

# HIGHLIGHTS 2023

**889**  
Licences were enforced by the OEE



**535**  
individual sites were inspected



**1202**  
inspections carried out

### LEAP Online



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

### Closed Landfill Sites



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

### Peat Extraction



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

### Water



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

### Complaints



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

### Energy Sector



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

### Waste Transfer Stations



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

### Unauthorised waste activity



Targeted multi-agency actions to tackle unauthorised waste activity.

### Beyond Compliance



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

# Inspections

# 1202

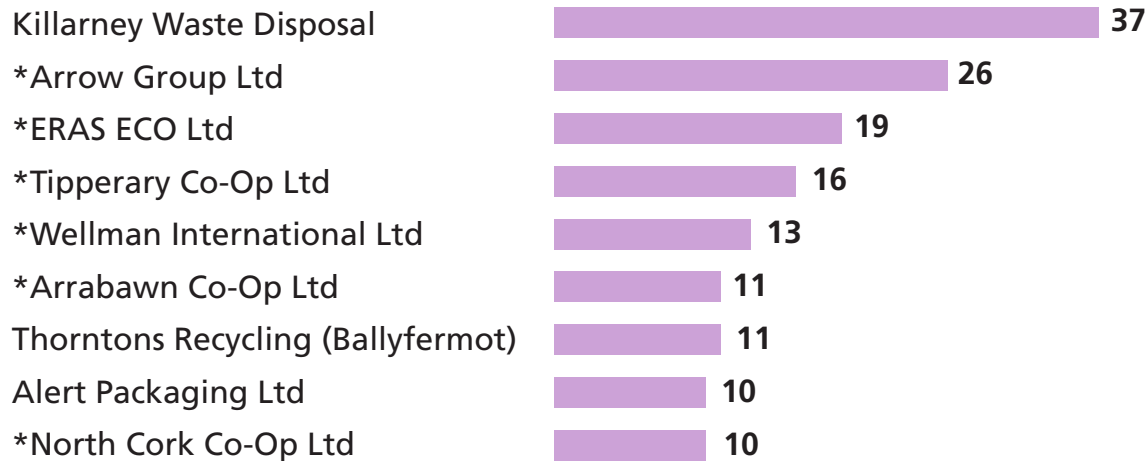
Inspections were carried out at licensed industrial and waste facilities during 2023.

**33** Inspections were carried out at unauthorised sites.

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

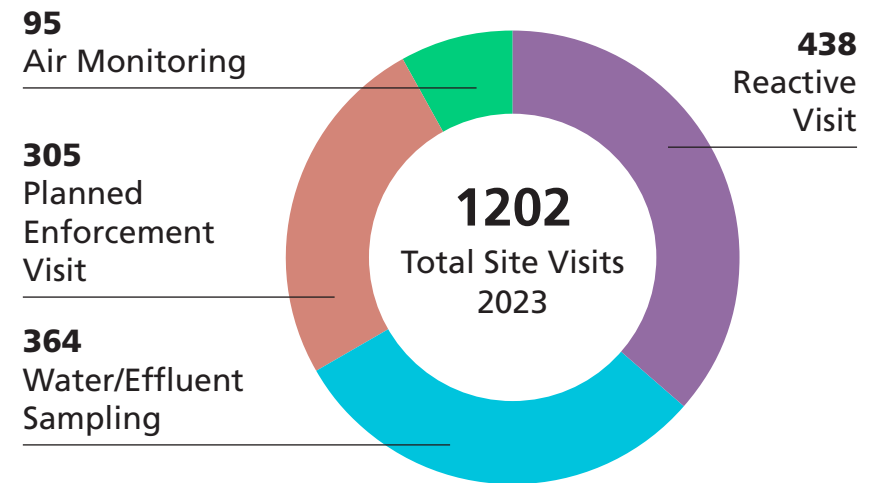
**91%** of inspections were unannounced.

