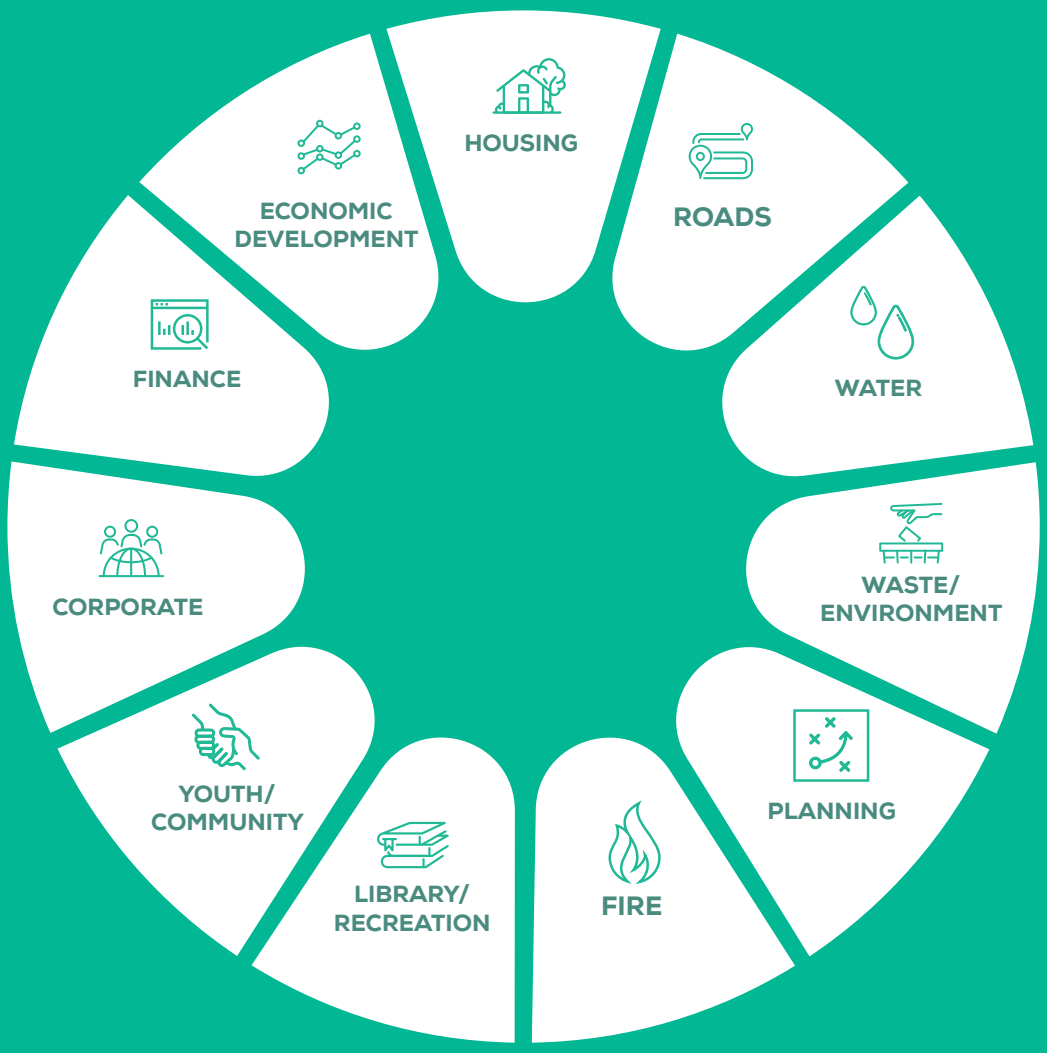
NOAC
National Oversight and Audit Commission



Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023

NOAC Report No. 71 – September 2024

Web: www.noac.ie Email: info@noac.ie

NOAC (the National Oversight and Audit Commission) was established in July 2014 under the 2014 Local Government Reform Act to provide independent oversight of the local government sector.

The statutory functions assigned to NOAC include the scrutiny of the performance of local government bodies against, or in comparison with relevant indicators.

There are 45 separate indicators covering 11 areas that the Commission considers appropriate to review. This report is based on data provided to the Local Government Management Agency in response to reporting guidelines issued by NOAC.

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Executive Summary

On the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) it is fitting that the Local Authority Performance Indicator Report 2023, the tenth in this annual series is published on the same day. A primary statutory function of NOAC is the scrutiny of local government bodies against relevant performance indicators (PIs). In 2023, NOAC examines 45 indicators across 11 separate areas of local authorities' wide-ranging functions, in order to provide objective information on performance. Following the publication of each report, NOAC reviews the indicators annually to determine whether they require refinement or clarification. It may introduce new indicators where appropriate.

Generally, data is collected but not published in an introductory year of proposed new indicators. This is to ensure that the new indicator is fully understood, and that when the data is published, it reflects a true measure of performance under the indicator and provides accurate comparative analysis. Accordingly, in the 2023 report, one new indicator H7 Social Housing Retrofit has been introduced. As the data for this was already being collected, the data was deemed suitable for gathering and inclusion in the 2023 report.

Over the years, NOAC has gathered an extensive body of data and performance-based information, which has enabled local authorities to use the results to focus on areas where performance is below the norm and streamline their processes where necessary. It allows for the monitoring of several areas of performance more accurately, and to consider and comprehend their individual results for the year in question and over a period of time, to support a process of continuous improvement. Additionally, it facilitates the comparison of their performance with other local authorities of a similar profile and size.

Evidence of good practice and transfer of learning can help NOAC fulfil its function to encourage and promote best practice in the sector. Equally, the information contained within the report is relevant to the various Government Departments working with local authorities, and to the wider public, who are impacted by the quality of their local authority's service delivery.

NOAC recognises that local government continues to demonstrate its resilience and ability to embrace and adapt to new challenges and demands such as its response to the Ukrainian crisis. In addition, they are also facing increasing demand and rising costs, which makes financial management and sustainability more important than ever. Recruitment and retention of staff, together with an aging work force, continues to be a challenge faced by many local authorities.

The format of the report is as follows;

Chapter 1 contains the introduction to the report. It includes details of data collected and the sources of this data.

Chapter 2 provides key messages from the Chair of the Performance Indicator Working Group, as well as listing some of the highlights, both positive and negative, in the 2023 performance of local authorities.

Chapter 3 includes detailed analysis of the results for 2023 for the 45 indicators, many of which have a number of data subsets. It also provides narrative, which compares performance with that of recent previous years.

Chapter 4 is the full list of tables and figures of the 2023 data.

Chapter 5 delivers a trend analysis and provides comparative data for a number of years. In some cases the data was only collected for a few years, while other data displays trends for the past ten years.

Chapter 6 outlines the Quality Assurance Process that NOAC undertakes annually. This year NOAC asked the seven local authorities selected to provide an update on the three areas they considered they were performing well in, the three areas where they felt performance needed improvement and finally the three policy areas which have the most significant impact on their performance. This year's approach was embraced fully by the local authorities and gave a real and meaningful insight to the challenges and opportunities that local authorities deal with day to day.

Appendix 1 is a short summary provided by the local authorities that were part of the quality assurance process.

Appendix 2 summarises the revisions to the indicators and process followed for the 2023 report.

Appendix 3 is the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) summary report.

Finally, the work carried out in the annual process is completed to the highest standards and it is fundamental to NOAC's role and statutory remit. This ensures that the report continues to provide an independent and reliable source of data. While NOAC welcomes areas where improvements are demonstrated, it has a responsibility to identify areas where performance has deteriorated, so that this can be remedied in future years. None of this would be possible without having the right team in place, made up of Board members and the Secretariat, who have strived to continuously improve the report, to provide more meaning behind the figures and to build upon the reputation of NOAC each year.

Acknowledgements

In publishing this report, NOAC acknowledges the work undertaken by data co-ordinators and staff of all local authorities, with particular thanks due to the Chief Executives and their teams whose contributions at the seven validation visits significantly enhanced the ongoing review process.

Thanks to the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), in particular Dr. Bernie O'Donoghue-Hynes, Robert Keane and Holly Morrin for their continued input into the development of guidelines for data collection by local authorities, and the LGMA's maintenance of the LG Returns system, into which data is inputted by local authorities.

NOAC thanks those who provided or reviewed data included in the report.

County and City Management Association (CCMA) Finance Sub Committee
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)
Department of Transport (DoT)
Enterprise Ireland
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
IPB Insurance
National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO)
Road Management Office (RMO)
Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)
The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
An Taisce: The National Trust for Ireland
Tobin Consulting Engineers

Special thanks to the members of NOAC, who attended the validation visits – Ciarán Hayes (Working Group Chair), Kathleen Holohan, Noel Harrington, Miriam McDonald, Brian Cawley, Margaret Lane and Declan Breathnach – and to the members of the Performance Indicator Working Group for their expertise and contributions - Ciarán Hayes, Noel Harrington and Brian Cawley.

NOAC also acknowledges the Secretariat assigned to the Commission for their work in co-ordinating, drafting and managing data queries, especially Claire Gavin, Joan Comiskey, Deirdre Byrne and Valerie Longmore.

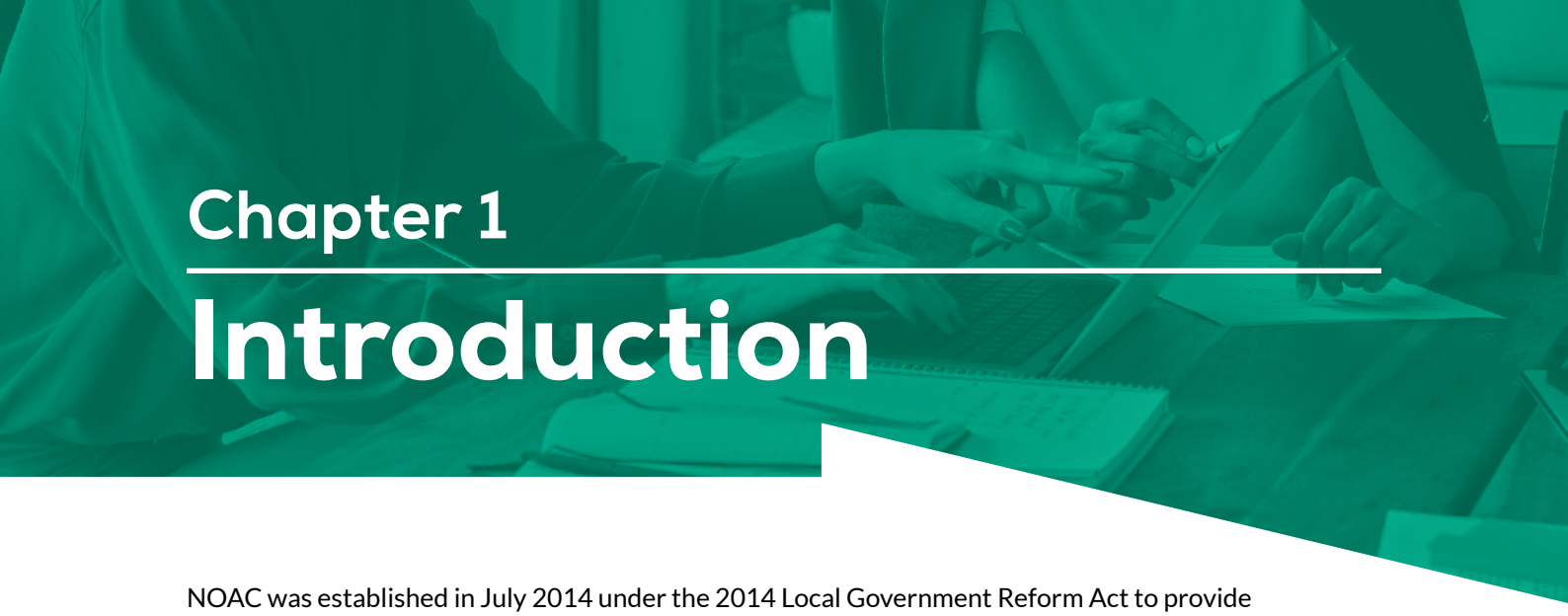
Data presented in this report is drawn from information provided by Local Authorities, Government Departments and Agencies.

The data is checked and verified as much as possible. Queries in relation to data contained in this report should be sent to the NOAC Secretariat at noac@housing.gov.ie.

Abbreviations

AFS	Annual Financial Statement
AILG	Association of Irish Local Government
BER	Building Energy Rating
CCMA	County and City Management Association
DCB	Defective Concrete Blocks
DECC	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
DHLGH	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
DoT	Department of Transport
DPENDPDR	Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform
EERP	Energy Efficiency Retrofitting Programme
EI	Enterprise Ireland
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERICA	Energy Retrofit Information Capture and Analysis
EV	Electric Vehicle
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
HAP	Housing Assistance Payment
HDCO	Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IPA	Institute of Public Administration
IR	Industrial Relations
ISAC	Information Sharing Analysis Centre
kWh	Kilowatt hour
LA	Local Authority
LAMA	Local Authority Members Association
LED	Light-emitting diode
LEO	Local Enterprise Office
LG	Local Government
LGAS	Local Government Audit Service
LGMA	Local Government Management Agency
LMS	Library Management System
MOL	My Open Library
M&R	Monitoring and Reporting
MTR	Mortgage To Rent

MWh	Megawatt Hour
NOAC	National Oversight & Audit Commission
NWCPO	National Waste Collection Permit Office
OPR	Office of the Planning Regulator
PASS	Pathway Accommodation & Support System
PPN	Public Participation Network
PI	Performance Indicator
PSC	Public Spending Code
PSCI	Pavement Surface Condition Index
QA	Quality Assurance
RMO	Road Management Office
RSES	Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy
RTB	Residential Tenancies Board
SEAI	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
tCo2	Total Carbon Dioxide
TII	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
TOV	Trading Online Vouchers
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
VFM	Value for Money
WG	Working Group
WTE	Whole Time Equivalent



Chapter 1
Introduction

NOAC was established in July 2014 under the 2014 Local Government Reform Act to provide independent oversight of the local government sector. The statutory functions assigned to NOAC include the scrutiny of the performance of local government bodies against, or in comparison with relevant indicators. As part of its statutory function, the Commission:

- Reviews financial performance, including Value for Money, of local authorities,
- Supports best practice (development and enhancement) in the performance of their functions by local authorities,
- Monitors and evaluates local authority adherence to Service Level Agreements,
- Oversees and evaluates how national local government policy and public service reform are implemented by local authorities,
- Monitors and evaluates the adequacy and implementation of corporate plans prepared by Regional Assemblies and councils.

Through its role in the collection and analysis of performance indicator data, NOAC enables local authorities to review their performance relative to other authorities serving a similar population size and type, and to adjust processes and practices where the data indicates that performance could improve.

This is the tenth Performance Indicator (PI) Report published by NOAC and examines 45 separate indicators, covering 11 performance areas. The PIs are chosen and categorised to reflect local government core functions; housing, roads, water, waste/environment, planning, fire services, library/recreation, youth/community, corporate, finance and economic development. However, the Commission acknowledges that these categories do not reflect the full and wide range of services delivered by city and county councils throughout the State.

During the course of its local authority engagements, including quality assurance meetings, various workshops and scrutiny visits, it is evident to NOAC that the PIs are embedded operationally to identify and implement service improvement across a range of local authority activities. Based on its findings from these meetings and from various workshops and interactions, NOAC will continue to work with local authorities to improve and amend the PIs. This tenth Report builds on previous reports and the associated discussions with local authorities, to provide a depth of information in relation to areas of concern and the policies that impact them. There is now a great opportunity for NOAC over the coming 12 months to capitalise on the information gathered over the past ten years to carry out an even deeper analysis which it is hoped will benefit everyone involved.

This year, as part of the Quality Assurance process, the social housing retrofit programme was included as a new indicator. This indicator determines:

A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

(2) Number of houses that achieve a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

(3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

The 2023 report details 45 indicators in 11 areas:

1 Housing
2 Roads
3 Water
4 Waste/Environment
5 Planning
6 Fire Services
7 Library/Recreation
8 Youth/Community
9 Corporate
10 Finance
11 Economic Development

Some minor changes were made to clarify the data being collected, but no significant changes were made for the 2023 report. Some confusion remained in relation to indicator J5: Economic Development, which was first collected and reviewed in 2021 and reported in the 2022 report. Therefore, the CCMA Finance sub-group which was set up in 2023 to address queries and to provide clarification on the J5 indicator remained in place for the 2023 report.

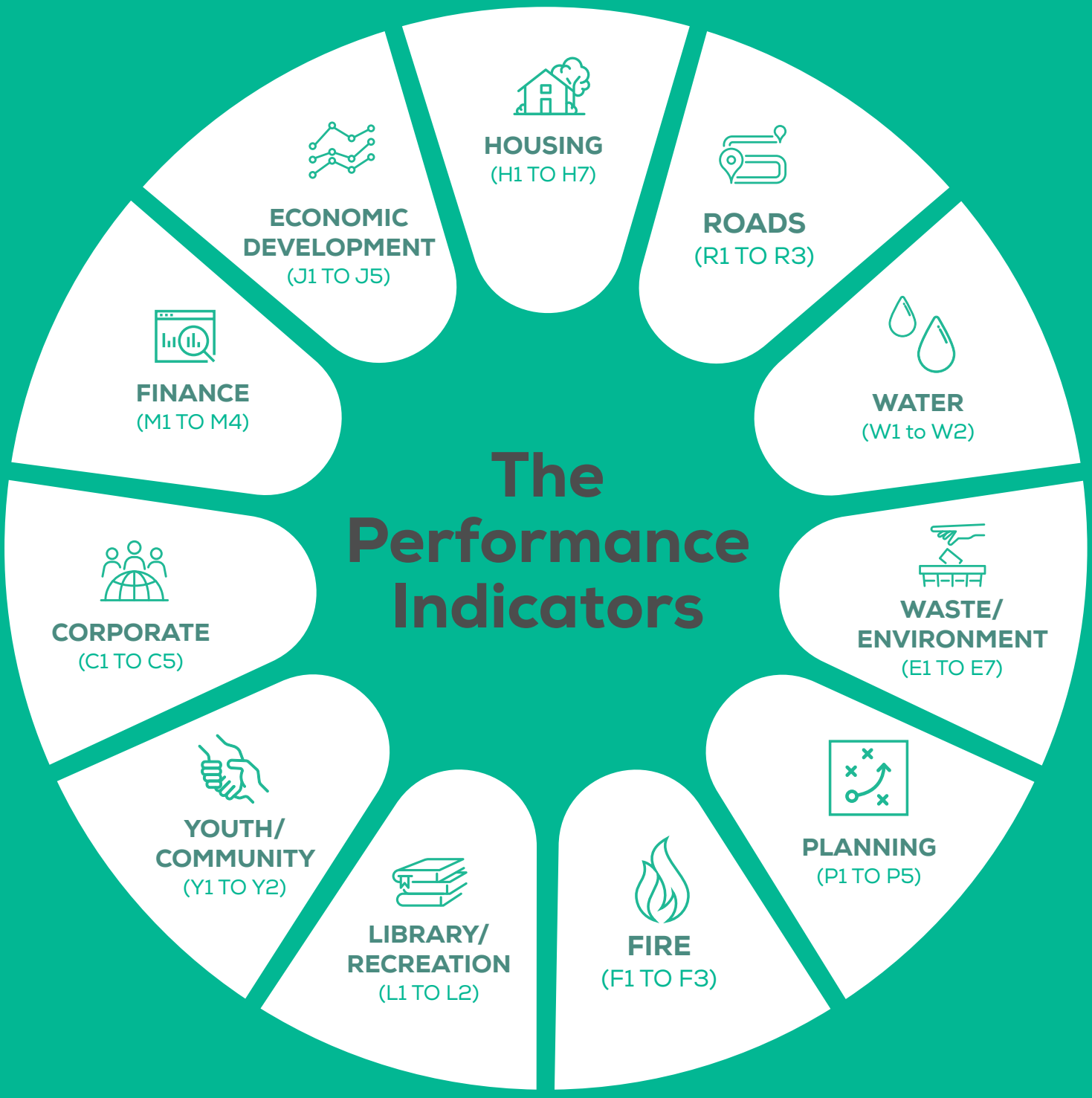
Details of all revisions to the 2023 report, the process and timelines are included in Appendix 2.

Details	Dates
In-person Workshop for Data Co-ordinators	Tuesday 27th of February 2024
LG Returns Open	Wednesday 28th of February 2024
LG Training Provided	Friday 22nd of March to Friday 12th of April 2024 (Five courses for 28 local authority staff)
LG Returns Closed	Friday 19th of April 2024
LG Returns Open for delayed information	Monday 29th of April 2024 (10am-12pm)
Preliminary checking of the data submitted	Tuesday 30th of April to Thursday 9th May 2024
Validation meetings	Thursday 30th May to Monday 1st July 2024
Audit Queries	Friday 10th May to 26th August 2024

Data from other sources

It should be noted that while local authorities submit most of the indicator data, other external bodies also provide data, the details of which are set out in the table below;

Name	Indicator
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH)	H5B: Number of rented dwellings inspected. H5C: Percentage of inspected dwellings not compliant with Standards Regulations. H5D: Number of dwellings deemed compliant (including those originally deemed non-compliant). H5E: The number of inspections (including re-inspections) undertaken by the local authority. C1A: The whole-time equivalent (WTE) staffing number as at 31 December 2023.
Department of Transport (Vehicle Registrations Unit)	R3: Percentage of motor tax transactions conducted online.
Enterprise Ireland	J1: Number of jobs created. J2: Trading Online Vouchers. J3: Number of mentoring recipients.
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	W1: Percentage Drinking Water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements.
IPB Insurance	M3: Public Liability Claims.
Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)	E7: Climate Change. L1C: Library Active Members per head of population. H7: Social Housing Retrofit.
National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO)	E1: No. /Percentage of Households which availed of a 3-bin service.
Road Management Office (RMO)	R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings. R2: Road Works, Strengthened and Resealed. E6: Public Lighting.
Residential Tenancies Board (RTB)	H5A: Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area at end of 2023.
The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)	E5: Percentage energy efficiency performance.
An Taisce: The National Trust for Ireland	E4: Percentage of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status.
Tobin Consulting Engineers	E3: Percentage of LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution.


HOUSING
(H1 TO H7)
ROADS
(R1 TO R3)
WATER
(W1 to W2)
WASTE/
ENVIRONMENT
(E1 TO E7)
PLANNING
(P1 TO P5)
FIRE
(F1 TO F3)
LIBRARY/
RECREATION
(L1 TO L2)
YOUTH/
COMMUNITY
(Y1 TO Y2)
CORPORATE
(C1 TO C5)
FINANCE
(M1 TO M4)
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
(J1 TO J5)
The
Performance
Indicators

Chapter 2

Message from the WG Chair

NOAC is delighted to publish its tenth annual performance indicator report. In publishing this report, NOAC delivers on its statutory remit in accordance with sections 114 to 126 of the Local Government Act 2001, as amended by the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and the data contained herein provides a comprehensive overview of the work of the Local Government sector.

NOAC has, in this report, as in the previous years, considered what data it should be gathering and what information it is examining. It looks at performance over the sector in a range of areas and goes behind the numbers, so as not to present just data, but to build a picture and endeavour to highlight areas where performance has been enhanced and areas where performance needs more attention. It can see where targets have been set but which, for one reason or another, may not be achievable.

While every effort has been made to have consistent data, some of the PIs have evolved over the years to reflect changes in national policy. Continued updating of the PIs to ensure their relevance is vital, principally in respect of emerging national priorities. This year for the first time, NOAC asked the seven local authorities selected for validation, to outline the policy areas which have the greatest impact on their specific local authority. Without exception, the national digital and climate policies, response to the Ukrainian crisis and the housing crisis, were considered key items. Climate change in particular, and the targets and impacts in this area, are acknowledged as both a challenge and an opportunity. It is important that both NOAC and local authorities recognise this and acknowledge where local authorities are innovative and collaborative in their response.

Local authorities play a pivotal role in each of our lives and in how our communities are shaped. Local government continues to demonstrate its resilience and ability to embrace and adapt to new demands and priorities. In addition, they are also facing increasing demands and rising costs, which makes financial management and sustainability more important than ever. As in previous years, 2023 brought many challenges, some of which could not have been expected nor could they have been foreseen in previous years.

NOAC has an important role in ensuring application and implementation of government policy at local level. As outlined above, there were some interesting revelations and discussions at this year's validation visits, and the details are covered in Chapter 6 on Quality Assurance. The validation visits also gave NOAC the opportunity to continue its ongoing review of the indicators for relevance and appropriateness and for the introduction of new indicators, as required.

The PIs will continue to be reviewed to ensure relevance to today's challenges and in this regard, a new indicator for social housing retrofits was introduced in 2023, the results of which are included in this Report. An analysis of the results, combined with the validation process, has identified important issues that will have a bearing on the ability of the Local Government sector to meet the statutory 2030 target of retrofitting 36,500 social housing units. Having regard to NOAC's oversight role, it is important to highlight the concerns regarding the current rate of retrofitting, which would be required to be at least doubled to circa 5,000 units annually, if the 2030 target is to be achieved. Such an acceleration will place a considerable burden on Local Authorities due to the additional human and financial resources required.

In the case of the Economic Development indicator which was introduced in 2021, there was still some confusion as to what needed to be included, however NOAC is satisfied that this is a worthwhile indicator and is welcomed by the sector in providing a picture of expenditure in this important area.

NOAC further acknowledges the expanding role of local government and its interaction with multiple government departments and statutory agencies. Within NOAC's oversight role, it engages with a number of these stakeholders to determine how it can be of assistance in delivering on their priorities and key targets.

Given that this is the tenth report, it must be acknowledged that a huge amount of data has been gathered and compiled since this process started in 2014. The amount of data contained in this report has allowed NOAC to provide a trend analysis over the years, which it uses to build the profile of individual local authorities as part of its scrutiny process. Since there is now comparable data available for multiple indicators over a number of years, NOAC intends to shortly commission a data analysis exercise to explore the figures gathered over the period since 2014 in more depth.

Some standout progress since the commencement of this process includes the area of finances and NOAC is pleased to record a significant improvement in revenue collection and credit balances. The sector had an overall debit balance in 2014 and the comparative figures show a credit balance of €29,240,149 in 2016 which has dramatic improved to a credit balance of €94,895,728 in 2023, a position that reflects well on the financial management of the sector. With regard to national priorities, close monitoring and attention is paid to the housing indicators; it is noted that housing vacancies are showing an overall improvement and NOAC notes an additional 4,382 housing units were added in 2023, bringing the total housing stock to 150, 224. In this report you will find some additional rationale behind the figures, the challenges that were outlined, the key priority issues facing local authorities, as well as ten-year trend material. Below are just some of the highlighted figures from this year's report but Chapter 3 Detailed Analysis provides complete 2023 results.

While these may be macro-level issues, the completion of this report happens at the micro-level; the process relies on many parts, including the external datasets, input from data co-ordinators, the support of LGMA staff, local authority staff, and of course the other board members.

I am constantly impressed with the effort and work that goes into its production. Special mention must go to the staff on the NOAC Secretariat. I am frequently struck by their professionalism, hard work and dedication in ensuring that the report is completed to a high standard, and that it faithfully reflects the Performance Indicator working group's findings.

Ciarán Hayes
Chair of the Performance Indicators Working Group

18 September 2024

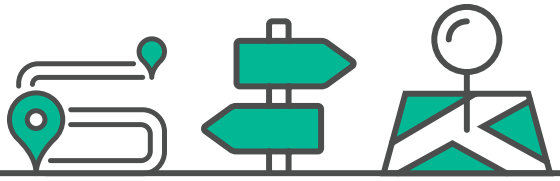
2023 Highlights

Full details of the results pertaining to each indicator are provided in Chapter 3.

Section 1 **Housing**

- **Housing Vacancies** at the end of 2023 there were **4,196** vacancies compared to the 2022 figure of 4,417. The overall percentage of directly provided local authority stock, vacant at the end of 2023, is **2.81%** showing an overall improvement compared to 2022 at 3.03%.
- **Social Housing Stock** at the end of December 2023 local authorities owned **150,224** social housing units and added **4,382 units** to the social housing stock in 2023.
- **Average Re-letting Time** in 2023 was **33.72 weeks** compared to 35.22 in 2022.
- **Housing Maintenance Cost €223,128,103.59** overall spend on housing maintenance in 2023.
- The number of **rented dwellings inspected** rose to **50,436** in 2023 from 40,282 in 2022.

Section 2 **Roads**



- Local authorities manage and maintain **96,478km** of regional and local roads.
- **419.9km** of Regional roads and **2,304.5km** of local roads strengthened.
- **464.2km** of Regional roads and **2,688.8km** of local roads resealed.
- **41% of regional roads** have an overall PSCI Rating of **9 to 10** with no defects or minor surface defects, this has increased consistently from 2014 when it was 20%.
- 81.38% of **motor tax transactions** were conducted online.

Section 3 **Water**

- The number of registered schemes registered in 2023 was **2,212** of which **1,846** were monitored. The national average percentage of registered schemes monitored was **83.45%**.

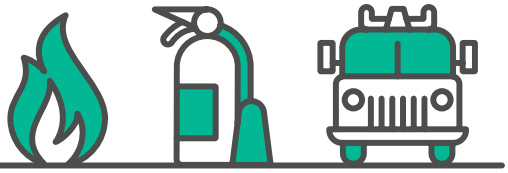
Section 4 **Waste and Environment**

- **94.13%** of households which availed of a three-bin service.
- **70,584** pollution complaints were made to local authorities in 2023, a decrease from **71,185** in 2022.
- Of **3,958** schools across all local authority areas, **52** attained their green flag status in 2023 for the first time, **698** renewed their status in 2023 and **639** did not need to renew, as their status was still in place.
- **30 local authorities** have Climate Action Coordinators and **25** Climate Action Officers, a great improvement on 2022. There are now only **24** Climate Action Teams in place with a further five local authorities indicating that their team was a work in progress.

Section 5 **Planning**

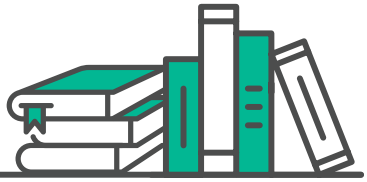
- There were **23,283** new builds notified to local authorities in 2023, **6,023** were inspected representing **25.87%** of the total.
- The number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in the year in 2023 was **1,713**. **75.72%** or **1,297** decisions were confirmed either with or without variation of the plan.

Section 6 **Fire Service**



- The national average per capita cost of providing the fire service in 2023 was **€65.76**.
- For 2023, **two** of the six full time fire brigades improved their average mobilisation times for fire emergencies and **two** also improved their average mobilisation times for other non- fire emergencies compared to 2022.
- In 2023, for retained services only **two** improved their mobilisation average mobilisation times for fire emergencies while only **seven** improved their average mobilisation times for other non- fire emergencies in comparison to 2022.

Section 7 **Library/Recreation**



- The total number of library visits in 2023 was **13,879,927**.
- The average number of library visits per head of population in 2023 was **2.70%**, up from 2.09% in 2022.
- The number of items issued to library members rose to **16,219,445** in 2023, an increase of 16.69% on the 2022 figure of 13,899,201.
- In 2023, active library members were **0.18%** of the population, in line with the commitment in the library strategy for the period 2023-2027 "The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration".
- The number of registered library members in 2023 was **785,567** an increase of 55,026 on the 2022 figure.
- The average cost per capita of operating the library service in 2023 was **€38.87**.
- Expenditure per capita on new stock rose to an average of **€2.04** in 2023, from €1.89 in 2022.

Section 8 **Youth and Community**

- Just **four** local authorities achieved 100% involvement in the Comhairle na nÓg local youth council scheme. **14** local authorities showed an improvement in their figures in 2023.
- **501** schools were represented at the Comhairle na nÓg 2023 AGM compared to 471 in 2022.
- **19,409** organisations on the county register for the PPN at the end of 2023.
- **1,892** is the number of organisations which registered for the first time in 2023.

