

COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Email: Corporate.Services@fingal.ie

County Hall
Swords
Co Dublin

Tuesday, 24th February 2026

**To Each Member of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment
Strategic Policy Committee**

Dear Member

A meeting of the **Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic
Policy Committee** will be held **Hybrid in Conference Room 3A6 - County
Hall, Swords/ MS Teams at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 24th March, 2026** to
consider the following Agenda.

Yours faithfully

**Ciara O hAodha
Meetings Administrator
Corporate Services**

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A G E N D A

- 1 **Confirmation and Re-Affirmation of Minutes of the Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2025**
- 2 **Recommendation for Approval of the Anti-Litter Anti-Graffiti Grant**
- 3 **Environmental Inspections Plan (RMCEI) Review 2025 and 2026**
- 4 **Climate Action Plan Progress Report**

MOTIONS

- 5 **Councillor JK. Onwumereh - Updates on Priority Actions on Fingal Biodiversity Plans for 2025**

“That the Chief Executive provides an update on the Priority Actions on the Fingal Biodiversity Plans for 2025 and to confirm how successful the plan was.”

- 6 **P. Flynn - Policy Change - Waste Water Treatment Plant**

“That the Chief Executive write to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the EPA requesting to change the policy on wastewater treatment plants being allowed to release raw sewage into rivers and estuaries.”



Anti-Litter & Anti Graffiti Grant

Recommendation for Approval

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Jennifer Muscheidt 24th March 2026

Environmental Awareness Officer

ANTI-LITTER & ANTI- GRAFFITI GRANT 2026

This grant funds community projects to address litter and graffiti in Fingal.



Closing Date
Friday 17th April 2026

Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



An Roinn Aeráide,
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil
Department of Climate,
Energy and the Environment



What is the Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti (ALAG) grant



The Anti-Litter & Anti-Graffiti (ALAG) Grant is administered by the Environmental Awareness Officer annually to support community groups across Fingal in delivering projects that enhance public spaces and promote civic pride ultimately reducing or eliminating litter and graffiti.

Funded activities may include:

- Local litter clean-ups
- Painting estate walls or murals
- Introducing biodiversity features in areas prone to litter or dumping
- Public awareness campaigns on litter and cigarette butt disposal

These initiatives help foster cleaner environments and stronger community engagement.

How it works:



- All applications are assessed in accordance with the criteria
- Following application approval;
- 50% of the grant is paid upfront in July.
- When the project is completed, the group submits a short report with photos and receipts to receive the remaining funding.
- All projects must be completed by the end of October.

Eligibility:

A wide variety of local groups are eligible including, community groups, residents' associations, youth groups, men's and women's sheds, sports clubs, scout group, tenants' groups and Tidy Towns committees.

Any local group with an idea to reduce litter, prevent graffiti, or enhance their community is welcome to apply.

Maximum funding per application: €1,500

Who funds the grant:



The ALAG fund is largely sponsored by the Department of Climate, Energy & Environment, typically contributing around €30,000 in recent years. Fingal County Council also provides additional funding support to include as many projects as possible.

2025 Overview

- Page 4
- 41 applications received (an increase on the previous year)
 - 40 projects approved
 - €55,703.31 requested with €41,047.28 allocated (maximum 80% of requested amount granted)
 - €36,098.97 ultimately distributed (due to one group not engaging and some under-spend)

Recognising the significant volunteer effort and community benefit delivered through these projects, Fingal aims to increase its contribution to €20,000, bringing the total fund available to €50,000. This additional support will come from the Environmental Awareness Budget.

Sample Projects:



1. Bayside Community Centre

The 2025 project addressed rising concerns about littering in the Bayside area through a blend of:

- Litter picking
- Creative workshops (art and poetry)
- Public education displays

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The initiative brought together residents of all ages, combining artistic expression with environmental action.



Sample Projects:



2.Clean Up Corduff

- Worked in partnership with St Patrick's Senior School, pupils:
- Planted flowers
- Collected seeds
- Harvested blackcurrants for jam
- Prepared cuttings

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Planned new vegetable and pumpkin beds

The project builds on pride, strengthens connection to local green spaces, and helps deter littering



Sample Projects:



3. Lusk Community Council

For the third year, a collaborative mural project united local young people with a professional graffiti artist to transform a public wall into an engaging educational artwork.

