

**Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall**  
Fingal County  
Council





# **National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report for 2023**

**29<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

# Table of Contents


<b>Governance</b> .....	<b>3</b>
RMCEI Review & Reporting.....	3
Environmental Complaint Handling.....	4
<b>Water National Priorities</b> .....	<b>7</b>
Pressures from Agriculture (slurry/soiled water collection storage).....	7
Pressures from Agriculture (slurry and fertilizer spreading).....	8
Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks.....	10
Discharge Licences / Misconnections.....	13
Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring.....	16
<b>Waste National Priorities</b> .....	<b>19</b>
Tackling Significant Illegal Waste Activity & Multi-Agency Sites / Operators of concern.....	19
Construction and Demolition Activity.....	22
End-of Life Vehicles (ELV) & the Waste Metal sector.....	24
Waste Collection - Household & Commercial.....	26
Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRIs) and Local Priorities.....	29
<b>Air &amp; Noise National Priorities</b> .....	<b>32</b>
Solid Fuel Inspections.....	32
Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use.....	33
Environmental Noise Directive (END) Activities / Noise Plans.....	34
Air & Noise Controls in Planning: Assessments.....	35
Local Enforcement Issues.....	36

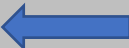
National Enforcement Priority: <b>GOVERNANCE - RMCEI Review &amp; Reporting</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The RMCEI Plan frequency of reviews should be bi-annual at a minimum. The review frequency and the outcomes should be included in the progress report.</li> <li>• RMCEI reviews should evaluate progress of NEPs and assess if planned inspection targets are on track.</li> <li>• RMCEI reviews should provide reasons for any deviation from targets, planned activities or objectives set out in the plan.</li> <li>• RMCEI reviews should be presented to the Director of Services/Senior Engineer/Senior Management/Environment Strategic Policy Committee at least once during the earlier part of the year, to facilitate plan review.</li> <li>• The RMCEI Plan, RMCEI Data Return and NEP Progress Report should be submitted to the EPA on schedule.</li> </ul>	<p>The RMCEI Plan 2023 was presented to Fingal County Council Environment Strategic Policy Committee on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2023, where the objectives of the plan, the national environmental enforcement priorities, the planned inspections and the resources allocated to the implementation of the plan were discussed with the SPC members. Topics raised for discussion by members included the End of Life Vehicles project, traceability of catalytic converters, illegal dumping, noise issues from gun clubs, enforcement of the household and commercial waste presentation bye-laws and bathing waters.</p> <p>Throughout the year, each section had regular team meetings where progress towards the objectives of the RMCEI plan were reviewed and discussed.</p> <p>In the Waste Enforcement Section meetings were held every 3 weeks where progress towards targets were presented by each officer along with any issues encountered. The meetings were documented in a progress report spreadsheet filled in for each meeting. A progress management tracker (PMT) spreadsheet was also used where inspection targets from the RMCEI plan were listed and allocated to the relevant officers. The PMT was filled in on a monthly basis to record inspections completed which allowed officers to keep track of progress towards inspection targets as set out within the RMCEI plan. The Water Protection Section has a similar recording and tracking system in place for inspections and internal reviews are undertaken regularly.</p> <p>In July 2023 each of the contributing Sections to the plan (Water Pollution, Environmental Health, Litter Management) were requested to provide an update of inspections carried out at mid-year and to indicate whether inspection targets needed to be amended up or down due to unforeseen circumstances (resource constraints, staff changes, focus on particular projects, additional legal cases). Inspections numbers were revised down in 32 categories, upwards in 8 categories and remained unchanged in the remaining categories. The revised inspections numbers were submitted to the Senior Engineer and Director of Services who signed off on the changes with a record kept on file for audit purposes.</p> <p>A similar exercise was carried out in December 2023 for the end of year review which resulted in 18 inspection targets amended upwards and 23 inspection targets amended downwards with review and sign off by the Senior Engineer and the Director of Services.</p>

National Enforcement Priority: <b>GOVERNANCE - Environmental Complaint Handling</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assignment of a dedicated Environmental Complaints Co-ordinator.</li> <li>• Implementation of the National Environmental Complaints Procedure.</li> <li>• Appropriate systems in place for recording and tracking environmental complaints.</li> <li>• Adequate resources assigned to complaint investigation in the RMCEI Plan.</li> <li>• Appropriate handling of EPA referred complaints and Section 63 Notices received by the local authority.</li> <li>• Ensuring timely investigation of complaints and reporting of complaints outcomes. This should include progress on complaints outstanding from previous years, the complaint investigation rate and the timeframes for complaint investigation.</li> <li>• Analysis of complaints numbers and inspection intelligence that may have potential impacts on NEPs and other thematic areas.</li> <li>• Details of environmental complaint handling should be provided in the appropriate section of the NEP Progress Report.</li> </ul>	<p>Complaints are received through phone calls, emails, or through web applications such as “Fix Your Street” or the “See It Say It” app. Complaints can also be referred to Fingal County Council by the EPA.</p> <p>Complaints received by phone arrive to the Customer Care Unit (CCU), who then direct the complaint to the relevant Department/Section for investigation. If the person reporting the issue can be connected directly to a staff member the call is connected to the appropriate Section, if not the CCU takes details of the complaint and logs it into the CRM system and assigns it to the relevant Section and/or individual for action.</p> <p>Complaints reported on the “See It Say It” app are channelled through Fix Your Street. Complaints received through the “Fix Your Street” app and received by email are dealt with by the Administration Section of the Environment Department. All complaints are reviewed upon receipt, acknowledged and then logged onto the CRM system. When a complaint is logged onto CRM, it is allocated to a staff member who is then responsible for investigating the complaint and updating the complainant with the investigation outcome. A response to the complainant must be provided within 15 working days of receipt of the complaint.</p> <p>The Administration Section in the Environment Department identifies whether the complaint should be assigned to the litter wardens, the environmental health officers (air and noise complaints), the water pollution section or the waste enforcement section.</p> <p>The CRM system then tracks the complaint up to the point where the complaint is fully investigated and closed off. The CRM system ensures all complaints are addressed as deadlines are set within the system and reminders issued to the officer who has been allocated the complaint. The complaint stays active until it has been dealt with and de-activated. If an officer upon investigating the complaint finds that the issue has been wrongly allocated, he/she can re-assign the complaint to another officer/department as appropriate.</p> <p>Resources allocated to complaint investigations during 2023 included 6 litter wardens, 8 waste enforcement officers (increase from 2 in 2021, reflecting staff turnover and complaints allocated to more staff), 1 environmental health officer, 1 executive scientist and 1 water pollution officer, with additional resources available from each team as</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting of complaint numbers and investigation for each thematic area in the RMCEI Data Returns.</li> </ul>	<p>required. Significant resources were allocated to complaint investigations during 2023 to ensure that all complaints received from Councillors and the general public were addressed in a timely manner and any reports of environmental pollution were investigated.</p> <p><u>Waste Complaints</u></p> <p>196 (76%) of 258 waste complaints related to backyard storage of household waste / waste presentation, 46 complaints related to illegal dumping (18%). The remaining 41 inspections (6%) related to unauthorised, sites, illegal collectors and illegal waste activities. On average, over the entire year, it took 1.5 days to fully investigate and close out each waste related complaint with several going forward to the district court for prosecution involving significant time/resource commitments in terms of repeat inspections, legal file preparation and court attendance. Officers can spend several weeks and months investigating the more difficult complaints and therefore resources and associated national waste priorities have to be adjusted accordingly.</p> <p>Complaints referred to by the EPA are fully investigated and an update on outcome provided to the EPA.</p> <p><u>Water Quality Complaints and Incidents</u></p> <p>Fingal County Council place a very high emphasis in responding to all water quality pollution complaints in any given year. In 2023 there were 16 open water quality complaints carried over 2022 and a further 85 new complaints received in 2023 (76 no. In 2021, 68 no. in 2020 and 48 no. in 2019) which resulted in the carrying out of 132 inspections by Water Pollution Control Staff.</p> <p>Enforcement actions undertaken under the Water Pollution Acts 1977-2007 included the issuing of 10x warning letters and the issuing of 19 x Section 12 notices.</p> <p><b><u>OUTPUT:</u> All complaints received were investigated resulting in 132 on-site inspections. A total of 85 new complaints were investigated along with the 8 open complaints from the historic workload. 14 no. remain open for investigation in 2024 and 87 no. of the 101 complaints investigated were closed/resolved during 2023. No unauthorised discharge resulted in a new application for a Section 4 Licence.</b></p>
--	--