Section 9 **Corporate**

- The total whole-time equivalent staff employed by the local authority sector at the end of 2023 was **31,704.94** up on the 2022 figure of 30,598.87.
- **299,333.79** days were lost to certified sick leave in 2023.
- Total page views of local authority websites in 2023 was **68.79 million** a decline of over 1.16 million views on the 2022 figure of 69.95 million.
- **1,278** separate websites are being operated by the **31** local authorities.
- The total number of social media users increased to **5.40 million** in 2023, from 4.81 million in 2022.
- The national average cost of ICT provision was **€3,948.63** an increase of **€219.30** on the 2022 figure of €3,729.33.

Section 10 **Finance**

- There were **six** local authorities showing a deficit on the Revenue Account at the end of 2023 (seven in 2022).

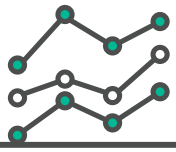
- **20** authorities saw an increase in commercial rates collected in 2023. Just **two** remained unchanged while nine authorities showed a decrease in collections.

- 11 authorities saw an increase in rents collected in 2023. Seven had no change while **13** authorities showed a decrease in collections.

- **22** authorities saw an increase in home loans collected in 2023. **Six** had no change while **three** authorities showed a decrease in collections.

- The average cost per capita of public liability claims in 2023 was **€12.21**, an increase from €11.31 in 2022.

Section 11 **Economic Development**



- The total number of jobs created nationally in 2023 with the assistance of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), taking job losses into account, was **2,131**. This is a decrease of 1,316 jobs or 38.17% on 2022 when 3,447 jobs were created.

- **14,197** participants availed of LEO mentoring in 2023 an increase of 1,996 participants on the 2022 figure of 12,201.

- Local authorities spent an average on Economic Development of **€163.41** per head of population in 2023, that figure was €141.21 in 2022.

Chapter 3

Detailed Analysis

This Chapter should be read with the tables in Chapter 4

Section 1: Housing (H1 – H7)

H1: Social Housing Stock (A to F)

Local authorities have a key role in the delivery of homes and delivery targets will be set with new Local Authority Housing Delivery Action Plans, setting out how they plan to deliver on the objectives of the Housing for All[1] strategy. Social housing stock is stock that is owned by local authorities and added to on an annual basis through the local authority build and acquisition programmes. Social housing is provided to meet the needs of low-income families across the country and is a key enabler of people moving out of homelessness. From a performance management perspective, the management of housing stock is a core function of local authorities and one of the key indicators that NOAC reviews each year. In this case, the indicator examines the housing stock level in local authorities, the additions to that stock, and any reduction in stock levels during the review year. This results in an overall view of the movement and management of local authority housing stock, and the activity of local authorities in that year.

With local authorities playing a key role in meeting new and existing housing need, it must be acknowledged that they also manage the delivery of housing supports by other bodies, as well as delivering housing supports through other mechanisms, such as the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP). However, as new-build supply of social housing ramps up, it is anticipated that there will be a reduced reliance on HAP and the Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS).

Social housing support can be summarised and divided into activity strands as follows:

- Direct local authority activity in increasing their housing stock to provide for households in need of homes (i.e. building and buying),
- local authority activity in providing housing units through DHLGH funding streams, which do not form part of the authority's permanent stock, but which meet housing need (e.g. HAP and RAS), and,
- the involvement of local authorities in the provision of housing by Approved Housing Bodies (AHBs), which meet the needs of households on local authority waiting lists by adding to the permanent and leased social housing stock of those AHBs.

While local authority housing stock is a key focus for NOAC, social housing delivery by these other entities must also be considered.

However, from an oversight and audit perspective, NOAC considers that while local authority involvement in the provision of housing support by AHBs is important to deliver the overall objective of meeting housing need, local authorities bear the statutory responsibility for the provision of local authority housing, and this should therefore be the key consideration.

Table H1a shows dwellings provided by both local authorities and AHBs under the various social housing schemes funded by the DHLGH. Tables H1b and H1c indicate the build and acquisition delivery from 2018 to 2023 by local authorities and AHBs.

1 Housing for All (2021) is the Government's housing plan to 2030.

For Housing for All statistical reporting purposes, activity under the voids programme reflects the level of the voids target under Rebuilding Ireland[2] each year. Capped voids were included in the total build output from 2016 to the end of 2019. Voids are not included in the build figure from 2020 onwards, as per Housing for All policy. Total void activity is covered in this report.

To support the validation of this indicator, NOAC requests this data from DHLGH on an annual basis. The DHLGH has advised that all data they provide is from the most recent published DHLGH statistical returns and outlined that previously published data may have been subject to revision, if a discrepancy was identified during cross-verification. This has given rise to some variances in figures provided to NOAC and published in PI reports in previous years.

Table H1A: Total Social Housing Output 2018 to 2023

Year	Total New Build	Total Acquisition	LA Vacant Dwellings	Leasing	RAS	HAP	Overall Totals
2018	4,234	2,592	560	1,001	755	17,926	27,068
2019	5,771	2,752	303	1,161	1,043	17,025	28,055
2020	5,064	1,314	180	1,440	913	15,885	24,616
2021	5,202	1,262	0*	2,711	1,034	13,095	23,304
2022	7,433	951	0*	1,870	1,041	8,634	19,929
2023	8,110	1,830	0*	1,999	1,542	8,292	21,773

**Voids no longer counted towards Build totals since 2021*

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Table H1B: Total Social Housing Build Output 2018-2023 by local authority and AHB

Year	LA New Build	AHB New Build	Part V – New Build (LA & AHB)	Total New Build
2018	2,022	1,388	841	4,251
2019	2,271	2,174	1,326	5,771
2020	2,230	2,096	738	5,064
2021	1,998	2,291	913	5,202
2022	2,885	3,140	1,408	7,433
2023	2,524	3,713	1,873	8,110

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Table H1C: Total Social Housing Acquisition Output 2018-2023 by local authority and AHB

Year	LA Acquisition	AHB Acquisition	Total Acquisition
2018	1,533	1,059	2,592
2019	1,905	847	2,752
2020	833	481	1,314
2021	872	390	1,262
2022	625	326	951
2023	1,332	498	1,830

Source: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

2 Rebuilding Ireland is the Government's Action Plan on Housing and Homelessness, launched in 2016.

Total Social Housing Acquisition Output 2018 to 2023

In order to ensure accuracy in its reporting, NOAC advises local authorities to ensure that their figures for housing agree with the published DHLGH figures. Despite this, NOAC discovered variances in the figures and investigated these further. For 2023, the figures supplied by local authorities for additions to stock compared with the DHLGH figures gave rise to a variation of a net 336 units in respect of 18 authorities.

Variations arose for several valid reasons including the fact that Mortgage to Rent units, Traveller specific accommodation, units managed and maintained by AHBs, and units transferred to local authorities from other bodies are not included in NOAC's figures.

In a number of local authorities, such as Galway County (32), Wexford (22) and Longford (36), variances arose where units were constructed in 2023, but not tenanted before year end, so they were excluded from the NOAC return. This also accounted for 93 of the 95 units that were not in the ownership of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown at the year end. The other two units were Traveller specific accommodation and Longford also reported two traveller specific units. Cork City recorded a variance of 122 units, which related to units that were being managed by AHBs.

All these units were excluded from the 2023 NOAC return in accordance with the NOAC guidelines.

Table H1, column E in Chapter 4, shows that in 2023, local authorities had 150,224 dwellings in their ownership at the end of the year. Nationally, this shows an increase in local authority housing stock of 4,382 new units added to stock when demolitions and sales of dwellings (reduction in stock numbers) are taken into account.

In 2023, H1B shows that local authorities have added 4,382 units to owned stock, (whether constructed or acquired), an increase of 520 on the 2022 figure of 3,862.

All local authorities except Offaly recorded the sale of local authority dwellings. There were 476 units of stock sold in 2023, a decrease of 55 on the 531 units of stock sold in 2022. Nine local authorities demolished a total of 111 dwellings in 2023, compared to 141 dwellings in 2022, 79 dwellings in 2021 and 75 dwellings in 2020. This is in addition to the 794 units that are planned for demolition under a DHGLH approved scheme.

H2: Housing Vacancies

The management of vacant properties within local authorities is a very important function and vital in meeting housing needs. Minimising housing vacancies is a key action in Housing for All, and local authorities continue to be funded by the DHLGH to achieve these outcomes. In that context, NOAC, year on year, looks at the number of dwellings in a local authority's overall stock that were not tenanted as of 31 December. The overall percentage of directly provided local authority stock, vacant at the end of 2023, is showing an overall improvement at 2.81%, compared to 2022 at 3.03%, 2021 at 3.16%, and the 2020 figure of 3.18%. This is a very welcome trend.

Data in Table H2 Chapter 4, the lowest vacancy rate was in Carlow at 0.94%, an improvement on its 2.23% vacancy rate in 2022. Monaghan was the second lowest at 1.06%, an improvement on 1.14% in 2022. It is always important to see low vacancy rates, and given that many local authorities put a lot of effort into managing stock, it is noteworthy to see that there are eight local authorities, where the vacancy rates are less than 2%, the six others being Fingal, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford City and County, Westmeath and Wexford. There are a further 12 local authorities that have vacancy rates higher than 2% but less than the average of 2.81%.

However, there are ten local authorities with vacancy rates above 2.81%. They are Cavan (3.95%), Cork City (3.36%), Cork County (5.38%), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (2.88%), Galway County (the highest vacancy rate at 6.12%), Kerry (4.32%), Kilkenny (3.46%), Limerick (4.04%), Longford (3.82%) and Wicklow (2.84%). Longford demonstrated that the plan that they have in place to address the vacancy rate is helping to address the issue, and the rate this year is an improvement on 5.62% in 2022 and 7.19% in 2021.

The total number of vacant dwellings at the end of 2023 was 4,196, compared to the 2022 figure of 4,417 (4,448 in 2021 and 4,467 in 2020).

NOAC understands that while there is always a level of turnover of local authority rented properties, every effort should be made by local authorities to ensure the stock is utilised to the greatest extent possible to meet the demand and needs of applicants on the housing waiting list.

Once again in 2023, poor quality stock requiring significant works, together with difficulties getting contractors and increased costs, were cited as the main challenges under this indicator. The timing of the vacancies, especially at year end, has contributed to delays in some cases. NOAC welcomes the fact that many local authorities are ensuring that full condition surveys and appropriate planned maintenance programmes are helping to reduce vacancies.

Louth and Laois both advised that the increase in numbers of vacant properties at the end of 2023 is due to an increase in transfers during 2023 and surrenders of properties generally.

Kilkenny cited an increase in the number of casual vacancies and the fact that seven new properties were completed close to year end and allocated in early 2024.

H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost (A and B)

NOAC recognises the achievement of the refurbishment and re-letting of vacant social housing units with minimal delay is in line with best asset management practice. This involves adopting a national re-letting performance standard across all local authorities, a preventative maintenance approach to housing stock management, a greater focus on the roles and responsibilities of tenants, and funding mechanisms structured to incentivise swift turnaround and consistent standards.

€101,425,762.35

spent in **2023** in re-letting costs for **3,578** units

€28,347.05

Average cost

33.72 weeks

Average time

Table H3: Average 2023 re-letting times and costs of urban authorities compared to 2022

	Unit re-letting Time		Unit re-letting Cost		No. of units re-tenanted	
Local Authority	2023 (weeks)	Comparison with 2022 (weeks)	2023 €	Comparison with 2022	2023	Comparison with 2022
Cork City	32.49	-26.04	€18,647.93	€4,030.93	169	-11
Dublin City	22.23	-1.09	€33,918.95	€11,986.49	850	182
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	23.32	3.35	€23,312.89	€216.82	95	-29
Fingal	29.14	-3.73	€20,218.20	€1,991.23	97	18
Galway City	49.61	-2.48	€41,264.84	€19,825.98	71	5
South Dublin	26.14	-2.63	€28,494.69	-€4,937.59	208	35

As with the case in Housing Vacancies, NOAC acknowledges that the age of housing stock may also negatively impact this timeline, but recommends active management and condition surveys, to assist in reducing re-letting times. The national average re-letting time, from the date the tenant vacated the dwelling to the date of the first rent debit in 2023, was 33.72 weeks, a decrease from 35.22 weeks in 2022 (34.44 weeks in 2021 and 32.69 weeks in 2020).

The average letting cost in 2023 was €28,347.05, compared to €21,886.04 in 2022 (€19,653.39 in 2021 and €19,065.30 in 2020). Given the costs of goods and services and the fact that many local authorities are refurbishing to a higher standard, it would be anticipated that there would be some increase in this indicator.

A comparison of 2023 average re-letting times for the six main urban authorities of Cork, Dublin, and Galway Cities, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin County Councils shows variations in both re-letting times and costs, which are set out in table H3.

The longest average re-letting time across these six authorities was recorded by Galway City at 49.61, which is an improvement on its 2022 figure of 52.09 weeks. The shortest re-letting time of 22.23 weeks was reported by Dublin City. Of the six main urban areas, five showed improvements in re-letting times, with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown showing a slight increase in re-letting times

Nationally, Donegal advised that some properties were untenanted for a longer period while they were considered for inclusion in the defective concrete block list. Kildare explained that they had a high level of refusals in 2022, which increased the re-letting time. Meath, on the other hand, said that they have adopted new procedures to reduce the time properties are vacant.

NOAC continues to see that where Choice Based Letting has been introduced, improvements in the process of re-letting is noted in many cases. Therefore, NOAC considers that the benefits of this scheme are worthy of consideration by all local authorities.

The summary statistics table H3 in Chapter 4 shows the national average re-letting time which varies from 33.72 weeks in 2023 to 35.22 weeks in 2022. (34.44 weeks in 2021).

The table below lists the local authorities with the shortest average re-letting times in 2023.

H3: Social Housing Re-letting times and costs Data 01/01/2023- 31/12/2023	Average Number of Weeks	Average Cost	Number of Units
Laois	13.27	€13,415.98	57
Monaghan	15.33	€28,144.87	68
Sligo	16.42	€29,298.01	49

The table below lists the local authorities with the longest average re-letting times in 2023.

H3: Social Housing Re-letting times and costs Data 01/01/2023- 31/12/2023	Average Number of Weeks	Average Cost	Number of Units
Kerry	65.45	€21,832.34	122
Limerick	61.76	€57,506.79	104
Longford	58.71	€46,913.28	90

In 2022, Longford recorded the largest increase in the average re-letting time and advised at that time that steps were being taken to address this issue and they expected to see a significant reduction in re-letting times in 2023. A significant improvement from 99 weeks in 2022 to 58.71 weeks in 2023 was reported, this is still well above the national average.

Mayo County Council explained that difficulties contributing to longer re-letting times and costs, included a shortage of contractors and some building supplies and refusals of offers. These issues have also arisen in other local authorities.

Wicklow and Meath explained that increases in re-letting times were due to a variety of reasons, including units being offered for tenancy multiple times before being finally accepted and allocated. Wicklow and Roscommon also cited a shortage of building contractors in the market and a higher number of re-lets impacted on the workload of staff causing further delays. Meath and Cork County said times increased due to a number of factors, such as carrying out more extensive refurbishment works, including full energy retrofits of properties.

Louth had a significant number of social houses that were acquired through capital turnkey acquisitions and Part V units that were purchased by the local authority in mid-December 2023, but were not tenanted as of 31 December 2023. Louth has assured NOAC that these units were tenanted in Q1 2024.

Tipperary's percentage increase was in part due to incorrect data being wrongly categorised in their 2022 return.

€223,128,103.59

overall spend on housing maintenance in **2023**

€521.19

Lowest spend **Carlow**

€2,531.65

Highest spend **Dublin City**

27 local authorities increased their expenditure on housing maintenance

04 local authorities decreased their expenditure on housing maintenance

H4: Housing Maintenance Cost (A)

Expenditure on repair and maintenance of local authority stock is set out in Table H4, Chapter 4. The maintenance cost per unit recorded across the 31 local authorities ranged from €521.19 in Carlow (€442.94 in 2022) to €2,531.65 in Dublin City (€2,275.31 in 2022). Although Carlow recorded the lowest spend in 2023, this was an increase of 17.67% on its 2022 figure, due to a new boiler service programme and additional housing stock.

South Dublin recorded the highest increase in maintenance costs, going from €816.69 in 2022 to €1,475.32 in 2023, which is an 80.65% increase. Galway County recorded the largest decrease of 28.17 %, going from €2,685.71 in 2022 to €1,929.25 in 2023.

South Dublin explained that the increase in maintenance was due to significant investment in their Energy Efficiency Retrofit Programme, as well as an increase in the cost of wages coupled with price increases for new contract frameworks for response maintenance and the servicing/replacement of central heating systems, which were established following procurement processes in 2023.

9
local authorities exceed the **25%** Inspection rate target

9
local authorities inspection rates were less than **10%**

25%
improvement in Inspection Rates

21
local authorities showed an improvement inspection rate in **2023**

H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections (A to E)

The 2016 NOAC report *A Review of Local Authority Performance of Private Rented Houses Regulations Functions*, found that the rental inspection process as then administered was not having a sufficient impact on the standard of rented accommodation.

The Rebuilding Ireland *Strategy for the Rental Sector* stated that in order to increase the number of properties inspected, specific ring-fenced funding for inspection and compliance activity would be identified from 2018 onwards, and annual targets for both inspection and compliance would be agreed with local authorities. The objective has been to increase inspection numbers incrementally each year, to allow housing authorities build inspection capacity.

2018 saw the introduction of a 10% inspection target based on the number of tenancies registered with the RTB, rising 5% each year to 25% in 2021. Housing for All reaffirmed the 25% target.

€2.5m in Exchequer funding was made available as a subvention to local authorities for 2018. This rose to €9m in 2023 and 2024.

The DHLGH issues letters to local authority Chief Executives each year informing them of their private rental inspection targets, based on RTB tenancy data, and seeks implementation plans showing how they will achieve their targets. Nine local authorities reached their 25% inspection target in 2023, there are slight variances from DHLGH published figures due to differences in data collection timelines.

- Meath 45.25%
- Cork City 40.70%
- Waterford City and County 34.41%
- Leitrim 32.17%
- Fingal 30.68%
- Donegal 30.16%
- Wexford 27.71%
- Galway County 28.64%
- Laois 25.35%

Meath put a new dedicated team in place to work full-time on inspections, so there was a large increase in productivity in 2023.

Low inspection rates were recorded in nine local authorities where inspection rates were less than 10%;

- Galway City 2.86%
- Mayo 3.40%
- Wicklow 6.30%
- Carlow 6.87%
- Kildare 7.74%
- Dublin City 8.01%
- Louth 8.03%
- Cavan 8.58%
- Limerick City and County 8.60%

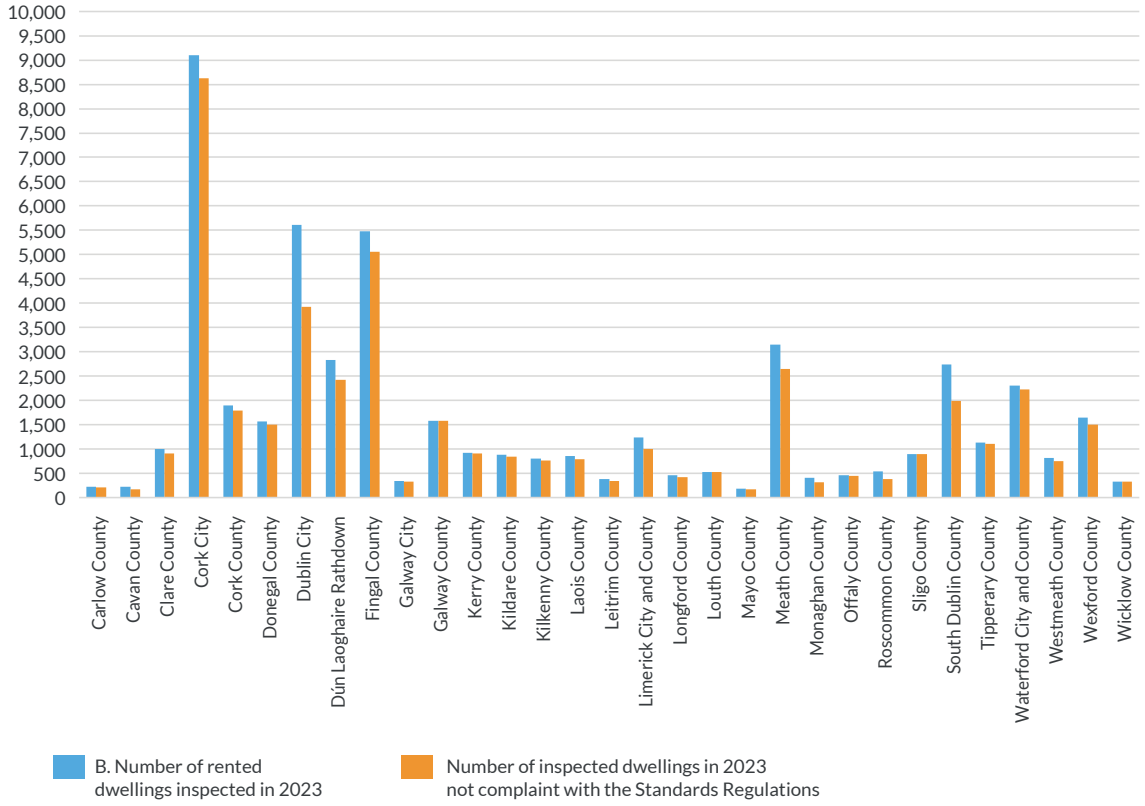
Louth outlined that inspections reduced due to staff shortages in 2023, but this issue has been rectified for 2024.

Overall, there was an inspection rate increase of 25.21% from 40,282 in 2022, to 50,463 private rented inspections in 2023. 20 local authorities improved performance on 2022, some with significant increases. Over six local authorities reported increases in inspection rates of over 100% on last year, including Waterford City and County. It carried out 750.32% more inspections, going from 277 in 2022 to 2,300 in 2023. It advised NOAC that it had engaged a contractor to do this work.

Tipperary outlined that they have their full complement of inspectors on board, having hired an additional staff member which has allowed them to increase the number of inspections carried out. Roscommon has developed an in-house I.T. app which has enabled their inspectors to move from a paper-based inspection system to an electronic/tablet-based system, and this has led to an increased rate of inspections.

In 2022, the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB) underwent a period of data transition arising from the introduction of a new Registration System in November 2021, and the introduction of a new statutory requirement for annual registration of all rental properties.

Figure H5: Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2023 and Compliance



In 2023, 23 local authorities recorded that more than 90% of inspected dwellings were found to be non-compliant with the Standards' Regulations (24 in 2022 and 23 in 2021). Galway County and Louth both reported a 100% non-compliant rate in 2023. Roscommon at 69.91% and Dublin City at 70.07% had the lowest percentage of non-compliant dwellings. Both report a reduction on their 2022 figures of 83.47% and 77.67%, respectively.

Local authorities have advised that the number of dwellings deemed compliant following an inspection in 2023 (including those originally deemed non-compliant) was 13,528, compared to 9,674 in 2022, 5,140 in 2021, and 7,400 in 2020.

H6: Long-term Homeless Adults (A)

Table H6, Chapter 4, shows that the number of homeless adults in emergency accommodation at year-end 2023 is 9,239 an increase of 1,304 or 16.43% from the 2022 figure of 7,935. The number of adults in emergency accommodation who are long-term homeless (as a percentage of the total number of homeless adults in emergency accommodation) has increased in 2023 to 57.61%, an increase from 55.58% in 2022 (55.55% in 2021).

13 local authorities recorded an increase in the number of long-term homeless adults. However, 15 authorities recorded a decreased number. Sligo recorded the greatest decrease in the number of adults that are long-term homeless, going from 82.46% in 2022 to 38.67% in 2023, from 47 to 29 people. Offaly recorded the greatest percentage increase, going from 15.56% in 2022 to 85.71% in 2023, an increase of 35 people to 42.

Monaghan and Roscommon recorded no long-term homeless adults in emergency accommodation at the end of 2023.

Donegal outlined that in previous years, the record of adults leaving emergency accommodation was not being fully updated, and therefore the figures would have been too high. However, this is no longer the case, and they are satisfied that the 2023 figures are correct.

Table H6 examines the long-term homeless adults in city local authorities. These authorities would traditionally have counted the largest proportion of homeless adults and households. The figures shown are the number of adults classified as homeless, and in emergency accommodation, as recorded on the Pathway Accommodation & Support System (PASS) on 31 December 2023. They include the number of adults who had been in emergency accommodation for more than 6 months. In 2023, Dublin (Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin) increased by 3.33%, Cork City by 0.15%, and Waterford by 4.03% on the 2022 figures, whereas Galway City saw a decrease of 18.43% and Limerick a decrease of 0.13%.

The increase in homeless figures in Cork City from 332 (2022) to 398 (2023) is largely due to the lack of available properties, HAP rates not being in line with the current private rental prices, and in some cases, the extra barriers that service users with addiction/mental health issues or convictions face in exiting emergency accommodation.

Table H6: Long-term Homeless Adults in City Authorities 2023 & 2022

	Adults classed as homeless and in emergency accommodation			Adults who had been in emergency accommodation for more than 6 months		
Local Authority	2023	2022	Difference	2023	2022	Difference
Cork City	398	332	66	226	188	38
Dublin City*	6,665	5,654	1,011	4,036	3,236	800
Galway City	229	217	12	95	130	-35
Limerick City & County	338	337	1	149	149	0
Waterford City & County	85	69	16	49	37	12

**Dublin City Council make a joint return on behalf of the four authorities in the Dublin region*

H7: Social Housing Retrofit

This is a new indicator that was introduced in 2024 for the 2023 Report. NOAC decided to include this as it provides valuable information on the retrofit programme and to ensure that the social housing stock is upgraded and will help contribute to the carbon target for 2030. The data for this indicator is provided by the Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office (HDCO). It is extracted from the Energy Retrofit Information Capture and Analysis (ERICA) tracker system. The data is reconciled with the DHLGH list of recoupments for all units fully completed within the calendar year and satisfactorily claimed, with all supporting documentation required.

Dublin City retrofitted the most homes in 2023, completing work on 259 units, with Donegal retrofitting 222 and Louth 205.

Louth explained that they had scope to do more work and fear that as other local authorities increase delivery, this could impact their future performance due to the limited funding available for this programme.

The lowest numbers recorded were in South Dublin with no completions, Kerry with 11 units, and Offaly with 12.

South Dublin explained that while work had taken place and 164 social houses had been retrofitted in 2023, they had not submitted all of the supporting documentation required by DHLGH to process the recoupment within the calendar year, so that the completions could be included on the ERICA tracker. This is being addressed in 2024 and claims are now being submitted on a quarterly basis.

Offaly had some units completed in 2023 but had not claimed on time and therefore these units were not updated on the tracker.

Kerry explained that they had a slow start to the programme and had issues with the grants being offered and the availability of contractors. Therefore, work was completed on fewer houses than in other similar sized authorities.

As a new indicator, H7 was selected for NOAC's Quality Assurance process, and some of the issues raised about the scheme and about the operation of it included;

Roscommon and Donegal consider that getting allocations from the DHLGH earlier might improve the process and that even when the design process is started, it is a challenge time wise.

Westmeath noted that there has been a positive reaction to this scheme, but as the heating system is quite technical, customers need to be educated in how it is used.

A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

(2) Number of houses that achieve a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

(3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

H7: Social Housing Retrofit Data 01/01/2023- 31/12/2023	
A (1) Total no of houses retrofitted	2,445
A (2) No of houses that achieve a BER rating of B2 or above	2,315
A (3) No of heat pumps installed in those houses	2,200
B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted	35,663.4
C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted	10,376.3

Section 2: Roads (R1 to R3)

R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Rating

NOAC publishes the Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) data, which is compiled under the guidance of the Department of Transport (DoT). This is one of the longer-standing indicators used by NOAC. It is based on tracking the regional and local road network pavement condition performance, through a condition rating system, Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI), which was developed in 2012 by the DoT and local authorities. This system also links condition to treatment type to cost.

Data is recorded on the LGMA MapRoad system, which is a local government road management system that covers a range of functions, including road pavements.

The published PSCI ratings in Tables R1 show the proportion of roads within the grouped condition categories as representing an indication of service quality:

Overall PSCI Rating	Primary Rating Indicators
9 to 10	No defects or minor surface defects
7 to 8	Surface defects
5 to 6	Surface defects, localised distress
1 to 4	Some to severe structural distress

The NOAC data relates solely to regional and local roads and does not include national routes, for which responsibility is shared between DoT, local authorities and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

The local government sector is responsible for a total of 96,478 km of regional, local primary, secondary and tertiary roads in Ireland.

Additionally, as the six large urban authorities* contain a proportionally small amount of the regional and local roads network, NOAC has focused its examination of the data on the other 25 authorities.[3]

NOAC acknowledges that differences in characteristics can make cross-authority comparisons of performance measures difficult. There may be differences in the distribution of the population, the availability of resources, the topography, the economy, and the importance of local services.

Finding comparators, however, might still be helpful for certain metrics in order to share best practices and lessons learned across local authorities.

3 Cork City, Galway City, Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin County Councils.

Regional (R) Roads

Regional roads are the arteries that connect many parts of the country and are the most highly trafficked routes outside national roads, they constitute 13,347km of road or 13.13% of the total network length.

Poor quality roads can be a cause of concern to communities and inhibit economic development. Excluding the six large urban authorities, Table R1a below identifies the three local authorities that have the highest percentage of roads with a condition rating of 1 to 4. However, it should be acknowledged that these are relatively low percentages, with the highest being just 10.01%.

The proportion of these roads surveyed in the 24 months to the end of 2023 exceeds 90% for 20 local authorities, in line with 2022, excluding the six large urban authorities.

Table R1B (a1): Regional Roads PSC Rating 1-4 (Structural Defects)

County	2021	2022	2023
Monaghan	12.40%	7.18%	10.01%
Dublin City	3.19%	3.32%	9.54%
Wexford	3.36%	7.47%	7.57%

In respect of the poorest PSCI condition ratings, no local authority had more than 10% of the regional road network length, this continues the improvement shown in 2022. Three authorities had greater than 5% of their regional road network length with the same rating.

There are 26 local authorities where less than 5% of their regional road network appears in the rating category of 1 to 4. This improvement from 24 in 2022 is welcomed. Of these, 11 local authorities have less than 1% of their regional road network in the rating category of 1 to 4.

In respect of PSCI rating 9 to 10 (no defects or less than 10% defective), Fingal had the lowest percentage of regional roads in this category 7.1%, however they only surveyed 7.1% in 2023 while Galway County had the highest percentage of its regional roads within this rating 68.32%. Galway County also had the highest percentage in 2022. Table R1b shows those authorities (excluding the six large urban authorities) with the highest proportion of their regional roads having few or no defects. NOAC welcomes these results.

Table R1b: Regional Roads PSCI Rating 9-10 (Little or no Defects)

County	2021	2022	2023
Galway County	26.13%	63.67%	68.32%
Westmeath	58.85%	54.54%	60.56%
Tipperary	19.38%	25.44%	55.02%

Local Primary (LP) Roads

As with regional roads, local primary roads represent a very important part of the local road network. Guidance from the DoT requires that local primary roads are surveyed every two years. The proportion of these roads surveyed in the 24 months to the end of 2023 exceeds 90% for 19 local authorities (17 in 2022), excluding the six large urban authorities.

In the case of three local authorities, Fingal, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, and South Dublin, less than 50% of local primary road kilometres were surveyed and received a PSCI rating in the 24 months to year-end 2023.

NOAC believes that all roads should be surveyed in accordance with the standard to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information published.

