

Industrial and Waste Licence Enforcement

SUMMARY 2023

HIGHLIGHTS 2023

889
Licences were
enforced by the
OEE



535
individual sites
were inspected



1202
inspections
carried out

LEAP Online



launched the Licence & Enforcement Access Portal (LEAP) providing for enhanced public access to environmental information including OEE regulatory records.

Closed Landfill Sites



Increased focus on the Management and aftercare of closed landfills including two prosecutions against Local Authorities for failure to adequately manage leachate and landfill gas infrastructure.

Peat Extraction



Continued enforcement of unauthorised peat extraction activities including the first successful prosecution for the extraction of peat without a licence.

Water



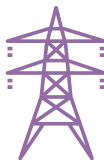
Continued focus on licensed sites impacting on water quality as part of the Water Framework Directive requirements. This included a targeted campaign focussed on surface water drainage systems at licensed sites.

Complaints



A 29% decrease on number of complaints received compared to 2022.

Energy Sector



Established a new OEE Energy Enforcement Team to provide for more focussed enforcement of the energy sector.

Waste Transfer Stations



A focus on continuous improvement of fire risk controls at waste transfer facilities.

Unauthorised waste activity



Targeted multi-agency actions to tackle unauthorised waste activity.

Beyond Compliance



Improved environmental performance at many licensed sites as supported by the EPA's 'Beyond Compliance' initiative.

Inspections

1202

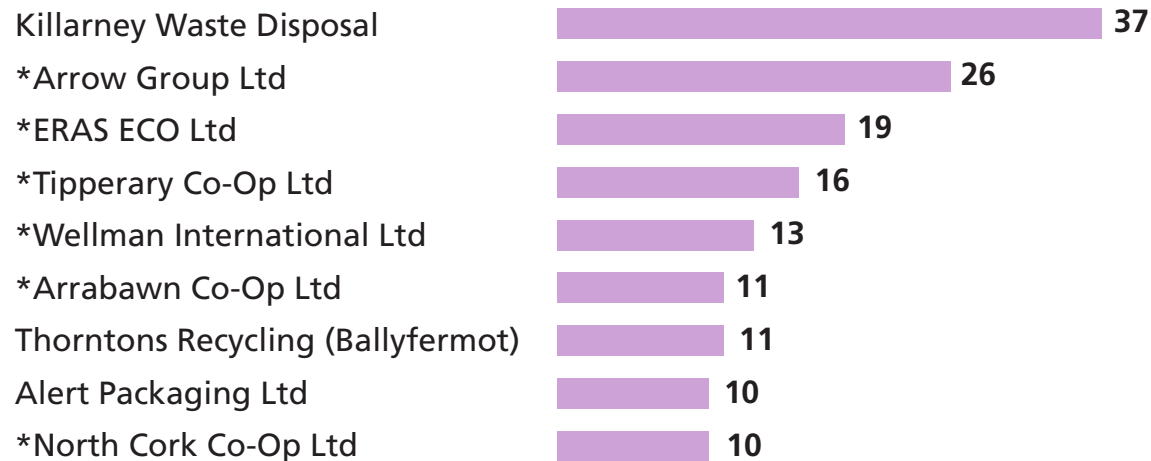
Inspections were carried out at licensed industrial and waste facilities during 2023.

33 Inspections were carried out at unauthorised sites.

535 licensed sites were inspected (60% of all sites).

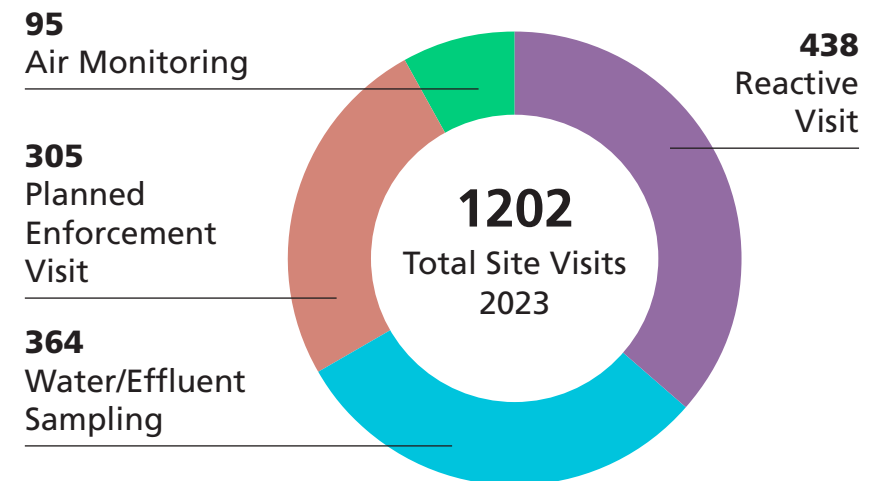
91% of inspections were unannounced.

