputation for Factual Data.

Where no factual data is reported by a local authority for activity that could not have been carried out (e.g. farm inspections where no farms exist in that area or septic tank inspections where no septic tanks exist in that area), no score will be recorded and the local authority will be excluded when calculating the assessment for that indicator.

Standard 3: Fairness and Equity

In the interest of achieving fairness and equity for all local authorities in the scheme the following will apply:

- (a) Where Standard 2 applies the percentage weighting(s) attributed to the indicator(s) concerned will be redistributed among the remaining indicators so that the local authority(s) concerned may obtain an overall score comparable to all other local authorities.
- (b) Where no factual data is reported by a local authority for activity that could have, but has not been carried out for good reason or due to no fault or omission on the part of the local authority, a score will be imputed for that local authority based on the median score recorded for all local authorities who reported activity in the same period.

Standard 4: Imputation of Planned Activity

Where no planned data is reported then a score will be imputed based on the average (mean) score for all LAs who reported planned data in the same period compared to population size.

Note Regarding Standards for Using Imputation

Three conditions should be present to ensure that data imputation is implemented correctly: First, there should be relatively few missing data items to be replaced. Second, the replacement data is either a random draw from a collection of data on similar participants or is based on a complete draw of all such participants. Third, there are clear and consistent standards for applying these techniques which are clearly explained to those charged with understanding and reviewing the data. In Standard 4 above, these conditions have been met and the average (Mean) imputation method has been applied.

Removal of Higher Assessments in Certain Cases

The nine point scale for points and assessments applied throughout the Scorecard was designed to allow for a finely granulated assessment of performance. The higher assessments above 'Target' performance level were specifically introduced to incentivise and reward extra effort or acknowledge exceptional performance where this was possible and appropriate.

In the testing phase and following feedback from the focus group, it became clear that some potential might exist for assessments to be manipulated in certain cases. This arose where local authority performance is measured against planned targets with the percentage difference between the planned activity and the actual activity being used to assess performance. In most cases the target assessment is fixed at circa 100% of actual compared to planned activity. Significant percentage differences above 100% would result in very high scores and assessments being awarded though it would be difficult to determine if this was due to under planning or over performing. In the absence of agreed national standards for planning targets or the opportunity to link performance to objective measures (e.g. population density) the possibility could exist that a low planned target might be set and the resulting actual activity might then be inadvertently over rewarded. To maintain the credibility and integrity of the system it was decided to limit this possibility in a small number of indicators by removing the higher assessments above Target level.

Calculation of Performance Assessments for local authorities

Assessments are only allocated within the quadrant measuring performance of enforcement activities. This takes place at three levels: (1) the individual indicator, (2) the enforcement area and (3) the overall assessment for each local authority, as follows:

1. Individual Indicator: Each local authority is allocated a score (a number of points) for each indicator based on the scoring range and points specified for each indicator in Appendix 2.
2. Enforcement Area: All indicators within each enforcement area are allocated an appropriate percentage weighting (specified in Appendix 2 for each indicator), all of which total to 100% for the enforcement area. The scores achieved by local authorities under each indicator are adjusted by the percentage weightings and then totalled to give an overall enforcement score for each local authority. This enforcement score is then equated to a Assessment based on a composite scoring range for that enforcement area as specified in Appendix 2.
3. Overall Assessment for Each Local Authority: Each enforcement area is also allocated a weighting out of 100%. The enforcement scores for each local authority are adjusted by these weightings and totalled to give an overall score for each local authority. This overall score is then adjusted by a numerical factor based on Table 2 below to account for the staff capability of the local authority in the year under review. The final overall score is then equated to an overall Assessment based on an overall composite scoring range as specified in Appendix 2.

Calculation of National Efficiency Assessments

The calculation of national efficiency assessments are made up from the average (mean) of the weighted local authority scores for (a) each indicator, (b) each enforcement area, and (c) the overall local authority scores. These scores are converted to Assessments using the same composite scoring range applied to the local authorities. It is the best index to examine the resulting trend and the magnitude of how changes within each indicator contribute to the overall national picture. This is the principle index to determine trends.

For the baseline report (2014), this is omitted but will be considered for inclusion for future reports when more performance data is available and can be a more significant way of examining progress.

