

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



2025 National Enforcement Priorities Progress Report

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

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (Farmyards) - 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 through the ‘RMCEI data returns’ or your ‘RMCEI Plan’. [Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and prioritize farms for inspection by considering agricultural pressures and using the EPA’s Farm and Landscape Measures for Agriculture (FLAG) map (formerly the Targeting Agricultural Measures map). Incorporate data on restore and protect waterbodies, Areas for Action, ASSAP work areas, and local knowledge. Ensure effective information sharing among all relevant agencies and competent authorities to 	<p>Farm Selection Process</p> <p>In 2024, a GIS analysis of the Land Parcel Information System LPIS data set to characterise the types of farms in Fingal in line with the NEP agricultural priorities was undertaken. Building on that body of work in early 2025, a risk assessment of farms in areas where agriculture is identified as a pressure was carried out. The EPA’s National Agricultural Inspection Programme (NAIP) Guidance and Training Handbook recommends a catchment-based risk assessment and sets out criteria for selecting farms including: current water quality status throughout the county and in particular in areas where water quality is required to be restored, the EPA’s Targeted Agriculture Measures and Pollution Impact Potential PIP maps to identify high N and P and high sediment areas in the catchments (primarily high P in Fingal as many farms have a high soil P Index of 4), the EPA’s Farm and Landscape Measures for Agriculture FLAG map and catchment based local knowledge regarding specific pressures in the catchment. These tools were utilised during the selection process. Catchments discharging to designated bathing waters or close to locally important aquifers also formed part of the selection process.</p> <p>From this risk assessment, and in line with the EPA’s NAIP target for Fingal for 2025, a priority list of 74 farms for full, initial inspection under S.I. No.133 - European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022, as amended (GAP Regulations) was selected.</p> <p>Training for NAIP GAP Inspections</p> <p>Fingal County Council staff charged with carrying out the NAIP GAP inspections, attended practical on-farm training provided by the EPA and LANSTG at Gurteen Agricultural College and classroom training events in May and June 2025. Also, webinars on cross reporting and other enforcement tools were attended during the year. Fingal County Council also met with the EPA NAIP representatives in May and December of 2025 to clarify the EPAs position with respect to certain discretionary issues as they arose.</p> <p>Farm Inspection Process</p> <p>For each individual farm operator, a farm inspection notice is issued by registered post generally 4 to 6 weeks prior to the date of the farm inspection. Each inspection notice references farm operators herd number and includes an eircode for accuracy where available. Notices are issued by registered post to ensure a schedule of inspections is in place month to month to manage the delivery of EPA NAIP target. The</p>

<p>support a coordinated inspection regime. Conduct targeted agricultural inspections focused on pollutants of concern (phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediments) using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and the FLAG map.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances. • Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM, and reporting of pressures/incidents to other agencies (e.g. IFI, NPWS or other relevant body), as appropriate. • Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA. 	<p>inspection notice sets out the focus of the inspection including: the management of manures and slurries, minimisation of soiled water, adequacy of slurry and soiled water storage, potential impacts from farm roadways and impacts from the spreading of organic and inorganic fertilisers on watercourses adjacent to the farmyard and farmland.</p> <p>A Fingal County Council ‘Farmyard Management Plan – Maintenance of Records’ advisory guidance document accompanies each notice and requests the farmer to submit a plan, prepared by a suitably qualified agricultural advisor listed on the Department of Agriculture Food and Marine’s List of FAS Advisors detailing how compliance with the GAP Regulations will be achieved. This plan shall include: a sketch of the farmyard outlining the use and dimensions of all buildings, the volume of manures generated slurries and soiled water generated and how these will be managed including the storage capacity of any tanks in the yard, the drainage layout including discharge points for clean water, the annual fertiliser requirement for the farm and a copy of any Nutrient Management Plan NMP. These plans and any NMP are assessed prior to the inspection when available or are assessed post inspection and a calculation is carried out to check for adequate storage capacity and to check the stocking density.</p> <p>A standard GAP Farm Inspection Form is completed during each inspection to ensure a consistent approach and photographs are taken to highlight both compliances and non-compliances with the GAP Regulations witnessed during the inspection. Both the farmyard and farmland are inspected where appropriate.</p> <p>Compliance with the GAP Regulations</p> <p>Of the 74 initial GAP inspections carried out in 2025, approximately 30% were identified as being non-compliant with the regulations. Non-compliances ranged from minor non-compliances to more significant non-compliances, and these were cross reported to DAFM.</p> <p>All non-compliances were discussed with the farmer or operator during the inspection. Where non-compliances were minor or could be easily rectified, this was discussed with the farmer on the day and works to bring the farm into compliance were encouraged to allow for a compliant letter to issue, for the file to be closed and for the farm to be deprioritised in the risk assessed list.</p> <p>Minor non-compliances witnessed included – sections of guttering requiring replacement or repair, a small number of bales or good condition haylage bales stored greater than 2 bales high and a down pipe discharging adjacent to a calf shed generating soiled water and requiring re-direction. In some cases where non-compliances were considered minor or of a less serious nature, the farmer submitted a photo as evidence of works to bring the farm into compliance, and this was accepted to close the file e.g. photos of guttering replaced or repaired. Physical re-inspections of farms where non-compliances were deemed minor were also carried out where appropriate e.g. an initial inspection identified farmyard manure stored in a field and a re-inspection was deemed necessary to ensure it was spread before the closed period. Files are then closed if works completed are adequate.</p> <p>In cases where non-compliances were deemed to be of a more significant nature or the potential for pollution of waters from the farmyard was higher or where non-compliances were numerous, a non-compliance letter issued to the farmer with - specific details of issues witnessed by the Inspector, an annotated map indicating the location of the non-compliance/s in the farmyard or on the farmland and photographs clearly showing the issue at hand. The sections of the GAP regulations that apply to the non-compliances were detailed in the letter or the</p>
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Statutory Management Requirement SMR2 was referenced where appropriate. The letter required the farmer or operator to submit a plan to address the non-compliances to Fingal County Council within a specific timeframe and stated that until works were complete, surface and groundwaters were to be protected and no pollutants allowed to enter. The letter detailed that the plan submitted, and the schedule of works would be agreed with the Council before works commenced and a follow-up inspection would be carried out when works were complete.

Re-inspections were carried out to see if appropriate action was taken to bring the farm into compliance, however in 2025 5 non-compliant farm operators were cross reported to DAFM. Reported non-compliances include inadequate collection facilities for silage effluent where many bales are stored greater than 2 high and inadequate collection facilities for effluents and soiled water with the potential to run-off into surface water drains or nearby ditches.

In 3 cases where a non-derogation farm was allowing cattle access to a watercourse, this was referred to LAWPRO for follow-up and for a possible alternative drinking water source.

No farms referred to the IFI or other states agencies as the farms were not causing pollution of fisheries.

During 2025, the EPA NAIP quarterly spreadsheet was completed and returned to the EPA detailing the number of farms inspected in that quarter and whether they were compliant or non-compliant. Specific details of the nature of the non-compliance/s, action taken by the Council, action taken by the farmer and whether the non-compliance was rectified was included in the return.

Outreach

In January 2025, the Environment Department utilised Fingal County Council's social media platforms to post a notice highlighting the closed period for spreading slurry and farmyard manure was in place until the 12th of January and indicating that complaints received or breaches witnessed during reconnaissance work would be investigated and would result in cross reporting to DAFM and possible penalties on farm payments.

An open period notice was also posted on Fingal's social media platforms highlighting the GAP regulations regarding the way slurry and farmyard manure could be applied to land to mitigate risks to water quality due to nutrient run-off. Key points included ensuring ground conditions were suitable e.g. not applying when ground was waterlogged or heavy rain forecast, maintaining adequate buffers from watercourses and utilising low emission slurry spreading LESS equipment. Again, the notice indicated that any breaches would be investigated and may result in heavy fines.

Staff from the Environment Department including those involved with carrying out GAP inspections and senior managers, attended 2 meetings held within the county and attended by the Irish Farmers Association, Fingal Farmers group, Meath County Council, Fingal elected members and 1 TD. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the NAIP and address farmers concerns where possible and to highlight other pressure on waters from wastewater within local authority areas.

National Enforcement Priority:	WATER – Pressures from Agriculture (Farmland) - slurry and fertiliser spreading
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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify appropriate farms for inspection considering agricultural pressures using the Farm and Landscape measures for Agriculture (FLAG) map (formerly the Targeting Agricultural Measures map), restore and protect waterbodies, Areas for Action, ASSAP work areas and local knowledge, and ensure adequate sharing of information between all relevant agencies and competent authorities to facilitate an effective inspection regime. Undertake targeted agricultural inspections specific to the pollutants of concerns (P, N and sediments), using the EPA Pollution Impact Potential (PIP) maps and EPAs Farm and Landscape measures for Agriculture (FLAG) map (formerly the Targeting Agricultural Measures map). Take all necessary steps to ensure compliance, including follow up and close out of non-compliances. 	<p><u>NATIONAL PRIORITY: Agricultural Pressures on Farmlands (2024)</u></p> <p>In 2025, the Council systematically monitored land-spreading practices during the prohibited period. Slurry and fertiliser applications in the Delvin and Matt/Bracken Catchments were closely monitored, with checks ensuring buffer zone adherence, particularly in vulnerable areas.</p> <p>Farm inspections targeted the Delvin and Matt/Bracken Rivers, aligning with the National Enforcement Priority. Targeted waterbodies were identified using EPA PIP maps, local knowledge, and LAWPRO Priority Areas for Action. The Delvin Catchment was a focal point due to its designation as a Local Authority Priority Area for Action in the 3rd Cycle River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>The Council collaborated with Meath County Council and LAWPRO on water sampling events in the Delvin Catchment. Future surveys will include the “Catchment Walk Field Sheet” for recording various environmental observations.</p> <p>Two Initial Focused Vantage Point Farm Inspections for Slurry Management during the closed period covered 30 Herd Numbers. Follow-up inspections after the closed season also covered the same farms. Compliance levels were generally high in 2025, with no farm found spreading slurry out of season, leading to an advisory, warning, and cross report.</p> <p>The Delvin was surveyed twice in January 2025, covering prohibited and early “open” periods. Observations included evidence of slurry spreading, stockpiling of manure, and field conditions. Similar surveys were conducted for the Matt in January 2025.</p> <p>Overall compliance with GAP regulations was high, with no non-compliance identified. Results were documented in a separate report to the EPA. The Council may continue this approach in 2026, focusing on non-compliance with GAP</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross reporting of non-compliances to DAFM, and reporting of pressures/incidents to other agencies (e.g. IFI, NPWS or other relevant body), as appropriate. Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA. • Document and report results for all farm inspections to the EPA. 	<p>regulations and liaising with DAFM. Select farms will undergo full GAP inspections based on reconnaissance survey observations, where appropriate.</p> <p>During the 2025 closed period for slurry and manure spreading, the Council used social media and its website to remind farmers of their GAP regulation obligations.</p> <p>While conducting the 74 NAIP farm inspections discussed under the previous section, Fingal Environment staff also carried out inspections of farmland and land spreading practices paying particularly attention to buffer zones as set out in the GAP regulations focussing on lands adjacent to watercourses. Prior to an inspection, the Nutrient Management Plan for the farm was reviewed to assess grassland stocking rates and recommended use of organic and inorganic fertilisers throughout the holding. Attention was paid to lands where soil analysis indicated a high P-Index and these lands were inspected particularly where GIS maps indicated there was a watercourse on the boundary. Where farmyard manure was stored in a field, the location was inspected and measurements taken to ensure it was greater than 20m from any watercourse and that ground conditions for storage were suitable. Re-inspections to ensure the FYM stored in a field had been spread before the closed period on 1st November were conducted. There were no major non-compliances witnessed regarding farmland management during these inspections but a discussion on best practice was always had with the farmer or operator to raise awareness of the requirements under the GAP regs. The farm selection process and reporting of outcomes to the EPA is as outlined in the previous section.</p>
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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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, investigate and licence any unauthorised discharges. Undertake risk-based inspections/monitoring of Section 4 licences. Inspect all licences identified as significant pressures on receiving waterbodies. Ensure compliance with discharge licence conditions and follow up and close out non-compliances and LAWPRO referrals on Section 4s and misconnections. 	<p><u>Discharge Licences:</u></p> <p>Fingal County Council (FCC) carried out a desk top review of its Section 4 register and identified licences that were invalid for various reasons (change in ownership, change in company name etc).</p> <p>One operator was discharging poor quality sewage effluent to waters in the absence of the required consent. By way of enforcement FCC succeeded in directing the new owner to cease discharging an approximate pollution load of circa 46 kg of BOD to waters per day. A further 2 operators who were also failing to meet with licence ELVs and who also by way of enforcement action are now tankering away their non-complaint discharge until the appropriate repairs/upgrades have been carried out. The tankering of both discharges has resulted in a further significant reduction in polluting matter going to waters.</p> <p>The Council monitors all licensed discharges taking a risk-based approach when designing the monitoring programme for monitoring which also takes into consideration Section 4 discharges where the discharges are to catchments where Section 4 are listed as a significant pressure to the waterbody.</p> <p>Sampling frequencies are increased if the licensee is failing to comply with its license and/or posing a risk to a waterbody.</p> <p>In 2025, Fingal County Council carried out 128 tests of Section 4 licencees to monitor each operator's compliance levels against permitted emission limit values. In terms of dealing with non-compliant operators the Council issued 69 non-compliance letters to non-compliant Section 4 operators in 2025. Each non-compliance notice was followed up with a follow up sample. Repeated offenders are currently under consideration for legal action which, if necessary, will be addressed in 2026.</p>