Sites visited 10 times or more during 2023



*National Priority Sites in 2023

Types of Inspections 2023



Chemical Sector



Anaerobic Digestion Sector

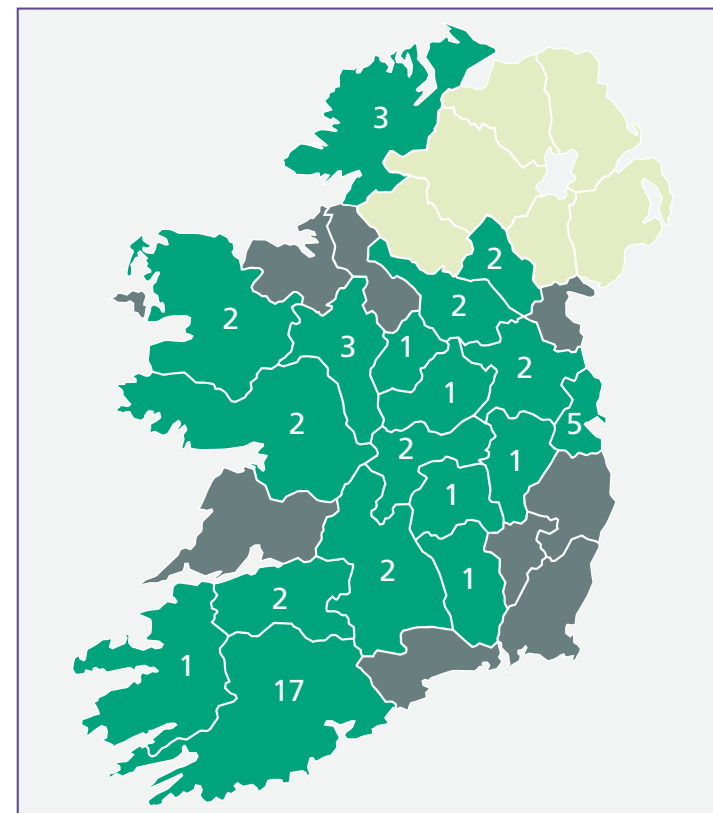


National Priority Sites

National Priority Sites 2023

LICENSEE	COUNTY	SECTOR	ISSUE
Arrabawn Co-operative Society Ltd	Tipperary	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
Arrow Group Ltd	Kildare	Food & Drink	Odour and noise
Aurivo Consumer Foods Ltd	Donegal	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
Eras Eco Ltd	Cork	Waste	Odour
Euroflex Teoranta	Donegal	Surface coating	Emissions to air
Forge Hill Recycling Ltd	Cork	Waste	Waste management
Gairdini t/a Munster Joinery	Cork	Surface coating	Discharges to water
North Cork Co-Op Creameries Ltd	Cork	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
Timoleague Agri Gen Ltd	Cork	Anaerobic Digestion	Infrastructure & management
Tipperary Co-operative Creamery Ltd	Tipperary	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
Wellman International Ltd	Meath	Wood, Paper, Textiles & Leather	Odour & stormwater management

50 National Priority Sites 2017-2023



Food & Drink Sector

Issue with discharges to water at NPS



50 sites have appeared on National Priority Sites List since it was first published in 2017 with the majority of sites (68%) from the Food & Drink and Waste sectors.

Arrow Group Limited first appeared on the National Priority Sites List in 2017 and following a focussed enforcement effort by OEE and investment by the licensee, was no longer a national priority site at the end of 2023.

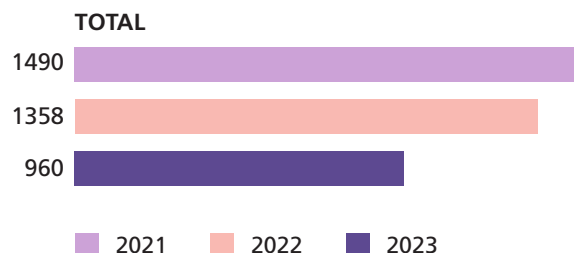
Only three of the sites remain on the National Priority Sites List going into 2024 i.e. North Cork Co-Op Creameries Ltd, Timoleague Agri Gen Ltd and Wellman International Ltd.

Complaints

OEE
Enforcement
Activities have driven
down complaints with a

36%
decrease from
2021

960 complaints were received during 2023 which is a **29% decrease on 2022**.



Odour and Noise Complaints continued to dominate in 2023 (accounting for 90% of all complaints received) but have **reduced from 2021**.



Odour Complaints have reduced by **35%** and **Noise Complaints** have reduced by **37%** compared to 2021.

Energy

The phasing out of older Power Stations, unexpected shutdowns and increased energy demand (including by Data Centres) has put pressure on Ireland's electricity supply.

The establishment of a new Energy Enforcement Team has ensured a strategic approach to enforcement of licensed sites in the energy sector.

Solar Farm Installation at Licensed Site



Public Access to Information

Online Licence & Enforcement Access Portal (LEAP) was launched in May 2023

- Provides online public access to regulatory records at **www.leap.epa.ie**
- Includes compliance and enforcement correspondence exchanged between the EPA and holders of EPA Licences/Permits.
- Members of the public can view EPA Site Visit Reports, details of EPA Compliance Investigations, Complaint Summary Records, Incident Notifications, Non-Compliance Notifications, Licensee Monitoring Records etc.

LEAP
had almost
100,000
page views
in 2023

Prosecutions



22 cases

initiated by the EPA were heard and concluded in the District Courts during 2023.

1 Circuit Court Case

concluded in Dublin Circuit Court resulting in a former director of a waste company being sentenced to three years imprisonment with the final twelve months suspended for breaches of an EPA licence.



In total during 2023,
fines of €137,750
and total costs of €245,047,
were awarded to the EPA.

Peat

The overall objective of the EPA is, that all peat extraction operations, and in particular, those which are required to have a licence from the EPA, are conducted in compliance with the relevant regulations. In 2023, the EPA adopted a strategic approach to dealing with Local Authorities in relation to peat enforcement. The EPA has been and will continue to hold those operators to account.

- **First successful District Court prosecution** for the extraction of peat without a licence from the EPA.
- **14 rehabilitation plans submitted by Bord na Móna** under the Peatlands and Climate Action Scheme (PCAS), covering 4,289 hectares across five counties.
- **Issued 30 requests for information** under Section 63(1) of the EPA Act to 5 Local Authorities where unauthorised peat extraction is occurring.
- **Engagement with 5 Local Authorities** to progress enforcement actions.



29

inspections
in 2023

Remediated Kerdiffstown Landfill



Peat Extraction Operations