Adjustment for Staff Capacity

In determining a final score for local authority performance, it is important to take account of the resources available to the local authority to perform the enforcement functions described. Where staff capacity (full-time equivalents) is reduced this is accounted for by increasing the final score for each local authority by a factor linked to the percentage staff capacity in the year under review as shown in Table 2. Since the point interval in the overall score between each of the 9 assessments is 5 points, the points allowed for adjustment of the overall score are relatively modest so as not to unduly distort the final score. A local authority with 85% staff capacity (15% below full capacity) is not allowed any adjustment while an authority with 45% capacity or less (55% below full capacity or less) is allowed 4 points which is the maximum adjustment permitted.

% Staff Capacity	Additional Points to be Added to Final Score
45	4
55	3
65	2
75	1
85	0

Table 2: Adjustment Table for Staff Capacity

Scoring of Enforcement Areas and Overall Assessment

Because the range of points that can be awarded for each indicator as outlined above varies within each enforcement area it is necessary to apply a unique composite points range with equivalent assessments when arriving at a assessment for each enforcement area. Below are the points range and equivalent assessments for each of the 5 enforcement areas:

Enforcement Systems

Points Score	Composite Assessment
20	Unacceptable
25	Unsatisfactory
30	Minimum
35	Below Target
40	Target
45	Above Target
50	Excellent
55	Outstanding
60	Exceptional

Waste

Points Score	Composite Assessment
30	Unacceptable
35	Unsatisfactory
40	Minimum
45	Below Target
50	Target
55	Above Target
60	Excellent
65	Outstanding
70	Exceptional

Water

Points Score	Composite Assessment
22	Unacceptable
27	Unsatisfactory
32	Minimum
37	Below Target
42	Target
47	Above Target
52	Excellent
57	Outstanding
62	Exceptional

PRI

Points Score	Composite Assessment
20	Unacceptable
25	Unsatisfactory
30	Minimum
35	Below Target
40	Target
45	Above Target
50	Excellent
55	Outstanding
60	Exceptional

Air

Points Score	Composite Assessment
20	Unacceptable
25	Unsatisfactory
30	Minimum
35	Below Target
40	Target
45	Above Target
50	Excellent
55	Outstanding
60	Exceptional

Overall Assessment

Points Score	Composite Assessment
22	Unacceptable
27	Unsatisfactory
32	Minimum
37	Below Target
42	Target
47	Above Target
52	Excellent
57	Outstanding
62	Exceptional

Each enforcement area is also weighted to make up an overall local authority performance assessment – see Figure 1.

How is the overall score composed?

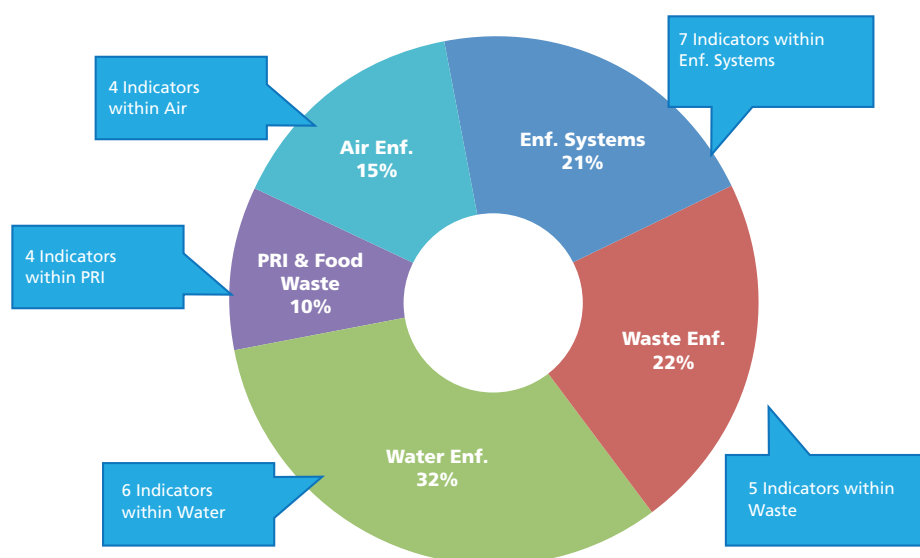


Figure 1: Weighting of Enforcement Areas

The indicators for water, waste and enforcement systems constitute the bulk of the final score based on their national importance, the significant amount of data reported by local authorities and their strategic importance in the national enforcement context. The view for now is taken that less data and less environmentally significant outcomes are directly under the control of the Local Authorities in the areas of PRI and Air, hence they have a lower weighting. This does not mean they are unimportant – they are still significant factors in the overall indicator.