- Undertake misconnection surveys, particularly in areas where urban run-off is identified as a significant pressure. Ensure that remedial works are undertaken by property owners where misconnections are identified.

Audits and Results

In addition to monitoring operators' compliance with permitted emission limit values, 6 operators in 2025 were subject to S4 audits. Each audit included a sit down with each S4 operator to review the company's compliance performance when compared to each licence condition, a site inspection of the onsite wastewater treatment system associated discharge point and receiving waters. Following an audit each operator was issued with an audit report highlighting licence non-compliances if identified.

Of the 6 operators audited 3 companies required wastewater treatment system upgrades to achieve licence to compliance.

2 operators are subsequently tankering wastewater and sending it off site for disposal at authorised facilities while deciding on what actions to take to bring the final effluent into compliance.

1 company ceased operations due to critical environmental irregularities, far below an acceptable standard.

The year 2025 highlighted that monitoring and auditing actions are essential to ensure compliance with environmental licence conditions, fostering continuous improvement and greater accountability among licensed companies.

Fingal County Council received no referrals from LAWPRO in 2025.

Misconnections:

Misconnections (along with stormwater overflows from combined systems, industrial runoff, and general urban development impacts) are a subset of the pressure named "Urban Run-Off" by the EPA Catchment Assessment Team. Fingal County Council have identified, through The Water Framework Directive Application on EDEN, that Urban Run-Off has been identified as a significant issue in the following waterbodies;

Matt_010; Balrothery and Balbriggan.

Mill Stream (Skerries)_010; Skerries.

Turvey_010; Donabate.

Ward_030 & _040; Rowelstown and Swords.

Mayne_010; Dublin Airport and Belmayne.

Powerstown (Dublin)_010.

Santry_010; Dublin Airport and Santry.

Tolka_30 Mulhuddard, _040 Blanchardstown & _050 Ashtown and Finglas.

Chapter 5 of the WFD The Water Action Plan 2024 identifies Programme of Measures to 2027 for significant pressures that require additional new measures. One of these relates to Urban Run-Off and specifically Misconnections namely “Urban Runoff 7: Review of outcomes of the Dublin Urban Rivers Life project.” This LIFE funded programme with dedicated resources was able to pro-actively and systematically identify misconnections in an urban setting, give directions for repair and monitoring outcomes. Without these resources this unit's approach to mis-connection surveys has been reactive only. Perhaps the review of the DURL project may help progress resource allocation in this area. In Fingal County Council the two main players in this field are the Storm Water Unit and, where appropriate, The Water Pollution Unit.

- Appropriate Site Selection; The potential for misconnections is greatest in urbanised areas and those waterbodies identified where urban runoff is identified as being a significant pressure, as listed above. Site selection during 2025 was largely driven by
 - Complaints in these waterbodies, (Royal Canal, Tolka, Liffey, Ward, Mill),
 - Monitoring (Matt, Balcunin and Tolka).
 - Issues identified by the Storm Water Unit, during inspection and cleaning of the storm water network jetting, to Water Pollution Unit (Tolka).

- Non-Compliances / Unauthorised Activities
During 2025 misconnections were identified in commercial and domestic buildings {Ward_030, Ward_040, Matt_010, Liffey_180, Tolka_040, Gaybrook_010, Mill_010} & Turvey_010. Indirect misconnections were also identified whereby exfiltration from faulty foul water sewers entered the stormwater network (Matt_010). Quite regularly and across nearly all these waterbodies overflows from blocked sewers or faulty pumpstations entered the surface water network.

- Positive Environmental Outcomes
Royal Canal. Domestic misconnections identified on foot of dye testing and CCTV work were identified in an estate in Clonsilla. This property had all foul misconnected to stormwater network. Enforcement action resulted in correction of all misconnections in the property. There maybe other misconnections to resolve.

Matt_010. River walk identified foul water running into the Matt_010 in 2025. Further investigation identified that a faulty foul line crossing a surface water line was the source of the contamination. Uisce Eireann was contacted and the issue was resolved.

Ward_30 & 40. Misconnection identified and corrected at commercial property on North Street Swords. Another potentially significant misconnection has been identified off North Street Swords which is currently under investigation and enforcement action may follow.

Liffey_180. Domestic misconnection identified in Barnhill area D15. Misconnection identified and subject to enforcement action through a direction letter. Further investigations ongoing.

Liffey_180. Domestic misconnection identified in Mount Symon area D15 by storm water unit during cleaning and jetting of storm water network in Dublin 15 late 2025. Subject to enforcement action during 2026

Mill_010. Unauthorised temporary housing identified in this catchment as misconnected directly to Mill Stream. Investigation and enforcement continuing and led by Housing Department.

Tolka_040. The water quality at the outfall from the stormwater network serving Blanchardstown Village to Coolmine Industrial Estate has been intermittently impacted by multiple issues. This is a very large system impacted by occasional dumping into the system and contamination from foul water infrastructure, as well as misconnections. Monitoring results as well as complaints confirm the ongoing issues. A potentially significant misconnection has been identified late 2025 in Coolmine Industrial Estate which will require further investigation in 2026.

Turvey_010- Inappropriately sized and malfunctioning Wastewater treatment system discharging insufficiently treated foul water to ground and waters in this catchment is now subject to enforcement action including Section 12 Notice.

Balcunin_010. In this catchment regular monitoring of two streams discharging to coast by Loughshinny suggests intermittent contamination. Horse faeces and potential misconnections have been identified as potential sources of contamination. A misconnection survey has potentially narrowed the search to a stretch of Harbour Road. This may become the subject of further investigation and enforcement action during 2026.

- Collaborative Work and Other Measures.

In all the above collaborative work within the Council between Water Pollution Unit, Parks Division and Stormwater Unit and LAWPRO is a feature. Externally co-operation with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Uisce Eireann and the EPA is a feature.

Chapter 5 of the WFD The Water Action Plan 2024 identifies Programme of Measures to 2027 for significant pressures that require additional new measures. Six of these relates to Urban Run-Off specifically, Nature Based Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems "Urban Runoff 1-6".

In this regard Fingal County Council's Parks Division have been very proactive with Inland Fisheries Ireland, Office of Public Works and others, in planning and executing such measures.

In the Ward Regional Park measures such as de-culverting the tributary streams (Hilltown and Brasil) are in the planning phase. Plans are underway to develop an integrated constructed wetland on the shoulder slopes of the ward River Valley in line with the Hilltown Stream upstream of its confluence with the Ward River. Planning is also underway for retrofitting Nature Based Sustainable Urban Drainage features into the stormwater network serving River Valley Estate, including an integrated constructed wetland immediately before the outfall of this system to the Ward River.

Hydromorphology work is also being undertaken by Fingal County Council which may yield some improvements in biodiversity and water quality. Weir Removal where these structures are acting as barriers to upstream migration for migratory fish is underway in The Ward, Broadmeadow and Matt rivers. In the Ward two were removed over the last year in Swords, there is a tender out for the removal of three on the Matt around Balbriggan and plans are being drawn up for the removal of six to seven such barriers on The Broadmeadow River between Ashbourne and Swords.

National Enforcement Priority: WATER – Local Water Quality Pressures including Septic Tanks and Private Water Supplies	
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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow up and ensure septic tank advisory notices are closed out, in particular those open more than two years. Identify and register private water supplies that fall within the remit of the Drinking Water Regulations 2023, monitor these supplies at the required frequency of the Regulations and inform private supplies of their monitoring results as soon as they become available. Investigate supplies that fail to meet drinking water 	<p>Septic Tanks / Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems</p> <p>Fingal County Council fulfilled its obligation its requirement to carry out 13 septic tank inspections within its functional area in accordance with its NIP. 1 advisory notice was issued.</p> <p>Private Water Supplies:</p> <p>Fingal County Council monitored 3 public water suppliers on 3 occasions in 2025 with no non-compliances identified.</p> <p>Local Issues affecting Water Quality</p> <p>In 2025, a total of 28 bathing water incidents were recorded, impacting coastal water quality under Fingal County Council’s jurisdiction. The breakdown of incidents is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 related to <i>Urban Waste Water Agglomeration – EPA Licensed</i>; 9 due to <i>Surface Water Contamination</i>; 1 caused by <i>Animal/Bird Contamination</i>. <p>These incidents occurred on 9 different dates, with three events causing significant impact on local beaches.</p> <p>Major Events</p> <p>21/07/2025 – Heavy Rainfall Event in Dublin: <i>Orange Weather Warning</i> issued by Met Éireann due to intensified and prolonged rainfall forecast and All beaches received <i>Prior Warning</i> and subsequently <i>Do Not Swim</i> notices at: Balbriggan, Loughshinny, Rush North, Portmarnock and Claremont due to</p>

<p>quality standards and take necessary enforcement action.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and investigate local issues affecting water quality, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Non-compliances with surface water or groundwater quality standards, e.g. detected by investigative monitoring results or complaints. - Non-compliances with Bathing Water Standards. - EPA Red Dot+ notifications. - LAWPRO significant pressures referrals. - Other pressures identified as impacting on Water Framework Directive objectives, e.g. extractive industry, aquaculture 	<p>overflows from pump stations monitored by Uisce Éireann, resulting from the high rainfall volume recorded on the day, as forecasted and warned by Met Éireann.</p> <p>03/08/2025 – Storm Floris; <i>Prior Warning</i> issued across several beaches due to adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>09/08/2025 – Untreated Sewage Overflow: Released volume unknown. Immediate action included <i>Do Not Swim</i> notices at Rush South Beach and Portrane Beach due overflow on Whitestown Wastewater Pumping Station (WWPS), operated by Murphy’s under a DBO contract with Uisce Éireann.</p> <p><u>Other Pressures Identified as impacting on Water Framework Directive</u></p> <p>The Water Pollution Unit during 2025 refined it’s monitoring programme to look at particular pressures impacting the Water Framework Directive Objectives within Fingal County Council; Fouloucssed on sampling waters in proximity to wastewater pumpstations, Q Monitoring Stations, monitoring in agricultural areas and catchment assessment in the River Delvin.</p> <p>In terms of urban wastewater pressure, a monitoring programme was initiated to monitor upstream and downstream of foul pumping stations situated close to rivers.</p> <p>Appropriate Site Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Water Pollution Unit ran a GIS analysis on 82 pumpstations to identify the pumpstations which are closest to a river (<50ms), of which there are 17. <p>Non-Compliances / Unauthorised Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A monitoring programme was conducted and is still ongoing upstream and downstream of the selected pumpstations. Eleven sites have been monitored through 2025 and five rounds have been completed. ○ Positive Environmental Outcomes ○ A data set is being compiled and reviewed to assess the impact of this pressure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri Supplementary Measures not covered by GAPS Sites (n=5). <p>To examine the pressures on water quality related to non-GAP agricultural issues, a monitoring programme is being set up and is in the early stages of development.</p> <p>Appropriate Site Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 5 locations have been identified where livestock have access to waterbodies on farms which are not in derogation, some close to Q Monitoring Stations. <p>Non-Compliances / Unauthorised Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A monitoring programme is being devised upstream and downstream of this location.
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Positive Environmental Outcomes

- A data set is being compiled and will be reviewed to assess the impact of this pressure. Fingal County Council have already asked LAWPRO to consult with ASSAP regarding supplementary measures at these locations; Forty Acres, Lispopple Bridge, Fieldstown House Bridge, Bridge Near Gardiners Hill, Mill Stream off Skerries Road.
- There is scope to expand this programme into arable farming areas where sediment runoff is an issue and unresolved by buffer zones regulated through GAP alone.

