

# Industrial and Waste Licence Enforcement

## SUMMARY 2024

### HIGHLIGHTS 2024



#### Complaints



Complaints from members of the public have reduced from 1490 in 2021 to 809 in 2024 representing a reduction of 46%.

#### Peat Extraction



Continued enforcement of illegal large scale peat extraction activities including 42 site visits, targeting 38 peatlands across 7 different counties in 2024.

#### LEAP Online



The Licence & Enforcement Access Portal (LEAP), which provides public access to enforcement records, had over 195,000 page views in 2024 (up from 100,000 in 2023).

#### Data Centres



Ambient air quality monitors installed and operational at 8 licensed sites clustered in the west Dublin area.

#### Waste



The remediated Kerdiffstown landfill site (which previously caused significant environmental impacts and public nuisance) opened as a public park in 2024

#### Financial Provision



In 2024, the amount of financial provision secured at licensed sites to provide for significant incidents or site closure was €1.140 billion, an increase of €72 million since 2023.

#### Water Quality



Site-specific enforcement plans have been developed for the 41 industrial and waste licensed sites identified as placing significant pressures on water quality.

# Inspections

# 1309

Inspections were carried out at licensed industrial and waste facilities during 2024.

**42** inspections were carried out at unauthorised sites.

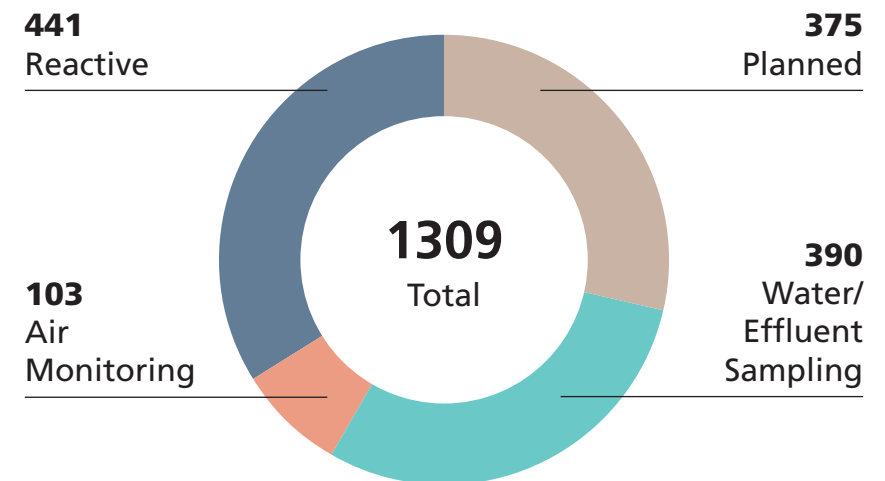
**634** sites (70% of all sites) were inspected in 2024 (increase of 99 on 2023).

**96%** of inspections were unannounced.

## Sites Inspected 10 Times or More During 2024

Wellman International Ltd	ODOUR	19
Starrus Eco Holdings Ltd (Dock Rd)	SITE INFRASTRUCTURE	16
Tipperary Co-Operative Ltd	WATER	15
Ballynagran Residual Landfill	ODOUR	15
Irving Oil Whitegate Refinery Ltd	WATER	12
Woodfab Timber Ltd	WATER	10
Thorntons Recycling Centre (Ballyfermot)	ODOUR	10

## Types of Inspections 2024



Waste Sector



Food & Drink Sector



# National Priority Sites 2024

## National Priority Sites 2024

Licensee	County	Sector	Issue
A Pig Farmer	Longford	Intensive Agriculture	Discharges to water
Aurivo Consumer Foods Limited	Donegal	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
Carrowbrowne LF (Galway City Co)	Galway	Waste	Leachate Management
CRM Pigs Limited	Cavan	Intensive Agriculture	Discharges to water
Glenmore Biogas	Donegal	Anaerobic Digestion	Odour
North Cork Co-Op Creameries Limited	Cork	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
Starrus Eco Holdings Limited (Waterford City)	Waterford	Waste	Discharges to water
Timoleague Agri Gen Limited	Cork	Anaerobic Digestion	Infrastructure
Tipperary Co-Op Creamery Limited	Tipperary	Food & Drink	Discharges to water
Wellman International Ltd	Meath	Wood, Paper, Textiles & Leather	Odour

The National Priority Sites System is a system of performance-based indicators to rank industrial and waste licensed sites in order of priority for enforcement. Scores are assigned under four key indicators of environmental performance and licence compliance i.e. Complaints, Incidents, Non-compliances & Compliance investigations.