The initiative promoted:

- Civic engagement
- Creative expression
- Environmental awareness
- Positive messaging about sustainability and responsibility
- It also enhanced the appearance of the area while providing a constructive outlet for youth creativity.

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Next Steps:



- Following a recent Internal Audit, recommendations were made to formally approve the ALAG Grant Funding Scheme

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Seek recommendation from Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment SPC

- Recommendation to be brought to CPG Meeting in April
- Elected Members to approve the ALAG Grant at April Council Meeting



Presentation to SPC

Environmental Inspection Plan (RMCEI Plan) 2026

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Enda Hoey
Senior Executive Scientist
25th March 2026

Legislation & Environmental Protection



- 500 Environmental Protection measures are addressed under Inspection Plan
- >100 pieces of Environmental Legislation
- Plan incorporates National and Local Environmental Priorities



In 2024 Local Authorities:

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- Enforced **10,700** licences/permits,
 - Undertook **227,400** inspections,
 - Investigated **76,500** complaints,
 - Took **18,050** enforcement actions
 - Initiated **414** prosecutions.
- 630 officers across 31 Local Authorities
 - 79% of NEP's were rated Strong/Excellent in 2024 (59% in 2022)



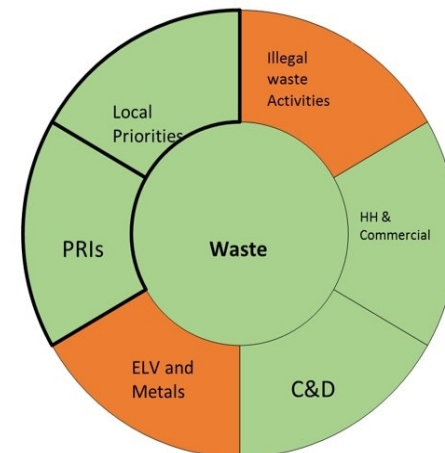
<https://www.epa.ie/publications/compliance--enforcement/public-authorities/local-authority-environmental-enforcement-performance-report-2024.php>

National Environmental Priorities 2025 - 2027



Waste

- Tackling Significant Illegal Waste Activities
- Construction & Demolition Materials
- Household Waste
- Commercial Waste
- Plastics and Producer Responsibility Initiatives



Water Pollution

- Page 11
- Discharge Licences / Misconnections
 - Pressures from Agricultural Farm Yards - slurry collection + storage
 - Pressures from Agricultural Farmland - slurry and fertiliser spreading)
 - Local Water Quality Pressures – septic tanks, private water

Air & Noise

- Local Air & Noise Investigations – complaints, solvent/deco paints.
- Solid Fuel – sale of approved fuels
- Air Quality Monitoring and Data Use – priority areas
- Environmental Noise Directive (ENDs) - transport/env noise
- Air and Noise Control (Planning and Compliance)



Key Areas under Environmental Inspection Plan



Litter

Waste

Water
Pollution

(Rivers, Bathing, Drinking)

Noise

AIR

Planning
(Air, Noise, Water,
Waste Management)

Waste Enforcement – Breakdown of Activities



5 National Priorities = 83 different tasks comprising 2,230 inspections

Waste Facility Permits

- 22 Facilities
- 22 AR Desktop Validations
- AR Onsite Validations
- Compliance Inspections

Waste Collection Permits

- 110 WCP Operators
- 110 Desktop Validations
- Onsite Verifications
- Compliance Inspections

Producer Responsibility Schemes

- 10 Major Producers - Packaging
- 30 Deposit Return Scheme/SUP
- 80 WEEE and Batteries
- 40 Tyres/Haz Wastes

Waste Complaints

- 50 - Storage of Household Waste
- 20 Backyard Burning of Waste
- 50 - Illegal Dumping >20 bags includes bulky waste from illegal collectors

Legal Files

- 10 Prosecutions:
- Waste Management Act,
 - Waste Presentation Bye-Laws
 - Waste Facility Regs
 - Waste Collection Regs

Planning

- 230 – Review of planning application referrals
- Recommending Conditions
- 200 - Review of compliance reports with planning conditions

Construction & Demolition Waste

- 50 By Product Notifications
- 30 On Site Audits
- Contaminated Land
- Asbestos Issues
- Waste Recovery Levy