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

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (Farm Yards) - slurry/soiled water collection and storage	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections of farmyards in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas, as defined in the National Agriculture Inspection Programme for local authorities.</li> <li>• Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concerns (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agriculture Measures map.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances.</li> <li>• Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.</li> <li>• Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.</li> </ul>	<p>20 GAP Inspections (Farmyard / Farmland; GAP 1 (10) &amp; GAP 2 (10)) were conducted in 2023 along with further inspections arising from agriculture complaints which were dealt with through notice under the Water Pollution Acts.</p> <p>GAP Inspections were carried out in priority waterbodies and targeted in areas where P, N and organics are contributing factors in these catchments and as detailed in the River Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>Waterbodies were identified using the EPA PIP Maps, local and historical knowledge and at the same time avoiding the LAWPRO led Priority Areas for Action.</p> <p>Where identified non compliers were re-inspected to check progress on issues identified in original inspections and further inspections arising from complaints were conducted in other locations outside of the priority catchments.</p> <p>In total 3 cross reports arose from these inspections which related to failure to minimise the generation of soiled water and discharge of soiled water to waters.</p> <p>Fingal County Council reported 3 cross reports which related to failures to minimise the generation of soiled water and discharge of soiled water to waters.</p> <p>Results for all inspections undertaken are provided in a separate reporting spreadsheet "Reporting on Farm Inspections 2023 v1.3", submitted to the EPA.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:		<b>WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading</b>	
Local Authority:		Activities	
 Looking back at the year		<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspections of farmlands in areas where agriculture is identified as a significant pressure, with a small percentage in other areas as defined in the National Agriculture Inspection Programme for local authorities.</li> <li>• Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concerns (P, N and organics), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Targeting Agriculture Measures map.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances.</li> <li>• Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM.</li> <li>• Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA.</li> </ul>		<p>NATIONAL PRIORITY (Pressures from Agriculture - FARMLANDS)</p> <p>Fingal County Council use a target-based approach in selecting which farmlands are going to be inspected in any given year. In 2023 farms were inspected in waterbodies which were identified as priority waterbodies using the EPA PIP Maps and considering local and historical knowledge and at the same time avoiding the LAWPRO led Priority Areas for Action.</p> <p>For example, the expectation that the Delvin River Catchment will become a Local Authority led Priority Area for Action during the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan led to Fingal County Council focusing on this catchment.</p> <p>In accordance with the National Enforcement Priority Fingal County Council assigned available resources to the Delvin and Matt/Bracken Rivers and waterbodies associated with these rivers and where Agriculture is a pressure in this area.</p> <p>Also, a commitment to conducting farm inspections in the Matt/Bracken catchment was given in the <i>2023 Balbriggan Beach Management Plan</i> where agriculture was determined to be a risk to the quality of bathing waters.</p> <p>In terms of monitoring compliance with the GAP Regulations Fingal County Council adopted a reconnaissance land spreading approach to assess GAP compliance of slurry storage during the closed season. This survey was previously carried out by Fingal in 2022 with significant success and again in 2023 yielded significant findings including cross reporting.</p> <p>The systematic approach involved taking observations on activities relating to slurry / fertiliser spreading from nearly all the bridges on public roads in the Delvin and Matt/Bracken Catchments. Observations were made of</p>	



fields adjacent to the left and right banks looking upstream and downstream from these bridges. This approach focuses on fields most vulnerable to the effects of non-compliance with the GAP regulations .

In 2023 the Delvin River catchment was surveyed on 3 different dates during the closed period for land application and also overing periods when application of fertilisers to land is prohibited and the early “open period”.

During each Delvin reconnaissance survey observations were made from approx. 39 individual fields across approximately 25 Herd Numbers – relating to evidence in the practice of slurry spreading and stockpiling of farmyard manure and field condition.

The Matt was surveyed two times (04/01/2023 and 03/08/2023) covering the early “open period” and a later period after silage cutting and during the bathing water season.

During each Matt reconnaissance survey observations were made from approx. 36 individual fields across approximately 26 Herd Numbers - relating to evidence in the practice of slurry spreading and stockpiling of farmyard manure and field condition.


General GAP compliance was high during 2023, however Fingal County Council identified non-compliances with the GAP Regs in the manner of slurry and fertiliser spreading on a farm which was a cross report to DAFM and resulted in a penalty to the farmer on his Basic Payment Scheme. Results for all inspections undertaken are provided in a separate reporting spreadsheet “*Reporting on Farm Inspections 2023 v1.3*”, submitted to the EPA.

In 2022 Fingal County Council created a GIS geodatabase with feature classes which illustrate the distribution of Reconnaissance inspected farms during 2022. This covers the 2023 reconnaissance fields also. This layer was created in ARC-Pro and shared on Fingal County Council’s Arc Enterprise platform.

Fingal County Council will continue this approach during 2024 and have already identified non-compliance with the GAP Regs in the manner of slurry and fertiliser spreading which has been the subject of a cross report to DAFM. During the cross-compliance reporting process, liaison with DAFM is often a feature. Fingal County Council selected some farms during 2023 for full GAP Inspections (Farmyard / Farmland; GAP 1 & GAP 2) from observations made during reconnaissance survey, as a development of the farm selection process – this will continue in 2024.

Results for all inspections undertaken are provided in a separate reporting spreadsheet “*Reporting on Farm Inspections 2023 v1.3*”, submitted to the EPA.

**Output: 20 full GAP inspections (Farm and Farmyard) and 5 dates (GAP focussed reconnaissance of slurry spreading in fields) and 3 days training and 4 cross reports.**

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems / Septic Tanks	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake the allocated number of DWWTS/Septic Tanks inspections under the National Inspection Plan.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to follow up and ensure advisory notices are closed out.</li> <li>• When selecting households for inspection, consider areas where LAWPRO have issued letters of grant eligibility and homeowners have not taken action.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Context:</b></p> <p>Fingal County Council complied with its obligations in implementing the 2023 National Inspection Plan (NIP) 2022-2026.</p> <p>The NIP sets out 53 (Zone 1/high risk) and 10 (Zone 3/low risk sites) DWWTS to be inspected over the life cycle of the plan (5 years). The allocated inspection target for this work area was 13 DWWTS for 2023.</p> <p>In 2023 12 no. (Zone 1) and 1 no. (Zone 3) DWWTS inspections were carried out. These were primarily planned for areas near the Delvin River and either side of the inner Broadmeadow Estuary.</p> <p><b>Pre-Inspection:</b></p> <p>Prior to inspections taking place a review of the council website was undertaken. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2023 the public were notified of upcoming inspections tweet issued 11th April 2023 ahead of inspections; <a href="https://twitter.com/Fingalcoco/status/1645819562288349186">https://twitter.com/Fingalcoco/status/1645819562288349186</a>.</p> <p>Social media was used for awareness raising for homeowners that inspections were taking place. Following a review of the sites available it was proposed to target clusters of older houses along tributaries feeding to the Delvin River - this is a proposed area for action in the Draft 3<sup>rd</sup> River Basin Management Plan with Meath County Council also targeting inspections along this river. Houses were chosen at random but closest to surface waters; close to monitoring stations and older properties in clusters. This produced good engagement with homeowners talking to each other in 2022 so was repeated. When houses were not found along this river contact was made with sites that received “no answer” in 2022 and then sites adjacent to the Broadmeadow Estuary for completeness. Inspection times were facilitated at times that suited homeowners working from home where required.</p>

There were 13 no. Sites inspected (no shared septic tanks, no wells on-site downstream of a septic tank) with two inspectors and no re-inspection required from 2022 work. A list of 15 sites were identified (desktop) and reconnaissance survey visits were carried out ahead of issuing letters to ensure site was occupied and confirm eircode. When dates were planned for inspections the letters were sent by registered post to homeowner with a leaflet to explain the documentation requirements to be viewed by the inspector and the type of inspection. Several reminder letters were issued as confirmations of inspections was not happening and the letter was reworded twice to achieve a better response.

The letter was worded to ask for homeowner to confirm attendance on date specified for the inspection by telephone. One site inspection deferred to 2024 as homeowner (in Maternity Hospital) and one homeowner was deferred to 2024 by Inspector as date was difficult to set due to their shift work.