**54 sites** have appeared on the National Priority Sites list since it was first published in 2017 with the majority of sites (67%) from the **Food & Drink** and **Waste Sectors**.

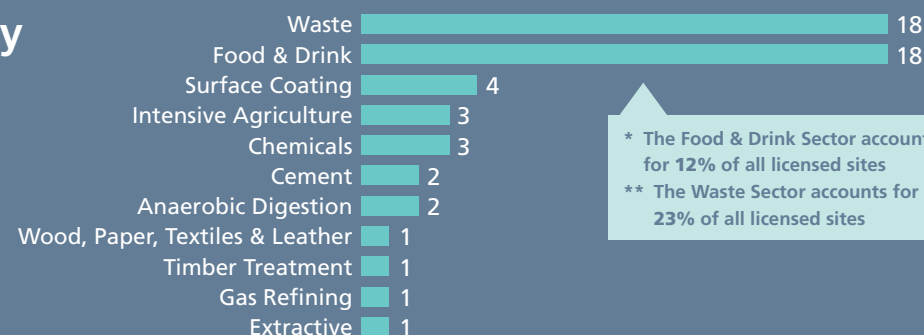
Significant enforcement effort has been directed at these sites accordingly, resulting in increased investment by the licensee and compliance improvements.

As a result, **only three** of the sites remained as National Priority Sites going into 2025 i.e. **North Cork Creameries, Timoleague Agri Gen Limited and Tipperary Co-operative Creamery Limited**. North Cork Creameries was removed from the list in quarter 1 of 2025.



**9 of the 10**  
NPS sites have been  
prosecuted or have  
legal action pending

## National Priority Sites by Sector, 2017 to 2024

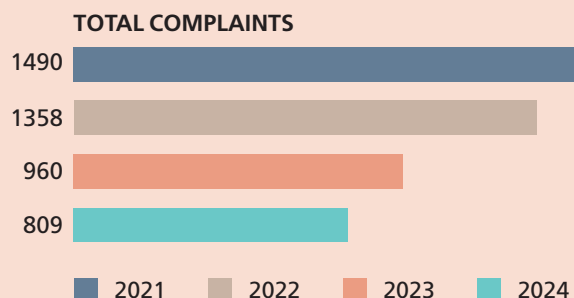


# Complaints

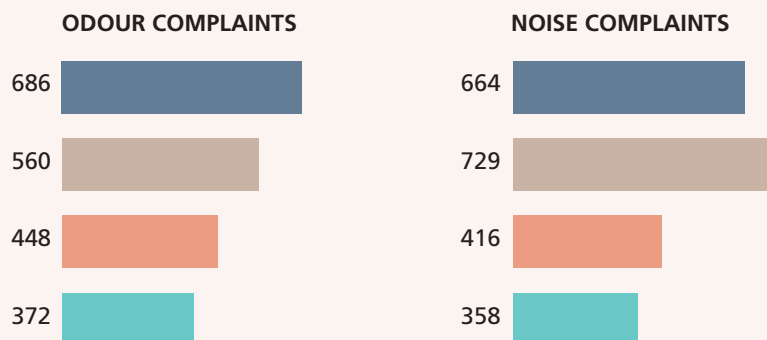
OEE Enforcement Activities have driven down complaints by

**46%**  
from 2021

**809 complaints** were received by the EPA during 2024 which is a **16% decrease on 2023**.



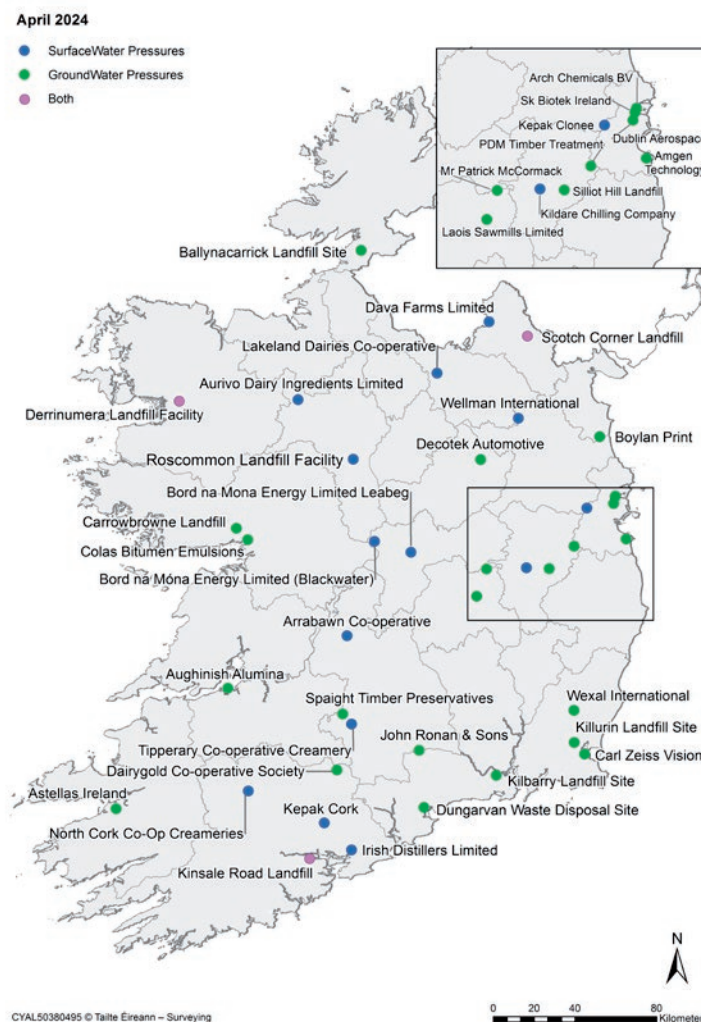
**Odour and noise complaints** continued to dominate in 2024 (accounting for 90% of all complaints received) but have **reduced from 2021**. The Food & Drink Sector accounted for 58% of complaints in 2024.