In terms of road conditions for local primary roads in the rating category of 1 to 4, Wexford's network contains the highest percentage at 20.09% (25.56% in 2022) where it is classified as structurally distressed. While this is a reduction on 2022, it remains a cause for concern. Excluding the six large urban authorities, and those authorities who had surveyed less than 90% of their local primary network in the last 24 months, Tipperary had the highest percentage (58.67%) of its roads in the best condition, with no defects, while Longford's roads also scored over 50% (50.32%) in this category.

Local Secondary (LS) Roads

Guidance from the DoT also requires condition surveys for local secondary roads every two years. The proportion of such roads surveyed in the 24 months to the end of 2023 exceeds 90% for 19 authorities, (again excluding the six large urban authorities), which is an increase from 17 in 2022.

In the case of Carlow, Galway County, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Meath, Monaghan, Roscommon, Westmeath and Wicklow, the proportion of roads surveyed was greater or equal to 97%. In the case of Fingal, only 8.58% of local secondary road kilometres received a PSCI rating in the 24 months to the year-end 2023. NOAC would expect to see that all roads are surveyed in accordance with the DoT standard to ensure the accuracy and completeness of the information published.

In terms of road condition, Wexford County's network again had the highest percentage classified as structurally distressed at 37.03%. This is a slight decrease from 38.72% in 2022 but remains a cause for concern, particularly as Wexford also had the highest percentage of local primary roads in distress. Excluding the six large urban authorities and those authorities who had surveyed less than 90% of their local secondary network in the last 24 months, Longford again demonstrated that it had the highest percentage (47.38%) of its roads in the best condition with no defects with Westmeath at 39.24% also to be commended.

Local Tertiary (LT) Roads

For local tertiary roads the guidance from the DoT requires condition surveys every five years (60 months). The proportion of such roads surveyed in the 60 months to the end of 2023 exceeds 90% for ten authorities (excluding the six large urban authorities), an increase from nine for 2022.

In the case of Louth, the reported figures indicated that only 14.79% of local tertiary road kilometres were surveyed and received a PSCI rating in the 60 months to the year-end 2023. This is the lowest by a significant margin and compares unfavourably to the lowest percentage in 2022, which was South Dublin at 54%. However, NOAC was recently informed that the RMO conducted an audit on Louth's R1 data and any revision to the reported figures had not been provided at the time of publication.

In terms of the road condition for local tertiary roads, Wexford's network had the highest percentage, 35.34%, classified as structurally distressed. This is a slight decrease from 36.86% in 2022 but remains a cause for concern as does Tipperary's figure of 30.53%. Excluding the six large urban authorities and those authorities that had surveyed less than 90% of their local tertiary network in the last 60 months, Longford, continuing their trend for many years, had the highest percentage (51.21%) of its roads in the best condition with no defects.

Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) 2023

Figure R1B: 2023 Regional PSCI survey level

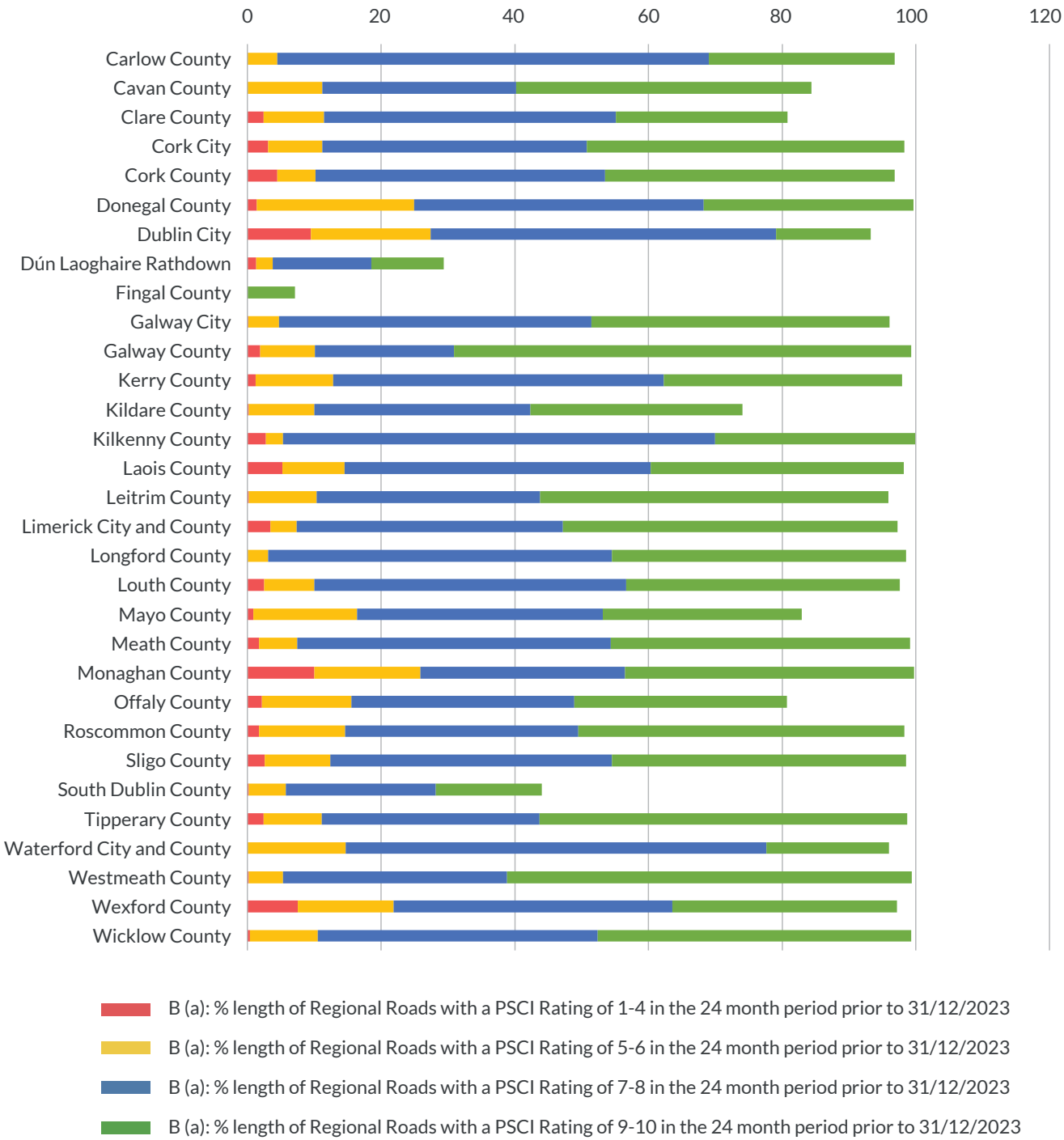


Table R2a: Improvement and Maintenance Expenditure 2022 – 2023

	Km		€	
Road / Works Category	2023	2022	2023	2022
Regional road strengthened	419.9	345.6	113,689,930	91,698,637
Regional road resealing	464.2	447.2	17,822,393	18,233,485
Local road strengthening	2,304.5	2,161.0	270,865,378	246,248,671
Local road resealing	2,688.8	2,888.6	63,194,161	67,208,170
Total	**5,877.4**	**5,842.4**	**465,571,862**	**423,388,963**
Total % increase (2022 - 2023)	**0.60%**		**9.96%**	

R2: Roadworks / Expenditure

Full details of expenditure under the various road maintenance headings can be found in Tables R2 in Chapter 4. Total improvement and maintenance expenditure in 2023 increased to €465,571,862 compared to €423,388,963 in 2022 and €400,373,263 in 2021.Total kilometres strengthened and resealed were 5,877.4km compared to 5,842.4km in 2022 and 6,126.60km in 2021.

R3: Percentage (%) Motor Tax transactions conducted online

The numbers for this indicator rose slightly from 81.10% in 2022 to 81.38% in 2023.

16 local authorities showed slight increases in online transactions and figures in nine local authorities declined, although in eight local authorities the decline was less than 1%, with only Roscommon showing a decline over 1%, from 75.6% to 73.91% (1.69%). One local authority, Wexford, remained the same at 83.18%. No authority showed an improvement in 2022, so the improvement in 2023 is welcomed.

Dublin City has the highest overall percentage of motor tax transactions completed online at 93.55%, Kildare recorded 90.65%, Meath had the third highest in 2023 at 90.57% with Cork County just over 90% also at 90.03%. Roscommon again had the lowest percentage of motor tax transactions completed online at 73.91% down from 75.6% which also represented a decrease from 2021. Five local authorities, Cork City, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal, Galway City and South Dublin do not collect motor tax, as in each case, it is collected by an adjoining local authority.

It is noteworthy that in many cases local authorities outlined that a certain number of people will always prefer to carry out their business with the local authority in person, rather than online. Many local authorities have reduced the hours the motor tax public office is open, but sufficient demand remains to keep the service available. Wicklow outlined how it operates its service in three locations throughout the county, but only on selected days in two offices, and it is part of the customer service hub in the main office.

Section 3: Water (W1 – W2)

Since the establishment of Uisce Éireann (Irish Water) in 2015, many of the public supply functions of local authorities have been taken over by the utility. However, local authorities still have functions in certain areas including private supplies and this is the area that NOAC looks at. Local authorities have expressed concern at a number of meetings about the loss of expertise in the field of water with the transfer of staff from local authorities to Uisce Éireann in 2026.

W1: Percentage (%) drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements

The W1 performance indicator looks at the percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements and relates only to actual inspections, i.e. where a sample was taken and tested to determine the water quality.

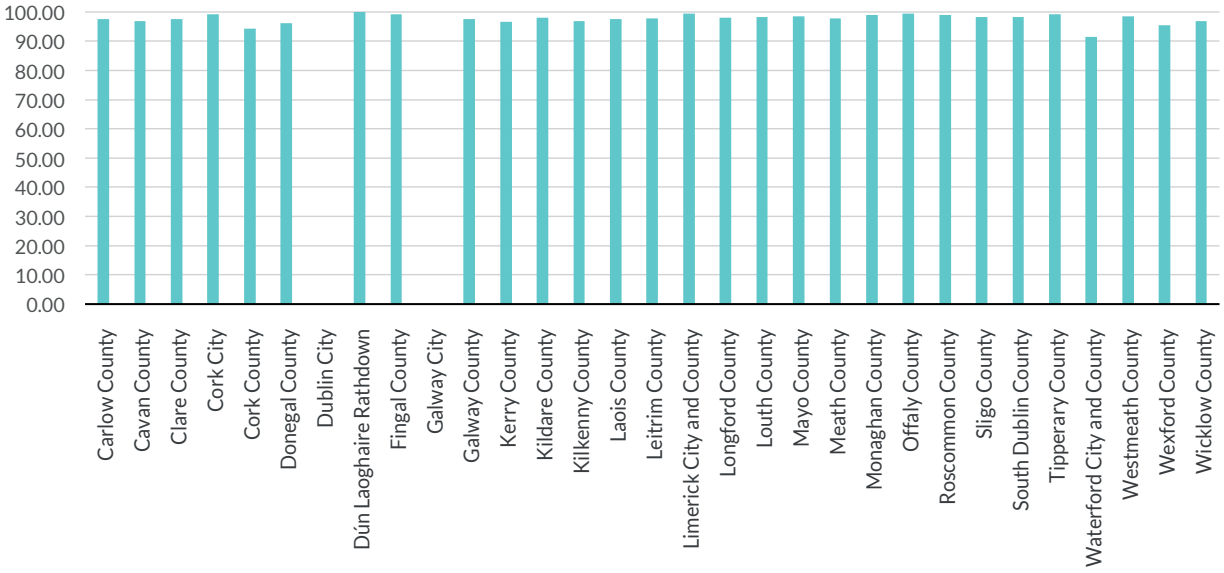
This data is collected by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from the results the local authorities submitted in Quarter 1, 2023. The EPA reviews and monitors these results annually. For a number of reasons the EPA was not in a position to supply that data to NOAC for inclusion in the Performance Indicator Reports in 2020, 2021 or 2022. NOAC therefore particularly welcomes the availability of this data for 2023.

The national average compliance rate was 98.63%. Dublin City and Galway City do not have private water schemes in their local authority areas. Overall compliance varied from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown 100%, to Waterford City and County 91.45%.

W2: Percentage of registered schemes monitored

W2 reflects the number of registered schemes monitored by each local authority, as a percentage of total registered schemes. This indicator was chosen for validation for 2023 and during the visits, general concerns were raised about the future of these schemes. Louth noted some challenges in this area including but not limited to cost of maintenance, funding, and the future of group schemes due to the age profile in some cases of the people managing the schemes. Roscommon also reported that access to houses to complete testing can be a challenge. Westmeath outlined that there can be difficulties ensuring every scheme is captured for testing, due to the presence of some very small private water schemes in schools and restaurants.

Figure W2: Percentage (%) of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirement in 2023



In addition, Westmeath highlighted that schemes serving two primary schools were non-compliant and were on Boil Water Notices. In those cases, Westmeath offers engineering services by visiting those schools and advising what steps they need to take to return to compliance. Kerry also expressed concern that some expertise will be lost with the transfer of staff to Uisce Éireann.

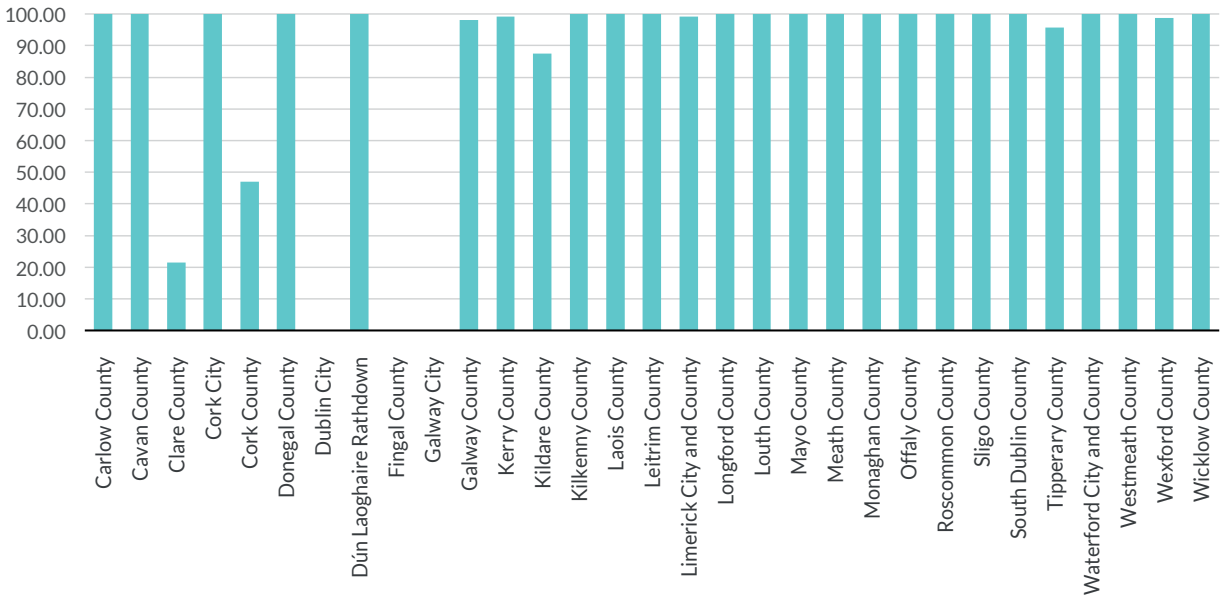
There were 2,212 schemes registered in 2023 of which 1,846 were monitored. Monitoring varies between local authorities with a national average of 83.45%, showing an increase, year on year, from 83.05% in 2022 and 79.87% in 2021.

20 local authorities had 100% of schemes monitored in 2023, an increase of three on the 17 recorded in 2022. A further five local authorities had monitoring in the high nineties. The number of local authorities that monitored less than 90% of such schemes was four; Kildare at 87.50%, Cork County at 46.99%, Clare at 21.43% and Fingal at 0%.

Fingal reported that no monitoring was carried out in 2023, in accordance with the former Service Level Agreement between Uisce Éireann and Fingal, up to and including 26 July 2023. This was caused by a lack of monitoring staff and it was noted that ongoing sampling will be carried out by the local authority on reassignment of the water samplers.

Dublin City and Galway City reported no registered schemes in 2023.

Figure W2: Percentage (%) registered private schemes monitored in 2023



Section 4: Waste and Environment (E1 – E7)

E1: Households which availed of a 3 Bin Service

The Household Food Waste and Bio-Waste Regulations have since 1 July 2016 required all agglomerations[4], greater than 500 households, to have access to a brown bin collection service. Data for this indicator comes directly from the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO).

NOAC has been advised that the system used by NWCPO is a live system and local authorities can update figures submitted on an ongoing basis. Where adjustments were made after submission of figures to NOAC, these changes will not be applied in this report.

The local authority's function is to ensure that food waste in the agglomerations to which the regulations apply is either home composted, brought to an authorised facility for treatment or collected by an authorised waste collector.

Table E1 in Chapter 4, sets out the number of households, situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3-bin service at 31 December 2023 and the percentage of households within the local authority that this number represents (based on agglomerations >500).

It should be noted that this indicator will change in 2024. The condition that bins be provided to agglomerations of 500+ will be removed, as legislation now requires 3-bin services be provided to everyone, regardless of location.

Five local authorities reported more than 100% in respect of households which availed of a 3-bin service in agglomerations of over 500, as the service was provided to additional households that were not in an agglomeration of over 500. This was also the case in 2022.

For 2023, all 31 local authorities increased their household figure of those which availed of a 3-bin service with a national percentage of 94.13% and a mean of 32,667.

Clare County Council reported the highest figure again, at 201.89% in 2023. It had 16,991 households in agglomerations over 500, but 34,303 households had a 3-bin service. Cavan has the lowest at 60.99%. Westmeath County Council had been the lowest for the previous three years but showed a significant increase in 2023 to 72.69%, which it considers to be generally in line with expectations based on meetings held with the individual waste collectors.

E2: Environmental Pollution Cases

The total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made in 2023 across all local authorities was 70,584, a decrease of 601 on the 2022 figure of 71,185. In 2021, the figure was 81,551. 15 authorities recorded decreases, while 16 authorities showed increases in the total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made in 2023.

Donegal recorded the greatest proportional increase of 24.63%, going from 1,502 pollution cases that were subject to a complaint in 2022 to 1,872 in 2023, Sligo also showed a significant increase of 23.85%.

Mayo recorded the greatest proportional decrease of 51.06%, going from 1,823 pollution cases that were subject to a complaint in 2022 to 892 in 2023. However, it should be noted that Mayo reported this decrease was due to litter cases reported to its Municipal Districts not being recorded on the CRM system. Litter cases are received and dealt with but the system has become obsolete and a new CRM system is currently being developed to more accurately track work in this area in future. Therefore it could be more accurate to say that Kildare had the greatest proportional decrease going from 2,420 cases in 2022 to 1,439 in 2023, an impressive reduction of 40.53%.

4 A large, densely and continuously populated area.

Environmental cases relate to all pollution types, including air, noise, water, litter and waste. Westmeath, on the lower end of the scale, noted that 509 of their 765 cases related to litter.

In 2023, there were 70,763 cases closed, compared to 72,620 in 2022 and 81,369 in 2021. Galway County had the largest percentage increase of cases closed, from 1,100 in 2022 to 1,868 in 2023, an increase of 768 cases or 69.81%.

A total of 7,300 or 10.34% (10.81% in 2022, 10.82% in 2021) of the 70,584 pollution cases in 2023 were still active at the end of the year. These cases have carried over into 2024.

E3: Litter Pollution

In respect of areas classed as unpolluted or litter free, NOAC is pleased to see that Wexford has recorded the largest increase in litter free or unpolluted areas, going from 24% in 2022 to 50% in 2023, an increase of 26%. Mayo also recorded a significant increase in areas classed as unpolluted or litter free, going from 48% in 2022 to an admirable 66% unpolluted or litter free in 2023, an increase of 18%. It should be noted that Kildare again recorded the highest area unpolluted or litter free at 75% (74% in 2022).

Monaghan has seen a significant decrease in areas classed as unpolluted or litter free, a decrease of 47%, from 47% in 2022 to 0% in 2023. Donegal also recorded a significant decrease, going from 51% to 13%, a decrease of 38%.

Overall, 11 local authorities recorded a decrease in the percentage of areas unpolluted or litter free, whereas 15 authorities recorded an increase, with four authorities recording no change, when compared to 2022. It should be noted that no surveys were carried out in 2023 by Kilkenny, but that their survey programme is being recommenced in 2024.

14 local authorities recorded no significantly polluted or grossly polluted areas.

17 local authorities recorded areas as significantly polluted, 16 of these ranged from just 1 to 15% with Monaghan recording 87%, up from 0% in 2022. 11 had areas classified as grossly polluted. However, the proportional area of the county in this category was low, ranging from 1 % to 4%.

Highest area unpolluted/ litter free

Kildare (from 74% in 2022 to **75%** in 2023)

Largest increase in area unpolluted/ litter free

Wexford (up to **50%** from 24% in 2022)

Significant increase in area unpolluted/ litter free

Mayo (from 48% in 2022 to **66%** in 2023)

E4: % of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status

Indicator E4 records the percentage of schools that have been awarded green flag status. Promoting long-term, whole-school action for the environment, Green Schools is a student-led programme with involvement from the wider community. The programme is operated and coordinated by the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce (Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) member for Ireland).

Local authorities have advised that this is an area that requires further attention in 2024. Outturn is lower than expected due to teachers having conflicting commitments, transport issues attending Green Schools events and other priorities.

The percentages shown in Table E4 in Chapter 4 are calculated on schools that attained a Green Flag for the first time in 2023, those that renewed a Green Flag in 2023, and those that held a Green Flag from 2022. They do not require renewal until 2024.

Schools participate in the programme in each local authority. Longford recorded the highest percentage of school involvement in 2023 at 60%, an increase from 47% in 2022, which was also the highest for that year. Leitrim had the lowest school involvement in 2023 with 20%, followed by Monaghan at 24%, an improvement on its 2022 figure of 21%.

E5: Percentage Energy Efficiency Performance

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) gathers data from local authorities annually as part of the Public Sector Monitoring & Reporting (M&R) programme. It uses this data to calculate cumulative energy efficiency savings relative to a default baseline year of 2009 (some local authorities have opted for an earlier baseline).

Given the importance of this dataset provisional data for E5 Percentage Energy Efficiency Performance for 2022 was published. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31 December 2022 relative to the baseline year, 2009 was reported as 35.94%. These figures have since been verified and the actual energy savings was 40.7%. Only Donegal's provisional figure had a material change from -34.6% reported to -44.86% actual. Offaly and Tipperary showed minor changes.

Data has been received from SEAI for 2023. The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31 December 2023 relative to the baseline year, 2009 is 38.79%.

E6: Public Lighting

Local authorities and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) manage and maintain over 480,000 public lights across the country. These lights consume approximately 210 million kilo Watt hours (kWh) of energy annually, which is the equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of 15,500 domestic homes each year. The energy the lights consume accounts for half of all the energy consumed by local authorities.

Local authorities are working on a co-ordinated basis to upgrade their public lighting stock through the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project.

Retro-fitting to LED lights is climate friendly, saves money and improves light quality. It can

- Cut energy use in half and reduce CO2 emissions
- Help Ireland meet our statutory energy efficient targets
- Reduce energy and maintenance costs by 55%.

The project will upgrade approximately 205,000 public lights across 21 authorities. These lights currently consume 123 million kWh of energy annually. Once complete, the project will reduce emissions by 20,000 tonnes of C02 annually, saving 68 million kWh in energy each year.

As Figure E6 illustrates, at the end of 2023, the percentage of the total system that LED lights represent is 58.06%.

In 2023, Dublin City reported the highest total annual consumption of the public lighting system at 19,186 kWh, (19,132 kWh in 2022, 19,338 kWh in 2021).

The lowest annual consumption of the public lighting system is again Monaghan at 1,048 kWh down from 1,244 kWh in 2022 and 1,237 kWh in 2021. Fingal recorded the highest percentage of its total public lighting system represented by LED lights at an impressive 99.88% followed closely by Monaghan at 99.67%, which remained unchanged from 2022 (99.54% in 2021).

Waterford City and County again remains the lowest with 11.62%, a slight improvement on its 2022 figure of 11.13% and 10.15% in 2021. The percentage of the total system that LED lights represent increased in 2023 to 58.06%, from 52.82% in 2022 and 45.73% in 2021.

Cork City showed the greatest increase with 58.90% of their total system now with LED lights up from 44.48%, exceeding their target of 50% for 2023. They have set themselves a target of 65% of their inventory to be LED for 2024.

E7: Climate Change:

Does the local authority have designated FTE climate action resources under the following headings?

- Climate Action Co-ordinator (Yes/No/WIP)
- Climate Action Officer (Yes/No/WIP)
- Climate Action Team (Yes/No/WIP)

This indicator was introduced and reported on for the first time in 2022. The figures for this indicator are gathered by the LGMA and verified by the local authority.

It was reported that in 2023, 30 local authorities had Climate Action Co-ordinators in place, compared to 19 in 2022. Only Sligo reported that it did not have a Climate Action Co-ordinator in place.

In relation to Climate Action Officers, 25 local authorities have these in place, while six local authorities have not, compared to 22 in 2022.

In response to a NOAC query with regard to not having a Climate Action Officer in place in 2022 or 2023, Carlow reported that it has held a competition to fill this position on three separate occasions, twice on their own and once jointly with Laois, and they are now running the competition for the fourth time. It is thought that part of the difficulty in filling these posts is the contract nature of the position, rather than it being a permanent role. Laois confirmed that only one person qualified from their interviews held jointly with Carlow and that person ultimately did not accept the role. Meanwhile, Westmeath confirmed that their available position was filled on 11 March 2024.

In the case of Climate Action Teams, 24 teams have been established, there were 27 in 2022. Five local authorities indicated that it is a work in progress compared to four in 2022. Many appointments are at an advanced stage or have since been put in place. Two local authorities, Leitrim and Wicklow, reported that they do not have a team in place. Leitrim did however report that they expect to have a Climate Action team in place by year end 2024.

NOAC acknowledges that there are challenges in this area, but welcomes the significant progress that has been made to date.

Figure E3: Median litter pollution levels 2015 to 2023

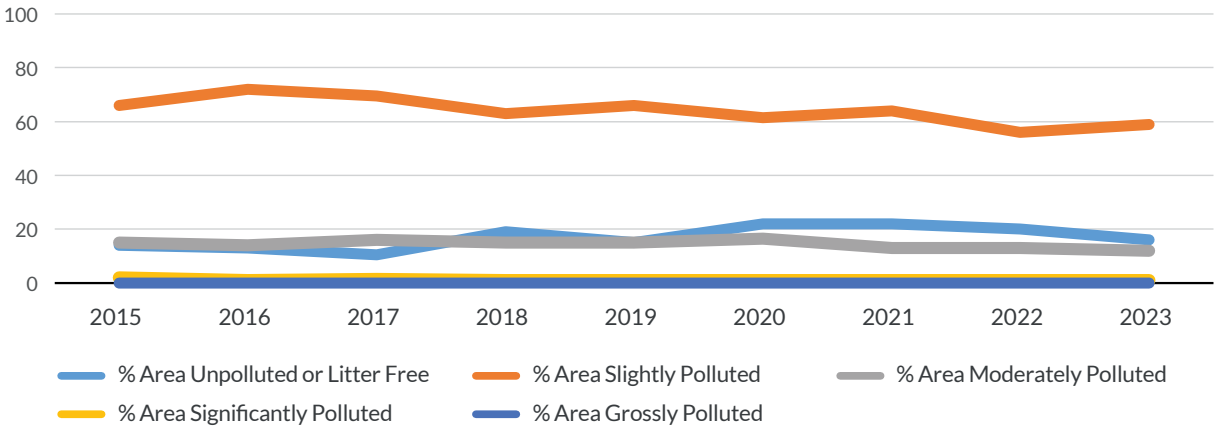


Figure E3: Litter Pollution

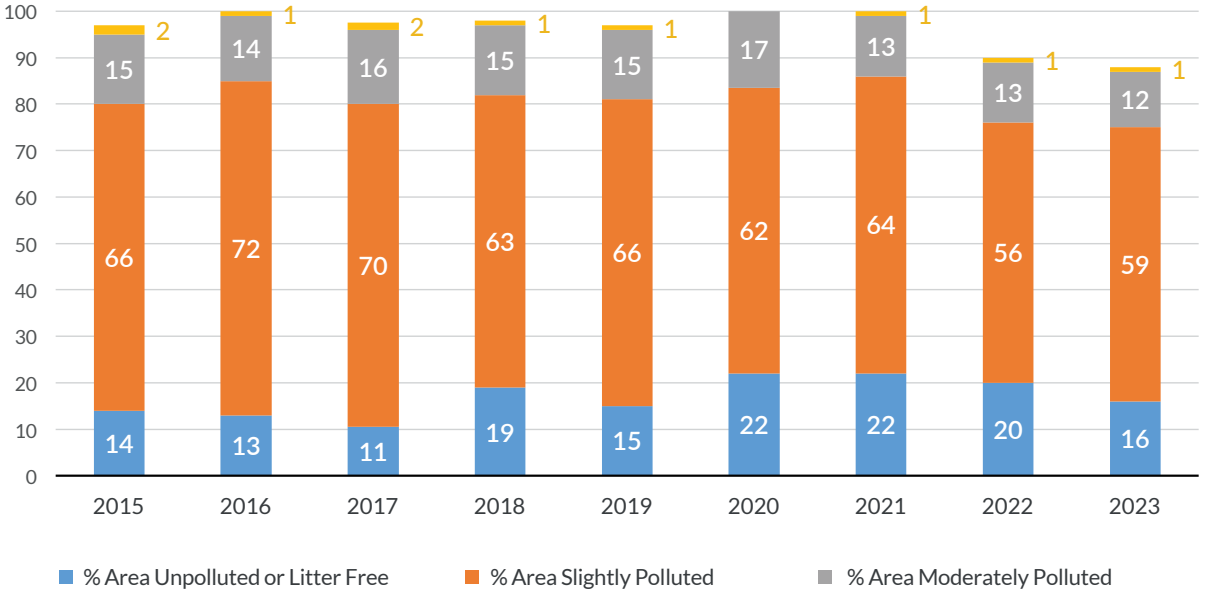
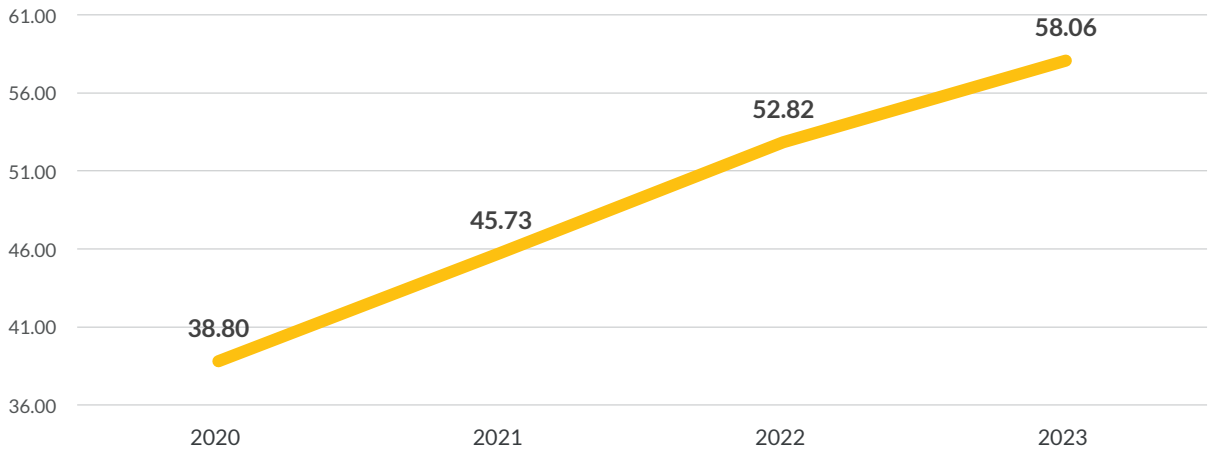


Figure E6: Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent



Section 5: Planning (P1 to P5)

P1: Building Control Inspections

The Code of Practice for Inspecting and Certifying Buildings and Works (The Code) in relation to inspections of new buildings, for which valid commencement notices have been received, sets a minimum requirement of 12 – 15%. Since 2015, the median national figure has decreased from 24% to 22.39% in 2023 (18.3% in 2022, 16.97% in 2021). Only one local authority in 2023 did not meet the minimum 12-15% inspection requirement contained in the Code of Practice for Inspecting and Certifying Buildings and Works – Laois at 11.97% was slightly below the minimum requirement. This is an improvement on 2022, where there were two below and four in 2021.