AN GHNÍOMHAIREACHT UM CHAOMHNÚ COMHSHAOIL

Tá an Gníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (GCC) freagrach as an gcomhshaoil a chaomhnú agus a fheabhsú mar shócmhainn luachmhar do mhuintir na hÉireann. Táimid tiomanta do dhaoine agus don chomhshaoil a chosaint ó éifeachtaí díobhálacha na radaíochta agus an truaillithe.

Is féidir obair na Gníomhaireachta a roinnt ina trí phríomhréimse:

Rialú: Déanaimid córais éifeachtacha rialaithe agus comhlíonta comhshaoil a chur i bhfeidhm chun torthaí maíthe comhshaoil a sholáthar agus chun díriú orthu siúd nach gcloíonn leis na córais sin.

Eolas: Soláthraímid sonraí, faisnéis agus measúnú comhshaoil atá ar ardchaighdeán, spriocdhírithé agus tráthúil chun bonn eolais a chur faoin gcinnteoireacht ar gach leibhéal.

Tacaíocht: Bímid ag saothrú i gcomhar le grúpaí eile chun tacú le comhshaoil atá glan, táirgiúil agus cosanta go maith, agus le hiompar a chuirfidh le comhshaoil inbhuanaithe.

Ár bhFreagrachtaí

Ceadúnú

- Déanaimid na gníomhaíochtaí seo a leanas a rialú ionas nach ndéanann siad dochar do shláinte an phobail ná don chomhshaoil:
- saoráidí dramhaíola (*m.sh. láithreáin líonta talún, loisceoirí, stáisiúin aistrithe dramhaíola*);
- gníomhaíochtaí tionsclaíocha ar scála mór (*m.sh. déantúsaíocht cógaisíochta, déantúsaíocht stroighne, stáisiúin chumhachta*);
- an diantalmhaíocht (*m.sh. muca, éanlaith*);
- úsáid shrianta agus scaoileadh rialaithe Orgánach Géinmhodhnaithe (*OGM*);
- foinsí radaíochta ianúcháin (*m.sh. trealamh x-gha agus radaiteiripe, foinsí tionsclaíocha*);
- áiseanna móra stórála peitril;
- scardadh dramhuisce;
- gníomhaíochtaí dumpála ar farraige.

Forfheidhmiú Náisiúnta i leith Cúrsaí Comhshaoil

- Clár náisiúnta iniúchtaí agus cigireachtaí a dhéanamh gach bliain ar shaoráidí a bhfuil ceadúnas ón nGníomhaireacht acu.
- Maoirseacht a dhéanamh ar fhreagrachtaí cosanta comhshaoil na n-údarás áitiúil.
- Caighdeán an uisce óil, arna sholáthar ag soláthraithe uisce phoiblí, a mhaoirsiú.
- Obair le húdaráis áitiúla agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile chun dul i ngleic le coireanna comhshaoil trí chomhordú a dhéanamh ar líonra forfheidhmiúcháin náisiúnta, trí dhíriú ar chiontóirí, agus trí mhaoirsiú a dhéanamh ar leasúchán.
- Cur i bhfeidhm rialachán ar nós na Rialachán um Dhramhthrealamh Leictreach agus Leictreonach (DTLL), um Shrian ar Shubstaintí Guaiseacha agus na Rialachán um rialú ar shubstaintí a ídíonn an císeal ózón.
- An dlí a chur orthu siúd a bhriseann dlí an chomhshaoil agus a dhéanann dochar don chomhshaoil.

Bainistíocht Uisce

- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht aibhneacha, lochanna, uiscí idirchriosacha agus cósta na hÉireann, agus screamhuiscí; leibhéil uisce agus sruthanna aibhneacha a thomhas.
- Comhordú náisiúnta agus maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar an gCreat-Treoir Uisce.
- Monatóireacht agus tuairisciú a dhéanamh ar Cháilíocht an Uisce Snámha.