## Sites visited 10 times or more during 2023



\*National Priority Sites in 2023

## Types of Inspections 2023



Chemical Sector



Anaerobic Digestion Sector

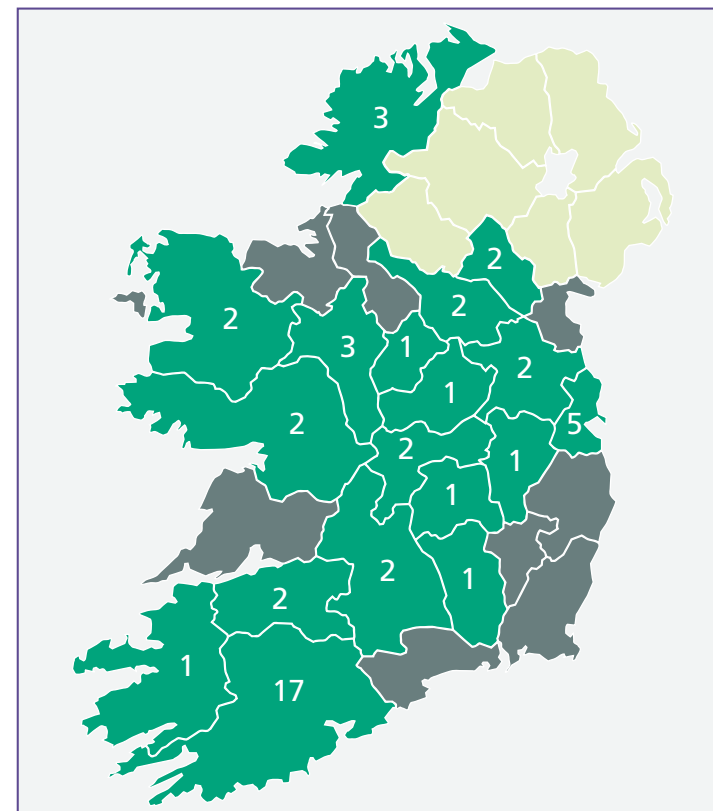


# National Priority Sites

## National Priority Sites 2023

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

## 50 National Priority Sites 2017-2023



Food & Drink Sector



Issue with discharges to water at NPS



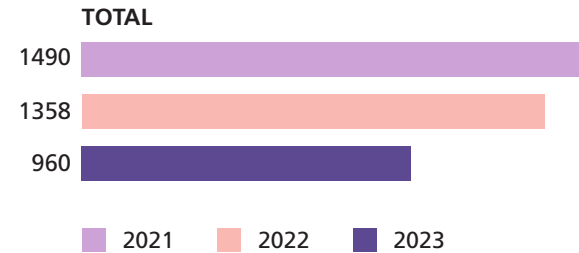
**50 sites** have appeared on National Priority Sites List since it was first published in 2017 with the majority of sites (68%) from the Food & Drink and Waste sectors.

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

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

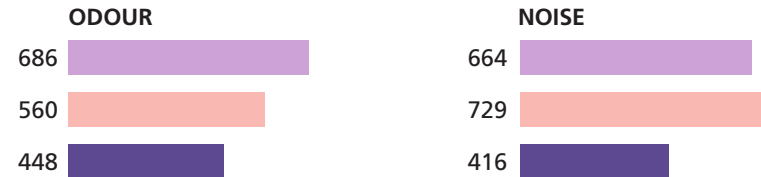
# Complaints

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



OEE Enforcement Activities have driven down complaints with a **36%** decrease from 2021

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



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

# Energy

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

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

Solar Farm Installation at Licensed Site



# Public Access to Information

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

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

LEAP had almost **100,000** page views in 2023

# Prosecutions



## 22 cases

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

## 1 Circuit Court Case

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



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

# Peat

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

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



# 29

inspections  
in 2023

Remediated Kerdiffstown Landfill



Peat Extraction Operations