- **Focus on Q Station Monitoring Points. Sites (n=19) / Sampling Rounds (n=3).**

Following the latest reports on Q Values and Ecological Status of Waterbodies in Fingal County Council initiated a programme of monitoring specifically for the Q Station monitoring network. The programme represents an increase in the quantitative (frequency of sampling and parameters analysed) and qualitative data (Questionnaire) collected previously.

Appropriate Site Selection

- Nineteen Q Value monitoring stations were selected using the latest Water Quality Report published by the EPA. Three full rounds have been completed during 2025.

Non-Compliances / Unauthorised Activities

- A questionnaire has been compiled and is being filled out by samplers which requires the gathering of information on the river at the Q stations which provides for surveillance of pressures, agricultural, arterial drainage, in-stream works, construction, development, discharges in the vicinity of these key monitoring stations.

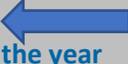
Positive Environmental Outcomes

- A data set is being compiled and will be reviewed to assess the impact of the various pressures at key Q Value monitoring stations.
- The surveillance being undertaken at these stations can provide intelligence for the EPA Catchment Assessment Team in advance of their Q Value fieldwork.

- **Catchment Assessment Delvin.**

As lead authority in the Delvin Priority Area for action, Fingal County Council has led out a collaborative monitoring programme for the second year with Meath County Council and LAWPRO. Sampling results were shared across the local authorities and LAWPRO with some excellent findings as a result.

	<p>Appropriate Site Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ During these sampling rounds, up to 10 scientists from Fingal County Council, Meath County Council and LAWPRO carried out river assessments at 29 sites for chemistry and streamflow and 10 sites for biology and hydro-morphology. GIS was used to select tributaries and mini catchments for sampling locations and to prepare field maps. <p>• Non-Compliances / Unauthorised Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Specific areas for higher risk Nitrogen and Phosphorus loss farms have been identified as well as areas of high or very high risk for domestic wastewater treatment systems. <p>• Positive Environmental Outcomes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ A monitoring data set is being compiled and is being reviewed and updated.○ Selection of farms for inspection under (NAIP) has been guided by these results.○ Fingal County Council have begun modelling loads, particularly for Phosphorus, and have quantified the scale of reductions required for this parameter at sub catchment level to achieve good water quality status under the Water Framework Directive. We are examining the potential for each pressure to contribute to this reduction; Agriculture, Wastewater treatment plants, domestic wastewater treatment plants etc.
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National Enforcement Priority: WASTE - Tackling illegal waste activities & Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern	
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. 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'. Criteria A (to provide a compliance rate and comparison with previous years) is not specifically applicable under this NEP</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted inspections and consistent approach to follow up enforcement actions of unauthorised collectors and site operators using intelligence from waste data flows, complaints and other available data in line with the organisation's waste enforcement policy. Co-ordinate enforcement activity with regulators through the NWESC, NIECE, Garda Multi Agency forums and by multi-lateral concerted actions. Regulators include, but are not limited to, Social Welfare, An Garda Siochana 	<p><u>Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern</u></p> <p>Following a successful and collaborative year with other LA's and An Garda Síochána in 2024, Fingal County Councils, Waste Enforcement Team used learnings and experienced gained to tackle illegal waste activities in 2025. The focus was targeted intervention, improved use of resources and a proactive enforcement approach, in conjunction with meeting agreed targets.</p> <p>During 2025, two sites of interest were identified for multi-agency inspections to tackle illegal "man in the van" and End of Life Vehicle (ELV) waste activities, involving An Garda Siochana, the FCC Planning Dept, the FCC Housing Dept. and the Department of Social Protection. The sites, one in Portmarnock and the other in Blanchardstown, were identified using local knowledge, waste enforcement intel, complaints from the public and intelligence from An Garda Síochána (AGS) and the EPA. Garda assistance was required to facilitate safe access due to health and safety concerns at both sites. The coordinated multi-agency approach facilitated a thorough assessment of suspected illegal waste and End of Life Vehicle activities ensuring that enforcement action could take place. Both sites were noted to have improved from a waste perspective following previous multi-agency inspections back in 2023, with only minor storage of waste issues and ELV activity found. Several waste issues were followed up with S14 direction letters to resolve the matter. Key learnings from 2024 were employed to ensure the multi-agency operations were organized effectively involving extensive preparation, months of planning, intelligence sharing, and through collaboration/coordination with different agencies.</p> <p>Inspections were carried out at 3 permitted metal recyclers with a focus on ensuring customers details were checked and recorded, and that nontrade customers were not facilitated on site, in line with permit conditions. No evidence was found of facilities facilitating unauthorised collectors (100% compliance with permit condition). An operator who had multiple non-compliances with tonnage exceedances and operating outside its permitted area in previous years had a noted improvement in compliance, with tonnage kept within permitted limits and site boundaries restored to those authorised under the permit. Although there were some issues with WEEE leakage at this site, these were partly related to waste accepted from licensed facilities – not properly segregating out WEEE from mixed metal loads sent to the facility. WEEE leakage was not identified at the other 2 metal recycling facilities.</p> <p>A legal file was prepared on a Waste Collection Permit Holder who was found in 2024 to be operating a transfer station without a waste facility permit. A warning and Direction to cease under Section 14 of Waste Management Act (WMA), 1996 as amended had been issued to this WCP holder for a similar operation on a previous occasion, resulting in the decision to prepare a legal file on this occasion.</p>

<p>and the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, EPA, WERLA and NPWS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant Anti-Dumping Initiatives implemented. • Identify and enforce illegal waste activities at authorised sites, with a particular focus on traceability and the unauthorised movement of waste including waste metal. • Keep the Convictions Register up to date. 	<p>The case was brought for breaches of Sections 18, 32, 34 and 39 of the WMA. The company pleaded guilty and were given the Probation Act, with a charity donation of €200 and costs to FCC of €2,422.</p> <p>The convictions register was updated every quarter, with a particular focus on the closing out of 2-3 year old cases where the probation act was given pending payment of costs and charity donation – with such cases making regular appearances in Court to record and update the judge on payments, with the offer of the Probation Act taken back and a conviction given on 1 occasion in late 2024 on a February 2022 case, and the register updated in Q1 2025.</p> <p>Two sites involved in the unauthorised storage of C&D waste were cleared in 2025, one which was detected and resolved during the year whereas the other one was the subject of prolonged enforcement action over a number of years.</p> <p><u>Checkpoints</u></p> <p>In 2025, Fingal County Council undertook a total of seven checkpoints in collaboration with Dublin City Council (DCC), An Garda Síochána, Trans-Frontier Shipment Office (NTFSO), Social Welfare, the FCC Air and Noise Section Unit & Revenue. The checkpoints showed only a few waste related non-compliances within Fingal’s border largely due to the lack of suitable and safe checkpoint locations. While checkpoints provided a visible enforcement present and contributed to public awareness, enforcement outcomes were consistently stronger when operating within Dublin City Council's jurisdiction. As a result, resources were redirected towards more effective intelligence-based activities, including surveillance and patrols of blackspot areas. FCC will carry out checkpoints in collaboration with DCC in 2026 to allow information to be shared and to target key areas of illegal waste activities.</p> <p><u>Surveillance & Patrols</u></p> <p>Surveillance and patrol activities continued in 2025 at known dumping hotspots consistent with the approach adopted in 2024. 63 patrols were carried out on major sites of interest to gather intelligence and to initiate enforcement action. As a result of these patrols, four Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) were issued to businesses for non-compliances that encourages dumping in that area, 10 litter fines were issued to individuals based off complaints and officers' enforcement, 40 Advisory letters were sent to individuals. Officers will continue this approach in 2026 with a shift towards more robust enforcement measures. It is intended that a higher proportion of detected offences will result in the issuance of litter fines, with a reduction on warning and advisory letters.</p> <p>Two covert CCTV cameras were installed at dumping hotspots following the completion and approval of data protection impact assessments by the FCC CCTV Oversight Board. Unfortunately, the cameras were detected at both locations within a few weeks of installation reducing their effectiveness however dumping at both locations did reduce significantly as potential illegal waste collectors became aware of the Waste Enforcement Section’s efforts to tackle illegal dumping using CCTV technology. Additional patrols were subsequently undertaken at both locations to ensure a visible presence was maintained on the ground.</p> <p><u>Sites of Interest</u></p> <p>Regular patrols were carried out at known dumping hotspots including Dunsink Lane, Bay Lane, St Philomena’s, Barnlodge, Moyne Park and Baskin Lane. The Operations Department were tasked with clearing any waste found dumped at these sites.</p>
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- **Stockhole Lane**- A multi-agency checkpoint was conducted at Stockhole lane as it is a known dumping hotspot. A total of 11 Section 32 letters were issued to individuals advising them that it is an offense to cause or facilitate the abandonment, dumping or unauthorised management or treatment of waste” or “hold, transport, recover or dispose of waste, or treat waste, in a manner that causes or is likely to cause environmental pollution” or to “transfer the control of waste to any person other than an appropriate person.
- **Silloge Green** - Patrols were regularly conducted due to ongoing illegal waste activity on site including dumping of waste on a regular basis interfering with the traffic flow to the NCT test centre. There are significant H & S issues for officers carrying out work here and AGS are required for any direct intervention with the residents.
- **Dunsink Lane (Observatory side)** – There was minimal incidents of dumping noted on Dunsink lane as a result of the hedges being cut back, the installation of CCTV and anti-dumping signage and regular patrols,
- **Dunsink Lane (Ratoath Road Side)** - This area is a hot spot for dumping. Regular patrols were undertaken to identify offenders from inspection of dumped waste with warning letters issued as required. CCTV was employed at Dunsink Lane to prevent illegal waste activity by capturing acts of dumping which enabled WEOs to issue 8 warning letters to registered vehicle owners. Any vehicles captured through CCTV is circulated through the team to be aware of these for checkpoints in the future. Officers also checked for any evidence that had person's name and address to facilitate a warning letter to be issued or a litter fine.

Anti-Dumping Initiative

As part of the Anti-Dumping Initiative, two ads were run in 5 different cinemas across Fingal for a 5-month period in 2025. The ads highlighted 1/ Obligations under Fingal County Councils Household and Commercial Waste Presentation Bye-Laws 2020, and 2/ Awareness about the dangers of illegal waste collectors and the importance of checking for a waste collection permit number. The Waste Bye-Laws ad informed the public that Fingal County Council were carrying out door to door inspections as part of the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Project to establish how householders were managing their waste and to help improve waste segregation.