Monatóireacht, Anailís agus Tuairisciú ar an gComhshaoil

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir agus Treoir an AE maidir le hAer Glan don Eoraip (CAFÉ) a chur chun feidhme.
- Tuairisciú neamhspleách le cabhrú le cinnteoireacht an rialtais náisiúnta agus na n-údarás áitiúil (*m.sh. tuairisciú tréimhsiúil ar staid Chomhshaoil na hÉireann agus Tuarascálacha ar Tháscairí*).

Rialú Astaíochtaí na nGás Ceaptha Teasa in Éirinn

- Fardail agus réamh-mheastacháin na hÉireann maidir le gáis cheaptha teasa a ullmhú.
- An Treoir maidir le Trádáil Astaíochtaí a chur chun feidhme i gcomhair breis agus 100 de na táirgeoirí dé-ocsaíde carbóin is mó in Éirinn

Taighde agus Forbairt Comhshaoil

- Taighde comhshaoil a chistiú chun brúnna a shainaitheint, bonn eolais a chur faoi bheartais, agus réitigh a sholáthar i réimsí na haeráide, an uisce agus na hinbhuanaitheachta.

Measúnacht Straitéiseach Timpeallachta

- Measúnacht a dhéanamh ar thionchar pleananna agus clár beartaithe ar an gcomhshaoil in Éirinn (*m.sh. mórphleananna forbartha*).

Cosaint Raideolaíoch

- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar leibhéil radaíochta, measúnacht a dhéanamh ar nochtadh mhuintir na hÉireann don radaíocht ianúcháin.
- Cabhrú le pleananna náisiúnta a fhorbairt le haghaidh éigeandálaí ag eascairt as taismí núicléacha.
- Monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fhorbairtí thar lear a bhaineann le saoráidí núicléacha agus leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíochta.
- Sainseirbhísí cosanta ar an radaíocht a sholáthar, nó maoirsiú a dhéanamh ar sholáthar na seirbhísí sin.

Treoir, Faisnéis Inrochtana agus Oideachas

- Comhairle agus treoir a chur ar fáil d'earnáil na tionsclaíochta agus don phobal maidir le hábhair a bhaineann le caomhnú an chomhshaoil agus leis an gcosaint raideolaíoch.
- Faisnéis thráthúil ar an gcomhshaoil ar a bhfuil fáil éasca a chur ar fáil chun rannpháirtíocht an phobail a spreagadh sa chinnteoireacht i ndáil leis an gcomhshaoil (*m.sh. Timpeall an Tí, léarscáileanna radóin*).
- Comhairle a chur ar fáil don Rialtas maidir le hábhair a bhaineann leis an tsábháilteacht raideolaíoch agus le cúrsaí práinnfhreagartha.
- Plean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta Dramhaíola Guaisí a fhorbairt chun dramhaíl ghuaiseach a chosc agus a bhainistiú.

Múscailt Feasachta agus Athrú Iompraíochta

- Feasacht chomhshaoil níos fearr a ghiniúint agus dul i bhfeidhm ar athrú iompraíochta dearfach trí thacú le gnóthais, le pobail agus le teaghlaigh a bheith níos éifeachtúla ar acmhainní.
- Tástáil le haghaidh radóin a chur chun cinn i dtithe agus in ionaid oibre, agus gníomhartha leasúcháin a spreagadh nuair is gá.

Bainistíocht agus struchtúr na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil

Tá an ghníomhaíocht á bainistiú ag Bord lánaimseartha, ar a bhfuil Ard-Stiúrthóir agus cúigear Stiúrthóirí. Déantar an obair ar fud cúig cinn d'Oifigí:

- An Oifig Aeráide, Ceadúnaithe agus Úsáide Acmhainní
- An Oifig Forfheidhmithe i leith cúrsaí Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Measúnú Comhshaoil
- An Oifig um Cosaint Raideolaíoch
- An Oifig Cumarsáide agus Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá Coiste Comhairleach ag an nGníomhaireacht le cabhrú léi. Tá dáréag comhaltaí air agus tagann siad le chéile go rialta le plé a dhéanamh ar ábhair imní agus le comhairle a chur ar an mBord.



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