During the inspection, the information required (e.g. disposal receipts) was photographed while outside to enable low-contact inspection. However, a number of the owners were not keeping disposal receipts. The site where the DWWT system was located was then inspected with the householder. Compliance levels were high (12 passed on first inspection – 92%, 90% in 2022, 67% in 2021). Only one site was non-compliant (damaged cover on septic tank and advised at time of inspection) and an advisory notice issued (with completion date by 19/4/2024). A follow up phone call was made to homeowner following the Advisory Notice to ensure the requirements of the Notice (under Section 70(H) of the Water Services Act) and timeline were understood for addressing the issue. The letter is triggering homeowner reviews of last desludging receipts and prompting a desludging activity ahead of the inspection. The reasons for failures over the last five years were;

2019 (2 failed out of 9)	2020 (3 failed out of 9)	2021 (3 failed out of 9)	2022	2023	Compliance nationally
	2, 3a	1	1 (manhole cover damaged)	1 (manhole cover damaged) - open until 19/4/2023	Not maintained (30%)
2	1a, 3b	2			Not desludged (25%)
	1a	3			Discharging illegally to ditches/streams (17%)
					Leaking (13%)
1					Rainwater ingress (10%)
					Effluent Ponding (9%)

Allocation remaining at end of year from Plan; 30 Zone 1 inspections (23 of 53 complete) and 9 Zone 3 inspections (1 of 10 complete). (2<sup>nd</sup> YEAR OF NIP 2022-2026). One outstanding issue open from 2023 DWWTS inspections.

One letter of eligibility issued to homeowner in Fingal was received from LAWPRO in November 2023. This will be followed up in 2024 by Inspectors. The River Delvin is a local priority for improvement and this year's work has assisted the improvement plan. Plans for 2024 inspections will be targeted in a cluster approach in line with requirements under the NIP.

OUTPUT: 12 no. (Zone 1) DWWTS inspections undertaken in 2023 and 1 no. (Zone 3), 1 Advisory Notice issued (open until 19/4/23) and 1 LAWPRO letter issued in 2023 (PAA).

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Discharge Licences / Misconnections	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure all licence conditions are consistent with the requirements of the Surface Waters and Groundwater regulations.</li> <li>• Undertake risk based inspections/monitoring of Section 4 licences. Inspect all licences in areas where discharge licensing is a significant pressure.</li> <li>• Ensure that all licensable discharges are authorised by a Section 4 licence.</li> <li>• Ensure compliance with discharge licence conditions and follow up and close out non-compliances and LAWPRO referrals on Section 4s and misconnections.</li> <li>• Follow up on misconnections that have been identified as impacting on water quality to ensure that works are undertaken by property owners to remediate such misconnections.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Discharge Licences:</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Section 4 - Trade Effluent Discharge Licences:</u></b></p> <p>During 2023, there were 18 active Trade Effluent Discharge Licences (TEDL) operating in the Fingal County Council area. Licences include emission limit values for relevant surface water and groundwater parameters however licences will require reviews where regulations have been amended.</p> <p>In terms of pressures to waters there are currently no Section 4 licences in Fingal where the discharge has been identified as a significant pressure.</p> <p>From January to June of 2023, 63 water samples in total were taken of Section 4 licensed trade effluent discharges. Due to resource constraints (sampling post became vacant), sampling was only carried out up until the end of June 2023. The frequency of monitoring set out in each of the licences is 4, 6 or 12 times per annum, depending on the nature of the discharge and the location of the licence. Any exceedances of limit values for parameters set down in a Section 4 licence were relayed to the Licensees as soon as results were received.</p>

During 2023, three licences did not have any exceedances recorded for any of the parameters analysed. Two licences did not have samples taken, as one of these licence holders, had closed their business at the start of 2023 and the second utilises an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) which did not record a discharge during the course of the year. The remaining 13 licences recorded exceedances of one or more parameter limit value on one or more sampling date throughout the year.

17 initial emails were sent to Licence Holders highlighting exceedances of the limit values set down in their licence. Follow-up emails and phone calls were then made to discuss these exceedances and the corrective action that the Licensee intended to take. Corrective measures put in place by the Licensees ranged from servicing/maintenance of the system, alterations to ferric dosing and sludge removal. In the case of one Licence Holder a Primary Treatment System was installed to support the existing ICW.

In the case of 2 Licensees, a complete upgrade to the existing wastewater treatment system was undertaken. One of these involved the installation of a new ICW at the site. The other Licence Holder carried out major remediation and upgrade works to their wastewater treatment plant. This business is currently providing accommodation for a fluctuating number of residents. Due to the fluctuation in the number of residents at this site non-compliances with effluent limit values were recorded on several occasions during 2022 and 2023. Following an inspection at the site by the Water Pollution Section evidence of ponding and potential pollution to surface waters, groundwater and human health was observed in the area around the treatment plant. A meeting was held with the site operators in March 2023 and on foot of this a Notice pursuant to Section 12 of the Water Pollution Act was served to rectify the situation. A major upgrade of the system was carried out. The upgrade works have maximised the retention and treatment of the existing treatment plant network to its maximum working capacity. The system has also been linked to a telemetry service in which high-level alarms will sound in the event of a pump or air blower failure. Remediation works were completed in Quarter 4 of 2023 and water sampling of the system by Fingal County Council will re-commence here in January 2024.

Updates on reasons for non-compliances and corrective action taken was supplied upon request throughout 2023.


A risk assessment was carried out at each of the sites prior to the issue of the licence and an assessment was undertaken by the Central Laboratory to determine the limit values for each of the water parameters set. These limit values have not been required to be altered at any of the locations in the years following the issue of the licence.

There were no LAWPRO referrals on Section 4's received during 2023. There were also no new applications for a Section 4 Trade Effluent Discharge Licence received by Fingal County Council during 2023. 3 (2 planned) Section 4 licence reviews were initiated in 2023 (1 licence revoked, 1 under review (awaiting further information) and remaining review pending awaiting reply).

OUTPUT: 18 compliant licences active at end of year, 64 inspections/monitoring and 3 reviews of Section 4 licences initiated. No new application for discharge licence received.

**Misconnections:**

Misconnection surveys were carried in 2023 as a result of complaint investigations and investigative monitoring at the River Bracken (Matt) in Balbriggan. 17 no. of 132 site inspections were re-inspections relating to ongoing enforcement. Water pollution complaints were dealt with as high priority (79 no. Resolved/closed of the new complaints received and 8 no. historic complaints were closed). Addressing complaints as high priority led to further local investigations of networks with drainage staff and several pollution contributions from misconnections at various locations (4 no. surveys) were rectified (3 no. surveys in Balbriggan catchment). A training session was provided to drainage staff and environment staff prior to these misconnection surveys which shared learnings acquired by South Dublin County Council's Dublin Urban Rivers Life project on 1<sup>st</sup> June. It is hoped this survey work, which has removed significant volumes of faecal contaminated water, will lead to improvements in bathing water results in 2024 where the bathing water has had a "poor" classification for three years (2020-2022). At year end 6 no. open 2023 complaints and 8 no. Historic complaints are ongoing (14 no. open complaints at year end) which is similar to 2022

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Local Priorities and Water Quality Monitoring	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete statutory monitoring for WFD surveillance and operational monitoring, investigative monitoring and bathing water monitoring.</li> <li>• Inspect and follow up any local issues (not covered by other NEPs), including non-compliances with water quality standards and LAWPRO referrals.</li> <li>• Address any climate related water quality issues e.g. impacts due to extreme weather events</li> <li>• Monitoring and enforcement of private drinking water supplies.</li> <li>• Engage with LAWPRO and Regional Committees on the implementation of the RBMP Actions.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>WFD Monitoring:</u></b></p> <p>Fingal County Council sampled 18 WFD monitoring locations on 4 occasions in 2023 (72 samples).</p> <p>Fingal County Council co-ordinated sampling with Meath County Council at 2 locations where the Local Authorities are bordered by the River Delvin.</p> <p>Fingal County Council made one referral to LAWPRO having identified an unrestricted cattle access at the Powerstown Stream sampling point, which resulted in the unrestricted access been fenced off and the problem resolved.</p> <p>A similar observation was made to LAWPRO in relation to the Matt stream during 2023.</p> <p><b><u>Investigative Monitoring:</u></b></p> <p>WFD investigative monitoring resources concentrated on bathing water investigations when it was discovered that there was an unknown pollution source in the River Bracken that was adversely affecting bathing water quality at Balbriggan.</p> <p>Fingal County Council also strategically assigned resources to investigate possible pollution sources at 4 locations namely Loughshinny, the River Bracken, the Delvin River and the Tankardstown Stream.</p> <p><b>OUTPUT: A total of 503 no. Investigative monitoring samples were undertaken (430 targeted and non-statutory rivers plus 101 investigative samples)</b></p>



**Bathing Water Monitoring:**

Fingal County Council carried out 45 bathing water visual inspections in 2023 (53 in 2022) which included additional monitoring of the River Bracken in Balbriggan and Mill Stream in Skerries.