Phase 2 of the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Project began in 2025. A total of 4000 households listed on the Reverse Register (suspected of not having a waste collection service in place) were requested through a number of letter correspondences to provide evidence of how they’re managing their green, brown and black bin waste. Households could reply by email, letter, phone call or fill out a declaration form on the FCC website confirming current waste disposal methods i.e. active bin account with an approved waste collector, bin sharing agreement in place or use of an authorised waste facility/civic amenity centre.

For households that did not engage with the project, ADI funding was utilised to carry out door to door inspections of approx. 2,150 addresses over a 3 month period. 1,800+ inspections were completed in 2025, with the remainder to be inspected in 2026. Inspection times were adjusted on a weekly basis to boost engagement rates and all responses were recorded to facilitate follow up actions for any missing information (account number, bin sharing agreement, receipts for disposal of waste at authorised facilities). Letters requesting details on waste disposal were posted through doors where nobody was at home to maximise the response rate.

A breakdown of the 1800+ Amtivo door-to-door inspections is as follows:

- 50% did not answer the door (17.5% later provided a response)
- 27.5% answered the door
- 22.5% were vacant households

A breakdown of responses at the door was as follows:

- 51% had a contract in place with a waste collection company
- 17% of responses had insufficient information.
- 16% had a bin sharing agreement in place
- 8% used recycling centres
- 7% used a communal bin/management company

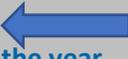
The project will continue in 2026 to tackle the remaining 7,000 households on the Reverse Register, many of which are thought to be serviced through management companies as mixed use developments and apartment complexes i.e. incorrectly listed as commercial instead of residential for the purposes of the Waste Register which needs to be corrected by the waste collectors with discussions ongoing.

Raising Awareness

Fingal's website was updated throughout 2025 to include up to date information on various waste related topics and projects including the Waste Bye-Laws Project at <https://www.fingal.ie/waste-bye-laws-project-2023-2026> and How to Pay an FPN at <https://www.fingal.ie/paying-fixed-payment-notice-fpn-fine> and updated/consolidated information on how to submit an environmental complaint at <https://www.fingal.ie/how-submit-environmental-complaint> . A new system was developed for recording complaints called Dynamics 365 which replaced the older CRM system previously used which offers a much-improved way of recording and dealing with complaints including providing a specific complaint tracking number to individuals who lodge a complaint and a clear response/update protocol when the complaint has been investigated and resolved.

Proactive Approach

During 2025 waste enforcement officers actively followed vehicles suspected of transporting waste illegally to ensure disposal occurred at authorised facilities. Two vehicles were followed on the M50, that were suspected of illegal transport of waste, they were questioned by waste enforcement officers about the origin and destination of the waste, officers directed the driver to an authorised facility and followed to ensure appropriate disposal. Waste Enforcement Officers also followed a truck carrying C&D waste to a farmyard. Officers went on site where they found the truck had deposited one load of waste. The haulier was issued an FPN and the waste was removed. This intervention prevented illegal dumping at known sites of interest and ensured waste was managed in accordance with regulatory requirements. This approach delivered immediate environmental protection outcomes by preventing unauthorised disposal before it occurred rather than responding after the illegal dumping and associated environmental damage had taken place.

National Enforcement Priority:	WASTE - Construction and Demolition Material	
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: 6.1.1-6.1.3 (C&D waste facilities), 6.1.7, 6.1.12 (C&D waste collectors) and 6.2.10.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>	
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Resource & Waste Management Plans are assessed and priority sites for inspection are identified. • Risk based site inspections of construction and development sites utilising local and WERLA intelligence and using WERLA inspection templates. • Desktop assessment and/or inspection of regulation 27 sites of origin and destination to 	<p><u>Risk Based Inspection of Construction and Demolition Sites (including relevant detail relating to the assessment of Resource & Waste Management Plans)</u></p> <p>Inspections were carried out at a combination of Major Public Projects, Strategic Housing Developments and smaller Construction Sites. Sites were selected based on commencement notices and inspector’s knowledge of active sites.</p> <p>A total of 14 sites were inspected, 11 of these were a mix of Major Public Projects, Strategic Housing Developments and Large Residential Developments. Compliance inspections were carried out at the remaining 3 construction sites, which were assessed for compliance with their Resource and Waste Management Plans (RWMP). All inspections carried out followed the C & D inspection template provided by WERLA.</p> <p>4 of the sites were found to be non-compliant, with unauthorised crushing of concrete at one site and poor waste segregation recorded on three of the sites. The number of C&D sites assessed in 2025 was up 1 from 2024. The number of inspections did not increase as much as anticipated due to staff turnover and the time required to train new staff. A total of 30 site inspections are planned for 2026.</p> <p>The number of referrals of planning applications and planning compliance reports, submitted by our Planning Department, reduced slightly in 2025, receiving 177 Planning Applications in 2025 (vs 236 in 2024) and Planning Compliance 205 (vs 221 in 2024). The reduction in applications and referrals received may be attributed to the drafting of a document, in July 2025, forwarded on to the Planning Department which outlined the type of developments that should be referred to Waste Enforcement for review, reducing the number of referrals received that were not relevant (61 applications in 2025 prior to issuing the document vs 24 post issuing & 36 compliance pre-issuing vs 13 post-issuing). The compliance rate for desktop reviews of planning compliance referrals was 49% in 2025 vs 47% in 2024. Following review of RWMP’s, a report is issued for non-compliant plans providing feedback to the developer to address the issued identified. For instance, these reports aim to raise awareness by informing developers that they must highlight in their RWMP, whether the site is greenfield or brownfield, how soil and stone is to be managed throughout the development and how different waste streams are dealt with.</p> <p>One construction site was identified via a complaint from a member of the public, which was followed up and a site inspection carried out. The inspection detected non-compliances with the construction sites waste management plan. Enforcement action was taken in the form of a Section 14 letter, leading to compliance with the waste management plan. (Danehill Apartments)</p>	

<p>include material registered under the National By-product Criteria Greenfield Soil and Stone - Reference Number BP-N002/2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation and cradle to grave inspection of WCP and authorised sites dealing with C&D waste, with a particular focus on C&D waste subject to the waste recovery levy. • Risk based site inspections, using the relevant inspection templates, at certificate of registration, waste facility permit and licenced sites to identify and resolve non-compliances. • Authorised waste treatment facilities producing recycled aggregates are registered on the End-of-waste Register and are adhering to National Criteria requirements in terms of waste intake, treatment and compliance testing. 	<p>Also, based on local knowledge a site was detected as storing C&D waste without a permit or certificate of registration. This site was inspected and enforcement action, in the form of a Section 14 direction letter, was undertaken. An FPN was issued to the company as it was in breach of its collection permit. The waste (approx. 2,500 tonnes) was cleared and disposed of at an authorised facility and the FPN was paid. (Reach Active – St Annes)</p> <p><u>Site inspection and Data Validation of Waste Collection Permit (WCP)/Waste Facility Permit (WFP) (including Soil Recovery Sites)</u></p> <p>There were no active soil recovery facilities operating under waste facility permit in Fingal in 2025. The only two permitted facilities involved in the management of C&D waste were skip facilities, accepting a mix of bulky waste skips and mixed C&D skips. Data validation was carried out at the 2 facilities, with the data found inconclusive at one of the 2 sites, due to issues with a new fleet of skips allocated wrong tare weights, resulting in an imbalance of waste in vs waste out in 2024, which was subsequently rectified for 2025.</p> <p>Cradle to Grave inspections were conducted at the skip facilities and did not reveal any issues for the loads checked.</p> <p>Inspections were carried out at the 2 skip facilities and uncovered issues with waste classification and destination sites. Both sites were taking in mixed C&D as 17 09 04, and one of the outputs of the sites was 17 05 04 (soil and stones). While no mechanical sorting is applied to the mixed C&D (manual sorting), the suitability of the soil classified as 17 05 04 for the receiving facility was questionable. One of the sites sent 17 05 04 material to an EPA licensed facility for further processing, however the other skip facility sent this waste stream to a soil recovery facility as greenfield soil and stones. They were directed to immediately stop and the information was shared with WERLA and with Longford County Council as the receiving facility was in County Longford. Discussions are ongoing with the facility to establish a suitable procedure to handle this soil and stone as brownfield and to carry out representative sampling of a batch of soil and stones. Data analysis of the site’s incoming and outgoing registers led to querying perceived anomalies regarding the volume of soil and stone exiting the facility compared to previous years. Issues with filling of dockets by a particular haulage company were also identified and queried. This site will be subject to close monitoring in 2026.</p> <p>None of the 2 skip facilities were found fully compliant (0%) compared to a compliance rate of 50% in 2024 and 0% in 2023 for these facilities. Non compliances identified have been or are currently being rectified through ongoing proactive engagement with operators with increased inspections planned for 2026.</p> <p><u>Regulation 27 Notifications Activity (Desktop Assessment and/or Inspections of Sites of Origin and Destination including National By-product Criteria Greenfield Soil and Stone)</u></p> <p>Overall, for soil and stone, 102 notifications were made, consisting of 69 under the National Criteria for greenfield soil and stones and 33 under single notifications.</p> <p>A desktop review was carried out for 61 of the 69 notifications received for greenfield soil and stone, with a particular focus to ensure that the sites of origin were greenfield, the receiving sites had planning permission and the notification was made by the producers, resulting in the deregistration of 7 notifications for the site of origin not being greenfield and 1 notification not made by the Producer. A site inspection also resulted in the deregistration of 2 notifications for which the material had not moved and was not going to be moved.</p>
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For the 33 single non-greenfield soil and stone notifications, 14 were withdrawn by EPA due to the notification being for greenfield soil and stones.

The above meant that once withdrawn and deregistered notifications were taken into account, 79 valid notifications were made. 37 of these had a source site only in Fingal, 30 had a destination site only in Fingal and 12 had both source and destination sites in Fingal.

Given the large number of notifications, site inspections did not take place for each notification. Instead, inspections were prioritised based on the quantity of material notified and whether the site had already been inspected under a different notification, and local knowledge from officers, WERLA and shared intelligence with other Local Authorities.

For the receiving sites (42 cases, across 14 sites of destination), three receiving sites made up 95% of material notified with 29 out of 41 notifications for 708,729m³ notified out of a total of 737,140.6m³. The main site with the most material notified (in excess of 546,000m³ each) was inspected on 2 occasions. The other 2 sites had quantities in excess of 80,000m³, one of which was inspected once in 2025 while the other site operates under EPA Licence, with the by-product filled in the licensed area. The remaining 11 receiving sites accounted for 28,412m³ of the total material notified, of which 4 were inspected. Overall, 7 site inspections at receiving sites were conducted, with all 7 sites found to be in compliance.

For the sites of origin, a total of 66 notifications/registrations were made, in respect of 37 separate sites of origin, 16 of which were inspected.

In conjunction with an officer from WERLA, a source site was investigated and non-compliances were detected. This resulted in two Section 14 direction letters issued to both the haulier and main contractor on the site. Here the material was being moved prior to the notification date and as a by-product, proof was received that the material was moved as waste to a waste facility.

Throughout the year strong communication with other local authorities (Louth, Meath, Dublin City, South Dublin, Monaghan & Cavan) was initiated and maintained. Team's meetings were organised and a collaborative approach was discussed, and the sharing of contact information enabled. Hauliers of concern were identified, that operate in the regions Louth, Meath, Fingal, Dublin City, South Dublin, Monaghan & Cavan. Sites associated with these hauliers were given priority. Registrations and notifications where the source and destination site were in different local authorities were investigated in collaboration with the relevant local authority on different occasions.