**Odour complaints have reduced by 46%** and **noise complaints have reduced by 44%** compared to 2021.

# Water Quality

*Industrial and Waste Sites on the Significant Pressures List*



Site-specific enforcement plans have been developed for industrial and waste licensed sites that were identified as placing significant pressures on water quality.

**41 licensed sites** remain on the Significant Pressures List with 14 placing significant pressure on surface water quality, 24 on groundwater quality and 3 on both surface water and groundwater quality. **This represents less than 5% of industrial and waste licensed sites.**



# Prosecutions



- Seven cases were concluded in the district court and one case in the circuit court in 2024.
- The sectors prosecuted included Food & Drink, Intensive Agriculture, Surface Coating and Waste Transfer.
- Such cases have prompted significant investment and process changes to improve compliance and environmental performance.
- In total during 2024, fines of €29,500 and total costs of €145,300 were awarded to the EPA from district court cases.
- A case taken by the Office of Director of Public Prosecutions based on an EPA investigation concluded with fines of €500,000 being imposed on a waste operator for accepting waste in excess of the annual limit of their licence.



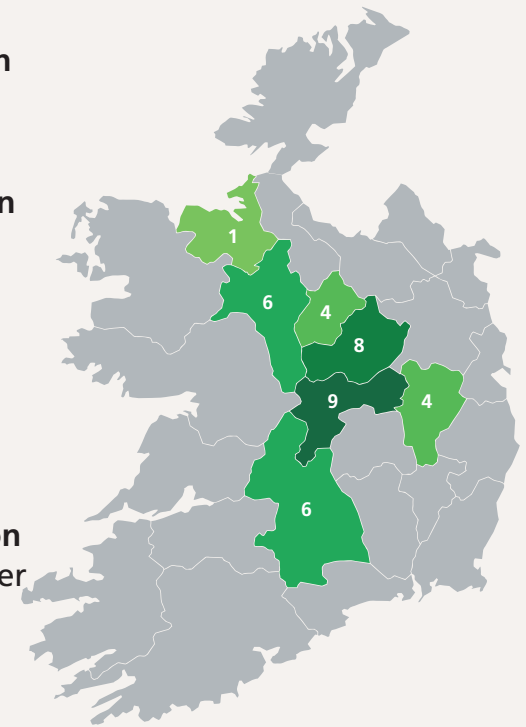
# Illegal Large Scale Peat Extraction

The EPA continued to dedicate a significant amount of resources in 2024 to tackle the illegal large scale extraction of peat. Legal actions in the District and High Courts have successfully halted illegal peat extraction on several sites.

The EPA has increased its enforcement effort under Section 63 of the EPA Act to promote enforcement action by local authorities.

- **38 Section Notices and seven Proposed Directions** have been issued to Local Authorities under the EPA Act (Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, Kildare, Roscommon, Tipperary, Sligo).

The EPA approved a further **10 Bord na Mona rehabilitation plans in 2024** (covering 4,021 hectares) bringing the number of plans approved under the Peatlands Climate Action Scheme to 60, covering an area of 24,202 hectares. To the end of 2024, 18,861 hectares of rehabilitation works have been completed by Bord na Móna.



Location of illegal large scale peat extraction sites subject to EPA investigations

Large Sod Extraction



Milled Peat Extraction



## 42

site visits, targeting  
38 peatlands across  
7 different counties  
in 2024