Waste Presentation Bye-Laws

- Waste Register/Reverse Register
- Single Dwellings – bin service in place
- Apartments – 3 bin system
- Commercial Waste – recyclables/food

Illegal Waste Activities

- Man in Van Patrols
- Multi-agency Inspections - EPA, WERLA
- Sites of Concern (unauthorised)
- Anti-Dumping Initiative

Air Quality & Noise Pollution – Breakdown of Activities



4 National Priorities = 26 different tasks comprising 891 inspections

Air/Odour Complaints

- 120 complaints
- 160 inspections

Noise Complaints

- 250 complaints
- 320 inspections

Solid Fuel Regulations

- Inspection of distributors/retailers
- Multi-agency check points
- Online sales

Deco Paints

- Inspections at Vehicle Refinishers and Paint Distributors

Air Quality

- Ambient air monitoring programme inspections
- Review Air Quality Data
- Assist EPA with Monitoring Stations
- Initiate Awareness Campaigns

Noise Pollution & Control

- Public access to R4 Noise Action Plan and Strategic Noise Maps
- Annual Noise Action Plan Progress Report
- Deliver R5 Noise Action Plan and Strategic Noise Maps

Planning

- Assessing Planning Permissions
- Review Compliance Submissions
- Undertaking Compliance Inspections

Solvents Regulation

- Inspections at Dry Cleaners
- Compliance with regulations

Petroleum Vapour Regulations

- Inspections by Fire Brigade
- Compliance with regulations

Water Quality – Breakdown of Activities



Water Pollution Complaints

- 102 Planned Inspections
- 20 Misconnection Survey Inspections

Bathing Water Management

- 10 Bathing Water Profiles
- 1 Bathing Water Calendar
- 1 Bathing Water Management Protocol
- HSE/EPA/Public Consultation
- EDEN Incident Reporting

Bathing Water Inspections

- 10 Designated Bathing Area's
- 124 Bathing Water Monitoring Samples
- 60 Bathing Water Incident Inspections

National Inspections Plan (Septic Tanks)

- 10 Planned Inspections
- 10 on complaint notices and follow up's

Monitoring

- 72 WFD Operational & Surveillance Inspections
- 450 WFD Investigative Monitoring Inspections
- 4 Private Water Supplies

Discharge Licences

- 18 Licensed Facilities
- 124 Compliance Monitoring Samples
- 6 Audits
- 4 Licence Reviews

Planning Historical Landfills/NAIP

NAIP Farm Inspections

- 74 GAP Inspections
- GAP non-compliant follows ups
- 3 Farm Surveillance Inspections