On one instance information provided by Louth County Council resulted in the detection of an unregistered site moving material without the proper notification. This resulted in enforcement action being taken in the form of a section 14 direction letter. 28 tonnes of soil and stone was subsequently transported as waste to an authorised site.

Recovery Levy

The exemption of the recovery levy on C&D waste at large recovery sites (>200,000T) was lifted in September 2025. With 4 such facilities in Fingal (operating under EPA Licence) and the requirement to audit 50% of returns made by operators, FCC carried out an initial audit of the Q3 2025 data in order to find and highlight any issues as early as possible and before subsequent returns (i.e. Q4 2025 return) were made. Issues were identified with 1 facility which made a return of no waste accepted for recovery and no waste accepted for disposal in Q3 2025. This unusual return was initially discussed with the levy technical working group in order to establish the best course of action for FCC to follow in discharging our obligations under the Circular Economy (Waste Recovery Levy) Regulations 2024.

A site inspection took place to get an understanding of the facility's operations (as this is an EPA licensed facility, FCC have very limited knowledge of the site's operations) and review the site register for September 2025. Based on the register and the information gathered during the inspection on the type of processing the waste is submitted to, FCC prepared a review of findings and shared this with the levy technical working group in mid-December 2025 in order to seek a shared understanding of where the levy should have been applied.. This work will continue in 2026 with the levy technical working group and the operator suspected to owe the levy.

Detection of Two Unauthorised C&D Sites

In September 2025, 1 site was identified through two complaints from members of the public, where an estimated quantity of excess of 30 loads of C&D waste (comprising soil and stone, concrete, and vegetation) was found to have been illegally deposited. The field the waste was dumped in is completely secure and inaccessible to officers and an exact quantity and nature of waste has not been established yet. Investigations into this site took several months, as the destination site identified belonged to a UK company. Throughout the investigation, the source site and hauliers were identified, and 7 x S18 Notices were served to establish who was involved in the unauthorised activity. The removal of this waste is due to take place in early 2026.

A second site was detected by a Waste Enforcement Officer who followed a truck carrying C&D waste to a farmyard. Waste Enforcement Officers went to the site where they found the truck had deposited one load of waste and spoke to the site owner. The waste was intended to be used to fill in a ditch, to join two adjacent fields. The haulier was issued an FPN and the waste was removed.

National Enforcement Priority: WASTE – Household Waste	
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 - 6.1.3 (HH waste facilities), 6.1.10, 6.1.11 (HH waste kerbside collectors) and 6.2.9.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intelligence based household waste inspections and apartment inspections in areas with low levels of waste segregation and collection by permitted collectors and using supporting templates and guidance. • Continued enforcement of non-routine activity under the waste presentation bye-laws. • Risk based site inspections at authorised facilities using relevant inspection templates with a focus on: • Waste acceptance to help combat misclassification and contamination of wastes and ensure waste acceptance criteria are complied with. • Assessment of fire risk controls at authorised facilities. • AER Validations on WFP with a focus on priority list operators 	<p><u>Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Project</u></p> <p>In 2024 a significant amount of work was undertaken, over several months, to produce a Waste Register of households in Fingal who had a bin service in place. Once the register of addresses was compiled, comprising information from 8 different waste collectors, the addresses were cleansed, updated and Eircodes were assigned. The cleaned data sets were then provided back to each of the waste collectors in early 2025 to allow their customer registers to be updated with accurate Eircodes. This step was crucial to facilitate future data requests in the form of S18 notices from FCC requesting customer information for households who had an active waste collection service in place.</p> <p>A new round of Section 18 notices were issued in May 2025 to the 8 companies involved in household waste collection in Fingal requesting customer data. The data received was compiled in a full Waste Register of households having a waste collection service in place, with 90,707 addresses on it, and less than 1,000 of these without an Eircode (compared to over 60,000 in the 2023 S18 returns). FCC then engaged with the IT/GIS Department to create a Reverse Register using Eircodes and a GeoDirectory to identify households who didn’t have a waste collection service in place. The Reverse Register was then mapped out using Power BI software to highlight areas, estates and individual houses where no active bin account was in place to facilitate further investigations to be undertaken.</p> <p>The reverse register indicated 11,000 households suspected of not having a waste collection service in place. One limitation of the reverse register is that it includes households in mixed use developments/apartments that have a waste collection service provided through a property management company – the waste collectors do not know the address of individual customers in such scenarios and these are classified as commercial as opposed to residential on their customer lists.</p>

Phase 2 of the project involved the selection of 4,000 households from the reverse register based on areas with high population density and frequent waste complaints for further investigation to establish how they're managing their household waste.

The mapping and clustering function of Power BI was used to avoid targeting full estates showing up on the reverse register, these being most likely serviced through a property management company with communal bins in place.

An initial letter followed by a reminder letter was issued to 4000 households in June requesting information and proof of how household waste was being managed. During this 2-month period, the waste collection companies noted an increase in the number of accounts created. Householders could respond to the letters through email correspondence, letter, phone calls or by filling in an online declaration on the FCC website at: <https://www.fingal.ie/waste-bye-laws-project-2023-2026>.

A total of 856 households responded to the initial letter. A second reminder letter was posted to the remaining households which saw an additional 965 responses to give a combined total of 1,821 (45.5%). A breakdown of these responses as a percentage of the 4000+ is as follows:

- 17.50% had Waste Collection Service
- 13.50% had Communal Waste Bins
- 7% had Bin Sharing Agreement
- 5% used Recycling Centres
- 2.50% were Vacant Houses.

A total of 20 households inspected as a trial run for the project in late 2024 were followed up in 2025, with bin sharing agreements and account numbers for waste collectors provided by householders. Any non-compliant households were added to the 4000 addresses for follow on investigation.

A Cinema awareness campaign was run in 5 cinemas across Fingal highlighting the Waste Bye-Laws Project and the requirement to have a waste collection service in place, a bin sharing agreement or proof of disposal at an authorised facility. The FCC website was also updated to provide information on the Waste Bye-Laws project highlighting the key objectives and the major benefits to be achieved by implementing the project in terms of waste segregation, increasing recycling rates and reducing illegal dumping.

Once responses to the initial two letters ceased, Amtivo were contracted to undertake door-to-door inspections between July – October for 1,800 out of a total of 2,179 households who did not respond or engage with the Waste Bye-Laws project. The remaining 379 households will be dealt with during 2026 as part of the next stage. Officers called to households to establish how they were managing their waste and to gather information in terms of bin account numbers, bin sharing agreements and proof of waste disposal at authorised facilities. Early on it became evident that inspection times needed to be changed as the engagement rate at the door was low (20%) during the daytime.

Officers adjusted their inspection times to early mornings and late afternoons/evenings and Saturdays to increase the success rate at the door (35%). In instances where the door was not answered, officers noted the presence of any bins and left a letter requesting the householder to respond within 1 week to confirm how they're managing their waste.

A breakdown of the 1800+ Amtivo door-to-door inspections is as follows:

- 50% did not answer the door (17.5% later provided a response)
- 27.5% answered the door
- 22.5% were vacant/derelict households

A breakdown of responses at the door was as follows:

- 52% had a contract in place with a waste collection company
- 17% of responses had insufficient/incorrect information.
- 16% had a bin sharing agreement in place
- 8% used recycling centres
- 7% used a communal bin/management company

There were several learnings from the project including the creation and amendment of an online declaration survey based on information received, for example additional mandatory questions were included under the Authorised Facility heading to capture details for each waste stream due to households only providing information on green bin waste.

An analysis of the overall responses received found a number of non-compliances with insufficient information provided and these were broken down into several categories for follow up in 2026.

- The first category were households (136) that provided an account number with an authorised waste collector however a crosscheck with the collector found that there were no active accounts at these addresses.
- The second category were responses which claimed to use authorised facilities/recycling centres in Fingal for all household waste streams, however these facilities do not accept mixed non-recyclables or/food waste.
- The third category were responses from 89 households that declared they have a bin sharing agreement in place with a neighbour or relative, but no form was provided.
- The fourth category were 624 households who did not respond to the first 2 letters or the door-to-door inspections and hand delivered letter. The proposed actions in 2026 are to write to the first 3 types of responses and request further information, where this is not provided a land registry search will be carried out and Fixed Payment Notice (FPN) issued.
- For the last category, 624 land registry checks will be undertaken to determine the owners, and FPNs will be issued. Similar to 2025, significant resources will be required to progress the project (finish off the initial 4,000 addresses) and to target the remaining 7,000 households which will be split into 2 x 3,500 household lists for

further investigation during 2026 and 2027. ADI funding will be sought to facilitate door to door inspections once the initial letter correspondence and associated responses have been assessed and Power BI Mapping updated.

Apartment Brown Bin Project

No progress was made on the Apartment Brown Bin Project in 2025 due to a lack of sufficient resources with priority given to the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws Project (260 days in 2025). In 2026, the Apartment Brown Bin Project has been marked as a priority and work will be carried out to establish the list of property management companies for follow on action to ensure compliance with the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009 – 2024

Complaints

Fingal County Council received a total of 301 complaints relating to illegal waste activities, 177 of these related to household waste storage/backyard burning and the Waste Presentation Bye-Laws. 43 x Warning and Advisory waste bye-laws letters were sent to non-compliant households notifying them of their obligations under Fingal County Council's Segregation, Storage and Presentation of Household and Commercial Waste Bye-Laws 2020. 90 x Section 14 of the WMA 1996 direction letters were issued, an increase from 54 in 2024, directing people to cease storing/burning waste and to remove waste. Following enforcement action, the waste was removed by an authorised collector, preventing further environmental damage. Householders were directed to the My Waste website for information regarding the correct segregation of waste.

Where enforcement action was not feasible in cases of extreme poverty and mental health, Alone and the HSE were contacted to assist, which led to waste issues being resolved and a regular waste collection service put in place.

In addition, representatives from different Fingal County Council Departments including Planning, Housing, Property services, Rates, Operations and Air & Noise were engaged to assist with waste issues.

National Enforcement Priority:	WASTE - Commercial Waste	
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'. The activity reported under the following RMCEI data categories should be considered under this NEP: 6.1.1-6.1.3 (Commercial waste facilities), 6.1.11 (Commercial waste kerbside collectors) and 6.1.13.</p>	
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of WCP (focus for LAs and WERLA) operators for provision of 3 bin system. • Intelligence based commercial premises inspections in areas with low levels of waste segregation and collection by permitted collector and using supporting templates and guidance. • Continued enforcement of non-routine activity under the waste presentation bye-laws. • Risk based site inspections at authorised facilities 	<p><u>Waste Collection Permits AR validation</u></p> <p>Desktop AR validations of 113 Waste Collection Permits (WCP) were carried out. Twenty-Five operators were found to be late submitting their Annual Returns and were issued a Section 34 Non-Submittal of Annual Return direction to submit within a specified timeframe. Failure to submit by the allocated deadline led to fixed payment notices issued to 5 waste collection permit holders for breaches of their waste collection permit. After analysis of previous years, it was found that FPN's were being issued to the same company's year in and year out. The property section in Fingal was engaged to carry out company checks of these collectors which were ceased trading. This information was passed on to the NWCPO for their records.</p> <p>Of the 108 WCP's, 96 were validated and the remaining 12 marked inconclusive. This shows a compliance rate of 90% which is an improvement from 83% in 2024, 80% in 2023, and 77% in 2022. 10 waste collection permits were inspected for compliance with permit conditions. These premises were selected based on issues identified with AR data, a list provided by WERLA, officers' knowledge of operators and inconclusive AR's from previous years. Others were selected for inspection based on intel from a case of C&D dumped in 2024. One inspection detected non-compliances from an operator and a S34 non-compliance letter was issued, a follow up inspection will take place in 2026.</p> <p><u>WFP AR Validation (Household and Commercial Waste NEPs)</u></p> <p>There was only 1 WFP holder on the EPA priority list and they were prioritised for AR validation – with their review started in June and validated before the end of July 2025. The Regional Waste Management Planning Office took the lead in 3 WFP validation (metal recyclers) and one commercial waste collector. Overall FCC did 17 x WFP AR validations, with 4 found inconclusive (24%), one due to weighing issues and 3 due to lengthy delays in engaging with amendments required on their returns following checks from FCC. Inconclusive ARs will be subject to further audit in 2026. Two permitted facilities taking in skip waste were controlled for having fire risk assessment and fire prevention measures in place at their facilities.</p> <p><u>Malahide Concerts</u></p> <p>A particular focus was given in 2025 to the Malahide concerts (held over 7 dates in June/July) and the event waste management plan, the initial version of which was rejected as inadequate. Work was carried out with the promoters to introduce reusable pints in the bars, and to improve signage at bins to ensure better waste segregation, especially for compostable waste and to engage in a partnership with Tidy-Town volunteers to collect bottles and cans for the DRS scheme.</p>	