In 2023 the Front Strand Beach at Balbriggan had an “All Season” bathing restriction (advice do not swim) for the third consecutive year.

Balbriggan Beach required a Beach Management Plan which was accepted by the EPA (involving Environment, Drainage Departments and Uisce Éireann) as the plan specifically addresses the pollution pressures in Balbriggan.

Investigative testing was also scheduled for local rivers near Balbriggan (Poor) and Skerries (Sufficient) which were regularly tested to immediately identify if there were pollution threats emanating from this river, and if so that they could be immediately addressed.

In terms of managing its bathing waters Fingal County Council issued 6 prohibition notices during the 2023 bathing season. 2 of these notices were issued as a precaution due to stormwater overflow incidents at Portmarnock and Sutton designated bathing area’s. The remaining 4 notices were issued due to exceedances in bacterial levels from scheduled bathing water samples taken at Balbriggan, Rush North, Portrane, and Claremont. It was not established as to whether the Claremont notice was a as result of an overflow at Howth Pump Station No. 2 on 25th August following local heavy rainfall.

In terms of water quality improvement, Fingal County Council assigned significant resources to try to identify what was causing intermittent high loading of Ecoli at Balbriggan Front Beach which ultimately resulted with Fingal County Council identifying and removing a significant misconnection which was allowing sewage effluent to enter waters within 250 metres of the designated bathing area. The removal of this misconnection resulted in an immediate increase in bathing water quality.

**Protection Measures;**


Fingal County Council arranged to have investigative samples tested for faecal indicator bacteria using the UCD/Acclimatize PCR Laboratory. Fingal County Council intends to continue this monitoring in 2024. The PCR testing uses markers identifies the source of each bacteria i.e. was source from human, gulls , horses dogs etc.

In terms of communications with the public Fingal County Council provided regular updates to the relevant websites, social media and newspapers and alerted the public of water quality during the summer. At the end of the bathing season a public

meeting took place Fingal County Council also installed 2 digital signs one at Front Strand, Balbriggan and the other at Velvet Strand, Portmarnock where live information relating to water quality data weather events etc were posted on the digi signs. In relation to other monitored waters in Fingal; Balscadden and Ireland's eye were tested twice this season with all results meeting 'excellent' status. Malahide beach has seen 10 'excellent' results this season.

**Private Water Supplies (PWS):**

There are four private drinking wells (> 10 m<sup>3</sup>/day) in the Fingal area including three industrial sites and one residential site. All sites monitored receive two check samples throughout the year (8 check samples in total) and one audit sample (4 in total). On 21st November a non-compliant sample result from a site operated by a fruit and vegetable producer/supplier for Iron and Total Coliforms was identified. The full Check parameters were carried out on the revisit and were compliant. Samples tested all other locations were determined to be compliant.

National Enforcement Priority: <b>WASTE - Tackling Illegal Waste Activities &amp; Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'. Note that Criteria A (to provide a compliance rate and comparison with previous years) is not specifically applicable under this NEP. The activity reported under the following RMCEI data categories should be considered under this NEP: 6.1.2, 6.1.5, 6.2.1 - 6.2.6, 6.2.11.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Targeted inspections and follow up enforcement actions of unauthorised collectors and site operators using intelligence from waste data flows, complaints and other available data.</li> <li>• Co-ordination with, and input from Revenue/Social Protection/An Garda Síochána in relation to unauthorised activity and identified sites/operators of concern in line with the Garda Multi-Agency forums.</li> <li>• Multi-agency investigations for sites/operators of concern.</li> <li>• Roadside check points.</li> <li>• Relevant Anti-Dumping Initiatives implemented.</li> <li>• Traceability requirements to be enforced at Permitted/Licensed sites.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Illegal Waste Activity</u></b></p> <p><b>Multi Agency Approach</b> – During 2023, Waste Enforcement Officers (WEO's) continued their investigative work using a multi-agency approach for larger sites where illegal waste activities were taking place. Sites were identified using local knowledge, waste enforcement intel, complaints from the general public and intelligence from An Garda Síochána (AGS). FCC worked collaboratively with AGS, DSPCA, Social Protection, WERLA, Customs, Revenue, the Roads Safety Authority and the NTFSO to tackle several more difficult illegal End-of-Life Vehicle (ELV) sites. In addition, representatives from different Fingal County Council Departments were also enlisted including Planning, Housing, Traveller Housing, Property, Litter, Water Pollution and the FCC local Dog Wardens. Vehicle assessor(s) were utilised to assess vehicles/ELV's and to provide in-depth reports and certification of vehicle categories. All remaining illegal ELV sites were cleared/closed down in 2023 with follow up inspections undertaken to confirm previously closed sites were still inactive.</p> <p><b>Surveillance &amp; Patrols</b> – Officer surveillance and patrols were utilised to assess illegal waste sites and to provide up to date intel on the ground prior to inspections and clearance operations. Weekly patrols were carried out at locations such as Dunsink Lane, St Christopher's, St Marys, Cappagh Cross, Barnlodge, Silloge Green and Bay Lane. This approach accurately identified the scale of illegal activity and highlighted any potential health and safety concerns early on to assist with planned operations with intel passed on to Property Services in cases where illegal encroachment was noted.</p> <p><b>Checkpoints</b> – In 2023, a checkpoint strategy was drawn up in consultation with FCC and AGS. Officers conducted 14 checkpoints with members of AGS who were appointed Authorised Persons under the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. The majority of these checkpoints were multi-agency focused with officers from Dublin City Council, officers from The National Transfrontier Shipment Office, An Garda Síochána, Revenue, Customs, Social Protection, WERLA and The Health and Safety Authority. The importance of multi-agency checkpoints allowed information to be shared with all involved parties and to target key areas of illegal waste activities. Having a visual presence in areas of high waste movement has always proved useful from a waste enforcement perspective and to ensure those involved in the movement of waste materials were appropriately authorised and adhering to WCP conditions.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on those who are facilitating the unauthorised treatment of waste.</li> <li>• Create an active list or register of unauthorised sites/operators.</li> <li>• Local Authorities to keep the Convictions Register up to date.</li> </ul>	<p>The locations chosen for the checkpoints aimed to target sites where an increase in illegal dumping was taken place. The implementation of checkpoints in these key areas identified unauthorised waste collectors and promoted anti-dumping initiatives.</p> <p><b>Sites of Interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bay Lane</b>- Regular patrols took place in Bay Lane to monitor illegal dumping activities. The waste was checked to identify for any names/addresses, but none were found. Officers then contacted the operations department to get the waste removed in a timely manner.</li> <li>• <b>Stockhole Lane</b>- A multi-agency and multi-location checkpoint was carried out and Stockhole Lane was chosen as one of the locations due to the increased levels of illegal dumping in this area. The checkpoint acted as a great deterrent to dumping and allowed a greater engagement with locals on the importance of disposing of waste with an authorised waste collector. Patrols were maintained in this area which led to less frequent dumping and better engagement with the community.</li> <li>• <b>Powerstown Road</b>-Regular patrols were undertaken here as it was identified as a hot spot for dumping. Operations department assisted with the removal of waste.</li> <li>• <b>Silloge Green</b>- A multi-agency operation was carried out at Silloge Green with AGS, Revenue, FCC Property Services, Planning Enforcement, Dog Wardens and WEO's. The main issues highlighted were storage of ELVs, illegal dumping, and an unregistered tyre business. A site walkover was carried out and all residents were interviewed. An assessment of vehicles was also carried out. Follow-up investigations are ongoing to establish who is operating the tyre business with a view to bringing the business into compliance and registered with Circol ELT.</li> <li>• <b>Dunsink Lane (Observatory side)</b> – Huge improvements noted since the trees were cut back and signage was erected about illegal dumping and CCTV monitoring. Regular patrol are carried out to ensure the area remains clear of waste.</li> <li>• <b>Dunsink Lane (Ratoath Road Side)</b>- This area is still a hot spot for dumping. Regular patrols are undertaken to identify offenders from inspection of dumped waste with warning letters issued as required. CCTV will be utilised in 2024 once the new CCTV Code of Practice has been approved.</li> </ul> <p><b>Anti-Dumping Initiative</b> – WEO's collaborated with Finglas, Blanchardstown, and Skerries Community Gardaí to target key blackspot areas where illegal dumping and illegal waste collection was an issue. More Gardai were appointed as authorised officers under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended with WEO's sharing knowledge on S14 (powers of an authorised officer) to facilitate enforcement action to be taken by Gardai as part of day to day duties.</p> <p>Anti-dumping materials available on the <a href="http://www.mywaste.ie">www.mywaste.ie</a> site were utilised on a quarterly basis and pushed out on FCC social media sites, the FCC intranet, the Chief Executive's monthly report and within FCC buildings to help raise awareness on the issue of illegal dumping and illegal waste collectors. Posters from <a href="http://www.mywaste.ie">www.mywaste.ie</a> were also used in 2 bus shelters advertising campaigns between the 4<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> of June and the 27<sup>th</sup> of August – 9<sup>th</sup> of September this year.</p> <p>The waste enforcement section initiated a cinema campaign to help raise awareness about A) illegal waste collectors and illegal dumping and B) the Waste Presentation Byelaws and the Waste Presentation Byelaws project 2023-2025. A) Illegal waste collectors use social media and advertising sites to offer cheap waste removal services with the waste being dumped in remote areas causing environmental pollution. Every</p>
--	---