Engagement with LAWPRO

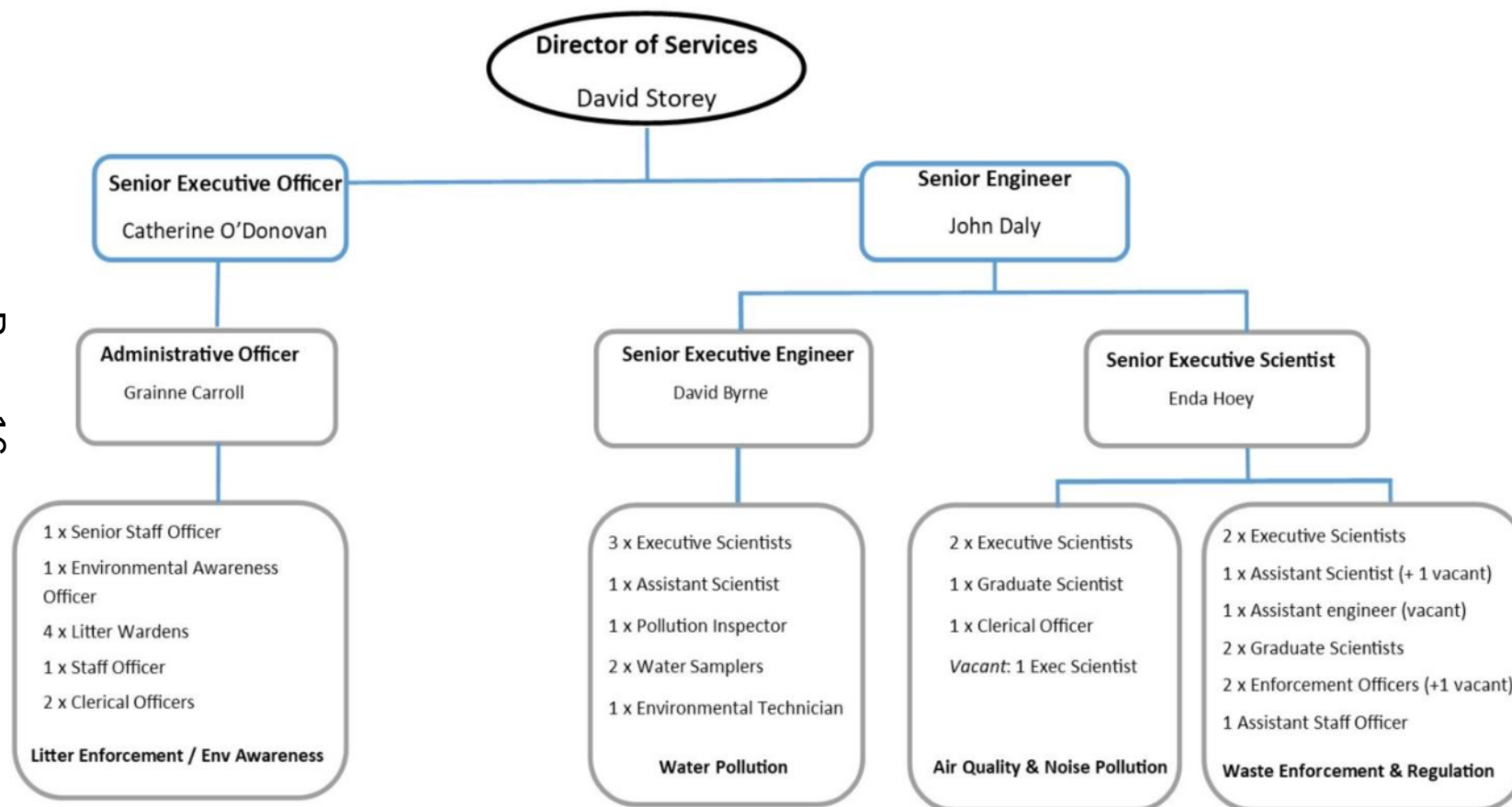
- 84 SSRS/Field assessments
- Governance

Staff Resources 2026



Department of Environment, Climate Action and Active Travel

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Environmental Inspections



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	Completed 2025	Planned 2026
Waste Enforcement	5,539*	5,929*
Litter Management	12,289	12,807
Water Pollution	1,259	1,084
Air & Noise	806	891

* 3,700 inspections under Waste Bye-Laws Project

- 19,451 Environmental Inspections completed by FCC in 2025
- 20,711 Environmental Inspections planned in 2026
- 4,800 Work days – 38 officers including admin support

Inspection Planning and Projects



- Risk based approach used for environmental enforcement
- Priority areas are identified based on risk categorisation
- Available resources managed efficiently - targeted inspections

Inspection Planning and Projects		
Waste Facilities	Large, significant environmental risks	3 inspections /year
	Medium, some environmental issues	2 inspections/year
	CoR, Small, low risk	1 inspection/year
Water Pollution	Direct discharge, exceedances in license conditions, impact on receptor	12 inspections /year
	Discharge to water, comply with licence conditions	2 inspections/year
	Discharge to waters, low risk	1 inspection/year

- Projects are important to tackle key issues – major impact
- Significant resources required
- Seen positive results and outcomes achieved – ELV Project, Waste Bye-Laws Project

Waste Presentation Project 2025 - 2027



- Waste Register and Reverse Register Established using Eircodes ~ 11,000 Households
- **Stage 1 - 4,000 Households Contacted (2 Letters):**
 - 55% No Response
 - 30% Waste Collection Service in place
 - 7% Bin Sharing
 - 5% Recycling Centres
 - 3% Declared Vacant/Derelict



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Stage 2 – Door to Door Inspections (2,200 Households)

- 50% No Answer at Door (17% later provided a response)
 - 25% Vacant/Derelict
 - 17 % Waste Collection Service in place
 - 5% Bin Sharing
 - 3% Recycling Centres
- **Stage 3 – Focus on Households where No Engagement (700 Households)**
 - Land Reg Checks
 - Issue FPN's (€75) under Waste Bye-Laws
 - Legal File and Prosecution in District Court

Follow up required where households provided wrong bin account number (140), using FCC recycling centres for disposal of brown and black bin waste (90), no signed bin sharing agreement (60).