<p>using relevant inspection templates with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Waste acceptance to help combat misclassification and contamination of wastes and ensure waste acceptance criteria are complied with. ○ Assessment of fire risk controls at authorised facilities. ● AER validations on WCP (focus for LAs and WERLA) and WFP (focus for LAs) with a focus on priority list operators. 	<p><u>Emerging Issue</u></p> <p>We received a number of complaints in 2025 relating to the burning of waste at kitchen manufacturers. On each occasion, the inspection revealed that off cuts of melamine-faced particle-board and other waste from the manufacturing process were used to fuel a furnace to heat the workshop. Some installations were fairly basic while others had seen a significant investment. These installations were directed to cease burning waste and advised to contact the EPA through Article 11 to see what authorisations they would need to burn waste. One of the installations did seek an Article 11 declaration from the EPA who indicated a WFP would be suitable if the waste is non-hazardous and the Local Authority is satisfied this is a recovery activity. FCC requested the kitchen manufacturer to clearly demonstrate that the activity is a recovery activity if they intend to apply for a WFP. FCC shared this finding with the WERLA and with the Regional Waste Management Planning Office as we have not had any previous experience in permitting activity consisting of the burning of waste materials.</p> <p><u>Commercial Waste</u></p> <p>In 2025, FCC conducted 57 commercial food waste inspection encompassing a wide range of premises including restaurants, supermarket deli's, cafes, pharmaceutical companies and creches. This represents a slight reduction from 2024, when 80 inspections were carried out. This was due to a shift in resources to focus on the Waste Bye Law's Project.</p> <p>The focus of these inspections was on the segregation of waste in bins inside the kitchens and outside, having a 3-bin system in place and collection by authorised collectors. Premises were identified based on local knowledge, follow up inspections from 2024, complaints and a list of premises suspected of non-compliance provided by WERLA. 30 of the 57 were taken from the WERLA list with 12 being non-compliant. Of the remaining 27, 6 were found to be non-compliant. 3 of 6 re-inspections from 2024 found that half were compliant, while the other half remained non-compliant. Enforcement action was taken against 14 premises who were issued warning letters for non-compliance.</p> <p>Common non-compliances included the premises missing a brown bin and insufficient segregation of food waste and dry recyclables. 67% of premises were found to be compliant by the end of 2025 with work ongoing for the remaining premises. This decreased from 74% compliance in 2024. This may be due to inclusion of different types of premises compared to previous years such as creches and pharmaceutical companies where poor waste segregation was noted.</p> <p>MyWaste.ie leaflets were provided to premises by Waste Enforcement Officers which provided information on correct waste disposal and segregation methods.</p> <p>Following receipt of several complaints for one location in Ongar regarding poor waste management/bin issues, a Waste Enforcement Officer investigated and discovered that the bins were accessible to the public via a carpark and were not securely stored. A WEO called into the businesses in the immediate area and advised them to secure their waste storage areas. As a result of the inspection, S14 Direction letters were issued to 3 premises and one premises was issued an FPN for non-compliance</p> <p>The Operations Department highlighted issues with another location in Swords where waste management practises were being poorly managed by businesses on the Main Street, with bins being left outside the curtilage of their property outside the designated window for collection and also bins overflowing, resulting in littering in the area. Following a review by a WEO, 3 businesses were identified for non-compliance with the Waste Bye-Laws and issued FPN's as a result. No further complaints were received internally from the Operations Department or externally from the public for the remainder of the year for this location.</p>
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National Enforcement Priority: WASTE – Plastics and Producer Responsibility Initiatives	
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: 6.8.1-6.8.9.</p> <p><i>[Guideline of 500 words per priority area]</i></p>
<p>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on compliance with Tyres, DRS, WEEE/Batteries. • EPA, DCEE and local authorities continue to raise awareness, identify, inspect and monitor all obligated partners in the relevant sectors under existing compliance schemes having regard to sectoral and local issues. 	<p><u>WEEE Regulations/Batteries</u></p> <p>24 WEEE and 21 Battery inspections were carried out in Q4, 2025 at a variety of different premises in Fingal. The premises targeted for inspections were based on a register supplied by collaborating with ERP Recycling Ireland which enabled the identification and inspection of unregistered retailers, in addition to non-compliant premises from 2024. For WEEE inspections, 18 premises were found non-compliant on first inspection and 8 became compliant thereafter and for battery inspections there were 18 non-compliant initially with 6 becoming compliant after a direction letter. 4 non-compliant retailers from 2024 were found to be compliant in 2025, and 2 became registered but were awaiting signage/battery boxes. All non-compliant premises will be followed up in Q1, 2026.</p> <p>A learning in this area came about due to low engagement/compliance following enforcement letters issued to non-compliant premises in the first half of the year, this direction letter was amended in Q4 2025 to emphasis the potential Fixed Payment Notice which improved engagement from retailers.</p> <p>In contrast to previous years, the compliance rate for WEEE & Battery inspections during 2025 saw an improvement with 50% compliance in 2025 compared to 2024 where 17 of 36 retailers (47%) were noted to be compliant and in 2023 which found 9 of 36 (25%) premises compliant.</p> <p>A number of social media posts were circulated to raise awareness on the importance of recycling WEEE/Batteries and to inform the public that these waste streams should not be disposed of in household waste bins. In particular, the posts focused on vapes which are prone to littering on the streets.</p> <p><u>Tyres</u></p> <p>In 2025, there were 26 waste tyre inspections undertaken at suspected tyre retailers. 13 premises were identified from the Circol ELT list of revoked/potentially unregistered retailers, one of which being a follow-up inspection from 2024. 6 premises were identified by FCC staff while on patrol and 7 premises were inspected in conjunction with hazardous waste inspections.</p>

Of the 26 inspections, 8 retailers were determined to be compliant. 3 retailers were deemed non compliant. 5 businesses were confirmed to have ceased trading, and 10 were not deemed retailers.

There was a 57% increase in the number of identified actively trading tyre retailers in 2025 when compared to 2024. From these eligible retailers, a compliance rate of 73% was determined for 2025, compared to 72% in 2024 and 64% in 2023.

2 compliant retailers were initially determined non-compliant due to incorrect ELT signage. FCC WEO's outlined the required signage during inspection of these retailers, and both businesses were revisited to confirm that the signage issues had been rectified and deemed compliant.

Of the 3 non-compliant retailers, 1 business had their membership revoked in December 2025 and has since contacted Circol to re-join. The remaining 2 are to be reinspected in 2026.

Circol were frequently contacted throughout 2025 on the Circol ELT LA enforcement portal regarding the compliance status of retailers.

Hazardous Waste

18 hazardous waste inspections were conducted in 2025 at vehicle garages as they produce a range of hazardous waste such as waste oil, Batteries, and oil filters. 10 were chosen due to no previous inspections on record for these premises while the other 8 were audited due to reports from Fingal's Operations Department that oil was dumped in a river in one area and a drain in another which were in proximity of these garages. 17 premises were found to be compliant, with the one non-compliant garage issued a direction letter in December to provide dockets which will be followed up in 2026.

Compared to previous years, there was a 94% compliance rate which is an improvement over 85% in 2024, and 90% in 2023. 1 non-compliant premises from a 2024 inspection was reinspected and found to be compliant. A learning in this area was to combine these audits with tyre inspections as many garages inspected were also retailers of tyres.

Deposit Return Scheme

3 Priority sites were identified by WERLA and investigated using WERLA prepared inspection forms.

An additional 17 sites were also inspected. Additional sites were identified by focusing on an area on google maps and referencing the online portal to see if these premises were registered with the scheme. Using knowledge gained from 2024, sites that were likely to be non-compliant, were identified (i.e. Take aways, Ethnic Food Stores & Cafes). Of the 17 sites

- 2 were fully compliant
- 15 had various non-compliances
 - o 10 were not registered
 - o 5 registered, but not fully compliant with obligations

Following the site inspections and enforcement action (in the form of 14 x Section 14 direction letters, using templates provided by WERLA) 60% of non-compliances were remediated and resulting in an additional 5 sites registering with the scheme, leading to an increased awareness of the scheme both within ethnic groups and new market segments. The remaining 40% are scheduled for follow up action in Q1, 2026.

These inspections also detected 6 unregistered producers supplying retail stores in Fingal with unregistered products and not charging the deposit. All were located outside of Fingal with the information passed onto the relevant local authority in which they are based, with Re-Turn and WERLA also made aware of the findings.

In addition, DRS inspections were targeted at vendors during the Malahide Concerts. 13 inspections were carried out during the first concert which detected one vendor out of 13 (8%) selling stock not branded with the DRS logo. A direction to stop selling these was issued and complied with – this was due to selling stock from another event held in Northern Ireland.

Fingal County Council also engaged with the promoters of Malahide Concert at the planning stage and its submission on the Public Event Licence encouraged the organisers to engage with a local sports club or community group to provide volunteers for the return of in-scope bottles and cans – with the deposits donated to that community group. Malahide Tidy Towns volunteers were present at the concert and enabled active segregation of bottles and cans during all the concerts. Nearly 40,000 bottles and cans were collected by Re-Turn at the concerts.

Strong collaboration (communication and joint site visits) with the Re-Turn enforcement team enabled Fingal to have positive outcomes regarding non-compliances.

In total 32 sites were inspected under the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS), resulting in 21 enforcement actions and an additional 9 new members signing up to the scheme.

Comparison 2025 vs 2024

- Inspections increased 166% (32 vs 12)
- New members increased 12.5% (9 vs 8)
- Non-compliances detected increased 175% (22 vs 8)

Other PRIs

Repak

Of the 4 suspected major producers identified in 2024 that carried over into 2025 (2 joining Repak, 2 showing little engagement) 3 have now registered, with one having been deemed below the 10 tonne threshold.

In 2025, 5 suspected major producers were identified by WERLA in the Fingal area, 1 of which was deemed not obligated. Of the remaining 4, 3 site inspections were carried out and passed to Repak for further engagement (audits & training). Training has been completed with one. Due to lack of engagement, Regulation 25 Notices have been served on 2 Producers. The remaining one is currently with Repak for further engagement. Follow up will continue in 2026.