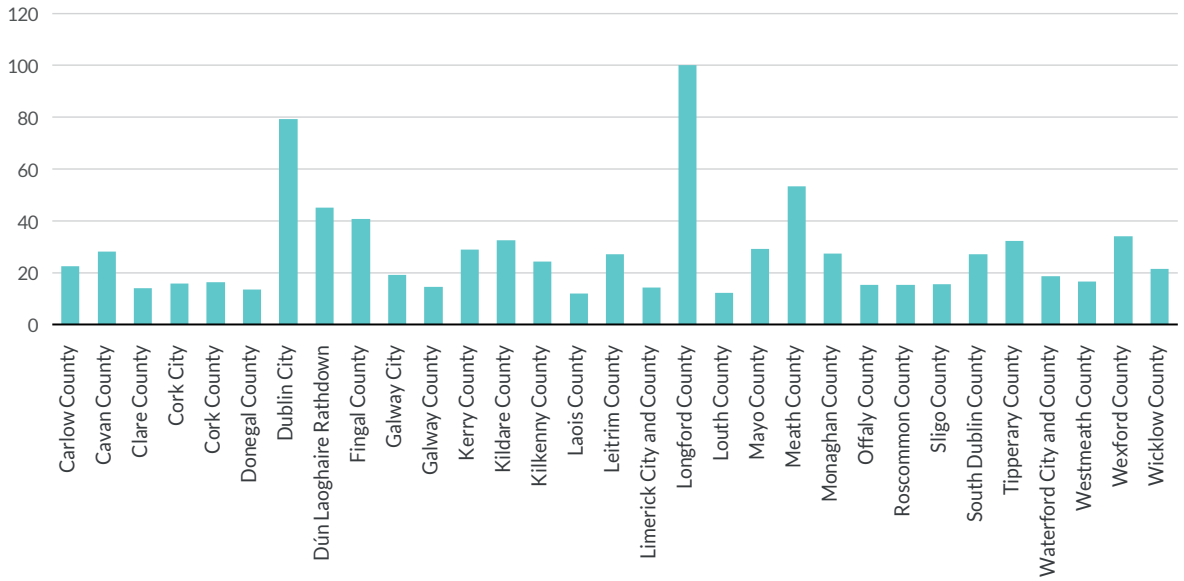
These inspections are vital to ensure buildings are constructed in line with legislation. Nationally, 25.87% of notified new buildings were inspected in 2023, a decrease from 29.69% in 2022 (27.35% in 2021). NOAC would like to see all local authorities achieving the minimum requirements set out in The Code.

The total number of new buildings notified to local authorities in 2023 was 23,283 compared to 20,101 in 2022. This is an increase of 3,182 or 15.83% from 2022. In terms of buildings being inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to a local authority, Longford recorded the largest proportional increase in the number of buildings inspected going from 12% in 2022 to 100% of new buildings inspected and notified to a local authority in 2023. Longford, therefore, had the highest overall percentage of buildings inspected in 2023. Dublin City at 79.22% and Meath at 53.32% are also noteworthy and maintain their position as second and third highest in 2023.

Cork County had the largest number of buildings notified, 2,225, and inspected 16.4% (365) of these buildings.

Westmeath reported an increase in inspections due to a full-time Building Control Officer being put in place. However Kildare showed a significant decrease due to operating below its normal staffing complement for extended periods during 2023.

Figure P1: Percentage of buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified 2023



P2: No./% of Planning decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála

The number of planning appeals to An Bord Pleanála in 2023 was 1,713 compared to 1,047 in 2022 and 1,575 in 2021; an increase of 666. In the cases of Mayo (93.75%) and Cork City (91.67%), An Bord Pleanála confirmed the decision of the local authorities in over 90% of the applications, with or without modifications. No local authority had 100% of cases confirmed, compared to two in 2022.

In the cases of Carlow, Dublin City, Galway County, Kilkenny, Louth, Meath, Offaly, Sligo and South Dublin, An Bord Pleanála confirmed the decision of the local authorities with or without modifications, in over 80% of the applications that were appealed to the Board. Leitrim at 33.33% had the lowest decision confirmation rate and was the only local authority which reported below 50%.

Figure P2: An Bord Pleanála Appeals - (% 2023 Determinations confirming local authority decision)

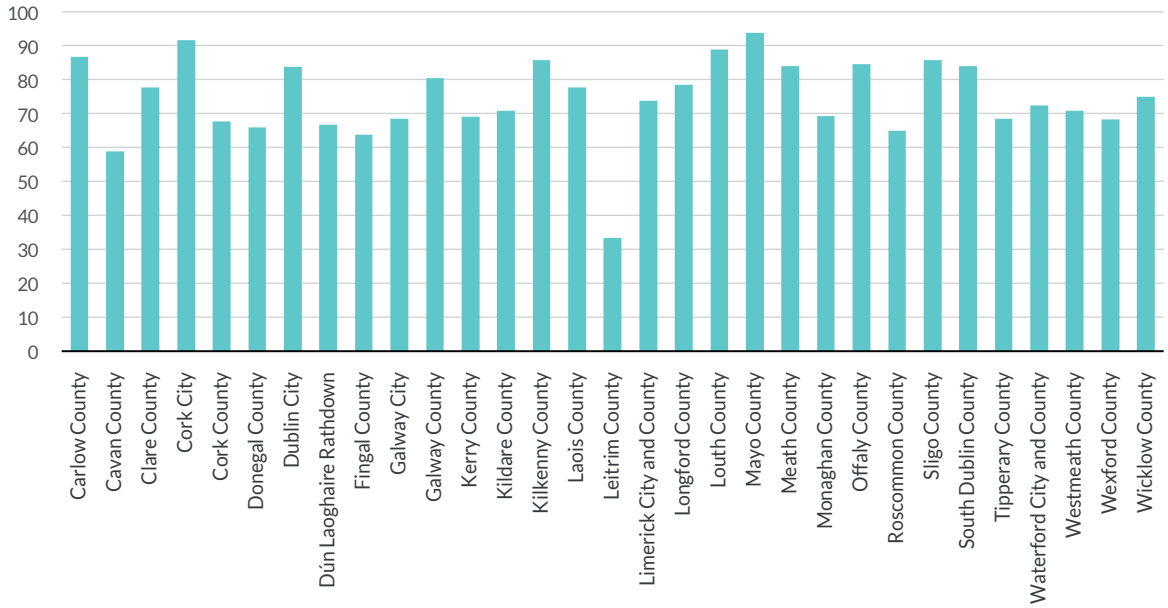


Table P3: Planning Enforcement – Cases closed 2023 & 2022

Cases Closed	2023		2022	
	Number	%	Number	%
C: Cases dismissed	3,316	51.39	3,572	53.39
D: Cases resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	472	7.31	519	7.76
E: Cases closed due to enforcement proceedings	2,665	41.30	2,600	38.87
Total	**6,453**	**100**	**6,691**	**100**

P3: Planning Enforcement

During 2023, local authorities investigated 6,783 planning enforcement cases that were either referred to them by the public or initiated by local authorities themselves. This represents a decrease of 2.53% or 176 less planning enforcement cases on the 2022 figure of 6,959 (7,888 in 2021).

Nationally, the total number of investigated cases that were closed decreased by 3.56% or 238 cases to 6,453 compared to 6,691 in 2022.

In this area Kildare reported that their Enforcement Section had additional staff allocated in 2023 which resulted in additional cases being handled and resolved throughout the year. Kilkenny reported that a targeted approach was taken in 2023 to reviewing all existing outstanding cases, resources were put in place and a substantial number of historical files were closed.

Table P3 above summarises the cases closed in 2023, and 2022 under three categories:

C. Cases that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation (section 152(2) of the Planning and Development Act) or were closed because they were statute barred or an exempted development.

D. Cases that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations.

E. Cases that were closed due to enforcement proceedings.

P4: Cost per Capita

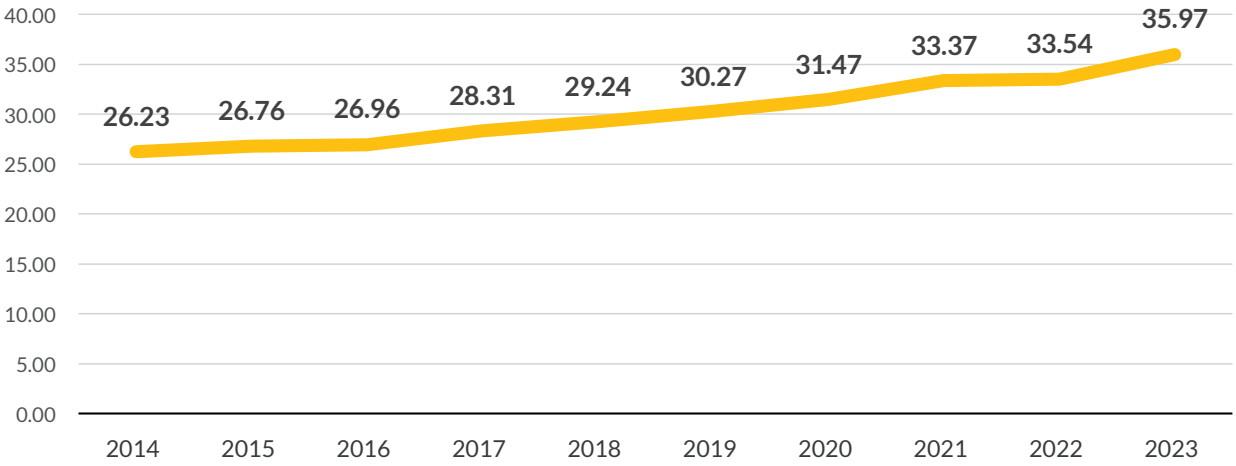
This indicator calculates the cost per capita of services provided by local authorities relating to planning. It shows an overall increase of 37.13% from 2014 to 2023. The indicator records the provision of the service per head of population.

All local authorities have been engaged in recent years in development plan preparation, which has become increasingly complex and costly. While local authorities seem mindful of the cost increases, the planning increases, and indeed the appeals and judicial system, may mean that reductions are unlikely.

Cost per capita figures in all years are based on the relevant census figures. For 2023 census 2022 figures are used.

The average per capita cost of the planning service in 2023, shown in Table P4; Chapter 4 was €35.97, compared with €33.54 in 2022 and €33.37 in 2021. The lowest cost per capita in 2023 was reported by Cavan at €21.87, which is an increase on their 2022 figure of €20.70, also the lowest per capita for that year. The highest figure for 2023 was again Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown at €59.11, an increase from €54.01 in 2022. The highest total spend was Dublin City at €20,134,547 while the lowest, Leitrim, was €1,572,004.

P4A. The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per 2022 Census (€)



P5: Fire Safety Certificate Applications

There were 3,556 applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2023 by local authorities that were not subsequently withdrawn by the applicant. This represents an increase of 389 on the 2022 figure of 3,167. Leitrim had the lowest number of applications in 2023 at 30. South Dublin had the highest number of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received in 2023 at 293, closely followed by Dublin City at 278.

Unlike 2022 no local authority had 100% of applications for Fire Safety Certificates received, decided within two months. However Monaghan had 98.18% and Sligo had 94.44% of applications decided within two months. Leitrim at 60%, had the highest percentage where an extended period was agreed with the applicant, followed closely by Fingal at 57.07%. Eleven local authorities had over 40% of their applications for fire safety certificates decided within an extended period agreed by the applicant.

However, it should be noted that the 12.28% increase in applications will affect timelines. During its validation visit to Roscommon, NOAC learned that the poor quality of fire safety application submissions is one of the primary factors influencing the timeframes for decisions. There has been a surge in applications, among them for modular homes, submitted by a small pool of Agents. Roscommon plan to carry out Workshops and invite Agents to attend, to alleviate the issue caused.

Staffing levels can also affect timeframes. Donegal reported a significant increase in applications but an increase in staffing numbers in the Fire Prevention Section allowed the applications to be addressed in a timely manner. Meath showed a phenomenal increase from 16.4% to 74.3% applications decided within two months, on querying this significant improvement NOAC was informed that the Chief Fire Officer put a new process and team in place.

Section 6: Fire Services (F1 to F3)

F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

The per capita cost figures are based on the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2023, divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census, for the population served by the fire authority, as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports.

It should be noted that costs may be affected by severe weather events, including but not limited to storms, floods, snow storms and gorse fires, and therefore may hugely vary year on year.

The national average per capita cost of providing the fire service in 2023 was €65.76, an increase on the 2022 average per capita cost of €61.45. The cost per capita of providing the fire service was higher in 2023 than in 2022 in 23 local authorities and lower in four.

Cork City at €93.44 (€92.21 in 2022), Dublin City at €92.70 (€87.56 in 2022) and Waterford at €91.69 (€80.39 in 2022) recorded the highest costs per capita in the country. The three authorities with the lowest per capita costs were Kildare at €25.13 (€25.47 in 2022), Meath at €34.71 (€24.17 in 2022) and Westmeath at €36.64 (€36.15 in 2022).

Waterford recorded the highest increase going from €80.39 in 2022 to €91.69 in 2023, a 14% increase. Sligo reported the greatest reduction, which although minimal, the figure reduced by 2.89% from €58.76 in 2022 to €57.06 in 2023.

Six local authorities, Dublin City, Cork City, Galway County, Limerick, Louth and Waterford operate both full-time and retained fire services. The remaining 21 local authorities operate retained fire services. Dublin City provides the service to the city, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin County Councils. Returns for the three other authorities are included under Dublin City. Galway County provides the service for Galway City and County.

Costs in relation to providing regional control centres are incurred by Dublin City, Mayo and Limerick City and County. Louth reported incurring costs as they service some townlands in East Meath. Meath reported an increase in costs, as a result of Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) related costs due to payroll increases incurred in 2023.

Table F1: 2023 v 2022 Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

	Full-Time Station	Full & Part-Time Stations	Part-Time Station
2023	€87.80	€65.76	€45.96
2022	€82.63	€61.45	€42.48
Difference	+€5.17	+€4.31	+€3.48

F2: Mobilisation Times

Retained firefighters engaged in a period of industrial action from 6 June to 17 August 2023. During the dispute, some fire stations were closed, which resulted in delays in responding to emergency calls across the country. This dispute did not affect the provision of full time Fire Services in Dublin, Cork City, Galway County, Limerick City, Louth and Waterford City.

In the six local authorities with full time fire brigades,

- two improved their **average mobilisation times for fire emergencies**, Limerick and Louth,
- two improved their **average mobilisation times for other non- fire emergencies,** Cork City and Louth, and one, Waterford showed no change from its 2022 figures.

In respect of the retained fire brigades,

- two improved their average mobilisation times for fire emergencies, Laois and Roscommon (11 in 2022).
- seven improved their **average mobilisation times for other non-fire emergencies,** Cavan, Kilkenny, Laois, Mayo, Monaghan, Roscommon, Waterford (10 in 2022) with one, Kildare, remaining the same.

As mentioned before, NOAC is aware that average mobilisation times can be affected by various factors such as the time of day, traffic, remoteness from the nearest fire station and the quality of incident information received.

In relation to **fire related emergencies**,

- Waterford had the quickest response time for full time services of one minute and eight seconds, the same as their response time in 2022.
- Sligo had the quickest response time for retained fire service, at four minutes 34 seconds, but their response time was 37 seconds slower than 2022.
- Galway County had the slowest response time for full-time services of 2 minutes and 4 seconds, they had the slowest response time also in 2022.
- Longford at 7 minutes and 35 seconds was slowest for retained service response in respect of fire. This compares to its 6 minutes and 27 seconds in 2022.

For **non-fire related emergencies**,

- Waterford had the fastest response time for full time services of 1 minute and 8 seconds, as was also the case in 2022.
- Leitrim was the fastest responding retained fire service at 4 minutes and 31 seconds (4 minutes 24 seconds in 2022) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents.
- Galway County had the slowest response time for full-time services of 2 minutes and 9 seconds
- Longford at 8 minutes and 17 seconds was slowest for retained service response to (non-fire) emergency incidents. This compares to its 7 minutes and 10 seconds in 2022.

F3: Attendance Times at Scenes

For fire incidents,

- 13 authorities increased the percentage of incidents where the first fire tender reached the scene in less than 10 minutes, compared to 2022. NOAC welcomes this development.
- 14 authorities increased the percentage by which the fire tender reached the scene after 10 minutes, but within 20 minutes. In the case of 14 authorities, the percentage where first fire tender attendance took longer than 20 minutes increased, however it should be noted that 13 authorities improved in this area.
- Cork City continued to have the lowest percentage where first fire tender attendance took longer than 20 minutes with 0.35% for 2023, improving on an already low figure of 0.87% in 2022.
- The largest percentage increase in respect of fires where first attendance at the scene was within 10 minutes was Kilkenny, increasing from 26.42% in 2022 to 34.29% in 2023.

For all other emergency incidents,

- 10 authorities increased the percentage attended within 10 minutes from 2022.
- 9 authorities increased the percentage by which the fire tender reached the scene after 10 minutes, but within 20 minutes.
- In the case of 16 authorities, the percentage of other emergency incidents where first attendance took longer than 20 minutes increased, which is disappointing.
- Cavan recorded the largest percentage increase in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes going from 20.59 % in 2022 to 28.12% in 2023.
- Tipperary recorded the highest percentage overall in 2023 at 30.30% in which first attendance at the scene was after 20 minutes.
- Dublin at 3.96% recorded the lowest percentage where first attendance took longer than 20 minutes followed closely by Cork City at 4.40%, who had previously recorded the lowest percentage for four years in a row.

Section 7: Library Service (L1 and L2)

L1: Library visits and items issued

Libraries have a very important community role, and in many areas they have become centres of knowledge, information and culture. This area was one which NOAC reviewed in detail as part of the Validation Process for the 2023 report. NOAC was impressed by the level of engagement with communities and the range of activities that the library staff reported at the validation visits. The roll -out of unstaffed, self-service libraries, known as 'My Open Library' (MOL), adds great value to service users. Offaly explained how it was increasing the number of libraries that offer this service, while South Dublin has yet to implement this service, it is something that they are researching and planning for in the future. Louth has successfully opened two MOLs and is considering others. Westmeath believe that operating three MOLs has contributed to increased footfall. NOAC was very interested to hear about the level and range of services being offered by libraries and how targeted programmes are in place to serve particular groups. Louth was the first in the country to win the "Library of Sanctuary Award", which recognises inclusion with the community. They are also the first in the country to partner with the local neonatal unit (in Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital Drogheda) for the "Baby Talk Project".

It was mentioned at all the validation visits that the range of services and outreach services is often not captured by statistics. Kerry mentioned work being done to catalogue some valuable book collections and Louth and South Dublin discussed their schools outreach programmes.

The impact of the pandemic is still being felt in Offaly and South Dublin but like many local authorities they were able to maintain click and collect, home deliveries and online resources. The local authorities are now trying to ensure that older members are supported and encouraged back into the libraries.

There was an increase in the average number of library visits per head of population in 2023 at 2.70, which works out at 13,879,927 visits up from 2.09 in 2022 and just 0.86 in 2021. This is a welcome improvement and is in line with the new strategy for the period 2023-2027 "The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration" which seeks to improve access, use and visibility of public libraries as an essential community service, commits to seeing the number of active library users return to 2019 levels by the end of 2023, and commits to an increase at a national level in every remaining year of the strategy.

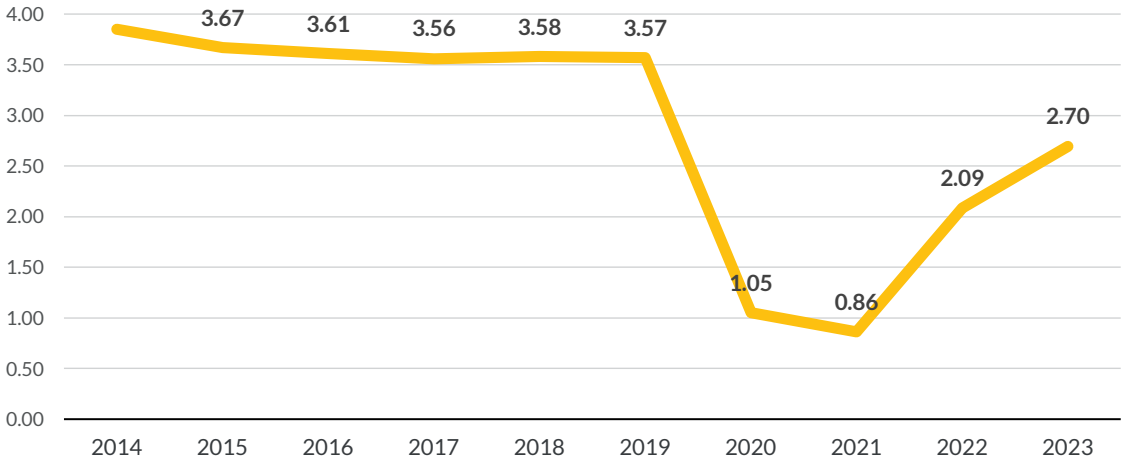
Table L1A below displays the average number of library visits per head of population since 2014. Table L1 in Chapter 4 shows the number of items borrowed during the year; this illustrates more effectively the extent of the usage of services offered by libraries. In addition to books, magazines, CDs and DVDs issued to borrowers, the figures include items accessed online, through services such as ProQuest, Mango Languages, E-Books, E-Audio Books, etc. and magazine reports downloaded to an app or read on a web browser.

Both Cork City and Wicklow had the highest number of library visits per head of population in 2023 at 3.86 visits. Both have increased from their 2022 figures of 3.15 and 3.12 respectively, with Roscommon the lowest at 1.36 visits per head of population, however this was an improvement on their 1.15 visits in 2022. Carlow recorded the highest increase at 2.59, an increase of 87.68% on the 2022 figures. Carlow explained that they installed new and more reliable electronic counters. As not all were installed for the full year, Carlow gave a calculation as advised by the NOAC guidelines. NOAC welcomes the fact that all local authorities showed an increase in the visits per head of population compared with 2022 going from an average of 2.09 visits to 2.70, which is a 29% increase.

Table L1 A: Average No. of library visits per head of population

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3.85	3.67	3.61	3.56	3.58	3.57	1.05	0.86	2.09	2.70

Figure L1 A: Illustrates the average number of library visits per head of population since 2014



L1(B) Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year

In 2023, the number of items borrowed increased to 16,219,445, 2,320,244 more items or a 16.69% increase on 2022. Just two local authorities recorded a decrease in the number of items borrowed in 2023, Monaghan had a decline of 16.71% and Kerry 1.4%. Westmeath had the largest increase at 54.42% (128,857 items) and consider that the three MOLs have contributed to the increase in visitors and resultant borrowing. Waterford City and County had an increase of 46.93% (200,549 items) and Kildare 35.37% (265,341 items).

Galway County Council collects library statistics on behalf of Galway City Council, and these are presented as combined statistics.

It was highlighted that though many library services have online resources, several of these e-resources are only available on library PCs and library Wi-Fi.

L1 (C) Library active members per head of population, based on the 2022 census figures

L1C measures the active library members per head of population, based on the 2022 Census figures. An active membership can be defined as:

- Anyone who checks out or renews or returns at least one physical item (including laptops, tablets, etc.)
- Anyone who uses a digital resource that authenticates the patron ID against the library management system (for example, the BorrowBox platform for lending e-books and audiobooks); and,
- Anyone who uses library Wi-Fi or public internet access where a login is required.

In 2022, a new national library management system (LMS) contract commenced and the new LMS went live on 23 March 2022. Due to the changeover in the system data for L1C was not available for the 2022 Performance Indicator process. The new system has supported the generation of the data in 2023.

For 2023, active library users were 0.18% of the population which is in line with the commitment in the new Strategy that visitor numbers return to 2019 levels by the end of 2024, and will rise in every remaining year of the strategy.

Table L1(C) Library active members per head of population

2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
0.18%	N/A	0.09%	0.11%	0.13%

L1 (D) The number of registered members in the library in the year

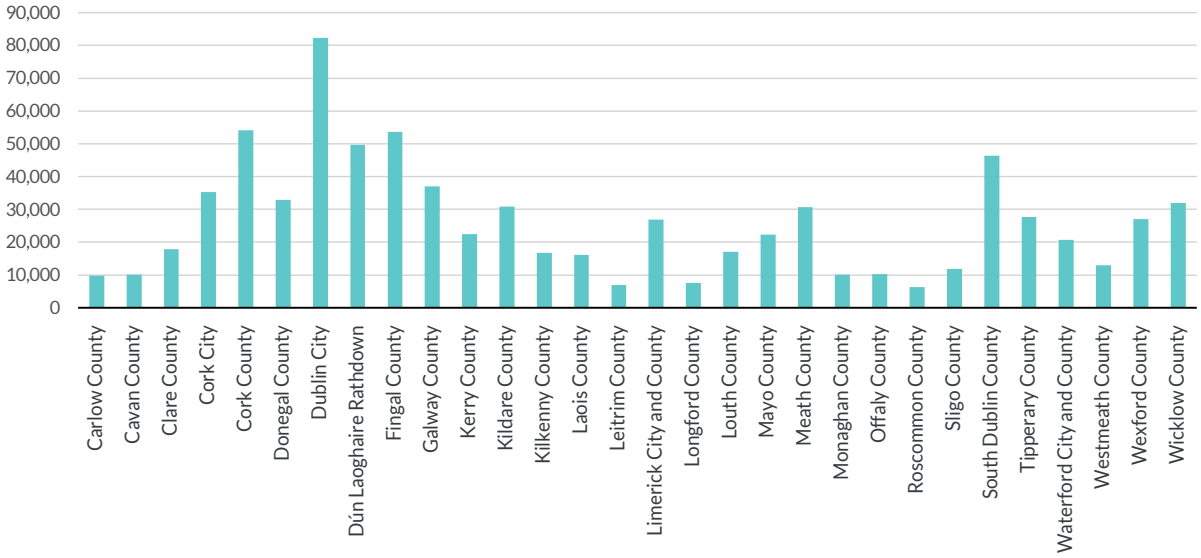
In 2023, the number of registered members rose significantly to 785,567 from 730,541 in 2022 (413,346 in 2021), an increase of 55,026 registered members or a 7.53% increase on 2022 figures.

Donegal had the greatest increase with more than 50% or 10,975 additional users, followed by Leitrim with an increase of 32.97% or 1,713 users, and Carlow with a 30.8% increase or 2,297 users. 21 local authorities recorded increases in users, while nine recorded a decline in numbers. As part of the validation visits, it was explained that the number of registered members may differ from the active members due to the renewal of membership timings. Therefore, it might not always capture the full picture but that is something the library service is working on.

Offaly showed a significant drop of 20% or 2,707 users on the 2022 figures but explained that 2022 was an exceptional year, as it was the first year of business post-pandemic and that it reflected a pent-up demand for library service provision in that period. Roscommon declined by 19.19% or 1,478 users and Wexford declined by 17.09% or 5,583 users on their 2022 figures.

Donegal explained that their increase was due to slightly longer opening hours, which were possible as new staff had been recruited. Some promotional initiatives it undertook also had an effect.

Figure L1(D). Number of registered members in 2023



L2: - Cost of Operating a Library Service (€)

The average per capita cost of operating the library service has increased to €38.87 in 2023 from €36.68 in 2022 and €36.92 in 2021. NOAC was informed that this increased cost has allowed for the expansion of book clubs, active age and other library services.

Longford has the highest spend per capita on its library service at €58.30 (€54.24 in 2022, €55.86 in 2021, €57.61 in 2020). This is the fourth year in a row that Longford has reported the highest figure under this indicator. Another figure featuring for four consecutive years is the lowest cost per capita figure recorded in Galway County, combined with Galway City of €21.59 (€20.53 in 2022, €20.59 in 2021 and €19.33 in 2020).

Roscommon was the only local authority to show a reduction and it was a reduction in 2023 of 23.59% on the 2022 figure. The local authority explained that for the previous two years it had matched funding for capital works, but there was no requirement for further matched funding in 2023.

Carlow (19%), Cavan (18%) and South Dublin (16%) all recorded increases on their 2022 figures. South Dublin outlined that their increase was arising from building in a reserve for two new libraries that are currently being built.

Figure L2a shows the variation in expenditure per capita.

In July 2023, an ambitious new library strategy for the period 2023-2027 entitled "The Library is the Place: Information, Recreation, Inspiration" was launched. It will build on the success of its predecessor "Our Public Libraries 2018-2022", which saw a number of changes, including the removal of library fines and the ability for library users to order books or other items from any public library nationally. The base line set for the minimum book fund required in each county is €4.00 per capita. This baseline is echoed in the new strategy and NOAC is disappointed to note that this level of funding is still not being achieved by any local authority. There was a rise this year to €2.00 per capita up from €1.89 in 2022. 18 local authorities reported an increase spend while 12 had a decrease. Dublin City was the highest at €3.74 however this was a slight decrease from 2022 at €3.77. The highest increase was in Galway at 65% but it only rose from €0.40 in 2022 to €0.66 in 2023, Cavan had an increase of 57% again from a low base of €1.05 in 2022 rising to €1.65 in 2023. South Dublin recorded an increase of 52% to €3.24 which is a very welcome development and heading more in line with the strategy book fund spend.

During the validation meetings, some local authorities while welcoming the €4 book fund target, explained that book storage is a challenge and therefore they cannot add to their current level of stock without putting in place additional storage facilities.

L2 (B) illustrates this data.