year Local Authorities spend thousands of euro clean-up costs to remove illegally dumped waste. This money could be better spent on improving public services in local communities. The campaign highlighted the importance of always asking for ID and a waste collection permit before handing over your waste, as you can be fined up to €150 or face a criminal conviction for illegally dumped waste. Our main aim was to encourage and educate individuals to make the right choices regarding their waste and to participate in authorised waste collection services. . B) A second awareness and educational ad which focused on the Fingal County Council Waste Presentation Byelaws and the Fingal County Council waste presentation Byelaw project 2023-2025. The ad focused on the importance of the Waste Byelaws for managing and segregating waste, to help increase recycling rates and reduce illegal dumping. The ad highlights the requirement to participate in a waste collection service, to bin share or to bring your waste to an authorised facility. As part of the project householders identified as not currently having a waste collection service will be asked to confirm how they are managing their waste. Breaching the Byelaws can result in a €75 on the spot fine or a €2,500 and a criminal conviction if found guilty in court. The ads screened across 5 different cinemas in the Fingal County area with a guaranteed viewing of 500,000 people over 6 months. Both ads are also being used on the Fingal County Council website and social media sites to promote awareness around illegal dumping, illegal waste collectors and the Waste Byelaws.

#### **Proactive Approach**

A total of 99 Man in the van patrols took place during 2023 within the Fingal area which focused on areas of concerns/blackspot areas where illegal dumping was an ongoing issue. This in turn ensured that the Operations Department were able to assist with the removal of waste dumped on public roads and lanes to prevent a further build-up while also providing a visual presence in these areas as a deterrent and gathering general intel.

Meetings were held with a number of different Garda District Superintendents to establish key contacts, to explain the type of work that WEO's do and to highlight key waste issues within Fingal. Significant Garda support is now available to WEO's for a variety of multi-agency operations, checkpoints, patrols and waste investigations as and when required.

A significant number of legal cases (15 in total) were taken during 2023 for a variety of different offences under the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended. Successful outcomes were achieved in all 15 cases with either the probation act or a conviction secured with costs awarded to FCC. This required a significant investment in terms of resources and time with national priorities targets adjusted to take account of available resources. The Convictions register was updated on a monthly basis following court attendance to ensure all Local Authorities were aware of recent convictions and associated fines. 10 of those cases were closed. 6 pleaded guilty, 2 individuals and one company were convicted, 6 individuals were given the Probation Act and €21,512 in costs was awarded to Fingal County Council. 1 case was dismissed, and 5 are ongoing in 2024.

National Enforcement Priority: <b>WASTE - Construction and Demolition Activity</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'. The activity reported under the following RMCEI data categories should be considered under this NEP: 6.1.1-6.1.4 (C&amp;D waste facilities), 6.1.7, 6.1.12 (C&amp;D waste collectors), 6.2.10.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk based inspections of construction sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates.</li> <li>• Inspection of Article 27 sites of origin and destination to include material notified under Article 27 being accepted at WFP/Licensed sites.</li> <li>• Inspection of soil recovery sites to ensure only appropriate materials accepted.</li> <li>• Validation and inspection of WCP/WFP and licensed sites dealing with C&amp;D waste.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues including the selling of crushed concrete from WFPs/Licensed sites without EoW decision.</li> <li>• Tracking of waste delivered to Licensed sites.</li> <li>• Based on researched data and local knowledge, identify authorised operators for further investigation and/or enforcement action.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Risk Based Inspection of Construction and Demolition Sites</u></b></p> <p>Inspections were carried out at a combination of Major Public Projects and Strategic Housing Development sites. All sites inspected were found to be compliant with no further enforcement action required.</p> <p>10 Major Public Projects and Strategic Housing Development sites were selected from the commencement notices list and inspector's knowledge of active sites. The sites included the new Swords Cultural Centre, a community centre in Meakstown, and several large housing developments.</p> <p>Compliance inspections were carried out at an additional 20 construction sites, which were assessed for compliance with submitted Resource and Waste Management Plans or the management of waste streams where no Resource &amp; Waste Management Plan was required. All 20 sites inspected were found to be compliant with no further follow up needed. The 20 C&amp;D sites were targeted based on commencement notices, inspector's knowledge of active sites and intelligence received from industry sources with all inspections carried out following the C &amp; D inspection template provided by WERLA.</p> <p><b><u>Inspection and Data Validation of Waste Collection Permit (WCP)/Waste Facility Permit (WFP) (including Soil Recovery Sites)</u></b></p> <p>4 cradle to grave inspections were completed for WCP holders transporting/collecting List of Waste Code 17 05 04, 17 01 01 and 20 03 07 in the Fingal area during 2023. The WCP holders were selected based on total tonnage transported/collected in addition to information provided by WERLA. 3 on-site inspections were completed to verify that the WCP holder has adequate waste recording systems in place. Paperwork was inspected to ensure that all the information required to be included on the waste collection dockets was present. The sites detailed on the disposal dockets were contacted and the disposal dockets were inspected. 1 remote inspection was carried out to verify that the WCP holder had</p>

- Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site audits at waste facilities/waste collectors.

appropriate waste recording systems in place. The waste collection docketts were provided and assessed. The sites listed on the disposal docketts were also contacted and inspected to ensure all required information was provided.

All WCP holders were found to be compliant in the cradle to grave inspections under Waste Codes 17 05 04, 17 01 01 and 20 03 07 and no further enforcement action was required.

**Soil Recovery Facilities**

Soil Recovery Facilities operating under Waste Facility Permit or Certificate of Registration had very limited activity in 2023 with substantial filling having been made in previous years and 3 sites surrendering their authorisation by year end.


One multi-agency inspection of EPA Licensed site took place with EPA and WERLA to share experience. There were no active soil recovery sites operating under permit at the time so the process could not be reciprocated at a Fingal authorised recovery site.

Only one site continued to operate in 2023, not under Waste Facility Permit or EPA Licence – but as a site accepting Article 27 bye-product fill. Dublin City Council enforcement officers detected an issue at the site whereby they followed trucks from a construction site up to the facility where it tipped soil and stone. No Article 27 notification was in place for that site so the material delivered was waste. Upon investigation, the site operator was suspicious about these loads and had them set aside when tipped. When DCC made contact it became clear the loads were delivered to the site by the haulier with inaccurate docketts. The loads delivered were then removed - some in the presence of DCC and FCC enforcement officers.

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

Article 27 inspections in 2023 were hindered due to staff shortages and reprioritization of work due to our involvement in 15 different legal cases, meaning not all notified sites were inspected. Increased inspections are planned for 2024 to address this shortfall in C & D activities.

Excluding Road Planings, Article 27 Notifications in Fingal related to 41 sites of origin, of which 13 had an inspection, and 29 sites of destination, 14 of which were inspected (plus one not inspected on knowledge that material had not moved). No unexpected materials were noted at any of the inspected sites and all were found to be compliant.