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Solid Fuel	
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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out inspections of retailers, producers and distributors of solid fuels. Carry out checks for online sales and distribution of unapproved solid fuels. Follow up on any instances of non-compliance identified during inspections. Maintain an up-to-date register of solid-fuel retailers and distributors operating in each local authority area, including those using social media platforms to market and distribute solid fuels. Participate in multi-agency operations investigating the sale of unapproved solid fuels. Participate and collaborate with the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) and the EPA on the sampling and analysis of solid fuel types. Liaise with DCEE and the EPA on results findings and follow-up actions. 	<p>Building on the improvements made in 2024 with respect to allocating resources and the establishment of an Air and Noise team, 2025 saw a dedicated team comprising two Executive Scientists, one Graduate Scientist and one Clerical Officer be appointed to manage solid fuel regulations enforcement activities. Team members continued to undergo formal training in Solid Fuel Legislation and inspections provided by LASNTG.</p> <p><u>Register of Solid-Fuel Retailers</u></p> <p>The first significant action undertaken in 2025 was to populate the Register for Solid Fuel Merchants in Fingal. Working from 2024's total of 35, an additional 40 solid fuel merchants were placed on the register during the year having been identified from internet searches and local knowledge. This is not a final number and will be added to continually as more information becomes available and further reviews and searches are conducted.</p> <p>The scope of the list was enhanced to include large chain retailers such as supermarkets and larger DIY stores as well as fuel station chains throughout the county. Solid fuel retailers were included on a digital map to illustrate the geographical spread of solid fuel retailers. This was used to help inform the inspection programme and support efficient field work by planning inspection routes while coinciding with other field work or investigations to improve overall work efficiency.</p> <p><u>Retailer Inspections</u></p> <p>In developing an inspection plan for solid fuel retailers in 2025 priority was given to those premises inspected in 2024 which displayed non-compliances, particularly those where unapproved fuel was being sold. These premises included hardware stores, agricultural supply stores and solid fuel depots.</p> <p>To improve solid fuel retailer representation geographically, solid fuel retailers located in other areas, towns and villages in Fingal County Council, not previously inspected, were then considered.</p>

To further build on 2024 activities and expand representation, larger-scale, DIY chain stores and supermarkets were also considered. While the likelihood of unapproved fuels being sold in these types of retailers was less, it was considered that their market impact potential was more significant so visits in 2025 were justified (where they weren't included in 2024)

Inspections of solid fuel retailers were carried out in Q4 of 2025 at 18 premises. Of the 18 retailers inspected, 11 (61%) were found to be non-compliant due to selling non-registered fuels (coal and wood/biomass products). In addition, 13 (72%) were found to be non-compliant with labelling requirements of the legislation. Inspections found that one premises was selling loose bagged turf which is no longer permitted.

All noted non-compliances including labelling non-compliances were communicated to the retailers on the day of inspection and through follow-up written warning letters. 2024 letters were improved on through the inclusion of a photolog highlighting each non-compliant product to support clearer communication of the issues with the retailer. Letters were also sent to fully compliant retailers to thank them for their efforts to comply with the regulations and to request their continued support and diligence.

Where appropriate, individual retailers were requested to relay FCC communications with senior management/head office with the aim of communicating the issues to their procurement teams, suppliers and ultimately the solid fuel producers, to bring about positive change on the market. Retailers were also encouraged to provide feedback to FCC regarding the findings of the inspections and to clarify any observations where necessary e.g. to clarify the approval status of fuels where labelling was absent and was not confirmed on the day.

Revisiting previously inspected (2024), non-compliant premises in 2025 demonstrated the positive benefits of carrying out such inspections. The extent of non-compliances was significantly less in multiple retailers in 2025 compared to 2024. This indicates positive progress towards greater compliance within the county.

The inspections carried out in Q4 2025 were an introduction to some retailers, having not been inspected previously under the Solid Fuel Regulations. The engagement between FCC and the retailers was positive and the inspections acted as a learning experience for both the retailers and the FCC officers.

Many of the sites visited were unaware of their responsibilities under the legislation. All written follow-up letters issued to retailers included a copy of the latest retailer's information leaflet published by the DCEE.

FCC will continue solid fuel retailer inspections in Q1 2026. Following this retailer inspection period FCC intend on communicating with all producers responsible for non-compliances observed and to request action, to bring their operations and products into compliance. FCC also intend on liaising with other Local Authorities, where these producers are situated to inform them of the

issues observed by FCC, with the aim of taking appropriate action against them to prevent continued and repeated non-compliances.

Solid Fuel Sampling

Fingal County Council didn't undertake any solid fuel sampling in 2025 as the sampling and analysis of solid fuels was managed directly by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE).

Checkpoints

Fingal County Council officers took part in one checkpoint with Gardai and Waste Enforcement staff in Q4 2025. No vehicles inspected were found to be transporting solid fuel of any kind therefore no follow-up actions were required. An additional checkpoint was intended to be carried out during December, however, this was cancelled by the Gardai at short notice due to road safety concerns at the time.

Additional Activity

Fingal County Council staff undertook online/social media searches to identify sellers of unregistered solid fuel operating within Fingal. While some operators were identified, they were all found to be based outside Fingal.

Throughout the course of the solid fuel inspections, we queried retailers on their provision of delivery services of solid fuel. While it was found that most retailers offered this service, one learning outcome was that due to the ad hoc nature of these deliveries it wasn't possible to confirm their compliance regarding transporter responsibilities of solid fuel.

Solid Fuel Info/Engagement/Education Campaigns

The Air and Noise Unit liaised with Fingal's Communications Team to share public information on social media platforms and raise awareness of the Solid Fuel Regulations. As part of this, Fingal's social media channels promoted the DCEE's "Let's Clear the Air" campaign, highlighting the health impacts of burning solid fuel and how the Solid Fuel Regulations help to reduce these effects.

While responding to air quality related complaints which involve the suspected burning of solid fuels, emissions, air pollution etc, FCC are referring complainants and other parties involved to the solid fuel regulations, and the responsibilities the regulations place on consumers.

Collaboration with other Agencies and Local Authorities

Where the registration and approval status of some products and producers was unclear, FCC liaised with the EPA to confirm the registration status of those producers. Some specific labelling issues and observations were also referred to the EPA for advice to confirm what to communicate to the retailers regarding specific non-compliances.

In Q4 2025 FCC responded to a query from a neighbouring Local Authority regarding a complaint from a local representative with respect to the suspected distribution of unapproved solid fuels from a premises in Fingal County into the neighbouring county. FCC responded with advice regarding the potential support FCC could provide and scope of enforcement abilities for local authorities with respect to alleged, unfair market practices and cross-border importation of solid fuels.

Following a retailer inspection FCC also proactively contacted one local authority to inform them of a suspected unregistered producer located within their functional area. Following completion of retailer inspections in 2026, FCC intend on contacting all relevant Local Authorities regarding non-compliant producers located within their functional areas.

National Enforcement Priority:	AIR - Air Quality Monitoring Data and Data Use
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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display real-time data on local air quality via the local authority website. • Review current and historic air quality data to identify localised areas of poor air quality and identify measures to address them. • Assist the EPA National Ambient Air Quality Unit to troubleshoot issues at air quality monitoring stations. Notify the EPA of a primary and secondary contact person in this regard. • Carry out air quality awareness raising campaigns, including the use of social media and information on local authority websites. 	<p><u>Real-Time Data on Local Air Quality via the Local Authority Website</u></p> <p>Links to real-time data for the ambient air quality monitoring stations at Swords, Blanchardstown and Dublin Airport continues to be made available on the Council's website. Information and access to the Air Quality Index for Health and Air Quality Forecast Maps is also displayed on the Council's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/air-quality-monitoring • https://airquality.ie/information/air-quality-index-for-health • https://airquality.ie/ <p><u>Review of Current and Historic Air Quality Data</u></p> <p>Information received from DCEE during Q1 2025 indicated that the Blanchardstown monitoring station was one of several sites across the country at risk of not meeting the new NOx levels which are to be introduced in 2026. FCC participated in the stakeholder working group which was formed to develop roadmaps for affected sites, and FCC continues to participate in this technical group.</p> <p>The EPA monthly ambient air quality bulletins together with the real-time data on the EPA air quality website was reviewed on an ongoing basis to identify any issues / sites for actions. In March 2025, elevated PM10 readings were recorded at the Blanchardstown air quality monitoring station and the EPA requested the Council to review the issue. Following an investigation by FCC, the elevated reading was found to coincide with a technical issue during calibration and was not considered to be as a result of a decrease in air quality at that location. No further PM10 exceedances were reported at the Blanchardstown air quality monitoring station for the remainder of the year.</p>

In Q4 2025, the EPA issued the updated Annual High Resolution air quality maps for 2024 for a number of parameters including PM and NO2. The Fingal maps were requested from the EPA and these are being reviewed to identify issues and sites for action for 2026, as additional staff resources are now available in 2026 to progress this work.

Assisting the EPA with Monitoring Station Issues

In January 2025, FCC formally engaged a 3rd party contractor to carry out quarterly calibrations of the NOx monitor at Blanchardstown air quality monitoring station. FCC liaised with the EPA in advance of this to determine the required calibration parameters and reporting formats. All quarterly calibrations were completed as per schedule and all quarterly calibration certificates were forwarded to the EPA for reporting purposes. This contract will be renewed in 2026.

FCC continued to liaise with the EPA throughout 2025 on maintenance issues at the Blanchardstown air quality monitoring station. An issue arose with the air conditioning unit during the year, and following consultation with the EPA, FCC sourced parts and arranged the relevant repairs to the unit using their 3rd party contractor.

As well as the online checks of the monitoring network, FCC staff also visited the Swords and Blanchardstown sites bi-monthly to check the physical condition of the monitoring cabinets, as well as air conditioning systems and power supply. All faults were reported to the EPA for review and follow-up. Contact details for primary and secondary contact personnel have also been provided to the EPA.

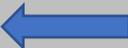
Awareness Raising Campaigns or Information on LA websites or Social Media Campaigns.

The real-time ambient air quality data link for Fingal was posted on the Council's social media pages during 2025, and this is scheduled to continue at regular intervals during 2026. Throughout the year posts were shared on FCC'S social media platforms to raise public awareness about the three air quality monitors that are active in Fingal. Information on the 'International Clean Air for Blue Skies Day' and other DCEE air pollution campaigns were also shared on FCC's social media pages during 2025.

Collaboration & Networking

FCC staff continued to collaborate with other Local Authorities and agencies on air-related issues, and staff attended a number of online and in-person air events organised by the Local Authority Air Quality Network and the EPA throughout the year. These events provided a forum to share learnings and were also an opportunity to network.

National Enforcement Priority: AIR - Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs)	
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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide public access via the local authority website to the Round 4 Noise Action Plan, and links to the Round 4 Strategic Noise Maps available on the EPA website. • Demonstrate progress on the actions identified within Noise Action Plans and include updates in the Noise Action Plan Progress Report to be submitted to the EPA by 28th February 2025. • Deliver the Round 5 Noise Mapping requirements as set out in the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations of 2018, as amended by the 2021 noise regulations. This includes the timely submission of any relevant data in the required format, as requested by relevant Noise Mapping Bodies project teams and/or any other relevant specified body. 	<p><u>Submission of the local authority 2024 Noise Action Plan (NAP) Progress Report by 28th February 2025:</u></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Provide public access via the local authority website to the Round 4 NAP, and links to the Round 4 Strategic Noise Maps available on the EPA website</p> <p>Access to the Round 4 Noise Action Plan for the agglomeration and the airport is provided on FCC's website. A link is also provided to R4 Strategic Noise Maps hosted by FCC and a link to the EPA noise mapping system is also included.</p> <p>The website link is: https://www.fingal.ie/environment/noise-action-plan</p> <p>Demonstrate progress on the actions identified within Noise Action Plans and include updates in the Noise Action Plan Progress Report to be submitted to the EPA by 28th February 2025.</p> <p>Progress and updates will be provided in the Noise Action Plan Progress Report submitted to the EPA by 28th February 2025.</p> <p>Deliver the Round 5 Noise Mapping requirements including timely submission of data</p> <p>During 2025, FCC continued to work with the EPA and other 3rd parties on the provision of data to facilitate delivery of Round 5 noise mapping requirements. FCC submitted its reply in relation to the Round 5 extents for major roads in advance of the May 31st 2025 deadline.</p>