Figure L2(A): Per Capita Cost of Operating a Library Service (€)

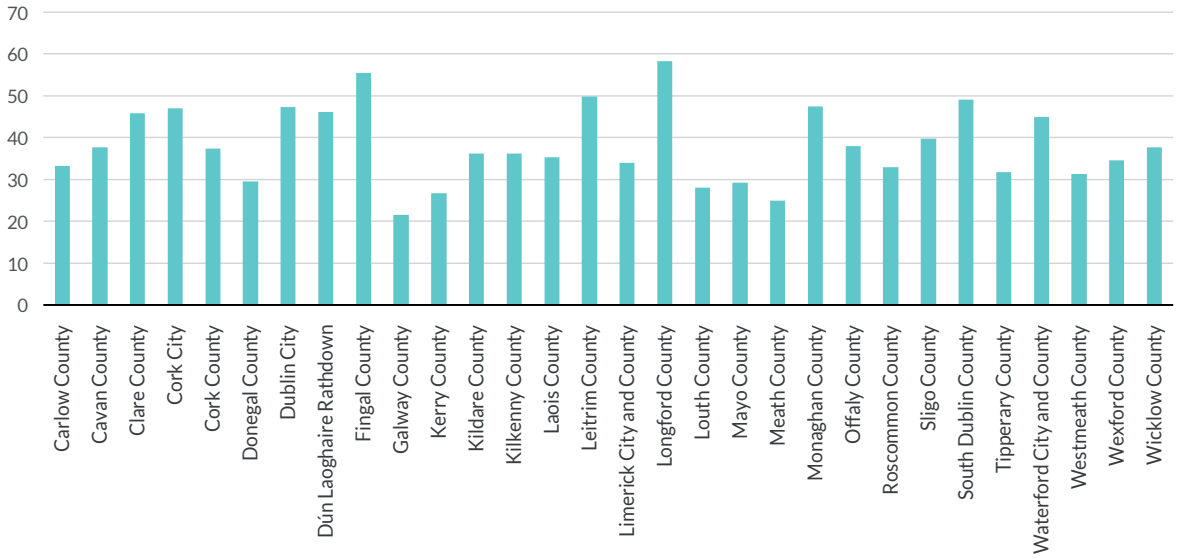
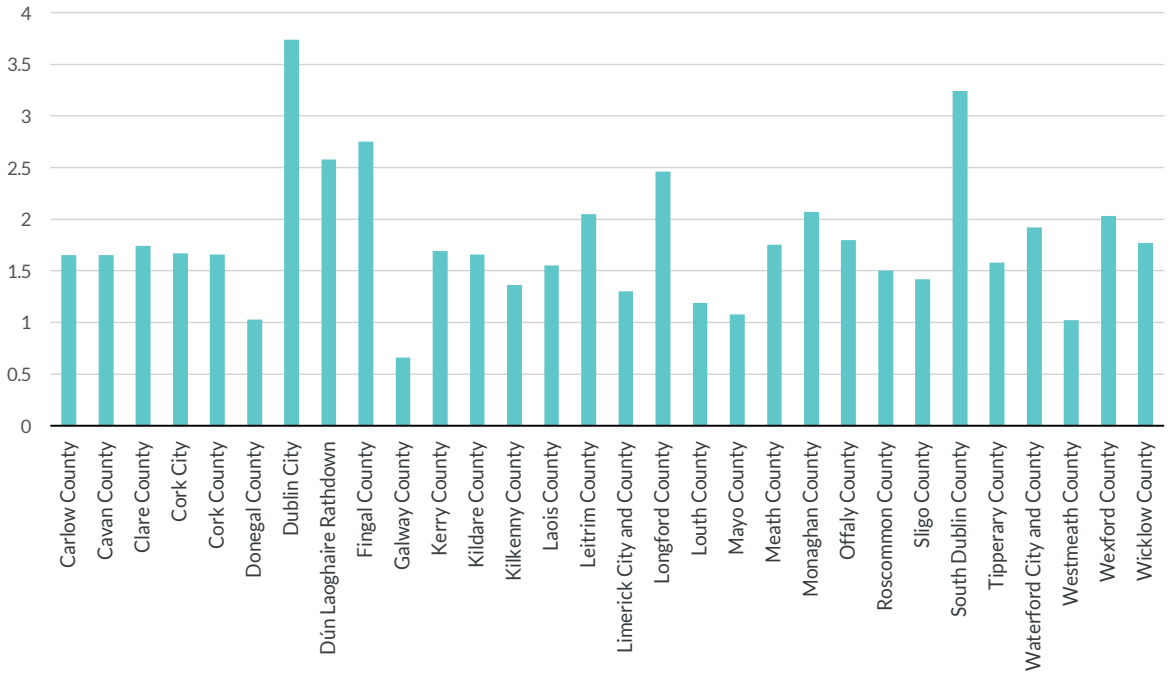


Figure L2(B): Per Capita Expenditure on new Stock 2023(€)



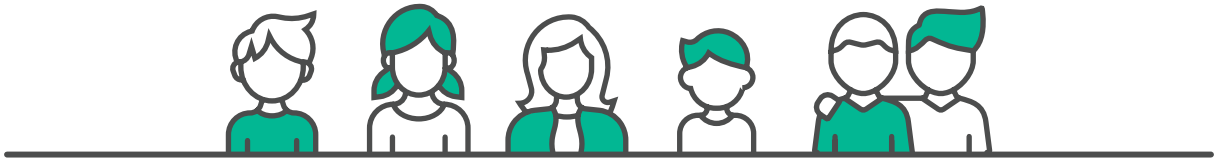
Section 8: Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)

Comhairle na nÓg are child and youth councils in the 31 Local Authority areas of the country, which give children and young people the opportunity to be involved in the development of local services and policies. It was established under the National Children's Strategy (2000), which is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). It was set up for young people, under the voting age of 18, who have no other voting mechanism to have their voice heard. Comhairle na nÓg is designed to enable young people to have a voice in the development of local services and policies.

All Local Authorities have regular meetings of Comhairle na nÓg, which links with adult decision-making bodies.

Y1: Participation in Comhairle na nÓg scheme

In 2023, just four local authorities achieved 100% involvement in the Comhairle na nÓg local youth council scheme; a decrease from 2022, when there were six local authorities fully involved.



4
local authorities, Laois, Longford, Monaghan and Roscommon, achieved **100%** involvement in Comhairle na nÓg

7
local authorities reported **unchanged figures** in 2023 compared to 2022

14
local authorities **improved** their 2023 figure, from that provided in 2022

10
local authorities performed less well in their 2023 figure, from that provided in 2022

38.89%
Galway County had the lowest participation rate, down from **41.67%** in 2022

75%
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown had the largest increase in 2023 from **53.12%** in 2022

20%
Galway City reported the largest percentage drop, as out of the 10 second level schools in the area, eight participated in 2023, whereas all 10 had taken part in 2022

68.16%
The true national average in 2023 (**64.7%** in 2022, **63.25%** in 2021 and **63.29%** in 2020)

501
The number of schools represented at the Comhairle na nÓg AGM in 2023. This compares to **471** in 2022 and in 2021, **463** were represented.

A participation rate of less than 50% arose in three local authorities (four in 2022, seven in 2021) – Cork County, Dublin City and Galway County - despite all of these local authorities improving on their 2022 figures. Cork County explained that the date chosen for the AGM in 2023 was unsuitable, but this would be addressed for 2024. Offaly advised that they were working with schools to help improve their participation for next year.

Y2 - Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

A Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network that enables local authorities to connect with community groups around the country. The PPN is the conduit for all local authorities who wish to benefit from community and voluntary expertise in their area.

The number of organisations on county registers for the PPN was 19,409 at the end of 2023, an increase on the 2022 figure of 17,875. In 2021, there were 17,549 organisations listed and 17,780 in 2020.

The national average was 16.21% with 1,892 organisations registering for the first time in 2023, and 3,147 of the organisations opting to be part of the Social Inclusion Electoral College within the network. This is a slight decrease on the 2022 national average, which was 16.64%, with 1,540 organisations registering for the first time and 2,974 of those opting to be part of the Social Inclusion Electoral College.

Louth reported the largest increase from 24.09 in 2022 to 26.01 in 2023. Waterford City and County experienced a significant reduction to 8.45 in 2023 from 16.01 in 2022.

11

local authorities **improved** their 2023 figure from that provided in 2022

20

local authorities reported **lower figures** in 2023 than in 2022

19,409

organisations on county registers for the **PPN** at the end of 2023

1,892

organisations registered for the **first time** in 2023

3,147

organisations opted to be part of **Social Inclusion Electoral College** in 2023

Figure Y2: Total number of organisations included in the County register for the local authority area as at 31/12/2023

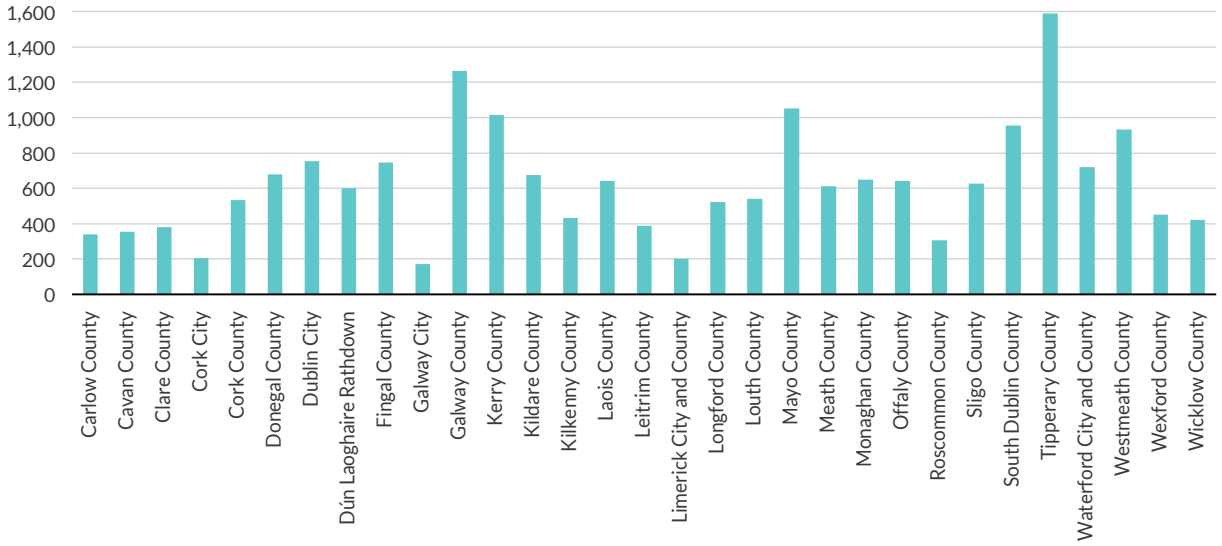
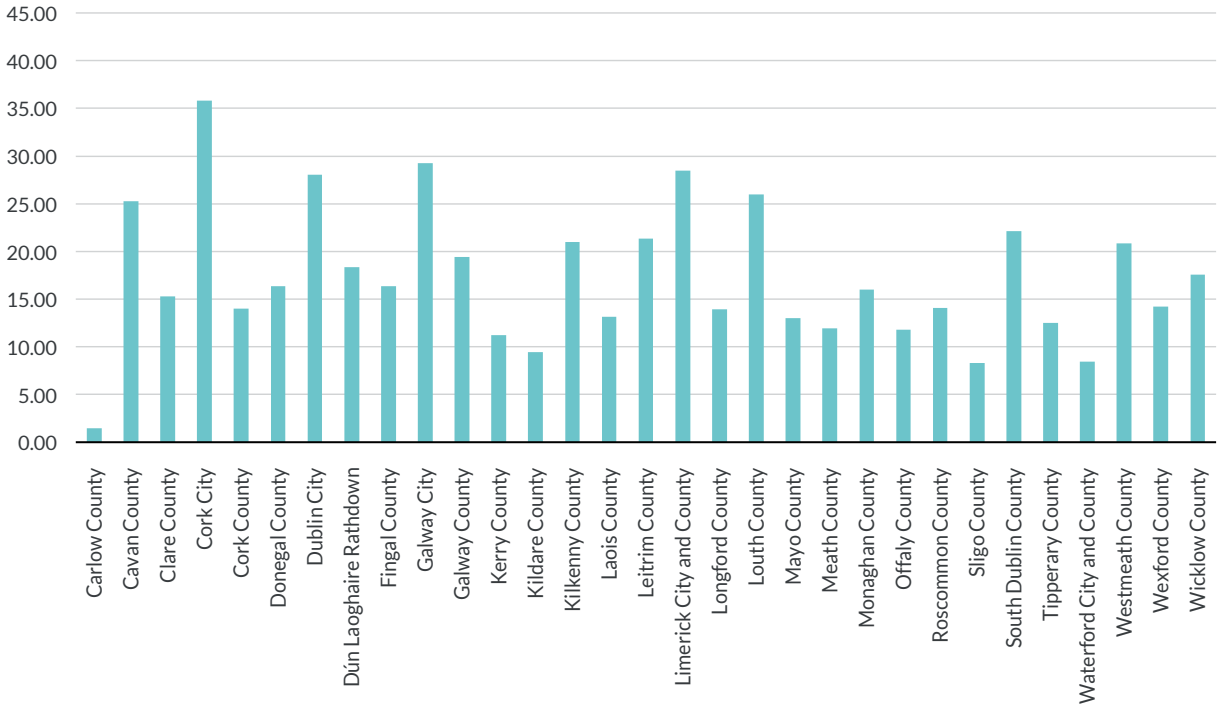


Figure Y2(A): Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2023 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN



Section 9: Corporate – HR and ICT (C1 to C5)

C1: Whole Time Equivalents (WTE)

The total whole-time equivalent staff employed by the local authority sector at the end of 2023 was 31,704.94 up on the 2022 figure of 30,598.87 as indicated in Table C1, Chapter 4. This represents an increase of 1,106.07 staff or 3.61% on the 2022 figure. The largest increase in staff numbers occurred in Dublin City, where there was 381.15 additional staff, an increase of 6.83% on its 2022 figure.

The local authorities which reported the greatest percentage increases in whole-time equivalent staff were:

Local Authority	Increase (%)	Number of staff
Offaly	17.99	77.26
Wicklow	14.54	95.33
Galway City	9.78	49.22

Note: *In 2022, Wicklow and Galway City recorded decreases of 9.3% and 3%, which should be noted in the context of the figures in the table above.*

Five local authorities reported a reduction in staff numbers in 2023. Clare, Longford and Mayo experienced a minor decrease of under 1% and Cavan's staff number decreased by 9.14 (2.13%) and Westmeath by 21.26 (4.11%).

C2: Sick Leave

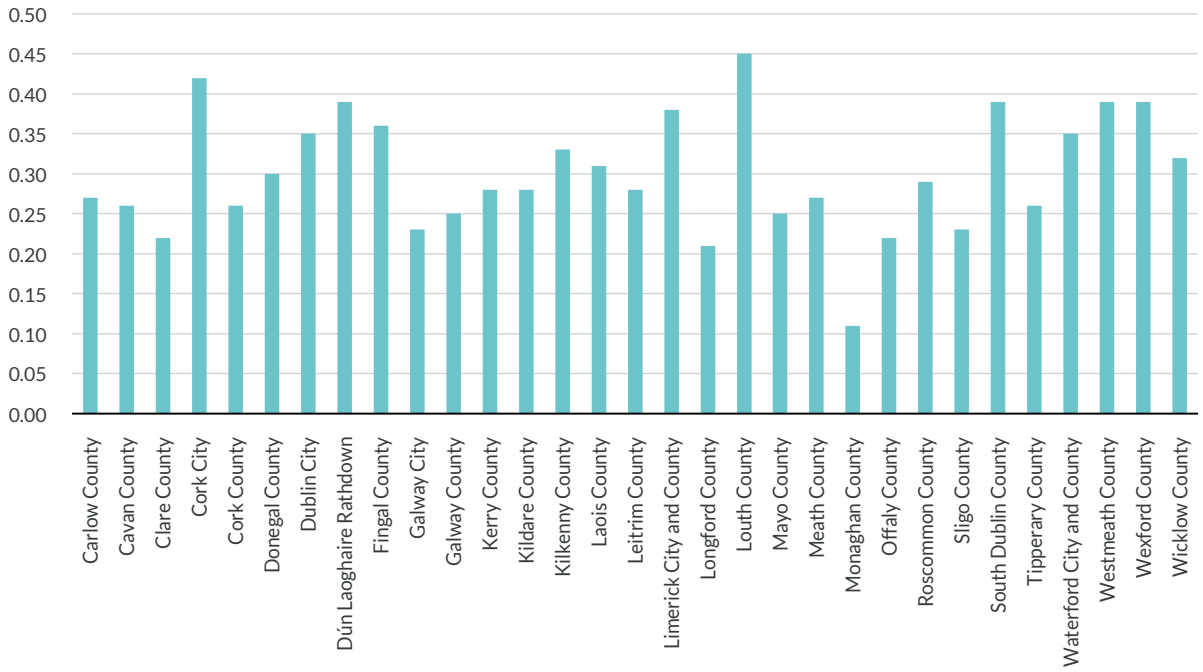
In 2023, the national average percentage rate of paid workdays lost through medically certified paid sick leave for the sector increased to 3.77% up from 3.58% in 2022. There has been an upward trend under this indicator from 2021 when it was at 2.89%, in 2020 it was at 3.01% and 2019 when it was 3.71%. In 2023, 22 authorities exceeded their 3.5% public sector sick leave target quota. This compares to 18 in 2022(10 in 2021, 7 in 2020 and 18 in 2019). In total 299,333.79 days were lost through certified sick leave in 2023. Some local authorities reported a number of staff with long-term health issues and some consider that the increase in the retirement age might also be contributing to these figures. Many reported having specific wellness programmes and were managing staff back to work with specific support and phased return programmes. However, it would appear that the figures are reverting to pre-pandemic trends.

Local Authority	Certified Sick Leave (%)	Number of Days	Number of staff exceeding four weeks continuous sick leave
Donegal	5.59	13,575	116
Mayo	5.28	12,865.73	108
Limerick City and County	4.91	17,149.78	133

The local authority with the highest number of days lost was Dublin City at 50,422 days, however as it has a significant level of staff, this equates to 3.53% which is marginally above the 3.5% public sector leave target quota. The local authorities with the lowest rate of certified sick leave for 2023 were as follows;

Local Authority	Percentage	Number of Days
Meath	2.19%	1,252
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	2.52%	1,030.37
Wicklow	2.74%	637

Figure C2(B): Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self – certified leave in 2023



Separately, the national average percentage of paid workdays lost through self-certified paid sick leave remained the same as in 2022 at 0.32%; an increase from 2021 when it was at 0.19% and 2020 when it was 0.20%. 13 local authorities reported an improvement on their 2022 figure and while four remained the same, the percentage increased in 14 local authorities.

Cork City had the highest percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self – certification at 0.42%, however this was an improvement on their figure of 0.47% in 2022.

Monaghan once again had the lowest percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave at 0.11%, which was a slight decrease on the 2022 figure of 0.12%.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown at 0.39% reported the largest increase in 2023 up from 0.19% in 2022.

C3: Website and Social Media

The total page views of local authority websites 2014 – 2024 is outlined in Table C3 (A). Total page views of local authority websites in 2023 was 68.79 million, a decline of 1.16 million views on the 2022 figure of 69.95 million. Comparison on previous years are in the chart below. These figures equate to 13.36 views per head of population. It is acknowledged that the change in cookie policies may have contributed to this decline somewhat, however many local authorities explained that they have reviewed their websites, are doing more planned marketing and ensuring that the message about what the local authority is doing is being told. 1,278 separate websites are being operated by the 31 local authorities.

Kerry recorded the highest total page views of the local authority websites again in 2023, and this has been the case for the last four years. The 2023 figure was 30.76 down on the 2022 figure of 37.98 per capita, a reduction on the 2021 figure of 41.12.

The lowest figures were recorded by Roscommon at 0.89 followed by Wicklow at 0.99. These figures are a decline on their 2022 figures of 7.31 and 5.27 respectively.

The success of local authorities in growing their online profiles is demonstrated with the total number of social media users increasing again. At the end of 2023 there were 5.4 million users, an increase on 2022 when it was 4.81 million. Table C3 (B) illustrates the growth in local authority social media account followers for the period 2015 to 2023.

In 2020, the indicator C3 was amended to represent the results as per capita. Previously, this indicator was represented as the total number of visitors to the local authority website and its total number of followers on social media.

Clare had the highest per capita total number of followers of the local authority's social media accounts at 2.85 (39.7% increase on its 2022 figure of 2.04) followed by Waterford City and County at 2.23 (2.15 in 2022). Kildare had the lowest again this year at 0 .41 (an increase on its 2022 figure of 0.37) with the next lowest being South Dublin having 0.49 (0.48 in 2022).

Table C3 (A): 2022 Local authority website usage

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
National total of page views	68,790,307	69,946,040	64,764,654	74,104,123	81,270,933
National number of page views per head of population	13.36	13.65	13.60	15.56	17.07

Table C3 (B): Local authority social media account followers

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
The total number of social media users who were following the local authority on any social media sites								
644,521	1,163,551	1,703,665	2,378,851	3,134,560	3,870,074	4,445,822	4,812,396	5,404,168

C4 and C5: ICT Expenditure

These two indicators were chosen for the Quality Assurance process in 2024 and more details on this can be found in Chapter 6 on Quality Assurance in this report.

C4: Overall Cost of ICT Provision per WTE

Figure C4 shows the cost of Communications Technology (ICT) provision in 2023 per whole-time equivalent staff member of a local authority. For this report, the percentage of total LGMA general charge included is 56%.

There has been an increase year on year in the national average cost of ICT in local authorities. It is notable that many local authorities have increased their investment in cyber security and NOAC was very impressed by the work being done in this area, which was outlined by both Kerry and Cork County at recent NOAC meetings. It was also pointed out that efficiencies in spend were achieved by some local authorities by reviewing licencing arrangements, as was reported by Offaly.

In 2023 the national average cost of ICT provision was €3,948.63, an increase of €219.30 on the 2022 figure of €3,729.33. The table below notes that this figure has increased every year since 2016.

The lowest cost in 2023 was recorded by Longford at €3,069.19 per whole-time equivalent staff member, although this is marginally up on the 2022 figure of €3,012.03. Cavan was the lowest in 2022 but had an increase from €2,817.72 to €3,575.62 almost a 27% increase.

The highest cost was Carlow at €5,403.67 (€4,978.24 in 2022), followed by Fingal at €5,382.09

(€5,583.98 in 2022) and Louth at €4,972.30 an increase from €4,643.51 in 2022.

C5: Total Cost of ICT Provision as a percentage of Revenue Expenditure

For 2023, the national average recorded was 1.86% as outlined in the table below. Fingal again recorded the highest ICT expenditure at 2.82% although this was a drop on its 2.99 % in 2022 followed by Roscommon at 2.40% (2.79%in 2022). Donegal with a figure of 2.29% explained at the validation process that the higher above average cost was due to the council operating five regional offices around the county.

The lowest spend is again in Limerick City and County at 0.58%. Limerick was also lowest in the last number of years and well below the national average, at 0.56% in 2022, 0.51% in 2021, 0.55% in 2020, 0.59% in 2019 and 0.72% in 2018.

C4: Overall Cost of ICT Provision per WTE

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2,894.97	3,010.48	3,457.02	3,521.62	3,729.33	3,948.63

C5: Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue expenditure

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.75	1.78	1.52	1.71	1.85	1.86

Figure C4: 2023 Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE (€)

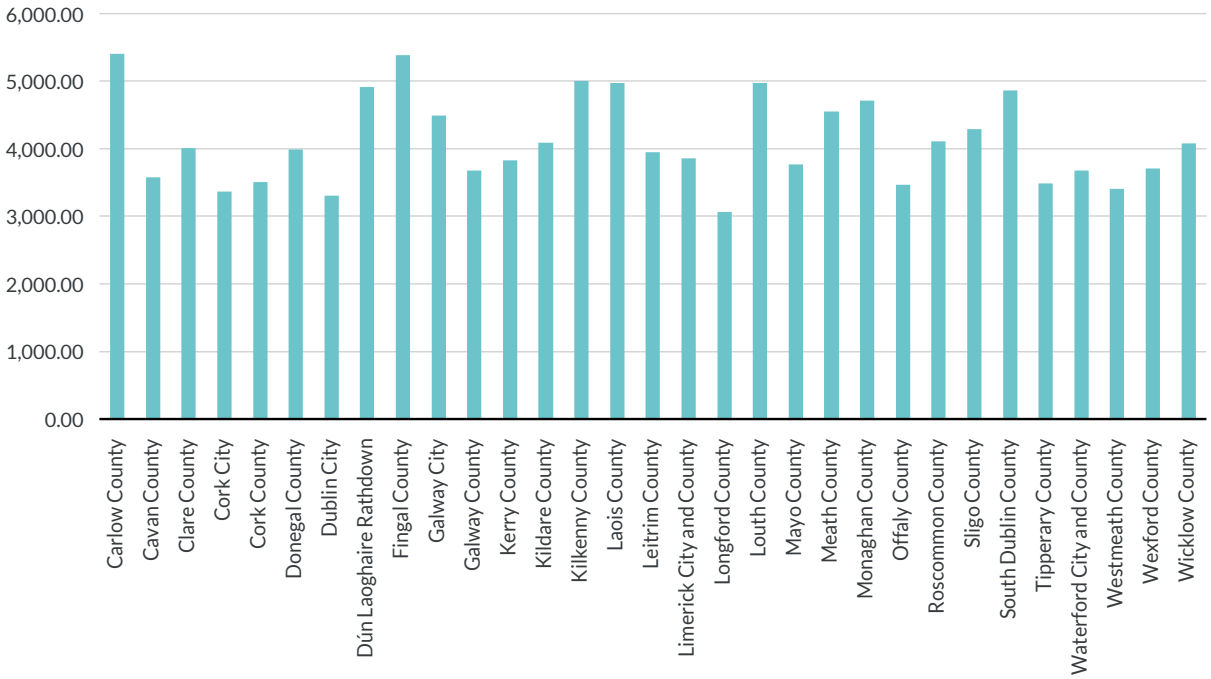
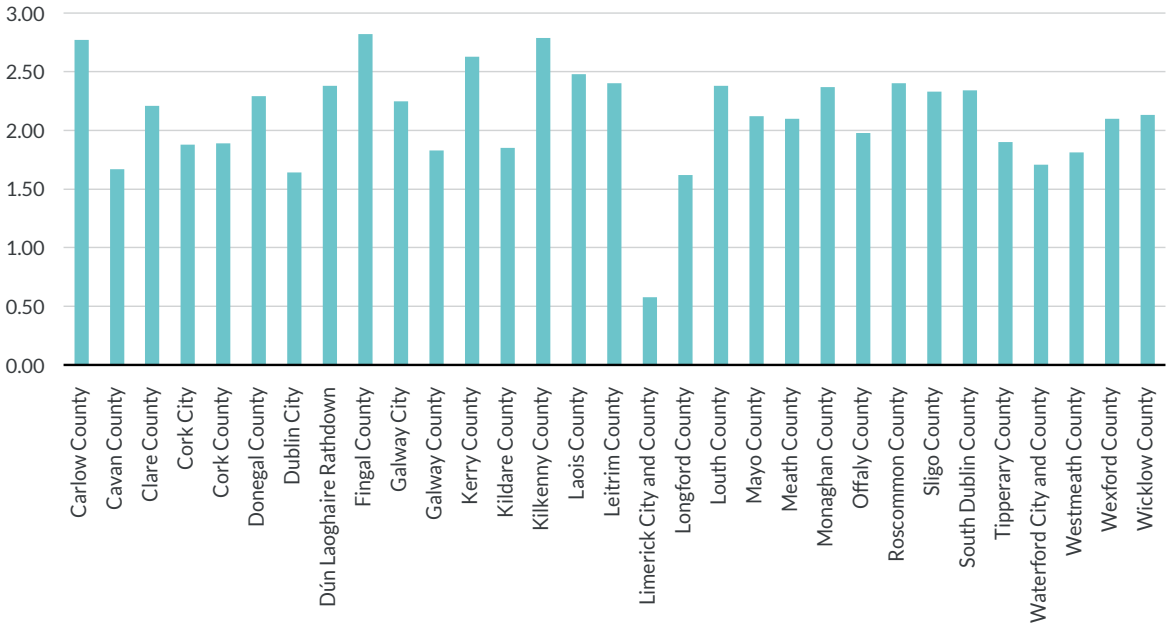


Figure C5: 2023 Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue expenditure (€)



Section 10: Finance (M1 to M4)

M1: Revenue Account Balance

Table M1, Chapter 4, shows a summary of the Revenue Account balances for the years 2018 to 2023. Figures relating to 2023 are provisional; the audited figures from the Local Government Audit Service were not yet available when the performance indicator data was supplied. This indicator was chosen as one for the validation process, and in each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

There were six local authorities showing a deficit on the Revenue Account at the end of 2023 (seven in 2022, eight in 2021, and 11 in both 2020 and 2019). It is very welcome to see that Waterford City and County no longer has a deficit balance and Donegal, Mayo, Offaly, Sligo and Wicklow had further reduced their deficit on 2022 results. Leitrim saw a very small increase in their deficit balance but overall there is a reduction in the deficit as a percentage of the total income.

Offaly outlined that there are budget arrangements in place to see the deficit cleared by 2026. Donegal has reduced its deficit significantly in recent years and will continue to reduce it by €1m annually by prudently managing its finances.

The total cumulative figures for the sector are set out in table M1 below.

Table M1: Cumulative Deficits and Surpluses for the local government sector for 2019-2023

Category	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Overall Deficits	-€45,629,085	-€40,336,262	-€32,260,563	-€27,706,860	-€17,179,258
Overall Surpluses	€91,245,015	€118,209,468	€109,645,469	€115,608,035	€112,074,986
Overall Balances	€45,615,930	€77,873,206	€77,384,905	€87,901,175	€94,895,728

Viewing the cumulative deficits and surpluses, as a percentage of total income in 2023, shows again this year that all except for one of the deficits represent less than 3% of the total income of the respective council.

The only local authority above 3% in 2023 is Sligo at -12.01% (-21.37% in 2022, -20.75% in 2021, and -20.03% in 2020). Donegal reduced its deficit percentage to -1.95% from -2.75%, Leitrim -.46% from -.48%, Mayo -1.10% from -1.72%, Offaly -.84% from -1.38%, and Wicklow -.41% from -.71%. It is a very welcome development to see reductions in the deficit budget and a move towards a budget surplus.

The largest increases for local authorities in their surplus balance were Waterford who reported an increase of €1,430,184 and Clare where it was €237,000.

Column G, Table M1, Chapter 4, shows the Revenue Expenditure in 2023 per head of population within the local authority. Meath was the lowest at €820.00, although this is an increase on the €741.36 recorded in 2022. All local authorities showed an increase in this expenditure.

The highest revenue expenditure per head of population was again in Limerick City and County at €4,288.64 (€4,332.49 in 2022, €4,577.34 in 2021, €4,267.50 in 2020, €3,396.29 in 2019 and €2,659.16 in 2018). However, as Limerick City and County operates the Housing Assistance Payment shared service, this increases its cost per capita figure. Since the introduction of M1h, which records revenue expenditure per capita, (excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure) Limerick's figure has been reduced to €1,017.20 in 2023 compared to €952.19 in 2022. Therefore, the true highest Revenue Expenditure in 2023 per capita within all local authorities is Dublin City at €1,680.23, followed by Leitrim at €1,541.03 and Longford at €1,443.05. In 2022 and 2021 it was the same three authorities.

Column H of Table M1 shows Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023; excluding significant out of county/shared service expenditure for the service providers of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) (Limerick), MyPay (Laois), Dublin Region Homeless Executive and Dublin Fire Services (Dublin City). The following is noted in respect of each local authority:

Authority	Revenue Expenditure per Capita in 2023 (based on 2022 Census)	Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure
Dublin City	€2,021.49	€1,680.23
Laois County	€1,128.35	€1,064.76
Limerick City and County	€4,288.64	€1,017.20

M2: Revenue Collection Rates

Local authority revenue collection rates in Tables M2 (a) to M2 (c) of Chapter 4 are based on the amount collected relative to the amount levied for the year. Pre-existing arrears are added to this figure. The following items are then deducted:

- Write offs and waivers;
- In the case of rates, vacant property adjustments and specific doubtful arrears to include accounts in examinership/ receivership/liquidation where no communication has been received; and
- Vacancy applications pending and not yet decided at year end

At the validation visits local authorities such as South Dublin outlined they have a new Debt Collection Performance scheme and that it has led to rates and housing loans performance improvements but that rent collection is still challenging.

M2 (A): 5 Year Summary of Collection Levels of Commercial Rates

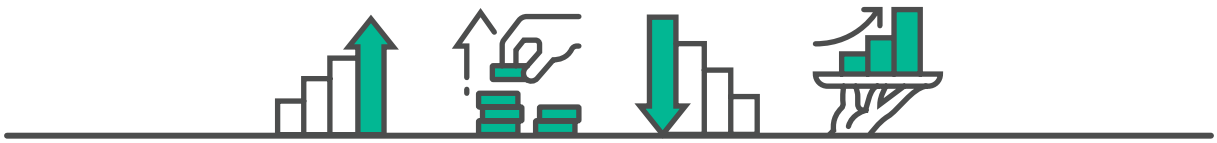
Table M2 (A) in Chapter 4 shows the percentage of commercial rates collected by local authorities from 2018 to 2023.