Supports to LA's to Implement Environmental Inspection Plan



- Extensive training courses to assist local authorities - WERLA
- Assistance from Regional Waste Planning Office - larger WFP/WCP inspections
- Multi-agency support (large scale operations):

➤ An Garda Siochana, Social Protection, Customs, Revenue, EPA

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- DECC provide financial assistance for legal costs – difficult sites/cases
- Anti-Dumping Initiative will continue 2025 - significant funding (~ €100K/annum)
- Annual Waste Enforcement Grant - €330k



Assessment of Local Authority Performance



Three key Reports submitted 28th Feb 2026:

1. EPA Data Return 2025 – all inspections undertaken
2. National Enforcement Priorities (NEP) Progress Report 2025
3. Environmental Inspection Plan (RMCEI Plan) 2026

LA Performance - 4 Thematic Areas Assessed:

- Governance – complaint handling, RMCEI plan, resources, outcomes
- Waste Priorities
- Water Priorities
- Air & Noise Priorities

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11 Assessment Criteria used to provide a Grade:

Excellent



Strong



Moderate



Limited



FCC Performance v Other Local Authorities



Key Messages

Local authorities are responsible for enforcing much of Ireland's environmental protection legislation, playing a vital role in protecting our environment. Enforcement of environmental law is fundamental to the protection of the environment, to identify polluters and non-compliant operators, and to hold them to account.

The EPA has a supervisory role over local authorities and assesses their environmental inspection and enforcement performance under the EPA's Local Authority Performance Framework. This framework measures and reports on performance against the delivery of environmental outcomes under National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) across waste, water, air and noise. The framework operates on a three-year cycle. This report relates to the final year of the 2022-2024 cycle and reflects on the progress over the three years.

Local Authority Performance 2022 to 2024 – Delivery of the National Enforcement Priorities

High performance

Low performance

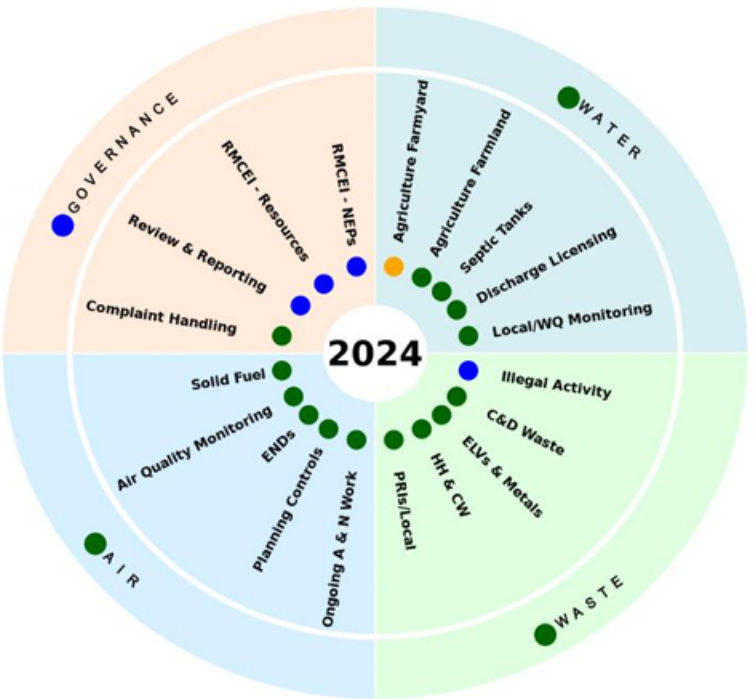
Local Authority	Number of NEPs that met the required standard (Strong or Excellent)		
	2022 (20 NEPs in total)	2023 (20 NEPs in total)	2024 (19 NEPs in total)
Meath	18	19	19
Dublin City***	13***	16***	16***
South Dublin	12	16	19
Kildare	20	20	18
Fingal	17	13	18
Cork City	13	12	18
Monaghan	17	18	17
Carlow	14	17	17
Wicklow	8	17	17
Cork County	14	17	17
Galway County	7	16	17
Tipperary	9	15	17
Louth	13	14	17
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown*	11*	12*	16*
Waterford	3	9	17
Westmeath	11	8	17
Kilkenny	6	10	16
Kerry	13	16	15
Laois	12	15	15
Roscommon	7	15	15
Cavan	15	16	15
Mayo	12	12	15
Limerick	12	16	14
Wexford	6	10	14
Longford	11	16	13
Offaly	4	12	13
Donegal	16	17	12
Clare	11	14	11
Sligo	9	10	10
Galway City**	12**	8**	7**
Leitrim	17	12	6