National Enforcement Priority:	Air - Local Air and Noise Investigations
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>Describe what was carried out under this activity in the previous reporting year – e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspect and carry out required enforcement actions for sites licensed under the Air Pollution Act and sites registered under the Solvents / Deco Paints / Petroleum Vapours Regulations, with a focus on unauthorised operators. Investigate and address air and noise complaints. Inspect and carry out any required enforcement actions to limit air and noise nuisance in accordance with the Air Pollution Act 1987, as amended, and the EPA Act 1992, as amended. Provide public access via the local authority website to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on how to make air and noise complaints and associated procedures for affected parties. Up-to-date registers under the Solvents and Deco Paints Regulations. Best Practice Guidelines for Dry Cleaning, Vehicle Refinishing and the EPA Vehicle 	<p>Activities under Deco Paints Regulations:</p> <p>An inspection campaign under the Deco Paints Regulations was completed in 2025 with a particular focus on the vehicle refinishing sector. A list of premises for inspection was compiled based on (1) a review of existing files to identify premises who had failed to renew their registration, and (2) a desktop survey using internet sources and local knowledge to identify previously unregistered premises. Premises locations were mapped to examine the geographical spread and to help inform inspection program.</p> <p>This list was used as the focus of a targeted inspection campaign, and a total of 11 inspections were completed in 2025. Premises which were inspected in 2024 but failed to register despite repeated contact and reminders issued by FCC were further prioritised for inspection. Of the 11 premises inspected, 6 no. premises fell under this category. One business had ceased trading at the time of inspection and the remaining five were at different stages of engagement and registration at the end of 2025. To support registration, copies of applications forms and information leaflets were provided to refinishers before leaving site.</p> <p>FCC continue to engage with these premises to progress registration and ensure compliance. Two premises inspected demonstrated that no relevant activities were being undertaken and the regulations didn't apply, therefore registration was not required.</p> <p>To enhance FCC's enforcement abilities under these regulations a system for issuing Fixed Payment Notices (FPN) to non-compliant premises was established. FCC liaised with other Local Authorities (LAs) to determine best practice in communicating with premises and issuing of FPNs.</p> <p>Letter templates regarding the results of an inspection, legal obligations, follow-up/reminder letters and warning letters were reviewed and updated to improve communication with relevant premises. Emphasis was placed on the potential for FPNs to be issued for failing to register, to improve uptake and compliance.</p> <p>This was proven successful with the 5 no. priority premises demonstrating progress towards registration and compliance by year end and avoiding the need to issue FPNs.</p> <p>FCC's Air and Noise team shared our learnings with other LA. s regarding FPNs to support national compliance overall.</p>

Refinishers video (use appropriate channels to promote these materials).

There were 18 registered vehicle refinishers premises at year end, with the list of registered premises published monthly on the Fingal County Council website. This list will continue to be updated and published monthly in 2026:

<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/vehicle-refinishers-and-deco-paints-regulations>

The website was updated in 2025 as needed with the latest information for applicants on how to register, including an upload of the latest Vehicle Refinishers Information leaflet in English, Irish and Polish, EPA Best Practice Guidelines for Vehicle Refinishing, EPA video on Decorative Paints and a link to the Deco Paints Regulations.

Activities under Solvents Regulations:

An inspection campaign under the Solvents Regulations was completed in 2025 with a particular focus on the dry-cleaning sector. A list of premises to be inspected was compiled based on (1) a review of existing files to identify premises who had failed to renew their registration, and (2) a desktop survey using internet sources and local knowledge to identify previously unregistered premises. This list was used as the focus for a targeted inspection campaign, and a total of 12 inspections were completed in 2025.

Of the premises inspected three premises had ceased trading at the time of inspection. A further nine premises inspected demonstrated that no solvent-based dry cleaning was being undertaken, and the regulations didn't apply, therefore registration was not required.

There were 6 registered premises at year end, with the list of registered premises published monthly on the Fingal website. This list will continue to be updated and published monthly during 2026.

A process for issuing Fixed Payment Notices (FPNs) has been implemented to strengthen Fingal's enforcement capabilities when dealing with unregistered dry-cleaning premises under the Solvent Regulations. This was established in collaboration with other local authorities to determine the best practise approach when issuing FPNs.

In 2026, monitoring will continue to identify any new businesses that may require registration under the solvent regulations.

The website (<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/dry-cleaners-and-solvent-regulations>) was also updated in 2025 to include up to date contact details for the approved assessors along with information for applicants on how to register, including an upload of the EPA Best Practice Guidance, Dry Cleaners Information Leaflet and a link to the Solvents Regulations.

A key learning that emerged during dry-cleaning inspections was that most businesses classified as dry cleaners do not carry out any dry-cleaning activities on site. Instead, the cleaning process is outsourced either to other registered operators within Fingal County or to businesses in other counties.

It became apparent throughout engaging with operators and staff that there is a significant transition from solvent-based cleaning to solely water-based systems.

Activities under Petroleum Vapour Regulations:

Fingal County Council continued to liaise with the Fire Prevention/Dangerous Substances Division of Dublin Fire Brigade during 2025 to ensure compliance with the Petroleum Vapour Regulations. A total of 29 inspections were completed in 2025, and all premises were noted to be compliant with the Regulations.

Activities under Sites Licenced under the Air Pollution Act:

There are no licenced sites under the Air Pollution Act in Fingal County.

Activities to investigate and Resolve Local Air and Noise Issues/Complaints:

251 noise complaints and 122 air complaints were received by the Air and Noise Unit in 2025, with all complaints investigated and responded to, and enforcement action taken as appropriate. There has been a significant increase in air and noise complaints in 2025. This could be attributed to recent updates on the website that better informs the public on the complaints process.

Several noise complaints remain open going into Q1 2026, and these are typically in connection with noise from commercial premises, including commercial heat pump noise in which engagement is ongoing with Planning Enforcement to carry out a noise assessment to determine compliance and the appropriate course of action.

Several 2025 air pollution complaints remain open going into 2026, mainly concerning smoke and odour issues from a commercial premises. Additional resources deployed in Q4 2025 enabled progress and a resolution is being developed.

Investigations into all open complaints are ongoing and will continue until satisfactorily resolved.

Noise complaints which appeared regularly during 2025 included noise from construction sites in which collaboration with Planning Enforcement was undertaken as the most appropriate enforcement mechanism. Further to complaints in 2024, there has been a significant number of noise complaints regarding a drone operated food delivery service.

FCC engaged with other local authorities to seek advice on several complaint matters. A member of the Air and Noise Team liaised with officers through LAAQN regarding an air pollution complaint, gathering insights on the approaches and actions taken by other authorities in similar cases. FCC also contacted another local authority in relation to an odour and air pollution complaint. In this instance, FCC sought advice on the use of Section 26 notices and how that authority had managed a comparable situation.

Where complaints concerned neighbour-to neighbour noise and air issues, the complainants were advised of the remedies available, including the S108 and S28a process. Air complaints received in 2025 included complaints regarding smoke from chimneys of private dwellings. These can be challenging to investigate under the Solid Fuel Regulations and Air Pollution Act. However, the Air and Noise Unit investigated a number of these complaints in conjunction with the Waste Enforcement team where there were also concerns regarding the possible burning of household waste and these issues were resolved.

Website:

The Fingal County Council website was maintained in 2025 with information on how to report air and noise issues to the Council, with all complaints to be reported to the Environment Section via the contact details provided. Air and noise complaints are then assigned to the appropriate staff member for investigation. The website was also updated with information on how domestic, commercial and construction noise complaints can be addressed, as well as providing a sample noise log and S108 form for reporting neighbour to neighbour noise.

<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/air-pollution-complaint-reporting>
<https://www.fingal.ie/council/service/noise-pollution-complaint-reporting>

Planning Referrals:

During 2025, the Air & Noise team assessed 180 planning applications for Air & Noise concerns following referral from the Planning Department. This was a significant uplift from 2024, when 103 Planning Applications were reviewed, and represents a 57% increase in referrals when both years are compared.

This is in part due to the increased awareness among planning staff of the presence of the Air and Noise team, as early in 2025, Air & Noise team management met with senior planning staff to standardise the referral process. Updates were provided to planning staff on the type and scale of applications to be referred, with a particular focus on proposed developments located close to existing major noise sources (transport and industry). This led to an increase in referrals as a result.

The Air and Noise Team reviewed all referrals for potential air and noise issues having regard to all available guidance documents during the assessment process, including the following:

- EPA NG4 Guidance Document (noise)
- BS 8233:2014 Guidance on sound insulation and noise reduction for buildings.
- BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 Code of Practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites
- BS 4142:2014+A1:2019 Methods for rating and assessing industrial and commercial sound
- ProPG: Planning & Noise. Professional Practice Guidance on Planning and Noise (May 2017)
- OPR Practice Note PN03: Planning Conditions

A variety of applications were reviewed for air and noise issues, with residential schemes and commercial proposals assessed, including warehouses, gyms, drones sites and battery energy storage facilities. As in 2024, heat pumps were again identified in a number of applications and where potential noise impacts on nearby noise sensitive locations were identified, acoustic assessments were requested under 'Further Information'. Developers were typically required to suggest alternative technology or introduce mitigation measures such as noise barriers to help prevent noise impacts.

Air and Noise staff participated in pre-planning meetings with applicants, as requested by the Planning Department. This proved particularly beneficial where developments were potentially affected by transport noise as per the Strategic Noise Maps. Air and Noise staff outlined the potential noise issues to the applicant, and the meetings provided a forum to discuss the acoustic assessments required to assess potential noise issues and to determine mitigation measures. The majority of the meetings were in respect of proposed Large Residential Developments (housing schemes above 100 houses), and the Air and Noise team provided pre-planning opinions and acoustic guidance in respect of 11 residential development sites across the county, with a combined total of over 5,000 new homes proposed across these 11 sites.

New staff members who joined the team during 2025 completed the Institute of Acoustics certified training in Environmental Noise Measurement which allowed staff to better critically review acoustic assessment reports.

Planning Compliance:

In 2025, the Air and Noise Section reviewed 101 Planning Compliance Submissions referred by the Planning Department. This was an increase on 2024, when 75 Planning Compliance Submissions were reviewed. This represents a 34% increase in referrals when both years are compared. These submissions were referred by the Planning Compliance team and similar to 2024, included a significant number of Construction and Environmental Management Plans (CEMP).

The Air and Noise team reviewed these CEMP documents to determine if sufficient mitigation measures had been provided by the applicant to mitigate noise and dust impacts during the construction stage.

During 2025, the team completed 16 planning compliance inspections on a variety of permitted activities. Inspections were completed at C&D sites to assess the effectiveness of noise and dust control mitigation and CEMP measures, as well as inspections at music concerts to determine if noise control measures complied with event licence requirements. These inspections assessed compliance with planning conditions which are enforced by the Planning Enforcement (PE) section and involve technical input from the Air & Noise team, where necessary. A strong working relationship with the PE section continued during 2025, with numerous joint inspections undertaken during the year.

During 2025, one planning-related topic which appeared regularly throughout the year was in relation to operations at a quarry in the county. Complaints were received in relation to noise, dust and vibration issues, and investigation of these complaints also included a search of the existing planning permissions granted at that location. As there were a number of existing planning conditions which related to the control of environmental impacts from the quarry, the Air and Noise unit carried out joint inspections of the quarry site with the PE team. The quarry had introduced a new materials handling process close to their site boundary, and this was found to have caused dust issues at a nearby sensitive residential receptor. Mitigation measures have been proposed to prevent this dust issue from re-occurring and the Air and Noise team and PE continue to follow up with the site operator on this matter.

In response to noise and vibration complaints received by the Air and Noise team, the site operator also agreed to provide additional monitoring at affected receptors. This was provided by the site operator at the December 2025 quarry blast, and all results were found to be within threshold values. The site operator agreed to continue to include these receptors in future rounds of monitoring.

As the current planning conditions also require the site operator to notify all nearby residents in advance of blasting, the site operator agreed to a carrying out a leaflet drop and provide additional information in relation to blasting times and locations on their website. The Air and Noise Unit and PE teams continue to follow up with the site operator on this matter also.