Fingal had the highest collection performance again in 2023 at 99.1%, up from its 2022 figure of 98.1%. Cork County, Dublin City, Limerick City and County, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, South Dublin, Tipperary, Waterford City and County, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow also collected commercial rates in excess of 90% in 2023. This is the same number as in 2022, however, three counties that were above 90% in 2023, Kilkenny, Laois and Longford have all declined to 87%, 89% and 87% respectively. Sligo had the lowest collection performance again in 2023 at 72%. This is a decline on its low collection rates in previous years at 74% in 2022 and 78% in 2021).

21 authorities saw an increase in commercial rates collected in 2023. Just one remained unchanged while nine authorities showed a decrease in collections. The largest decrease was in Kilkenny at 87%, down from 95% in 2022.

Galway City reported the figures for 2020 and 2021 without noting waivers, therefore, the increase for 2022 is not an accurate reflection. The actual figure for both years should be 80% but Galway City did not advise NOAC of this for the relevant reports.

Louth outlined how they have ensured that their rate collectors have been given specific training and there are clear processes in place to allow for follow through in the case of arrears, in an effort to improve collection rates.



21 reported improved collection rates

1 remained unchanged

9 had a reduction in collection rates

M2 (B): 5 Year Summary of Collection of Rent and Annuities

Table M2 (B) in Chapter 4 shows the percentage of rent and annuities collected by local authorities from 2018 to 2023.

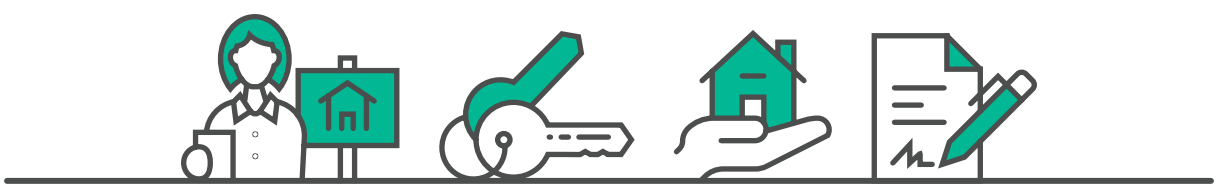
Limerick City and County Council outlined to NOAC at the 2022 validation visit that the collection rates for rents for their authority is distorted by the HAP collection rates, which show a much more favourable collection rate than is the case for Limerick City and County Council's own stock. Therefore for the 2023 report NOAC collected a figure for Limerick that removed HAP and this resulted in Limerick City and County reporting a collection rate of 75% compared to 2022 when HAP was included and it was 97%.

The lowest collection rates were reported again in Dublin City at 73% (72% in the last three years when they were also the lowest), then Fingal at 75.3 % (76.1% in 2022 and 77.4% in 2021), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown at 77% (76% in 2022 and 77% in 2021), and South Dublin at 78% (77% in 2022 and 74 in 2021).

Leitrim recorded the highest collection rates at 98%, up from 97% in 2022. In 2023, 13 authorities recorded collection rates at 90% or more, this has gone down from 15 in 2022.

In 2023, eight authorities increased their rent and annuities collection rates, compared to nine in 2022.

15 authorities' rent and annuities collection rates decreased in 2023, with eight staying at the same level as in 2022.



8 increased collection rates

15 had a decline in collection rates

8 had no change

M2 (C): 5 Year Summary of Collection of Housing Loans

Housing loan yields can exceed 100% when loan arrears collected in that year are included with loan repayment amounts due in that year.

For 2023, Wexford's revenue collection exceeded 100% at 106.2% (105% in 2022), (104.6% in 2021 and 104% in 2020). Westmeath also exceeded with 102% up from 98% in 2022. Cavan also recorded a 100% rate, a significant improvement on its 89% in 2022.

Seven other local authorities: Carlow, Fingal, Kerry, Kilkenny, Meath, Offaly, and Wicklow have all achieved a collection rate of 90% or higher.

23 local authorities recorded an improvement on their 2022 figures, six had the same collection rate, and only Cork City (89%) and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (60%) reported a decrease on their 2022 figure.

In 2023, two authorities' housing loan collection rates decreased (seven in 2022), including Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown who had the poorest performance at 60% (61% in 2022), and Cork City at 89% (90% in 2022).

NOAC has acknowledged that loans currently going through the legal process may distort the overall percentage for each local authority and also welcomes the progress and efforts made by many authorities to improve collections. These sources of income make an important contribution to funding local services and for providing match funding for grant applications in many cases.

23 improved | **6** no change | **2** declined

M3: Public Liability Claims

M3: Public Liability Claims, which sets out the amount paid out on public liability claims per capita (as per the 2022 census), was introduced by NOAC in 2020, as claims can have a significant impact on local authority available revenue and capital expenditure.

NOAC requested Irish Public Bodies (IPB), the insurance company used by local authorities for public liability, and local authorities nationally to provide details of pay out costs. The average cost per capita of public liability claims amount paid out on public liability claims per capita in 2023 was €12.40, an increase from €11.31 in 2022 and 2021 when it was €11.05.

In 2023, Kilkenny had the highest cost of settled claims per capita at €31.66, an increase of 123% on its 2022 figure of €14.33. This was followed by Kerry at €28.40, a 179% increase on its €10.16 figure. Galway County which had the lowest figure in 2022 and is still below the national average, reported an increase of 527% on its 2022 figure of €1.96 to €12.28 in 2023. The lowest figure in 2023 was in Leitrim at €1.63, a reduction of almost 17% on its 2022 figure of €2.04.

Kilkenny had a single seven-figure settlement in 2023 and two separate claims settled for high six-figure sums. The total of these three complex personal injury claims amounted to €2.76 million of the 2023 total.

In 2023, 13 authorities showed decreases in the amount paid out on public liability claims per capita, this figure was 16 for 2022, while 18 authorities showed increases over 2022.

Meath's total cost of settled claims decreased from €2,515,851 in 2022 to €533,545 in 2023. In 2022, Meath had five claims exceeding €50k, one was an exceptional claim with a cost in excess of €1.7 million. In 2023 Meath County Council had only two claims exceeding €50k and neither exceeded €125k.

M4: Overheads

Data for M4 has been collected by NOAC since 2020. The overall central management charge as a percentage (%) of total expenditure on revenue account decreased to 12.35% in 2023, from 12.48% in 2022, 11.60% in 2021 and 9.65% in 2020.

Overheads are the costs directly related to the operational activities for each local authority. They include:

- Corporate Affairs,
- Corporate Buildings,
- Finance Function,
- Human Resource Function,
- IT Services Function,
- Pension and Lump Sum, and
- Printing services.

NOAC collected the following two datasets in this regard:

A. Overall central management charge as a percentage (%) of total expenditure on revenue account

B. Total payroll costs as a percentage (%) of revenue expenditure.

Monaghan had the highest central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account at 17.46%. Limerick City and County remained the lowest in 2023 at 4.22%, up slightly from 4.1% in 2022 and 3.89% in 2021.

23 local authorities saw a decrease in payroll costs as a percentage of their revenue expenditure in 2023 with eight showing slight increases.

Kerry had the highest payroll costs as a percentage of its revenue expenditure at 43.43%. Limerick City and County remained the lowest with 10.11 (9.5% in 2022).

Section 11: Economic Development – (J1 to J4)

The indicators J1 – J3 were calculated per 100,000 of population for the first time in 2020.

J1: Job Creation

The Job Creation indicator has to date been calculated on a "Net Jobs Created" basis. The total number of jobs created nationally in 2023 with the assistance of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs), taking job losses into account was 2,131. This represents a decrease of 1,316 jobs or 38.17% on 2022 when 3,447 jobs were created. Each part-time job is counted as half of a full-time job. A number of local authorities reported that while jobs were created, there were also job losses and therefore the net figure supplied reflects both these factors.

24 local authorities showed a decrease in jobs created in 2023, while six saw an increase in the number of jobs created with LEO assistance in their counties. Galway City figures are captured in Galway County.

The six local authorities which reported an increase in the number of jobs created with assistance from the LEO in 2023 are outlined in the table below;

Local Authority	2023 Improvement	2023 Jobs created per 100,000 of population	Actual Number of Jobs created
Limerick City and County	31.84%	113.58	238
Galway City (and County)	20.93%	18.72	52
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	14.37%	50.46	118
Leitrim	12.69%	73.87	26
Wicklow	7.56%	44.27	69
Sligo	5.15%	52.71	37

Some significant decline in job creation in 2023 is shown in the table below;

Local Authority	2023 Decline	2023 Jobs created per 100,000 of population	Actual Number of Jobs created
Carlow	-98.22%	1.61	1
Offaly	-93.54%	12.03	10
Kilkenny	-88.55%	50.88	53
South Dublin	-73.52%	8.97	27
Mayo	-64.26%	16.67	23
Fingal	-61.8%	23.90	79

Explanations were provided by local authorities in relation to some of these figures.

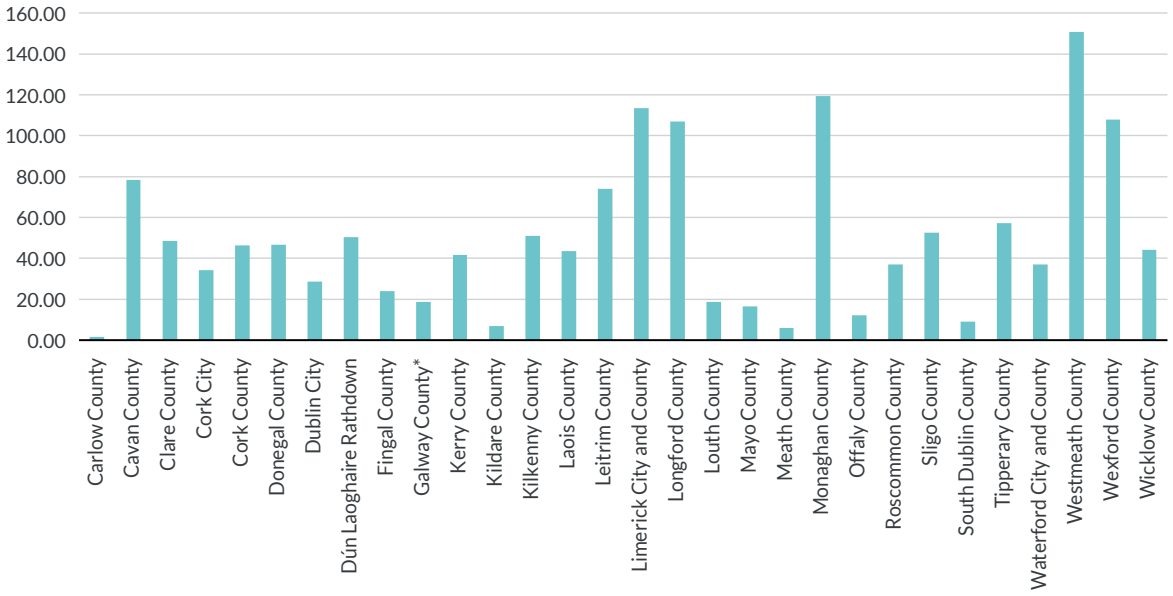
Carlow noted that three closures during the period, as well as a number of employers replacing part-time resources with contract resources, gave rise to the difference in 2023.

Offaly explained that firstly they had made significant gains in 2022, and then in 2023 a number of businesses closed, which gave rise to the net figure for 2023 being so low. There are projects in the pipeline to improve those figures for the 2024 report.

Louth outlined that there are several factors contributing to the decrease, as full employment is resulting in fewer start-ups and there are difficulties for employers in filling vacant posts.

A skills shortage was also cited by Louth and Kildare, in relation to posts not being filled.

Figure J1: Jobs Created per 100,000 of population 2023



J2: Trading Online Vouchers

In line with the growth in online trading, the LEOs provide support to businesses to improve their online presence. The scheme was designed to be a catalyst for change to encourage small businesses to move their business to trading online.

As can be noted in the trend analysis prior to 2020, the LEOs approved on average 1,100 Trading Online Vouchers (TOVs) per annum. However during the COVID-19 pandemic, the scheme became a critical support to assist the survival of small businesses through the crisis. In 2020, 12,946 TOVs were approved, partially due to the voucher rate increasing from 50% to 90% from 8th April to 31st December 2020. The voucher rate returned to 50% on 1st January 2021, with the number of vouchers approved reducing to 4,450 in 2021.

J2 A. Number of trading online vouchers approved by the Local Enterprise Office							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,141	1,189	1,107	1,220	12,946	4,450	1,881	1,715

The total figure for 2023 is 1,715, a decline from the 2022 figure of 1,881.

Monaghan, Waterford City and County and Carlow had the largest number of trading online applications approved per 100,000 population in 2023 at 53.61, 53.39 and 50.03 respectively. This was an improvement for both Monaghan and Waterford City Council on its 2022 figures of 43.19 and 51.15. However, Carlow showed a decrease in recorded applications from 72.66 in 2022.

Louth recorded the lowest number of trading online applications approved at 25.77 per 100,000 population in 2023, followed by Fingal with 26.32 and Dublin City with 26.66.

12 local authorities recorded an improvement in application numbers, whereas 18 showed a reduction in applications.

Figure J2: Trading online voucher applications approved / drawn down per 100,000 population in 2023

J2 B. Number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
658	546	521	478	4,578	2,677	855	734

The number of applications that were drawn down in 2023 was 734, a reduction of 121 or 14.15% from 2022. Overall 2023 saw nine local authorities improve their performance, with 21 reporting a decline under this indicator.

Waterford City and County (32.98), followed by Carlow (24.21) and Tipperary (23.82) had the largest number of trading online applications drawn down in 2023. Waterford City and County and Carlow figures were lower than the corresponding 2022 figure; however, Tipperary had an increase on their 2022 figure of 37.40%.

J3: No. of mentoring recipients

LEO mentoring matches the knowledge, skills, insights and entrepreneurial capability of experienced business practitioners - the mentor - with small business owners and managers, who need practical and strategic one-to-one advice and guidance for their businesses.

Due to the many challenges facing small businesses, the need for practical and strategic guidance is great. 14,197 participants availed of LEO mentoring in 2023, an increase of 1,996 participants on the 2022 figure of 12,201.

J3: Number of mentoring recipients							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
7,564	8,393	9,625	10,756	16,231	14,149	12,201	14,197

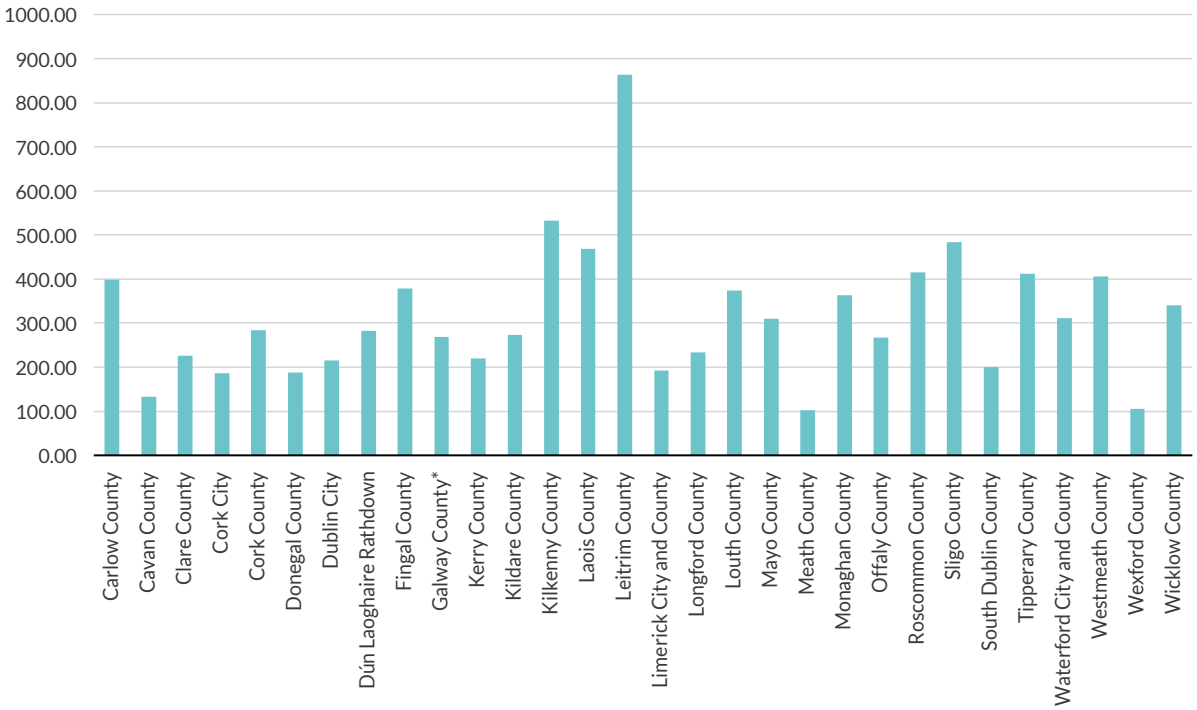
Leitrim had the largest return again in 2023, with 863.66 mentoring recipients per 100,000 people, however this is a 16.52% reduction on their 2022 figure of 1,034.57.

Donegal which had the lowest return in 2022 at 93.79, had the highest percentage increase of 100% in 2023 with 187.93 mentoring recipients per 100,000 people.

Meath had the lowest return in 2023 at 102.80 mentoring recipients per 100,000 people, despite this being a 5.20 increase on their 2022 figures.

21 local authorities reported increased mentoring recipients per 100,000 people in 2023 while nine reported a reduction on their 2022 figures.

Figure J3: Mentoring Recipients per 100,000 of population 2023



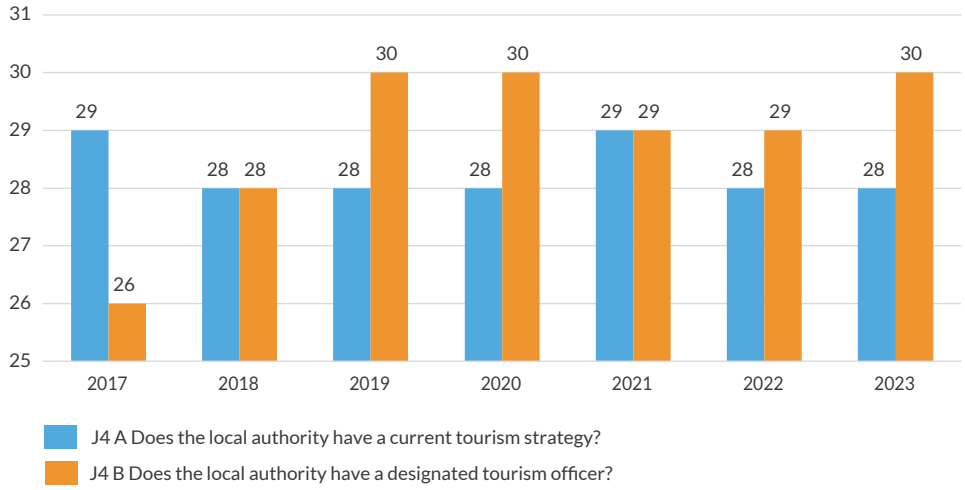
J4: Tourism Strategy

Given that tourism is so vital to our economy it is important to ensure that tourism strategies are in place in all local authority areas with some minor notable exceptions. Carlow, Cork City and Laois are the only authorities to confirm that there was no tourism strategy in place in their area in 2023.

Laois is the only local authority without a designated Tourism Officer in place in 2023. It outlined that it has a staff member who has a role to play in County Promotion amongst other duties.

NOAC recognises the efforts made across the country to develop the potential of the tourism industry at local level and considers it vital that all local authorities have an up-to-date strategy in place and a designated Tourism Officer employed.

Figure J4: Tourism Strategy 2023



J5: Economic Development: The annual spend on local economic development (per head of population) by each local authority

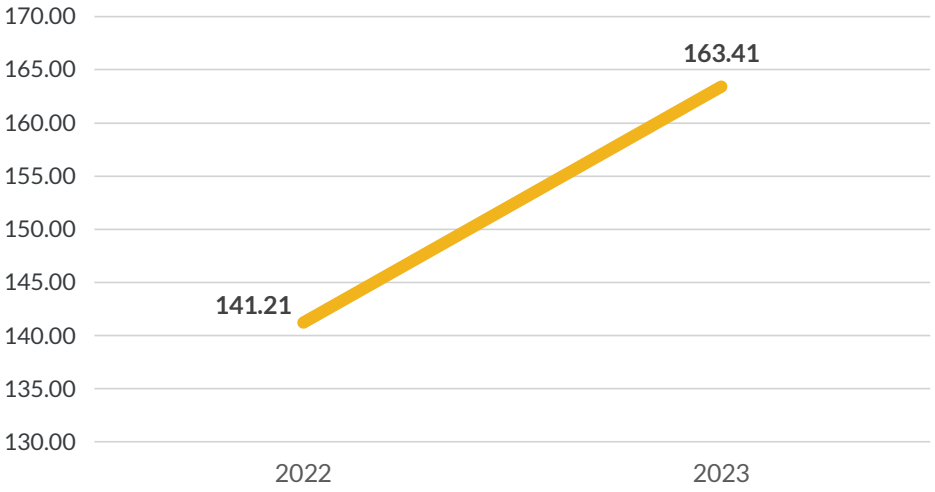
This indicator was first published in 2022. In 2022, this indicator was chosen for review, as part of the validation process. It was noted that there was a lack of clarity in some cases, as to what to include under this indicator. Certain local authorities requested that the indicator allow for additional expenses to be included, as part of the data for this indicator. It was considered that a significant annual spend on these headings contributes to the overall economic development spend.

Due to the feedback provided in 2022, the guidelines for the 2023 report were circulated with additional clarifications and an FAQ section, to assist in the preparation of the J5 return in an effort to provide clarity around some of the narrative and the codes to be applied. NOAC also stressed at the guidelines workshop in February 2024 that the staff inputting this data needed to be familiar with the areas for inclusion and that it was crucial that they work with their finance colleagues in compiling the data required.

As a result of its experience in compiling the 2022 report, NOAC's Performance Indicator Working Group decided to review this indicator again, as part of the validation process for the 2023 report. NOAC also requested that the CCMA Sub Committee remain in place for the 2023 report to ensure that queries raised were responded to in a consistent manner. Most of the local authorities noted that this is a very broad indicator spread across many budget holders and therefore ensuring the figures are accurate is a challenge. Kerry advised the new NOAC guidelines assisted them in ensuring all items were included in this very relevant indicator and suggested that the indicator remains unchanged so that trends can now be built up over the years. Kerry also noted, along with Donegal, that the involvement of local authority finance sections is of great assistance in ensuring accuracy of returns under this indicator.

Overall, as Figure J5 below shows, local authorities spent an average on Economic Development of €163.41 per head of population in 2023, that figure was €141.21 in 2022. However some local authorities indicated that they returned the incorrect figures in 2022 so the 2023 figures have had to be revised to reflect this. This was the case in Cork County which recorded the highest increase of 297% per head of population, but much of this is accounted for by under reporting in previous years. This error has now been rectified by Cork County and the correct calculations will be carried out for this and future reports. Meath and Kildare, among other local authorities, explained that due to the unfamiliar nature of the indicator not all codes were included for 2022. However, they used the NOAC Guidelines and sought assistance from their Finance Units to ensure that the 2023 return was correct and that would explain some of the increases between 2022 and 2023.

Figure J5: The spend on local economic development by local authorities per head of population (€)



Clare reported the highest expenditure in 2023 per head of population at €324.32, a 108.16% increase on its figure of €155.80 for 2022. Clare explained that the increase is driven by tourism expenditure due to the takeover of Shannon heritage sites and increased expenditure on other Clare Tourism sites. Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown reported the next highest figure of €260.42 and Dublin City's figure was €240.11.

The two local authorities recording the lowest expenditure in 2023 were Galway County and Meath. Galway County spent €22.07 per head of population, a reduction of over 51% on €45.69 in 2022. Meath spent €96.71 per head of population in 2023, an increase of 72.9% on its 2022 figure of €55.93, some of which is explained by under reporting in their 2022 figure.

Eight local authorities spent less on local economic development in 2023, whereas 23 recorded increases compared to 2022. Some of the larger increases are explained above and others like Tipperary advised that they had increased their provision for URDF/RRDF projects given their success in this area and therefore this was reflected in increased expenditure on economic development.

The overall spend on this indicator in 2023 was **€841,445,205.61**.

Chapter 4

2023 Tables and Figures

Section 1 - Housing

Table H1: - Social Housing Stock (A-F)

Authority	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2023	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2023(whether constructed or acquired)	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2023	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2023	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2023	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme
Carlow County	1,932	90	8	0	2,014	0
Cavan County	2,141	45	7	0	2,179	0
Clare County	2,860	41	7	0	2,894	1
Cork City	10,418	263	28	55	10,598	22
Cork County	8,004	325	78	0	8,251	0
Donegal County	5,047	34	20	0	5,061	0
Dublin City	26,837	742	22	28	27,529	711
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	4,665	168	4	0	4,829	0
Fingal County	5,682	161	1	0	5,842	0
Galway City	2,437	83	18	0	2,502	2
Galway County	2,646	173	21	6	2,792	0
Kerry County	4,491	85	39	1	4,536	0
Kildare County	5,181	247	6	1	5,421	16
Kilkenny County	2,651	76	10	0	2,717	0
Laois County	2,313	88	5	0	2,396	7
Leitrim County	1,059	40	5	0	1,094	0
Limerick City and County	5,675	104	23	12	5,744	22
Longford County	2,205	49	31	0	2,223	0
Louth County	4,119	155	20	0	4,254	2
Mayo County	2,325	79	13	0	2,391	0
Meath County	3,814	190	4	0	4,000	0
Monaghan County	1,761	34	7	0	1,788	0
Offaly County	2,010	75	0	0	2,085	0
Roscommon County	1,404	49	8	0	1,445	0
Sligo County	2,188	95	8	0	2,275	10
South Dublin County	9,753	245	10	0	9,988	0
Tipperary County	5,328	195	22	2	5,499	0

Authority	A. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 1/1/2023	B. Number of dwellings added to the local authority owned stock during 2023(whether constructed or acquired)	C. Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in 2023	D. Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in 2023	E. Number of dwellings in the ownership of the local authority at 31/12/2023	F. Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under a DHLGH approved scheme
Waterford City and County	5,479	150	23	0	5,606	0
Westmeath County	2,165	113	3	0	2,275	0
Wexford County	4,791	77	13	4	4,851	1
Wicklow County	5,048	111	12	2	5,145	0
Totals	**146,429**	**4,382**	**476**	**111**	**150,224**	**794**

H2: Housing Vacancies

Authority	A. The percentage of the total number of LA owned dwellings that were vacant on 31/12/2023
Carlow County	0.94
Cavan County	3.95
Clare County	2.59
Cork City	3.36
Cork County	5.38
Donegal County	2.51
Dublin City	2.60
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	2.88
Fingal County	1.99
Galway City	2.72
Galway County	6.12
Kerry County	4.32
Kildare County	2.59
Kilkenny County	3.46
Laois County	2.01
Leitrim County	2.38
Limerick City and County	4.04
Longford County	3.82
Louth County	2.70
Mayo County	2.63
Meath County	2.65
Monaghan County	1.06
Offaly County	2.49
Roscommon County	2.01
Sligo County	1.41
South Dublin County	2.32
Tipperary County	1.80
Waterford City and County	1.69
Westmeath County	1.32
Wexford County	1.28
Wicklow County	2.84

H3: Average Re-letting Time and Cost

Authority	A. Time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in 2023 when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during 2023 (weeks)	B. Cost expended on getting the dwellings re-tenanted in 2023 averaged across all dwellings re-let in 2023 (€)
Carlow County	18.37	€17,739.67
Cavan County	43.82	€22,469.07
Clare County	36.66	€26,625.37
Cork City	32.49	€18,647.93
Cork County	51.97	€36,736.57
Donegal County	36.75	€21,507.05
Dublin City	22.23	€33,918.95
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	23.32	€23,312.89
Fingal County	29.14	€20,218.20
Galway City	49.61	€41,264.84
Galway County	52.93	€19,187.68
Kerry County	65.45	€21,832.34
Kildare County	50.61	€48,423.42
Kilkenny County	37.10	€23,991.95
Laois County	13.27	€13,415.98
Leitrim County	25.11	€22,426.03
Limerick City and County	61.76	€57,506.79
Longford County	58.71	€46,913.28
Louth County	34.51	€19,272.93
Mayo County	37.57	€11,630.70
Meath County	33.67	€2,2260.43
Monaghan County	15.33	€28,144.87
Offaly County	42.00	€36,025.79
Roscommon County	18.38	€14,134.07
Sligo County	16.42	€29,298.01
South Dublin County	26.14	€28,494.69
Tipperary County	34.87	€30,559.21
Waterford City and County	29.73	€16,687.06
Westmeath County	34.39	€15,713.76
Wexford County	24.56	€14,103.36
Wicklow County	48.64	€32,562.47

H4: Housing Maintenance Cost

Authority	A. Expenditure during 2023 on the maintenance of LA housing compiled from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023, divided by the number of dwellings in the LA stock at 31/12/2023, i.e. H1E less H1F indicator figure
Carlow County	€521.19
Cavan County	€674.65
Clare County	€1,539.67
Cork City	€1,480.52
Cork County	€679.91
Donegal County	€1,829.16
Dublin City	€2,531.65
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	€2,385.57
Fingal County	€1,562.61
Galway City	€1,875.06
Galway County	€1,929.25
Kerry County	€656.30
Kildare County	€1,116.69
Kilkenny County	€1,781.46
Laois County	€908.33
Leitrim County	€1,678.73
Limerick City and County	€1,555.79
Longford County	€1,079.03
Louth County	€807.71
Mayo County	€775.63
Meath County	€816.14
Monaghan County	€1,735.66
Offaly County	€685.08
Roscommon County	€1,058.00
Sligo County	€850.98
South Dublin County	€1,475.32
Tipperary County	€665.22
Waterford City and County	€874.40
Westmeath County	€1,064.09
Wexford County	€1,514.78
Wicklow County	€1,603.00

H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections

Authority	A. Total number of registered tenancies in the local authority area at the end June 2023	B. Number of rented dwellings inspected in 2023	C. Percentage of inspected dwellings in 2023 not compliant with the Standards Regulations	D. Number of dwellings deemed compliant in 2023 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)	E. The number of inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2023
Carlow County	3,190	219	97.06	30	223
Cavan County	2,529	217	75.66	77	232
Clare County	4,818	1,000	91.07	186	1,105
Cork City	22,348	9,095	94.82	2,289	13,601
Cork County	12,291	1,901	94.32	196	2,055
Donegal County	5,209	1,571	95.65	384	1,669
Dublin City	69,993	5,608	70.07	3,235	6,611
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	19,587	2,827	85.57	709	3,932
Fingal County	17,846	5,475	92.35	1,653	6,796
Galway City	11,785	337	95.71	17	337
Galway County	5,499	1,575	100.00	127	1,927
Kerry County	6,500	920	98.75	130	1,108
Kildare County	11,339	878	96.32	69	896
Kilkenny County	3,736	799	95.89	65	831
Laois County	3,353	850	92.24	150	976
Leitrim County	1,172	377	90.71	94	411
Limerick City and County	14,353	1,235	80.57	248	1,625
Longford County	1,975	458	91.69	125	545
Louth County	6,476	520	100.00	74	594
Mayo County	5,318	181	93.50	91	280
Meath County	6,962	3,150	83.87	910	4,786
Monaghan County	2,093	404	78.01	181	404
Offaly County	2,635	458	98.08	49	521
Roscommon County	2,195	535	69.91	276	839
Sligo County	4,689	894	99.82	175	1,016
South Dublin County	14,592	2,732	72.51	1,107	3,139
Tipperary County	5,997	1,132	97.48	85	1,312
Waterford City and County	6,685	2,300	96.95	164	2,379
Westmeath County	4,577	818	92.35	293	1,092
Wexford County	5,936	1,645	91.38	193	1,753
Wicklow County	5,158	325	99.70	146	572
Totals	**290,836**	**50,436**		**13,528**	**63,567**

H6: Long-term Homeless Adults

Authority	A. Number of adults in emergency accommodation that are long-term homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adults in emergency accommodation at end of 2023
Carlow County	30.00
Cavan County	28.57
Clare County	36.59
Cork City	56.78
Cork County	64.54
Donegal County	36.17
Dublin City	60.56
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	0.00
Fingal County	0.00
Galway City	41.48
Galway County	57.63
Kerry County	57.14
Kildare County	56.83
Kilkenny County	53.66
Laois County	36.84
Leitrim County	46.15
Limerick City and County	44.08
Longford County	81.25
Louth County	40.62
Mayo County	52.22
Meath County	53.88
Monaghan County	0.00
Offaly County	85.71
Roscommon County	0.00
Sligo County	38.67
South Dublin County	0.00
Tipperary County	28.57
Waterford City and County	57.65
Westmeath County	36.92
Wexford County	48.08
Wicklow County	92.86

NOTE: Dublin City manages homelessness responses on behalf of the Dublin authorities, so Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin are included under Dublin City.