National Enforcement Priority: <b>WASTE – End of Life Vehicles (ELV) &amp; the Waste Metal sector</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’. The activity reported under the following RMCEI data categories should be considered under this NEP: 6.1.1-6.1.4 (ELV &amp; metal waste facilities), 6.1.12 (ELV &amp; metal waste collectors), 6.1.14.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk based inspections of Authorised Treatment Facilities and other ELV sites using WERLA intelligence and inspection templates (at least one inspection per annum of permitted sites). Multiagency inspections to be carried out as identified by WERLAs and the EPA.</li> <li>• Validation and inspection of records for WCP/WFP and licensed operators dealing with ELV and metal waste.</li> <li>• Take all necessary steps to resolve non-compliant issues.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Unauthorised End of Life Vehicles Facilities</u></b></p> <p>In 2023 Fingal County Council Waste Enforcement and Regulation Section successfully prosecuted two illegal ELV sites in the Dublin District Court. The unauthorised sites were operating in the Fingal area for several years. The site operators were prosecuted under Section 39 and Section 55 of the Waste Management Act 1996 for illegally dismantling ELV’s on site without an appropriate waste facility permit. The sites have now been cleared and all illegal ELV activities have ceased.</p> <p>A total of 63 illegal ELV sites (low and high risk) were initially identified as part of the End of Life (ELV) Project. This increased to 87 by 2023. All sites have now been dealt with and closed resulting in over 1,700 ELV’s brought to Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATF’s) for recovery and disposal. This was a very successful project overall and had a significant impact in terms of improving metal traceability and preventing illegal car breaking activities throughout Fingal. ELV acceptance at authorised ATF’s was also greatly improved as a direct result of the ELV project and enforcement actions taken by FCC in terms of compliance with permit conditions around ELV acceptance and high value metal trading.</p> <p>The Waste Enforcement Section worked in close co-operation with the Planning Department to ensure that sites previously cleared remained closed and that all illegal car breaking activities ceased on a permanent basis. Regular patrols continue to be undertaken to ensure that sites previously closed remain closed.</p> <p><b><u>Waste Metal Facilities</u></b></p> <p>Three Authorised Treatment Facilities (ATFs) operate under a Waste Facility Permit (WFP) in Fingal, one of which also accepts large quantities of metal. Alongside these 3 ATFs, another 2 facilities operated under a Waste Facility Permit for the acceptance and recycling of metals (Class 4 activity), one less than previous years due to one facility operating under EPA Licence instead of WFP.</p> <p>Of the 5 ATF and Metal Operators, three had their validation lead by the Regional Waste Management Office (in the presence of FCC waste enforcement officer) with 2 on site validations and one remote validation, while the other 2 were validated by FCC. An improvement was noted with 2 additional Annual Returns validated compared to the previous year and all 5 validated (100% validation vs 60% in 2022 for the same</p>




facilities). This improvement is seen as a result of investments by both companies in better transaction management systems implemented following enforcement action by FCC for non-compliances around record keeping in previous years.

Inspection for compliance at the 5 facilities took place throughout 2023, with a particular focus on traceability requirements being satisfied at the sites and access restricted commercial customers whose waste was ancillary to the business. Non-Compliances related to waste acceptance records were issued to two facilities. A larger facility with poor compliance record related to its tonnage acceptance was the target of most inspections in 2023, compounded by the finding of an unauthorised boundary extension. The facility was subject to prosecutions in the District Court in 3 previous years for breaches of its permitted tonnage but the outcome of these prosecutions (Probation Act) did not prove a deterrent for repeat offences. Fingal County Council prepared a case to use injunctive powers under Section 57 and 58 of the WMA – the timeframes however did not allow for a High Court Application before year end and the case remained at pre-litigation letter stage in 2023. The enforcement of the permit at this facility will continue to be a priority in 2024.

#### **Waste Metal Collectors**

Following a joint inspection by the EPA, Dublin City Council (DCC) and Fingal County Council of a metal facility in the Dublin City area in 2022, DCC carried out further investigations into the facility and operators delivering waste to it. DCC notified FCC in 2022 of 3 customers of interest based in the Fingal area who may have committed offences under Sections 34 and 39 of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended (WMA). Details of the transactions and customers were obtained by FCC from DCC through a data request, and FCC Waste Enforcement Officers investigated the transactions. This resulted in two customers being interviewed by FCC and prosecutions for breaches of Section 34 of the WMA initiated. Both customers pleaded guilty and were given the Probation Act, subject to them discharging FCC costs of €2,300 within 12 months.

<b>National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Waste Collection - Household &amp; Commercial</b>	
<b>Local Authority:</b>	<b>Activities</b>
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'. The activity reported under the following RMCEI data categories should be considered under this NEP: 6.1.1-6.1.4 (HH &amp; Commercial waste facilities), 6.1.10, 6.1.11, 6.1.12 (HH &amp; Commercial waste collectors), 6.1.13, 6.2.9.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspection of WCP operators for provision of 3 bin system.</li> <li>• Surveys of retail, hospitality and industrial sectors to ensure proper use of 3 bin system, segregation and use of authorised collectors.</li> <li>• Sampling/analysis of treated waste outputs</li> <li>• AER Validations on WCP and WFP priority lists.</li> <li>• Maintenance of register of households with/without a waste collection service and targeted inspections in areas with low compliance.</li> <li>• Focused monitoring of the resources and systems available for gathering and reporting waste data to be carried out as part of site</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Waste Collectors</u></b></p> <p>Desktop AR validations of 116 Waste Collection Permits (WCP) were carried out. Of the 116 WCP's, 93 were validated and the remaining 23 marked inconclusive. These will be prioritised for on-site compliance with permit condition inspections and on-site AR validations during 2024.</p> <p>14 waste collection permits were inspected for compliance with permit conditions. Some non-compliances were detected in relation to record keeping with S34 advisory letters, S34 non-compliances letters and fixed payment notices issued for breaches of their waste collection permit. Noticeable improvements were noted thereafter with non-compliances rectified.</p> <p><b><u>Household Waste</u></b></p> <p>In 2020 it was identified that the provision of a brown bin service at individual dwellings in Fingal was very high at 99% therefore no further work was planned for 2022 as other national priorities were deemed more important in terms of resource allocation. The main gap identified was the provision of brown bins at apartments which required further assessment.</p> <p>In September 2022 a project was commenced relating to the provision of food waste bins at apartment complexes. Regulation 10 Notices under the European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-Waste) Regulations 2015 were issued to 12 waste companies operating in FCC. The notices requested information on apartment complexes not availing of a food waste bin service. A register of apartment complexes in FCC not availing of a food waste bin service has now been compiled.</p> <p>Management companies for apartment complexes not serviced by a brown bin were contacted to inform them of their obligation to provide a food waste bin under the European Union (Household Food Waste and Bio-Waste) Regulations 2015 and under Fingal County Council's Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2020. Throughout 2023 engagement with the property management companies continued. Of the 20 management companies contacted, 10% have implemented a brown bin service. Fingal County Council will aim to increase this percentage substantially over 2024 and engage with more property management companies operating in the Fingal County Area. Resource constraints due to staff turnover and the requirement to deal with a large number of legal files necessitated a reduction in the time allocated to this project however this will be rectified in 2024.</p>

audits at waste facilities/waste collectors.

- Monitoring of waste acceptance criteria at authorised sites.

### **Section 34C Register**

In parallel to the above work with the management companies at multi-occupancy dwellings, Fingal County Council issued Section 18 Notices to all waste collectors collecting household waste in its functional area in 2023, in order to establish a register of persons availing of a household waste collection, in compliance with Section 34C(7) of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended. This work was carried out in preparation of the creation of a reverse register, pursuant to Section 34C(9).

In gathering the data from waste collectors, it became apparent a lot of the collectors did not have a corresponding Eircode to the addresses where they offered a service. FCC commissioned DataConversion to match the addresses from the waste collectors to an Eircode and provide the Eircode to FCC. From 88,800 addresses on the register (excluding apartments), initially just over 26,000 had an Eircode. DataConversion were able to bring that number from 26,000 to 79,520 – leaving just over 9,300 addresses without a matching Eircode. Getting that number as low as possible was critical in view of not having these addresses in the reverse register, so additional work took place, engaging a less automated process, which resulted in the match being increased to 86,900 addresses. Further work took place with the largest waste collector to try and match the remaining addresses using the XY coordinates from the bin collections.

An initial draft of the reverse register was produced in December 2023, which identified that a number of issues needed to be resolved where waste companies had mis-recorded where a Local Authority boundary was located resulting in large numbers of addresses wrongly appearing on the reverse register, and also where a collection was mis-labelled as a commercial collection and not reported as a household collection.

Further work will progress in 2024 to refine the register with the identified missing data with a view to produce a reverse register which will be one basis for the enforcement of Fingal County Council Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2020.

An analysis of the data submitted by waste collectors in 2023 under the Section 18 Notice confirmed the high level of compliance with Brown Bin rollout to kerbside household customers, with 98% of overall customers provided with a brown bin service.