Fingal Performance Results 2024



Overall 2024 Assessment Result:

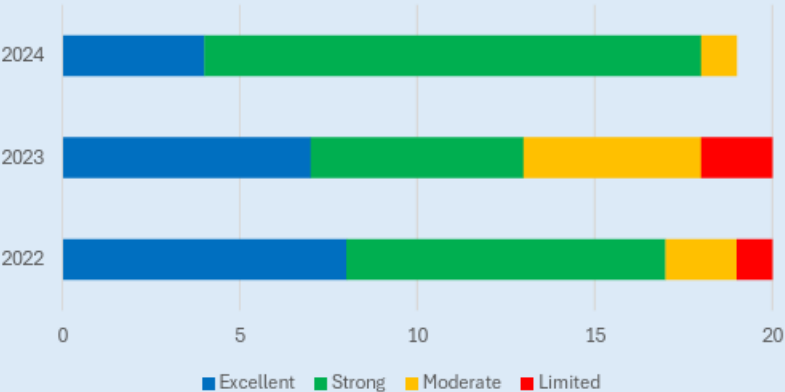
Fingal County Council (2024)



Fingal County Council met the required standard of a Strong or Excellent result in 18 of the 19 National Enforcement Priorities (NEPs) in 2024. Local authorities are expected to meet the required standard in each of the NEPs.

Fingal County Council is commended for achieving an Excellent result in the Tackling illegal waste activities and Multi-Agency Sites/Operators of Concern NEP. Greater focus is required in the area where Moderate results were attained.

Fingal County Council



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COMHAIRLE CONTAE FHINE GALL FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

CLIMATE ACTION, BIODIVERSITY, ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2026

ITEM NO. 06

POLICY CHANGE - WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Motion: Paul Flynn

"That the Chief Executive write to the Minister of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the EPA to change the policy on wastewater treatment plants being allowed to release raw sewage into rivers and estuaries."

Report:

The main regulation of wastewater discharges in Ireland is the Urban Wastewater Directive, implemented by the European Union (WasteWater Discharge) Regulations 2007 to 2020. The Minister has also issued in 1995 "Procedures and Criteria in relation to Storm Overflows" which are included in wastewater discharge licences.

The Water Action Plan 2024 includes the following action (with a target date of Q2 2028):

"Following the expected recast Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive the DHLGH will update the criteria for the performance of Combined Storm Water Overflows."

The Urban Wastewater treatment directive which has not yet been transposed into Irish Law.

The directive requires the preparation of integrated urban wastewater management plans which are to include the following:

"2. Objectives for the reduction of pollution from storm water overflows, including the following:

(a) an indicative non-binding objective that storm water overflow represents a small percentage that cannot be more than 2 % of the annual collected urban wastewater load calculated in dry weather conditions; this indicative non-binding objective shall be met by:

(i) 31 December 2039 for all agglomerations of 100 000 p.e. and above.

(ii) 31 December 2045 for agglomerations of 10 000 p.e. and above referred to in Article 5;"

(b) the progressive reduction of microplastics.

Depending on agglomeration size these plans are required to be prepared by 31 December 2039

The adoption of regulations and the transposition of the directive are matters for the Minister and Oireachtas, the implementation of the regulations will be a matter for the Environmental Agency.

Releases from wastewater treatment plants due to mechanical failure are not permitted under the licencing arrangements, and the EPA expect licence holders to maintain their plant to prevent mechanical breakdown. However, some degree of mechanical breakdown (including blockages) is inevitable.

Source of Report: John Daly, Senior Engineer, ECAATS Department