H7: Social Housing Retrofit

Authority	A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	A. (2) The number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	A. (3) The number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023
Carlow County	106	105	103	1,473.8	422.4
Cavan County	45	45	45	755.8	262.8
Clare County	43	43	43	692.7	214.4
Cork City	53	45	38	630.8	148.8
Cork County	187	186	187	2,139	622.1
Donegal County	222	222	222	3,009.2	985.4
Dublin City	259	185	145	4,277	913.4
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	94	94	94	719.9	160.6
Fingal County	96	96	37	779.7	176.6
Galway City	33	33	32	708.7	228.1
Galway County	53	49	53	721.9	198.6
Kerry County	11	11	11	222.2	64.5
Kildare County	38	35	30	359.5	91.8
Kilkenny County	35	35	35	605.8	195.6
Laois County	104	104	104	2,280.1	779.9
Leitrim County	20	19	20	231.2	75.3
Limerick City and County	54	54	54	858.1	237.1
Longford County	51	51	50	796.9	203.6
Louth County	205	205	205	2,545.8	629.1
Mayo County	19	19	19	241.3	74.9
Meath County	23	23	22	318.5	95.5
Monaghan County	92	92	92	1,275.8	400.2
Offaly County	12	12	12	342.9	120.7
Roscommon County	38	38	37	515.3	158.7
Sligo County	36	36	36	525.6	150.3
South Dublin County	0	0	0	0	0
Tipperary County	55	55	55	860.3	201.1
Waterford City and County	111	111	111	1,706.2	523.1
Westmeath County	109	109	107	2,256.3	801.7
Wexford County	147	139	147	2,359.7	882.9
Wicklow County	94	64	54	1,453.4	357.1
Totals	**2,445**	**2,315**	**2,200**	**35,663.4**	**10,376.3**

Housing Statistics

H1 & H2: Social Housing Stock

Social Housing Stock (H1)

H1 A. Dwellings in LA Ownership 01/01/2022		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	4,724
	Median	3,814
H1 B. Dwellings added to LA stock		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	141
	Median	95
H1 C. LA owned dwellings sold		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	15
	Median	10
H1 D. LA dwellings demolished in 2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	4
	Median	0
H1 E. Dwellings in LA ownership 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	4,846
	Median	4,000
H1 F. LA dwellings planned for demolition		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	26
	Median	0

Summary Statistics 2015-2023 (H1 E)

Total No. of Dwellings in Local Authority Stock 31/12/2023		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Average	Mean	4,189.03	5,660.71	4,303.03	4,350.97	4,480.81	4,552.52	4,563.97	4,723.81	4,845.94
	Median	3,132.00	4,143.00	3,006.00	3,116.00	3,402.00	3,563.00	3,633.00	3,814.00	4,000.00

Housing Vacancies (H2)

H2 A. Percentage of dwellings vacant 31/12/2023		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	2.81%

H3 & H4: Average Re-Letting Time & Stock; Housing Maintenance Cost

Summary Statistics 2015-2023 (H3 A)

Total No. of Dwellings in Local Authority Stock 31/12/2023		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	True national mean			28.99	27.75	28.17	32.69	34.44	35.22	33.72

Average Re-letting Time, Cost & Maintenance (H3-H4)

H3 A. Re-letting Time (Weeks)		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national mean	33.72
H3 B. Re-Let Cost Average (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national mean	28,347.05
H4 A. Maintenance Cost by Unit (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national mean	1,493.19

H5 & H6: Private Rented Sector Inspections; Long-term Homeless Adults

Summary Statistics 2015-2023

H5 A. Total No. of Registered Tenancies		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average	Mean	9,959.00	10,041.77	10,554.42	10,394.52	10,457.68	10,793.16	-	-	9,381.81
	Median	6,583.00	6,685.00	7,132.00	6,920.00	6,862.00	7,036.00	-	-	5,499.00
H5 B. No. of Inspections Carried out		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Average	Mean	561.61	438.81	523.55	768.52	1,038.58	726.35	567.55	1,299.42	1,626.97
	Median	379.00	314.00	496.00	622.00	712.00	473.00	334.00	701.00	894.00

Private Rented Sector Inspections

H5 A. Total No. of Registered Tenancies		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	9,381.81
	Median	5,499.00
H5 B. Number of Rented Dwellings Inspected		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	1,626.97
	Median	894.00
H5 C. % of Inspected Dwellings Not Compliant		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	88.88%
H5 D. Number of Dwellings Deemed Compliant in 2023 (including those originally deemed non-compliant)		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	436.39
	Median	164.00
H5 E. The Number of Inspections (including reinspections) undertaken by the local authority in 2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	2,050.55
	Median	1,092.00
H6 A. Long Term Homeless as % of Total No of Homeless Adults		**2023**
N	Valid	28
	Not Applicable	3
	True national %	57.61%

H7 Social Housing Retrofit Summary Statistics

A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023		2023
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	78.87
	Median	53.00
A. (2) The number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	74.68
	Median	51.00
A. (3) The number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	70.97
	Median	50.00
B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	1,150.43
	Median	755.80
C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	334.72
	Median	203.60

Section 2 - Roads

R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - A

Authority	A (a): % Regional Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 24 month period to 31/12/2023	A (b): % Local Primary Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 24 month period to 31/12/2023	A (c): % Local Secondary Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 24 month period to 31/12/2023	A (d): % Local Tertiary Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 60 month period to 31/12/2023
Carlow County	96.80	98.38	98.98	95.41
Cavan County	84.41	74.76	78.31	70.02
Clare County	80.81	81.09	82.88	87.44
Cork City	98.32	99.21	98.83	97.02
Cork County	96.85	97.99	95.24	79.00
Donegal County	99.68	96.48	91.2	70.13
Dublin City	93.24	94.65	85.11	90.37
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	29.37	27.27	31.25	75.22
Fingal County	7.10	5.33	8.58	92.11
Galway City	96.06	98.36	95.82	98.22
Galway County	99.28	98.60	97.17	87.34
Kerry County	97.96	98.06	96.90	89.18
Kildare County	74.11	73.70	80.53	79.77
Kilkenny County	99.90	99.95	97.15	71.20
Laois County	98.23	97.89	97.85	93.16
Leitrim County	95.93	97.62	97.50	96.06
Limerick City and County	97.27	97.13	97.41	91.32
Longford County	98.56	95.37	95.27	95.93
*Louth County	97.59	96.38	95.89	14.79
Mayo County	82.93	80.73	75.70	74.84
Meath County	99.17	99.53	99.20	95.75
Monaghan County	99.77	98.66	98.10	96.78
Offaly County	80.69	63.69	57.89	61.65
Roscommon County	98.24	99.00	97.05	74.09
Sligo County	98.54	98.41	95.72	78.45
South Dublin County	44.06	47.91	50.27	69.58
Tipperary County	98.75	99.00	95.70	89.35
Waterford City and County	95.99	83.97	69.66	85.82
Westmeath County	99.40	98.37	97.31	90.30
Wexford County	97.20	97.34	96.38	94.40
Wicklow County	99.33	99.55	99.73	94.70

**The RMO conducted an audit on Louth's R1 data, any revision to reported figures was not available at the time of publication.*

R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - B - Regional

Authority	B (a): % length of Regional Roads with a PSCI Rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (a): % length of Regional Roads with a PSCI Rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (a): % length of Regional Roads with a PSCI Rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (a): % length of Regional Roads with a PSCI Rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023
Carlow County	0.08	4.37	64.58	27.78
Cavan County	0.02	11.19	29.02	44.19
Clare County	2.39	9.06	43.65	25.70
Cork City	3.09	8.09	39.61	47.53
Cork County	4.51	5.70	43.33	43.32
Donegal County	1.41	23.57	43.32	31.38
Dublin City	9.54	17.85	51.67	14.19
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	1.30	2.52	14.76	10.79
Fingal County	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.10
Galway City	0.09	4.62	46.72	44.62
Galway County	1.88	8.23	20.84	68.32
Kerry County	1.22	11.59	49.49	35.66
Kildare County	0.20	9.85	32.32	31.74
Kilkenny County	2.79	2.50	64.72	29.89
Laois County	5.22	9.28	45.84	37.90
Leitrim County	0.21	10.14	33.44	52.14
Limerick City and County	3.46	3.90	39.85	50.05
Longford County	0.03	3.09	51.46	43.97
*Louth County	2.55	7.44	46.69	40.91
Mayo County	0.86	15.59	36.74	29.73
Meath County	1.77	5.72	46.90	44.78
Monaghan County	10.01	15.91	30.61	43.24
Offaly County	2.21	13.36	33.34	31.79
Roscommon County	1.77	12.83	34.91	48.74
Sligo County	2.64	9.81	42.05	44.05
South Dublin County	0.20	5.54	22.46	15.86
Tipperary County	2.47	8.68	32.58	55.02
Waterford City and County	0.07	14.66	62.96	18.29
Westmeath County	0.24	5.10	33.50	60.56
Wexford County	7.57	14.32	41.68	33.63
Wicklow County	0.39	10.15	41.88	46.92

**The RMO conducted an audit on Louth's R1 data, any revision to reported figures was not available at the time of publication.*

R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - B - Local Primary

Authority	B (b): % length of Local Primary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (b): % length of Local Primary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (b): % length of Local Primary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (b): % length of Local Primary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023
Carlow County	0.68	14.10	68.25	15.34
Cavan County	0.52	20.02	29.68	24.57
Clare County	3.35	14.98	43.99	18.86
Cork City	4.28	10.95	45.1	38.88
Cork County	14.99	7.28	58.59	17.14
Donegal County	2.33	19.45	45.33	29.36
Dublin City	18.63	27.45	40.37	8.21
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	2.44	4.83	9.59	10.41
Fingal County	0.05	0.00	0.00	5.28
Galway City	1.89	25.33	48.30	22.84
Galway County	4.76	4.84	64.08	24.92
Kerry County	2.71	12.38	46.67	36.30
Kildare County	1.01	10.64	36.44	25.61
Kilkenny County	5.66	4.84	64.65	24.80
Laois County	14.76	16.87	45.08	21.18
Leitrim County	0.25	13.58	45.00	38.79
Limerick City and County	2.96	6.54	46.81	40.82
Longford County	0.10	5.94	39.02	50.32
*Louth County	6.70	5.28	57.11	27.30
Mayo County	2.30	16.15	29.04	33.24
Meath County	3.80	5.79	44.68	45.26
Monaghan County	11.62	15.28	37.39	34.37
Offaly County	4.34	13.96	21.12	24.29
Roscommon County	2.19	39.03	36.73	21.05
Sligo County	8.27	12.17	47.4	30.58
South Dublin County	0.91	7.33	20.34	19.32
Tipperary County	4.48	10.23	25.61	58.67
Waterford City and County	0.71	22.95	47.24	13.07
Westmeath County	0.28	10.85	53.94	33.3
Wexford County	20.09	16.34	29.91	310
Wicklow County	0.39	16.22	42.29	40.65

**The RMO conducted an audit on Louth's R1 data, any revision to reported figures was not available at the time of publication.*

R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - C - Local Secondary

Authority	B (c): % length of Local Secondary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (c): % length of Local Secondary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (c): % length of Local Secondary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (c): % length of Local Secondary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023
Carlow County	5.19	21.51	55.75	16.54
Cavan County	1.68	26.87	30.89	18.87
Clare County	7.14	20.21	42.18	13.4
Cork City	3.13	15.62	49.51	30.57
Cork County	15.58	10.24	50.55	18.90
Donegal County	4.37	21.48	42.87	22.47
Dublin City	7.58	32.29	43.69	1.55
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	2.19	11.78	8.55	8.73
Fingal County	0.00	0.00	0.07	8.51
Galway City	2.37	20.80	49.89	22.77
Galway County	13.66	7.55	45.76	30.20
Kerry County	7.50	19.09	43.81	26.50
Kildare County	3.06	19.73	29.74	28.00
Kilkenny County	7.87	10.73	58.85	19.69
Laois County	19.89	18.33	45.27	14.36
Leitrim County	0.91	24.09	37.54	34.97
Limerick City and County	4.16	10.67	48.13	34.45
Longford County	0.42	10.24	37.23	47.38
*Louth County	11.14	4.87	54.55	25.33
Mayo County	1.74	12.42	34.35	27.19
Meath County	5.48	8.34	49.71	35.68
Monaghan County	16.20	14.52	35.71	31.67
Offaly County	3.90	12.74	22.14	19.12
Roscommon County	5.49	40.01	34.64	16.95
Sligo County	14.32	11.61	50.50	19.29
South Dublin County	3.62	16.94	17.65	12.06
Tipperary County	11.11	12.42	44.29	27.87
Waterford City and County	2.48	25.99	33.09	8.10
Westmeath County	1.54	13.61	42.93	39.24
Wexford County	37.03	14.46	21.44	23.57
Wicklow County	5.75	24.66	35.77	33.54

**The RMO conducted an audit on Louth's R1 data, any revision to reported figures was not available at the time of publication.*

R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - D - Local Tertiary

Authority	B (d): % length of Local Tertiary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 1-4 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (d): % length of Local Tertiary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 5-6 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (d): % length of Local Tertiary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 7-8 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023	B (d): % length of Local Tertiary Roads with a PSCI Rating of 9-10 in the 24 month period prior to 31/12/2023
Carlow County	12.41	19.52	53.26	10.21
Cavan County	7.03	27.13	22.78	13.07
Clare County	27.98	21.49	27.65	10.31
Cork City	4.19	21.41	48.98	22.45
Cork County	24.42	27.64	19.55	7.39
Donegal County	13.39	12.30	24.14	20.31
Dublin City	17.81	34.29	26.93	11.36
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	4.65	28.00	33.32	9.25
Fingal County	4.52	25.74	50.26	11.59
Galway City	3.80	30.28	48.18	15.96
Galway County	16.41	4.64	43.82	22.47
Kerry County	13.69	22.37	27.64	25.48
Kildare County	4.47	15.03	28.07	32.21
Kilkenny County	13.38	11.54	37.66	8.62
Laois County	13.38	21.74	38.11	19.93
Leitrim County	11.74	34.43	27.04	22.84
Limerick City and County	14.69	17.91	34.80	23.92
Longford County	4.44	11.20	29.07	51.21
*Louth County	1.31	1.72	3.95	7.82
Mayo County	7.85	13.42	27.14	26.42
Meath County	12.59	11.81	43.87	27.48
Monaghan County	23.42	15.41	32.37	25.58
Offaly County	9.22	8.98	17.49	25.97
Roscommon County	12.06	32.09	11.97	17.97
Sligo County	18.80	8.74	31.79	19.13
South Dublin County	8.46	30.61	21.06	9.45
Tipperary County	30.53	10.90	35.70	12.22
Waterford City and County	19.20	16.47	31.52	18.63
Westmeath County	9.82	19.90	33.76	26.81
Wexford County	35.34	10.51	29.04	19.51
Wicklow County	6.04	15.89	47.64	25.13

**The RMO conducted an audit on Louth's R1 data, any revision to reported figures was not available at the time of publication.*

R2: Road Works - A

Authority	A: Kilometres of regional road strengthened during 2023	A: Amount expended on regional road strengthening during 2023 (€)	A. Average unit cost of regional road strengthening in 2023 (€/m2)
Carlow County	4.3	€871,899	€31.71
Cavan County	15.5	€3,587,804	€32.44
Clare County	14.5	€5,078,879	€53.15
Cork City	3.0	€1,773,381	€77.59
Cork County	40.0	€11,322,218	€41.83
Donegal County	32.2	€7,746,932	€35.37
Dublin City*	3.9	€1,904,864	€35.52
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown*	1.5	€753,044	€60.21
Fingal County*	15.9	€4,391,978	€29.62
Galway City	2.7	€792,591	€40.5
Galway County	24.1	€5,315,056	€31.31
Kerry County	11.5	€3,323,014	€42.62
Kildare County	25.6	€6,604,763	€32.95
Kilkenny County	13.3	€2,940,486	€32.79
Laois County	8.6	€3,246,901	€49.07
Leitrim County	16.1	€2,242,293	€20.65
Limerick City and County	15.8	€3,779,787	€31.65
Longford County	5.3	€991,807	€27.15
Louth County	6.2	€2,553,116	€43.81
Mayo County	19.8	€6,824,847	€53.74
Meath County	13.8	€5,543,957	€49.27
Monaghan County	9.6	€3,960,335	€57.37
Offaly County	18.2	€3,654,525	€29.13
Roscommon County	16.2	€3,889,511	€33.95
Sligo County	8.2	€2,302,264	€38.42
South Dublin County*	3.5	€874,373	€28.57
Tipperary County	30.0	€7,261,420	€34.83
Waterford City and County	13.5	€3,828,047	€44.98
Westmeath County	9.7	€1,866,761	€25.66
Wexford County	8.7	€2,228,162	€37.19
Wicklow County	8.7	€2,234,915	€37.08
TOTALS	**419.9**	**€113,689,930**	

*NOTE: *These local authorities did not receive grants from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Works were funded through their own resources.*

R2: Road Works - B

Authority	B: Kilometres of regional road resealed during 2023	B: Amount expended on regional road resealing during 2023 (€)	B. Average unit cost of regional road resealing in 2023 (€/m2)
Carlow County	9.7	€421,419	€6.54
Cavan County	27.5	€970,927	€5.26
Clare County	14.3	€595,452	€6.92
Cork City	0	€0	€0
Cork County	70.4	€2,659,017	€5.81
Donegal County	25.5	€884,657	€5.64
Dublin City*	0	€0	€0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown*	0	€0	€0
Fingal County*	0	€0	€0
Galway City	0	€0	€0
Galway County	43.6	€1,864,011	€6
Kerry County	12.2	€450,054	€6.04
Kildare County	8.8	€353,509	€5.31
Kilkenny County	18.8	€813,842	€6.97
Laois County	6.4	€552,169	€13.97
Leitrim County	6.5	€280,638	€6.52
Limerick City and County	30.4	€1,284,849	€6.71
Longford County	7.1	€238,945	€4.96
Louth County	26.7	€737,522	€3.94
Mayo County	11.8	€410,010	€5.68
Meath County	14.3	€555,927	€6.13
Monaghan County	10.8	€496,689	€6.9
Offaly County	13.8	€480,622	€5.63
Roscommon County	0	€0	€0
Sligo County	11.2	€362,927	€5.27
South Dublin County*	0	€0	€0
Tipperary County	19.8	€806,378	€6.48
Waterford City and County	20.3	€787,072	€5.38
Westmeath County	17.8	€526,250	€4.36
Wexford County	8.2	€253,923	€4.87
Wicklow County	28.3	€1,035,584	€5.98
TOTALS	**464.2**	**€17,822,393**	

*NOTE: *These local authorities did not receive grants from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport. Works were funded through their own resources.*

R2: Road Works - C

Authority	C: Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened during 2023	C: Amount expended on local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthening during 2023 (€)	C. Average unit cost of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strenghtening in 2023 (€/m2)
Carlow County	26.3	€2,984,512	€22.87
Cavan County	43.8	€6,927,623	€38.8
Clare County	88.9	9,337,855€	€26.96
Cork City	20.0	€7,303,370	€55.07
Cork County	267.4	€31,866,718	€26.69
Donegal County	183.1	€16,149,231	€19.59
Dublin City*	8.2	€4,878,680	€69.87
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown*	3.3	€2,007,568	€93.99
Fingal County*	18.9	€3,139,796	€31.23
Galway City	4.2	€1,213,981	€42.99
Galway County	218.7	€18,994,623	€20.93
Kerry County	108.2	€14,110,629	€31.84
Kildare County	50.3	€5,360,398	€21.56
Kilkenny County	63.0	€8,859,101	€32.04
Laois County	41.2	€5,389,187	€29.85
Leitrim County	81.1	€5,710,621	€22.47
Limerick City and County	78.2	€9,290,965	€26.32
Longford County	63.5	€4,699,192	€17.87
Louth County	10.4	€2,401,114	€40.62
Mayo County	116.1	€14,797,389	€30.12
Meath County	65.9	€12,892,043	4€0.61
Monaghan County	37.3	€7,094,920	€43.67
Offaly County	56.3	€4,515,402	€17.99
Roscommon County	138.9	€9,087,943	€17.1
Sligo County	61.5	€8,354,029	€32.6
South Dublin County*	13.8	€2,419,762	€25.39
Tipperary County	143.7	€15,856,311	€25.17
Waterford City and County	57.0	€9,646,026	€35.81
Westmeath County	79.2	€6,497,556	€21.8
Wexford County	105.0	€13,241,112	€25.61
Wicklow County	51.1	€5,837,721	€23.46
TOTALS	**2,304.5**	**€270,865,378**	

*NOTE: *These local authorities did not receive grants from the Department of Transport. Works were funded through their own resources.*

R2: Road Works - D

Authority	D: Kilometres of local road resealed during 2023	D: Amount expended on local road resealing during 2023 (€)	D. Average unit cost of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) resealing in 2023 (€/m2)
Carlow County	45.3	€1,228,327	6.74
Cavan County	65.3	€1,433,186	4.97
Clare County	122.8	€2,934,853	5.67
Cork City	0	€0	0
Cork County	334.2	€7,254,318	4.81
Donegal County	198.8	€4,510,060	5.43
Dublin City*	0	€0	0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown*	0	€0	0
Fingal County*	0	€0	0
Galway City	0	€0	0
Galway County	141.4	€3,467,425	5.64
Kerry County	151.1	€3,180,110	4.83
Kildare County	99.2	€2,798,468	5.65
Kilkenny County	55.6	€1,720,502	6.46
Laois County	41.2	€1,572,141	9.06
Leitrim County	71.8	€1,398,603	6.39
Limerick City and County	92.7	€2,748,122	6.36
Longford County	66.7	€1,187,597	4.36
Louth County	38.6	€1,618,827	7.13
Mayo County	227.9	€4,815,040	5.96
Meath County	110.1	€3,046,091	5.46
Monaghan County	66.1	€1,523,270	5.46
Offaly County	57.6	€1,224,113	4.65
Roscommon County	172.3	€2,913,972	4.51
Sligo County	89.5	€1,799,172	5.03
South Dublin County*	0	€0	0
Tipperary County	134.7	€3,988,208	6.06
Waterford City and County	50.8	€1,325,428	5.15
Westmeath County	95.6	€1,437,509	3.61
Wexford County	104.9	€2,687,078	5.04
Wicklow County	54.6	€1,381,741	5.23
TOTALS	**2,688.8**	**€63,194,161**	

*NOTE: *These local authorities did not receive grants from the Department of Transport. Works were funded through their own resources.*

R3: % Motor Tax Transactions Conducted Online

Authority	A: Percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued) in 2023
Carlow County	80.69%
Cavan County	83.87%
Clare County	81.94%
Cork City	0.00%
Cork County	90.03%
Donegal County	79.08%
Dublin City	93.55%
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	0.00%
Fingal County	0.00%
Galway City	0.00%
Galway County	83.62%
Kerry County	86.19%
Kildare County	90.65%
Kilkenny County	82.75%
Laois County	80.71%
Leitrim County	80.99%
Limerick City and County	81.38%
Longford County	77.89%
Louth County	82.63%
Mayo County	80.01%
Meath County	90.57%
Monaghan County	78.88%
Offaly County	81.47%
Roscommon County	73.91%
Sligo County	77.69%
South Dublin County	0.00%
Tipperary County	83.19%
Waterford City and County	82.55%
Westmeath County	76.70%
Wexford County	83.18%
Wicklow County	87.79%

Dublin figures are provided by DCC.
Cork figures are provided by Cork County.
Galway figures are provided by Galway County.

Summary Statistics 2015-2023 (R3 A)

R3 A. The percentage of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online in year		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26	26
	N/A	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
	Median	**56.6**	**63.87**	**65.94**	**69.15**	**70.21**	**81.52**	**86.18**	**81.1**	**81.38**

Roads Statistics

R1: PSCI

Summary Statistics for overall PSCI Condition surveyed (R1 A)

%Local Regional Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 24 month period to 31/12/2023		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	98
	Median	74
%Local Primary Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 24 month period to 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	97
	Median	95
%Local Secondary Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 24 month period to 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	98
	Median	58
%Local Tertiary Road that received a PSCI Rating in the 60 month period to 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	89
	Median	86

Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index - Regional Roads - R1 B (a)

PSCI Rating 1-4		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	2.26
	Median	1.77
PSCI Rating 5-6		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	9.18
	Median	9.06
PSCI Rating 7-8		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	39.38
	Median	41.68
PSCI Rating 9-10		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	37.41
	Median	40.91

Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index - Local Primary Roads - R1 B (b)

PSCI Rating 1-4		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	4.76
	Median	2.71
PSCI Rating 5-6		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	13.28
	Median	12.38
PSCI Rating 7-8		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	40.96
	Median	44.68
PSCI Rating 9-10		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	27.93
	Median	25.61

Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index -Local Secondary Roads - R1 B (c)

PSCI Rating 1-4		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	7.31
	Median	5.19
PSCI Rating 5-6		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	17
	Median	15
PSCI Rating 7-8		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	38.61
	Median	42.87
PSCI Rating 9-10		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	23.14
	Median	22.77

Ratings in Pavement Surface Condition Index -Local Tertiary Roads - R1 B (d)

PSCI Rating 1-4		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	13.13
	Median	12.41
PSCI Rating 5-6		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	18.81
	Median	17.91
PSCI Rating 7-8		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	31.89
	Median	31.52
PSCI Rating 9-10		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	19.38
	Median	19.51

R2: Road Works

Summary Statistics for Regional Road Works (R2 A - R2 B)

Kilometres of regional road strengthened*		2023
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	13.5
	Median	13.3
Amount expended on regional road strengthening (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	3,667,417
	Median	3,323,014
Average unit cost of regional road strengthening (€/m2)		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	Mean	39
	Median	36
Kilometres of regional road resealed*		**2023**
N	Valid	24
	N/A	7
Average	Mean	19.3
	Median	14.3

Amount expended on regional road resealing (€)		2023
N	Valid	24
	N/A	7
Average	Mean	742,600
	Median	554,048
Average unit cost of regional road resealing (€/m2)		**2023**
N	Valid	24
	N/A	7
Average	Mean	6.1
	Median	5.9

NOTE: Cork City Council, Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council and Galway City Council did not receive grants from the Department of Transport. Works were funded through their own resources.

Summary Statistics for Local Road Works (R2 C - R2 D)

Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	74.3
	Median	61.5
Amount expended on local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthening (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	8,737,593
	Median	7,094,920
Average unit cost of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthening (€/m2)		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	32.6
	Median	27
Kilometres of local road resealed*		**2023**
N	Valid	26
	N/A	5
Average	Mean	107.6
	Median	92.7
Amount expended on local road resealing (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	26
	N/A	5
Average	Mean	2,527,766
	Median	1,799,172
Average unit cost of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) resealing (€/m2)		**2023**
N	Valid	26
	N/A	5
Average	Mean	5.6
	Median	5.5

NOTE: Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council and Galway City Council did not receive grants from the Department of Transport. Works were funded through their own resources.

Section 3 - Water

W1: % Drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements

Authority	% of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements
Carlow County	97.57%
Cavan County	96.98%
Clare County	97.64%
Cork City	99.29%
Cork County	94.38%
Donegal County	96.05%
Dublin City	0.00%
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	100.00%
Fingal County	99.30%
Galway City	0.00%
Galway County	97.67%
Kerry County	96.75%
Kildare County	98.09%
Kilkenny County	96.78%
Laois County	97.63%
Leitrim County	97.76%
Limerick City and County	99.51%
Longford County	98.11%
Louth County	98.29%
Mayo County	98.53%
Meath County	97.75%
Monaghan County	98.87%
Offaly County	99.53%
Roscommon County	98.97%
Sligo County	98.34%
South Dublin County	98.35%
Tipperary County	99.24%
Waterford City and County	91.45%
Westmeath County	98.61%
Wexford County	95.54%
Wicklow County	96.76%

W2: Percentage of registered schemes monitored

Authority	% of registered schemes monitored
Carlow County	100.00%
Cavan County	100.00%
Clare County	21.43%
Cork City	100.00%
Cork County	46.99%
Donegal County	100.00%
Dublin City	0.00%
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	100.00%
Fingal County	0.00%
Galway City	0.00%
Galway County	98.10%
Kerry County	99.17%
Kildare County	87.50%
Kilkenny County	100.00%
Laois County	100.00%
Leitrim County	100.00%
Limerick City and County	99.07%
Longford County	100.00%
Louth County	100.00%
Mayo County	100.00%
Meath County	100.00%
Monaghan County	100.00%
Offaly County	100.00%
Roscommon County	100.00%
Sligo County	100.00%
South Dublin County	100.00%
Tipperary County	95.65%
Waterford City and County	100.00%
Westmeath County	100.00%
Wexford County	98.77%
Wicklow County	100.00%

Water Statistics

W1: Percentage of Drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements

		2023
N	Valid	29
	Not applicable	2
	True national %	**98.63%**

W2: Percentage of registered schemes monitored

		2023
N	Valid	29
	Not applicable	2
	True national %	**83.45%**

Section 4 - Waste / Environment

E1: Number/percentage of households availing of a 3 bin service

Authority	A. Number of households, which are situated in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3 bin service at 31/12/2023	B. The percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations > 500)
Carlow County	10,639	98.89
Cavan County	6,019	60.99
Clare County	34,303	201.89
Cork City	56,951	88.46
Cork County	54,347	99.92
Donegal County	17,668	95.42
Dublin City	127,952	78.27
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	62,737	85.43
Fingal County	91,904	91.73
Galway City	29,468	100.53
Galway County	20,639	97.86
Kerry County	29,619	183.24
Kildare County	57,857	97.64
Kilkenny County	12,153	102.07
Laois County	13,889	86.02
Leitrim County	8,870	96.58
Limerick City and County	59,684	134.81
Longford County	4,902	87.33
Louth County	25,695	81.63
Mayo County	12,058	88.51
Meath County	40,800	90.38
Monaghan County	5,202	83.11
Offaly County	7,601	67.96
Roscommon County	6,546	85.97
Sligo County	10,576	94.35
South Dublin County	82,827	82.64
Tipperary County	28,146	123.50
Waterford City and County	30,274	112.84
Westmeath County	11,155	72.69
Wexford County	21,012	87.54
Wicklow County	31,172	88.95
Totals	**1,012,665**	

E2: Percentage of environmental pollution complaints closed

Authority	A. Total number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made during 2023	A. Number of pollution cases closed from 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023	A. Total number of pollution cases on hand at 31/12/2023
Carlow County	662	647	32
Cavan County	410	393	64
Clare County	1,060	889	200
Cork City	2,955	2,944	93
Cork County	2,083	2,008	516
Donegal County	1,872	1,865	111
Dublin City	24,414	24,552	548
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	2,435	2,390	105
Fingal County	1,574	1,551	73
Galway City	1,335	1,307	45
Galway County	1,154	1,868	619
Kerry County	1,205	1,358	286
Kildare County	1,439	1,684	66
Kilkenny County	938	970	92
Laois County	835	853	38
Leitrim County	289	255	63
Limerick City and County	3,856	3,343	844
Longford County	1,578	1,533	111
Louth County	1,611	1,497	137
Mayo County	892	891	403
Meath County	2,312	2,325	57
Monaghan County	501	502	52
Offaly County	783	719	80
Roscommon County	715	716	186
Sligo County	976	963	51
South Dublin County	3,456	3,394	561
Tipperary County	1,197	1,143	121
Waterford City and County	3,011	3,045	28
Westmeath County	765	984	152
Wexford County	2,879	2,688	1,117
Wicklow County	1,392	1,486	449
Totals	**70,584**	**70,763**	**7,300**

E3: Percentage of local authority area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

Authority	% Area Unpolluted or Litter Free	% Area Slightly Polluted	% Area Moderately Polluted	% Area Significantly Polluted	% Area Grossly Polluted
Carlow County	41	59	0	0	0
Cavan County	31	69	0	0	0
Clare County	26	70	4	0	0
Cork City	14	76	10	0	0
Cork County	35	34	28	1	2
Donegal County	13	77	7	2	0
Dublin City	13	57	24	6	0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	13	53	25	8	1
Fingal County	22	41	37	0	0
Galway City	8	68	18	5	1
Galway County	16	56	19	7	2
Kerry County	28	69	4	0	0
Kildare County	75	25	0	0	0
Kilkenny County	0	0	0	0	0
Laois County	20	78	2	0	0
Leitrim County	2	90	8	0	0
Limerick City and County	2	84	14	0	0
Longford County	21	64	12	3	0
Louth County	2	65	18	15	0
Mayo County	66	32	2	0	0
Meath County	10	43	30	13	4
Monaghan County	0	0	13	87	1
Offaly County	4	44	48	3	1
Roscommon County	29	56	12	1	1
Sligo County	45	51	4	0	0
South Dublin County	4	61	31	4	0
Tipperary County	3	82	14	1	0
Waterford City and County	16	65	17	2	1
Westmeath County	33	51	9	6	1
Wexford County	50	50	0	0	0
Wicklow County	13	67	15	4	1

NOTE: The % figures above are rounded.