### **Commercial Waste**

Fingal County Council completed 94 commercial food waste and dry recyclables inspections at 80 premises in 2023 which was a considerable increase to the 11 commercial food waste and dry recyclables inspections completed in 2022. These inspections covered a wide range of premises – supermarkets, cafes, restaurants, fast food chains and deli canteens. Inspections focused on the management of food waste, and dry recyclables, waste segregation and the collection of waste by an authorised collector.

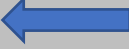
In anticipation of resource constraints in the second half of 2023, premises were inspected early in 2023 to meet targets. These inspections were completed ahead of a list of targeted premises that were circulated in August 2023 by WERLA, with inspectors selecting the inspected sites based on local knowledge. However additional inspections were scheduled following the list of targeted premises from WERLA and 9 out of the 11 premises of the list provided by WERLA were inspected in 2023 with the 2 remaining premises to be targeted in 2024.

39 of the 80 premises were compliant on the first inspection. 40 premises were non-compliant and warning letters were issued to 29 of these premises with the balance issued with verbal warnings. Non-compliances referred to inadequate waste separation of food waste from residual

waste, no organic bin in place and poor management of bin storage areas. 14 have since confirmed their compliant status, with 26 requiring follow up inspections in 2024 to ensure full compliance with The Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009.

**AR Validation of Waste Collection Permit (WCP)/Waste Facility Permit (WFP) from priority list**

Fingal County Council set out to carry out the Annual Return Validations following a review of the email received from the Regional Waste Management Planning Office setting out what permits were on the EPA priority list and what permits were on the regional offices list (i.e. validation lead by the Regional Waste Management Planning Office). One collection permit and 4 Facility Permits were on the list of permits to be validated by the Regional office, and Fingal enforcement officers accompanied the Regional Office during these validations and fed into the process based on their knowledge of the sites operations. One facility permit was on the EPA priority list, for validation by the end of July and was validated in that timeframe.

National Enforcement Priority: <b>WASTE - Producer Responsibility Initiatives and additional local priorities</b>	
Local Authority:	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'. The activity reported under the following RMCEI data categories should be considered under this NEP: 6.8.1-6.8.8.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and inspection of all suspected producers who require registration.</li> <li>• Examination of potential for information exchange between Local Government Sector and other Agencies, where appropriate.</li> <li>• Inspection and follow up on site and operators of local concern not covered by the other waste NEPs.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Waste Tyres</u></b></p> <p>14 unregistered and registered onsite waste tyre inspections were carried out in 2023 at tyre retailers. Premises were identified from the Repak ELT/Circol ELT list of revoked/potential retailers and inspectors' knowledge of areas where tyre businesses were in operation. A joint inspection was carried out with WERLA in an effort to target unregistered tyre retailers and get them to rejoin Circol ELT.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8 retailers were registered with Circol ELT and deemed compliant</li> <li>• 6 retailers were not registered with Circol ELT and deemed non-compliant</li> </ul> <p>Of the 6 non-compliant retailers, 3 have agreed to rejoin Circol ELT. Enforcement actions are underway at the other 3 non-compliant retailers. No enforcement action was required at the registered tyre retailers.</p> <p>Additionally, at the end of 2023, WERLA identified 5 more retailers whose memberships were revoked with Circol ELT due to reporting and membership fees. A phone call/email was followed up with these retailers to remind them of their obligations under the tyre regulations to be registered with Circol ELT. 4 of these retailers got in touch and agreed to rejoin Circol ELT. Enforcement action is being undertaken for the other retailer.</p> <p><b><u>WEEE and Batteries Producers</u></b></p> <p>A total of 31 WEEE Inspections and 34 battery inspections were carried out in 2023. 14 of the WEEE inspected were non-compliant, 20 of the battery only inspections had no signage up in the store and did not have boxes for take back, 18 were not registered with ERP recycling. 1 multi-agency WEEE inspection was carried out with an EPA representative and a WERLA officer at Vape Escape in Swords. Shops selling vape products were targeted in these inspections, and most were found to not be registered with ERP. These retailers have or in the process of rectifying any non-compliances.</p>

### **Hazardous Waste Producers**

20 hazardous waste retailer inspections were carried out in 2023 consisting of garages in the Fingal area to determine compliance with Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996 and the European Communities (Shipments of Hazardous Waste exclusively within Ireland) Regulations 2011. FCC visited a number of premises including garages, repair shops and requested waste dockets for the authorised disposal of hazardous waste i.e., oils, batteries, or filters. 19 premises were compliant and provided waste dockets/waste transfer forms. It was noticeable that producers have a good understanding, not only of storage of hazardous waste but the importance of engaging an authorised collector to remove waste. 1 premises were non-compliant, and a warning letter was issued advising the producer of his obligations under Section 32 of the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended. Follow up inspection will take place in 2024 to ensure improvements are implemented.

### **Packaging**

Of the 7 2021 suspected major producers 1 has joined Repak, 3 are in the process of joining Repak, 1 are still engaging with Fingal County Council, 2 were found to be not obligated and 2 were issued Section 25 notices in late 2023 and are now engaging with Fingal County Council. From the 4 2022 suspected major producers 3 have joined Repak, 1 is in the process of joining Repak after being delayed with major company expansion. Of the 5 2023 suspected major producers 2 were not obligated, 1 has joined Repak, 1 is in the process of joining Repak and 1 is still engaging with Fingal County Council. The 15 former self-compliers with Fingal County Council 7 have joined Repak, 6 are in the process of joining Repak after Fingal County Council engagement and 2 have not joined Repak or engaged with Fingal County Council. These 2 will be followed up with in early 2024.

### **Local Priority – troublesome Waste Facility Permit site**

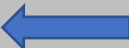
During the first quarter of 2023, Fingal County Council was made aware by a third party that a petition had been filed with the High Court to wind down a Company operating under a Waste Facility Permit. As soon as it became aware of the issue, Fingal County Council sought to become an interested party in the High Court action, and carried out a site inspection. The winding down proceedings were resolved following out of court discussions between the parties – but highlighted significant differences between 2 shareholders of the Company.

Inspections of the facility throughout 2022 had indicated a worsening of storage of waste issues on site as the year went on, which were accompanied by non-compliance notifications. Following the 2022 inspections the company undertook to have waste stockpiles cleared in early 2023. Instead of finding the waste cleared out, an inspection in early 2023 (subsequent to FCC becoming aware of winding down proceedings) found that stockpiles had grown even further. This gave serious concerns of environmental pollution to Fingal County Council who issued a Section 55 Notice in April 2023 to remove all waste in excess of the permitted threshold by 22/4/2023. The terms of the Section 55 notice were not complied with, resulting in Fingal County Council's legal team seeking a High Court injunction under Sections 57 and 58 of the Waste Management Act, as amended. An order was granted by Mr Justice Meenan on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 against the Company and its two Directors, to immediately cease waste acceptance at the facility.


Following progress made by the Company, the injunction was lifted on 25/05/2023 and waste acceptance resumed. The matter was adjourned to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023, at which hearing the Court listed the matter for hearing Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the parties being at liberty to apply for an earlier Hearing date should anything change.


Fingal County Council continued to carry out regular inspections throughout 2023 and to work with the permit holder to try and assist them with facility upgrades while maintaining permit compliance. A major breakdown at a shredder on site, coupled with a difficult economic outlook (collapse of the recycled plastic market) resulted in waste stockpiles getting out of hand again at the facility. This led Fingal County Council seeking a further High Court Order, which was obtained on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The order was for the Company and its Director to immediately cease accepting waste and to immediately commence and continue to remove excess of waste currently stored at the facility. At a subsequent Hearing on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the Order was replaced by an undertaking of the Company and its Director to cease waste acceptance until 31/01/2024, bring back waste storage inside warehouse within compliant levels by 31/12/2023 and remove all outdoor waste by 31/01/2024.


Significant resources were mobilised by Fingal County Council in dealing with this issue, which required 21 inspections to be carried out in 2023, 1 affidavit signed by the Senior Engineer, 3 affidavits signed by the Executive Scientist, the hiring of FCC legal team consisting in 1 solicitor, 1 Junior Counsel and 1 Senior Counsel. Fingal County Council Officials attended the High Court on 4 occasions in 2023. The estimated time resources (carrying of inspection, writing and reviewing reports, affidavits and Court Attendance) allocated to the case in 2023 were as follows: 3 Days for Senior Engineer ; 5 Days for Senior Executive Scientist ; 28 Days for Executive Scientist ; 2 Days for other officers taking part in site inspections – a total of 38 days.


<b>National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Solid Fuel</b>	
<b>Local Authority: Fingal County Council</b>	<b>Activities</b>
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b><u>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tackle the sale of non-compliant fuel (including online sales) and its use via compliance promotion, inspection and enforcement of fuel merchants and retailers.</li> <li>• Participate in multi-agency operations investigating the sale of non-compliant fuels.</li> <li>• Carry out awareness programme to promote compliance by increasing the awareness of how the choices people make in heating their homes impacts on their air quality and health and legal obligations.</li> <li>• Establish and/or maintain a list, including the number and profile of solid-fuel merchants operating in each local authority area, including those using social media platforms to market solid fuels.</li> <li>• Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The implementation of the Solid Fuels Regulations was curtailed in 2023 as the SLA between Fingal County Council and the Environmental Health Section ceased at the end of Q3 2023, just before the end of year heating season. Prior to this the resources of the Environmental Health Section were utilised in other air and noise areas during 2023, with priority given to investigation and resolution of complaints, as well as the completion of planning assessments due to the statutory time commitments associated with this work stream. During 2023, 4 complaints were received in relation to the burning of solid fuel, with all of these closed out by year end. No complaints were received in relation to the sale of solid fuel.</li> <li>• The establishment of a new Air and Noise Unit in the Environment Section in Q1 2024 brings dedicated resources which will see greater implementation of the Solid Fuel Regulations in the coming year, including inspection of fuel merchants and retailers, multi-agency operations and awareness programmes.</li> <li>• Review of the existing register of solid fuel merchants operating in Fingal, including those using social media platforms, is ongoing. This list will be fully developed in 2024.</li> <li>• Environment staff continue to participate in the various air and noise networks and working groups, and will continue to collaborate with other local authorities, particularly in relation to cross-county air and noise matters. Collaboration with Meath County Council on joint inspections of coal retailers is being developed in 2024, with a particular focus on retail operators working across both counties.</li> </ul>



National Enforcement Priority:	<b>AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Activities and Data Use</b>
Local Authority: Fingal County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Unit to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assist EPA to troubleshoot issues at existing air quality monitoring stations including the nomination and notification to the EPA of a primary and secondary contact person.</li> <li>2. Assist (where possible, to the best extent possible) EPA to maintain existing and new air quality monitoring stations.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Review local air quality data to identify hotspots and to prioritise sites/areas for action.</li> <li>• Maintain availability of air quality data within the local authority functional area including a map to the general public for each local authority. As a minimum, a link to the relevant page(s) of the EPA site should be placed on each Local Authority website.</li> <li>• Awareness raising campaigns or information on LA websites or social media campaigns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There were 3 ambient air monitoring stations in operation in the Fingal area in 2023. All 3 ambient air monitoring stations continue to be operational and feed live real time information to the EPA. In collaboration with the EPA in 2023, Environment staff identified a 4<sup>th</sup> air monitoring location in Balbriggan. Initial preparatory works took place in 2023, with the monitor expected to be installed and operational in 2024. A 5<sup>th</sup> site is expected to be developed in 2024 in collaboration with the EPA.</li> <li>• Fingal continues to assist the EPA in the maintenance of existing and new air quality monitoring stations.</li> <li>• With dedicated resources assigned to the new Air &amp; Noise Unit in Q1 2024, local air quality data will be reviewed throughout the coming year to identify hotspots and prioritise areas for action.</li> <li>• Updates to the Council's website will also take place in 2024 to include a link to the EPA's website to facilitate access to the air quality monitoring results at the Fingal ambient air monitoring stations.</li> <li>• Awareness measures have also been programmed for 2024, particularly around solid fuel and smoky coal education campaigns, with the roll out of such campaigns planned for the heating season.</li> </ul>

<b>National Enforcement Priority:</b>		<b>AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs)</b>
<b>Local Authority: Fingal County Council</b>		<b>Activities</b>
 <b>Looking back at the year</b>		<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting through the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity <u>in the previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish noise maps on Local Authorities' websites to communicate information to the public.</li> <li>• Prepare and submit the Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report for Round 3 of Action Plans to the EPA by 28th February.</li> <li>• Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report should demonstrate progress on the key issues and priority areas for action.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Submission of the local authority Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report by 28th February 2024:</b></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>

National Enforcement Priority: <b>AIR - Air &amp; Noise Control (including Planning)</b>	
Local Authority: Fingal County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p><b>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</b></p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the <u>previous reporting year</u> – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-planning assessments of air and noise impacts.</li> <li>• Environment staff assist in follow up of air and noise issues including use of Section 107 and 108 of the EPA Act, the Air Pollution Act and liaising with planners where planning enforcement is more appropriate.</li> <li>• Increased public awareness of noise induced health impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning applications from commercial entities were assessed by the Environmental Health Section and Environment staff at the planning submission stage. Planning applications were assessed to determine if the necessary mitigation measures had been applied by the applicant in relation to possible air, odour and noise issues. The demolition, construction and operational phases of commercial developments were assessed, with appropriate air, odour and noise conditions applied where necessary. These conditions are based on current available guidance for air, odour and noise. In 2023, 149 planning applications were assessed across a wide range of commercial enterprises for air, noise and odour impacts, and appropriate conditions applied where relevant.</li> <li>• Noise and air complaints were handled by the Environmental Health Section from Q1 to Q3 2023, and following the cessation of the SLA with the Environmental Health Section, this function transferred to the Environment staff in Q4, who investigated noise and air complaints from this point onwards. During 2023, the Environmental Health Section and latterly the Environment team collaborated with Planning Enforcement in relation to noise and air complaints connected to planning conditions. Members of the public were also advised regarding neighbour-to-neighbour noise issues.</li> <li>• Environment staff in the new Air and Noise Unit (established Q1 2024) will work with the EPA/Department to increase public awareness around noise induced health impacts in 2024.</li> </ul>

National Enforcement Priority:	Air - Ongoing Air and Noise Enforcement Work
Local Authority: Fingal County Council	Activities
 Looking back at the year	<p>Tell the story of what your council did on this priority in the reporting year using the assessment criteria detailed in Table 2 of the guidance document. This is an opportunity to capture the impacts of the work completed to drive compliance. You are not required to duplicate data that you are submitting though the 'RMCEI data returns' or your 'RMCEI Plan'.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p><b>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions of facilities/activities as specified in the RMCEI template and/or as otherwise determined by the local authority.</li> <li>Make available on their websites, the EPA vehicle refinishers video and use appropriate channels to promote it.</li> <li>Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions under Sections 107 and 108 of the EPA Act 1992, in order to limit noise nuisance.</li> <li>Build capacity through engaging, collaborating and sharing with colleagues in other local authorities via networks and working groups and participating in training events.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Deco Paints Regulations &amp; Solvents Regulations:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Environmental Health Section issued certificates of compliance in relation to air quality emissions from vehicle refinishers and dry cleaners in accordance with the requirements of the Deco Paints and Solvents Regulations. At the time of application, the Enviroguide report submitted by each applicant was evaluated by the Environmental Health Section, and based on the Enviroguide recommendations, a certificate of compliance was issued for a period of up to 3 years. Any non-compliances identified during the Enviroguide inspections were followed up where appropriate by the Environmental Health Section.</li> <li>In 2023, all known dry cleaners (6) and deco operators (17) had certificates of compliance or were in the process of obtaining a certificate. Following the closure of the Environmental Health Section at end of Q3 2023, this function transferred to the Environment Section, and the new Air and Noise Unit established in Q1 2024 will continue to implement both sets of regulations for the coming year.</li> <li>The Air &amp; Noise Unit will increase awareness of the Deco Paints and Solvents Regulations during 2024 via the various Fingal County Council communications channels, including promotion of EPA awareness material.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Petroleum Vapour Regulations:</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fingal County Council continues to liaise with the Dublin Fire Brigade Fire Prevention (Dangerous Substances) division to ensure compliance with the Petroleum Vapour Emissions regulations. 26 garages were inspected in 2023, and all were compliant with the regulations.</li> </ul>

**Sites Licenced under the Air Pollution Act:**

- There are no licenced sites under the Air Pollution Act in the Fingal County Council functional area.

**Local air and noise issues:**

- As mentioned above, noise and air complaints were handled by the Environmental Health Section from Q1 to Q3 2023, with this function transferring to the Environment staff in Q4 2023 following the cessation of the SLA between the Environmental Health Section and Fingal County Council. Noise and air complaints were responded to and closed off in a timely manner, with a small number of noise and air complaints carried forward to 2024, and enforcement action taken where appropriate.
- Fingal County Council staff continue to participate in the various air and noise networks and working groups, and will continue to collaborate with other local authorities, particularly in relation to cross-county air and noise matters.