E4: Percentage of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status

Authority	A. Percentage of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31/12/2023
Carlow County	38
Cavan County	29
Clare County	31
Cork City	45
Cork County	33
Donegal County	37
Dublin City	31
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	53
Fingal County	38
Galway City	51
Galway County	33
Kerry County	42
Kildare County	26
Kilkenny County	43
Laois County	37
Leitrim County	20
Limerick City and County	32
Longford County	60
Louth County	33
Mayo County	27
Meath County	35
Monaghan County	24
Offaly County	31
Roscommon County	42
Sligo County	38
South Dublin County	31
Tipperary County	36
Waterford City and County	43
Westmeath County	27
Wexford County	43
Wicklow County	34

E5: Energy efficiency performance

Authority	A. Cumulative percentage energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009)
Carlow County	-41.20
Cavan County	-28.30
Clare County	-38.30
Cork City	-59.80
Cork County	-25.70
Donegal County	-36.30
Dublin City	-45.00
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	-51.40
Fingal County	-54.80
Galway City	-35.70
Galway County	-42.80
Kerry County	-48.00
Kildare County	-34.60
Kilkenny County	-43.20
Laois County	-51.20
Leitrim County	-6.10
Limerick City and County	-47.00
Longford County	-14.20
Louth County	-56.80
Mayo County	-41.20
Meath County	-31.20
Monaghan County	-50.90
Offaly County	-38.40
Roscommon County	-46.20
Sligo County	-12.30
South Dublin County	-45.20
Tipperary County	-46.10
Waterford City and County	-27.00
Westmeath County	-33.10
Wexford County	-42.20
Wicklow County	-28.20

E6: Public Lighting

Authority	A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system	B. Average wattage of the public lighting system	C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent
Carlow County	2,355	86.93	42.98
Cavan County	1,993	71.52	77.43
Clare County	3,716	72.78	69.43
Cork City	8,340	72.57	58.90
Cork County	14,210	99.42	24.50
Donegal County	4,483	56.45	78.78
Dublin City	19,186	96.11	23.50
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	8,955	70.18	87.00
Fingal County	5,012	39.00	99.88
Galway City	2,163	59.96	97.04
Galway County	3,687	76.21	61.86
Kerry County	5,127	90.84	43.82
Kildare County	6,428	68.55	62.15
Kilkenny County	3,484	71.57	61.38
Laois County	2,623	68.74	68.98
Leitrim County	1,660	88.48	52.61
Limerick City and County	7,427	76.73	68.81
Longford County	1,563	68.00	79.00
Louth County	5,292	91.81	59.71
Mayo County	6,296	90.33	42.59
Meath County	7,197	89.42	41.63
Monaghan County	1,048	45.09	99.67
Offaly County	3,307	85.70	44.06
Roscommon County	2,223	75.82	65.05
Sligo County	3,042	88.00	51.27
South Dublin County	9,410	68.98	64.12
Tipperary County	6,966	96.28	35.50
Waterford City and County	7,593	99.72	11.62
Westmeath County	3,310	79.10	64.16
Wexford County	2,631	46.12	92.59
Wicklow County	4,562	72.76	64.62
TOTALS	**165,289**	**2,363.17**	
National %			**58.06**

E7: Climate Change

Authority	1 a) Does the local authority have designated (FTE) climate action resources under the following headings?		2) Does the local authority have a climate action team?
	Climate Action Coordinator	Climate Action Officer	
Carlow County	Yes	No	Yes
Cavan County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Clare County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cork City	Yes	Yes	Yes
Cork County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Donegal County	Yes	Yes	Work in Progress
Dublin City	Yes	No	Work in Progress
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	Yes	Yes	Work in Progress
Fingal County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Galway City	Yes	Yes	Yes
Galway County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kerry County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kildare County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Kilkenny County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Laois County	Yes	No	Yes
Leitrim County	Yes	Yes	No
Limerick City and County	Yes	No	Work in Progress
Longford County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Louth County	Yes	No	Yes
Mayo County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Meath County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Monaghan County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Offaly County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Roscommon County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sligo County	No	Yes	Work in Progress
South Dublin County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tipperary County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Waterford City and County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Westmeath County	Yes	No	Yes
Wexford County	Yes	Yes	Yes
Wicklow County	Yes	Yes	No

Waste Environment

E1: Households availing of a 3 Bin Service

Households availing of a 3 Bin Service		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Mean	32,667
	Median	25,695
% of Households availing of a 3 Bin Service		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	**94.13**

% of Households availing of a 3 Bin Service		2023
N	Minimum	60.99
	Maximum	201.89

E2: Environmental Pollution Cases

No. of Pollution Cases Subject of a Complaint		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	2,277
	Median	1,335
No. of Pollution Cases Closed		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	2,283
	Median	1,486
No. of Pollution Cases on Hand at 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	235
	Median	111

E3: Percentage Area within the Five Levels of Litter Pollution

Unpolluted or Litter Free		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid	31	29	30	31	31	30	31	31	30
	Missing	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Median	14	13	11	19	15	22	22	20	16
Slightly polluted		**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
N	Valid	31	29	30	31	31	30	31	31	30
	Missing	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Median	66	72	70	63	66	62	64	56	59
Moderately polluted		**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
N	Valid	31	29	30	31	31	30	31	31	30
	Missing	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Median	15	14	16	15	15	17	13	13	12
Significantly polluted		**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
N	Valid	31	29	30	31	31	30	31	31	30
	Missing	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Median	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
Grossly polluted		**2015**	**2016**	**2017**	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**	**2021**	**2022**	**2023**
N	Valid	31	29	30	31	31	30	31	31	30
	Missing	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
	Median	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

E4: % of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status

A. % of schools that have been awarded/renewed green flag status in the two years to 31/12/2023		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	35.09

E5: Energy Efficiency Performance

A. Cumulative % energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009)		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Minimum	-59.80
	Maximum	-6.10
	Average %	-38.79

E6: Public Lighting

A. Total annual consumption of the public lighting system		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	5,332
	Median	4,483

B. Average wattage of each public light		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	76
	Median	76
C. Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	58.06
Number of LED lights in the public lighting system		**2023**
	Total	305,656
	Minimum	2,126
	Maximum	35,257
Average	Mean	9,860
Number of non-LED lights in the public lighting system		**2023**
	Total	220,768
	Minimum	21
	Maximum	36,807
Average	Mean	7,122
Total lights in the public lighting system		**2023**
	Total	526,424

E7: Climate Change

Does the LA have a designated Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator?		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Yes	30
	No	1
	Work in Progress	0
Percentage of LAs with a designated Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Climate Action Coordinator		97

Does the LA have a designated Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Climate Action Officer?		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Yes	25
	No	6
	Work in Progress	0
Percentage of LAs with a designated Full-time Equivalent (FTE) Climate Action Officer		81

Does the LA have a climate action team?		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Yes	24
	No	2
	Work in Progress	5
Percentage of LAs with a climate action team		77

Section 5 - Planning

P1: New Buildings Inspected

Authority	A. Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority
Carlow County	22.39
Cavan County	28.26
Clare County	13.97
Cork City	15.89
Cork County	16.40
Donegal County	13.37
Dublin City	79.22
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	45.15
Fingal County	40.85
Galway City	19.19
Galway County	14.60
Kerry County	28.91
Kildare County	32.47
Kilkenny County	24.25
Laois County	11.97
Leitrim County	27.13
Limerick City and County	14.16
Longford County	100.00
Louth County	12.19
Mayo County	29.15
Meath County	53.32
Monaghan County	27.30
Offaly County	15.18
Roscommon County	15.19
Sligo County	15.59
South Dublin County	26.99
Tipperary County	32.13
Waterford City and County	18.60
Westmeath County	16.61
Wexford County	34.04
Wicklow County	21.57

P2: Planning Decisions Confirmed by An Bord Pleanála

Authority	A. Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in 2023	B. Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority
Carlow County	15	86.67
Cavan County	17	58.82
Clare County	45	77.78
Cork City	60	91.67
Cork County	96	67.71
Donegal County	44	65.91
Dublin City	292	83.90
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	186	66.67
Fingal County	124	63.71
Galway City	35	68.57
Galway County	77	80.52
Kerry County	55	69.09
Kildare County	79	70.89
Kilkenny County	21	85.71
Laois County	9	77.78
Leitrim County	6	33.33
Limerick City and County	42	73.81
Longford County	14	78.57
Louth County	45	88.89
Mayo County	48	93.75
Meath County	75	84.00
Monaghan County	13	69.23
Offaly County	13	84.62
Roscommon County	20	65.00
Sligo County	14	85.71
South Dublin County	69	84.06
Tipperary County	35	68.57
Waterford City and County	47	72.34
Westmeath County	24	70.83
Wexford County	41	68.29
Wicklow County	52	75.00
TOTAL	**1,713**	

P3: Planning Enforcement Cases Closed as Resolved

Authority	A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 that were investigated	B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2023	C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development	D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations	E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings	F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2023
Carlow County	94	122	60.66	5.74	33.61	280
Cavan County	87	29	75.86	6.90	17.24	525
Clare County	105	46	47.83	15.22	36.96	742
Cork City	123	192	45.31	12.50	42.19	295
Cork County	319	186	49.46	1.61	48.92	1,379
Donegal County	204	118	38.98	0.00	61.02	1,304
Dublin City	1,473	1,228	55.29	0.00	44.71	3,451
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	329	365	27.12	27.95	44.93	177
Fingal County	292	352	57.95	8.52	33.52	1,194
Galway City	145	213	30.99	33.80	35.21	366
Galway County	234	800	95.75	3.00	1.25	1,762
Kerry County	303	355	49.30	3.10	47.61	724
Kildare County	241	176	55.68	17.61	26.70	981
Kilkenny County	96	129	27.91	27.91	44.19	374
Laois County	147	147	51.70	1.36	46.94	143
Leitrim County	28	18	50.00	0.00	50.00	65
Limerick City and County	637	281	53.02	0.00	46.98	1,209
Longford County	47	35	45.71	0.00	54.29	83
Louth County	228	108	56.48	25	18.52	331
Mayo County	121	81	54.32	1.23	44.44	1,261
Meath County	176	125	0.00	32.80	67.20	1,036
Monaghan County	95	136	50.00	4.41	45.59	135
Offaly County	62	9	66.67	0.00	33.33	328
Roscommon County	88	30	16.67	0.00	83.33	249
Sligo County	93	57	40.35	28.07	31.58	133
South Dublin County	208	316	48.10	0.00	51.90	579
Tipperary County	230	380	28.95	0.00	71.05	385
Waterford City and County	148	12	8.33	0.00	91.67	145
Westmeath County	67	6	66.67	0.00	33.33	646
Wexford County	233	222	30.18	6.31	63.51	360
Wicklow County	130	179	32.96	8.94	58.10	468
TOTALS	**6,783**	**6,453**				**21,110**

P4: Cost Per Capita of Planning Service

Authority	A. The 2023 Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the local authority area per 2022 Census (€)
Carlow County	39.62
Cavan County	21.87
Clare County	36.28
Cork City	31.99
Cork County	52.54
Donegal County	33.38
Dublin City	33.97
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	59.11
Fingal County	48.74
Galway City	45.51
Galway County	25.60
Kerry County	33.89
Kildare County	35.28
Kilkenny County	31.18
Laois County	26.19
Leitrim County	44.66
Limerick City and County	33.54
Longford County	36.92
Louth County	32.79
Mayo County	36.62
Meath County	28.25
Monaghan County	38.08
Offaly County	39.01
Roscommon County	35.07
Sligo County	32.68
South Dublin County	30.03
Tipperary County	28.28
Waterford City and County	28.98
Westmeath County	28.16
Wexford County	27.15
Wicklow County	30.59

P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates

Authority	A. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt	B. The percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant
Carlow County	74.14	25.86
Cavan County	88.17	11.83
Clare County	56.60	35.85
Cork City	34.06	49.28
Cork County	58.72	41.28
Donegal County	38.42	44.21
Dublin City	34.17	45.68
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	20.30	34.01
Fingal County	28.27	57.07
Galway City	71.15	28.85
Galway County	74.39	25.61
Kerry County	44.95	38.53
Kildare County	51.05	39.47
Kilkenny County	80.90	15.73
Laois County	8.93	42.86
Leitrim County	33.33	60.00
Limerick City and County	47.71	40.37
Longford County	79.41	17.65
Louth County	41.18	30.59
Mayo County	87.32	12.68
Meath County	74.30	42.52
Monaghan County	98.18	1.82
Offaly County	78.67	21.33
Roscommon County	28.95	39.47
Sligo County	94.44	5.56
South Dublin County	38.23	43.69
Tipperary County	45.45	41.96
Waterford City and County	57.30	39.33
Westmeath County	97.70	2.30
Wexford County	56.36	37.27
Wicklow County	73.49	21.69

Planning

Summary Statistics 2014-2023

P1A. Buildings Inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authorities in year		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Median	17.71	24	19.42	17.20	16.75	16.56	15.28	16.97	18.30	22.39
	True national %			24.93	25.58	23.47	23.9	21.71	27.35	29.68	25.87

P2 A. Number of local authority planning decisions the subject of an appeal to ABP that were determined by the Board on any date in 2023		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	55
	Median	44
P2 B. Percentage of the determinations that confirmed (with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	True national %	75.72
P3 A. Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority in the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 that were investigated		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	219
	Median	147
P3 B. Total number of investigated cases that were closed during 2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Mean	208
	Median	136
P3 C. Percentage of the cases at B that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	51.39
P3 D. Percentage of the cases at B that were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	7.31

P3 E. Percentage of the cases at B that were closed due to enforcement proceedings (i.e. remedied in response to a warning letter issued under section 152 of the Act or to an enforcement notice issued under section 154 of the Act or where a prosecution was brought under section 157 or an injunction was sought under section 160 of the Act)		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	41.30
P3 F. Total number of planning cases being investigated as at 31/12/2023		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Mean	681
	Median	385
P4 A. Cost per Capita of the Planning Service (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	Missing	1
Average	True national mean	35.97
P5 A. Percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 decided (granted or refused) within two months of receipt		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	52.11
P5 B. Percentage of applications for fire safety certificates received in 2023 that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	36.28

Section 6 - Fire

F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service

Authority	A. Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data for 2023 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports (€)
Carlow County	46.71
Cavan County	62.88
Clare County	50.86
Cork City*	93.44
Cork County	45.84
Donegal County	44.60
Dublin City*	92.70
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	0.00
Fingal County	0.00
Galway City	0.00
Galway County*	58.45
Kerry County	56.71
Kildare County	25.13
Kilkenny County	50.28
Laois County	52.38
Leitrim County	73.31
Limerick City and County*	89.32
Longford County	59.60
Louth County*	80.06
Mayo County	55.90
Meath County	34.71
Monaghan County	47.54
Offaly County	50.40
Roscommon County	38.52
Sligo County	57.06
South Dublin County	0.00
Tipperary County	59.48
Waterford City and County*	91.69
Westmeath County	36.64
Wexford County	37.03
Wicklow County	42.98

NOTE: In the case of most local authorities, unaudited 2023 AFSs were used.

NOTE: Dublin Fire Brigade provides services to Dublin City Council, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin County Councils. Returns are included under Dublin City Council. Galway County Council provides the services for Galway City and County.

*NOTE: *These six local authorities provide full-time fire services.*

F2: Service Mobilisation

Authority	A & B. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in respect of fire		C & D. Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades (retained fire service) in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents	
	Full-Time Station	Part-Time Station	Full-Time Station	Part-Time Station
Carlow County	00:00	06:22	00:00	06:26
Cavan County	00:00	06:16	00:00	06:14
Clare County	00:00	05:04	00:00	05:21
Cork City*	01:25	00:00	01:27	00:00
Cork County	00:00	05:07	00:00	05:05
Donegal County	00:00	05:52	00:00	05:59
Dublin City*	01:51	07:19	02:02	07:13
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	00:00	00:00	00:00	00:00
Fingal County	00:00	00:00	00:00	00:00
Galway City	00:00	00:00	00:00	00:00
Galway County*	02:04	05:56	02:09	05:31
Kerry County	00:00	06:29	00:00	06:38
Kildare County	00:00	07:21	00:00	06:48
Kilkenny County	00:00	06:17	00:00	05:49
Laois County	00:00	05:29	00:00	05:09
Leitrim County	00:00	04:35	00:00	04:31
Limerick City and County*	01:25	05:00	01:36	05:05
Longford County	00:00	07:35	00:00	08:17
Louth County*	01:22	05:16	01:31	04:44
Mayo County	00:00	05:28	00:00	05:17
Meath County	00:00	05:17	00:00	06:03
Monaghan County	00:00	05:30	00:00	05:35
Offaly County	00:00	06:01	00:00	05:27
Roscommon County	00:00	06:20	00:00	07:04
Sligo County	00:00	04:34	00:00	04:43
South Dublin County	00:00	00:00	00:00	00:00
Tipperary County	00:00	05:45	00:00	05:59
Waterford City and County*	01:08	04:40	01:08	04:40
Westmeath County	00:00	06:28	00:00	08:04
Wexford County	00:00	07:24	00:00	07:23
Wicklow County	00:00	05:31	00:00	06:02

*NOTE: *These six local authorities provide full-time fire services.*

F3: Percentage Attendance Times at Scenes

Authority	A. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	B. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	C. % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	D. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	E. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	F. % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes
Carlow County	42.70	40.21	17.08	45.58	43.81	10.62
Cavan County	20.31	59.38	20.31	22.40	49.48	28.12
Clare County	38.21	38.51	23.28	26.10	49.60	24.30
Cork City	83.29	16.36	0.35	73.44	22.15	4.40
Cork County	35.12	42.20	22.68	35.12	42.20	22.68
Donegal County	27.92	54.42	17.66	34.65	46.72	18.64
Dublin City	73.02	25.09	1.88	69.29	26.74	3.96
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fingal County	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Galway City	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Galway County	35.97	40.26	23.76	45.55	38.79	15.66
Kerry County	16.26	57.94	25.79	22.42	52.32	25.25
Kildare County	13.26	66.41	20.33	13.42	62.95	23.63
Kilkenny County	34.29	53.71	12.00	25.85	61.65	12.50
Laois County	29.17	60.42	10.42	37.29	50.83	11.88
Leitrim County	27.27	54.55	18.18	42.06	50.79	7.14
Limerick City and County	67.38	23.37	9.25	48.17	33.84	17.99
Longford County	27.91	60.47	11.63	27.27	56.57	16.16
Louth County	72.76	22.24	5.00	57.63	36.14	6.23
Mayo County	28.09	53.18	18.73	38.96	50.13	10.91
Meath County	30.69	57.58	11.73	24.16	56.59	19.26
Monaghan County	30.91	52.73	16.36	16.54	63.78	19.69
Offaly County	40.00	47.00	13.00	30.54	46.11	23.35
Roscommon County	24.18	58.24	17.58	23.48	62.61	13.91
Sligo County	45.20	42.94	11.86	44.31	41.06	14.63
South Dublin County	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tipperary County	35.93	48.13	15.93	24.91	44.80	30.30
Waterford City and County	64.38	27.40	8.22	48.39	35.08	16.53
Westmeath County	15.56	65.13	19.31	15.57	58.08	26.35
Wexford County	25.73	44.73	29.53	30.73	43.13	26.15
Wicklow County	42.19	48.50	9.30	33.15	55.26	11.59

Fire Statistics

F1 A: Cost Per Capita (€) Fire Service

		Full-Time Station	Full & Part-Time Station	Part-Time Station
N	Valid	6	27	21
	Not Applicable	0	0	0
	True national mean	87.80	65.76	45.96

F2 A and F2 B: Average Time to Mobilise Fire Brigade (Fire in Minutes)

Full-Time Station		2023	Part-Time Station		2023
N	Valid	6	N	Valid	21
	Not Applicable	25		N/A	10
	Median	01:25		Median	05:56

F2 C and F2 D: Average Time to Mobilise Fire Brigade (Non-Fire in Minutes)

Full-Time Station		2023	Part-Time Station		2023
N	Valid	6	N	Valid	21
	N/A	25		N/A	10
	Median	01:34		Median	05:59

F3: Fire and Non-Fire Mobilisation times (%)*

F3 A: % of Fire Cases within 10 Minutes		2023
N	Valid	27
	Not Applicable	4
	True national %	52.83
F3 B: % of Fire Cases 10- 20 Minutes		**2023**
N	Valid	27
	Not Applicable	4
	True national %	34.88
F3 C: % of Fire Cases After 20 Minutes		**2023**
N	Valid	27
	Not Applicable	4
	True national %	9.49
F3 D: % of Non-Fire Cases within 10 Minutes		**2023**
N	Valid	27
	Not Applicable	4
	True national %	38.35
F3 E: % of Non-Fire Cases 10-20 Minutes		**2023**
N	Valid	27
	Not Applicable	4
	True national %	39.33
F3 F: % of Non-Fire Cases After 20 Minutes		**2023**
N	Valid	27
	Not Applicable	4
	True national %	14.64

Section 7 - Library / Recreation

L1: Library visits and Issues

Authority	A. Number of library visits per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 census	B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year	C. Library active members per head of population in 2023	D. Number of registered members in the library in the year
Carlow County	2.59	121,429	0.16	9,756
Cavan County	1.43	134,957	0.13	10,115
Clare County	2.51	387,701	0.18	17,897
Cork City	3.86	882,031	0.20	35,215
Cork County	3.17	1,211,535	0.19	54,143
Donegal County	1.66	295,589	0.10	32,847
Dublin City	3.49	1,988,102	0.18	82,248
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	3.45	1,076,115	0.23	49,727
Fingal County	2.85	973,191	0.16	53,666
Galway City	0	0	0	0
Galway County	1.84	676,043	0.14	37,013
Kerry County	2.53	568,494	0.18	22,520
Kildare County	2.51	1,015,486	0.16	30,887
Kilkenny County	1.90	411,624	0.20	16,790
Laois County	2.70	214,074	0.21	16,038
Leitrim County	3.48	103,260	0.20	6,908
Limerick City and County	2.03	524,533	0.16	26,884
Longford County	3.06	109,748	0.21	7,578
Louth County	1.68	295,875	0.15	17,062
Mayo County	2.45	394,074	0.19	22,304
Meath County	1.71	552,112	0.15	30,716
Monaghan County	3.29	131,773	0.20	10,070
Offaly County	2.24	205,443	0.16	10,317
Roscommon County	1.36	131,145	0.11	6,222
Sligo County	2.05	223,056	0.19	11,846
South Dublin County	2.78	943,853	0.20	46,321
Tipperary County	2.09	441,109	0.16	27,719
Waterford City and County	3.17	627,864	0.20	20,739
Westmeath County	3.16	365,651	0.18	12,965
Wexford County	2.62	583,938	0.21	27,087
Wicklow County	3.86	629,640	0.25	31,967
TOTAL		**16,219,445**		**785,567**

NOTE: Galway County Council collects library statistics on behalf of Galway City Council and these are presented as combined statistics.

L2: Cost of Operating a Library Service

Authority	A. Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data for 2023 divided by the population of the LA area per the 2022 Census (€)	B. Annual per capita expenditure on collections over the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023
Carlow County	33.26	1.65
Cavan County	37.65	1.65
Clare County	45.85	1.74
Cork City	47.08	1.67
Cork County	37.40	1.66
Donegal County	29.56	1.03
Dublin City	47.34	3.74
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	46.19	2.58
Fingal County	55.42	2.75
Galway City*	0	0
Galway County	21.59	0.66
Kerry County	26.74	1.69
Kildare County	36.27	1.66
Kilkenny County	36.25	1.36
Laois County	35.37	1.55
Leitrim County	49.78	2.05
Limerick City and County	33.94	1.30
Longford County	58.30	2.46
Louth County	28.05	1.19
Mayo County	29.30	1.08
Meath County	24.97	1.75
Monaghan County	47.46	2.07
Offaly County	37.93	1.80
Roscommon County	33.01	1.50
Sligo County	39.81	1.42
South Dublin County	49.05	3.24
Tipperary County	31.70	1.58
Waterford City and County	45.03	1.92
Westmeath County	31.32	1.02
Wexford County	34.54	2.03
Wicklow County	37.74	1.77

*NOTE: *Galway County provides Library service on behalf of Galway City*

Library Statistics

Summary Statistics for 2023

L1 A. No. of library visits per head of population		2023
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
	True national mean	2.70
L1 B. No. of items issued to borrowers in year		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
	True national mean	523,208
L1 C. Library active members per head of population		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
	True national mean	0.18
L1 D. Number of registered members in the library in the year		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
	True national mean	25,340.87
L2 A. Cost per capita of library services in year		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	N/A	0
	True national mean	38.87
L2 B. Annual per capita expenditure on collections over the year		**2023**
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
	True national mean	2.00

Section 8 - Youth / Community

	Y1	Y2
Authority	A. Percentage of schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme	A. Number of organisations included in the County Register at 31/12/2023 and the proportion of those organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the PPN
Carlow County	90.91	1.47
Cavan County	90.91	25.28
Clare County	82.35	15.26
Cork City	64.52	35.78
Cork County	47.06	14.02
Donegal County	77.78	16.37
Dublin City	41.03	28.06
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	75.00	18.33
Fingal County	52.63	16.38
Galway City	80.00	29.24
Galway County	38.89	19.42
Kerry County	84.62	11.23
Kildare County	83.33	9.47
Kilkenny County	75.00	21.02
Laois County	100.00	13.12
Leitrim County	85.71	21.34
Limerick City and County	67.86	28.50
Longford County	100.00	13.96
Louth County	94.74	26.01
Mayo County	51.85	13.02
Meath County	79.17	11.93
Monaghan County	100.00	15.98
Offaly County	91.67	11.82
Roscommon County	100.00	14.10
Sligo County	75.00	8.31
South Dublin County	52.63	22.15
Tipperary County	63.33	12.52
Waterford City and County	78.95	8.45
Westmeath County	84.62	20.82
Wexford County	86.96	14.19
Wicklow County	84.00	17.54
True National	**68.16**	**16.21**

Youth Statistics

Summary Statistics 2014-2023

Y1 A. % of Local Schools Involved in the Local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg Scheme		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid		30	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
	Missing		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	True national %	51.86	67.59	68.07	69.04	67.36	68.30	63.29	63.25	64.70	68.16

Summary Statistics 2023

Y2 A. Percentage of organisations on the County Register that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the Public Participation Network (PPN)		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	16.21

Section 9 - Corporate

C1: Total No. WTE

Authority	A. The wholetime equivalent staffing number as at 31 December 2023
Carlow County	325.01
Cavan County	419.86
Clare County	833.05
Cork City	1,616.81
Cork County	2,416.42
Donegal County	1,047.72
Dublin City	5,960.60
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	1,164.60
Fingal County	1,523.37
Galway City	552.27
Galway County	837.86
Kerry County	1,272.02
Kildare County	992.47
Kilkenny County	596.19
Laois County	487.62
Leitrim County	329.81
Limerick City and County	1,348.63
Longford County	355.96
Louth County	706.80
Mayo County	1,019.51
Meath County	834.81
Monaghan County	428.13
Offaly County	506.71
Roscommon County	425.02
Sligo County	419.48
South Dublin County	1,253.33
Tipperary County	1,089.50
Waterford City and County	830.43
Westmeath County	496.58
Wexford County	863.22
Wicklow County	751.15

C2: Working Days Lost to Sickness

Authority	A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023	B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023
Carlow County	4.72	0.27
Cavan County	3.81	0.26
Clare County	4.36	0.22
Cork City	3.50	0.42
Cork County	3.23	0.26
Donegal County	5.59	0.30
Dublin City	3.53	0.35
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	2.52	0.39
Fingal County	2.98	0.36
Galway City	3.55	0.23
Galway County	3.99	0.25
Kerry County	4.33	0.28
Kildare County	4.11	0.28
Kilkenny County	3.10	0.33
Laois County	3.78	0.31
Leitrim County	4.24	0.28
Limerick City and County	4.91	0.38
Longford County	3.76	0.21
Louth County	3.87	0.45
Mayo County	5.28	0.25
Meath County	2.19	0.27
Monaghan County	3.59	0.11
Offaly County	3.85	0.22
Roscommon County	3.19	0.29
Sligo County	4.57	0.23
South Dublin County	3.97	0.39
Tipperary County	3.98	0.26
Waterford City and County	4.87	0.35
Westmeath County	2.87	0.39
Wexford County	4.04	0.39
Wicklow County	2.74	0.32

C3: LA Website and Social media Usage

Authority	A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023	B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2023 of the local authority's social media accounts
Carlow County	7.19	1.18
Cavan County	7.72	1.70
Clare County	16.00	2.85
Cork City	14.72	1.36
Cork County	10.02	0.77
Donegal County	13.65	1.34
Dublin City	23.29	1.51
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	11.33	0.53
Fingal County	10.29	1.26
Galway City	13.34	0.54
Galway County	6.61	0.79
Kerry County	30.76	0.64
Kildare County	7.52	0.41
Kilkenny County	19.83	1.51
Laois County	7.91	0.71
Leitrim County	1.92	0.55
Limerick City and County	21.40	0.57
Longford County	11.03	1.26
Louth County	8.63	0.52
Mayo County	8.39	1.73
Meath County	9.37	0.70
Monaghan County	22.93	1.92
Offaly County	15.16	1.26
Roscommon County	0.89	1.03
Sligo County	12.51	0.72
South Dublin County	8.03	0.49
Tipperary County	18.65	0.98
Waterford City and County	19.40	2.23
Westmeath County	11.48	1.07
Wexford County	13.87	0.66
Wicklow County	0.99	0.89

	C4: Overall Cost of ICT Provision per WTE	C5: Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue expenditure
Authority	A. All ICT expenditure in the period from 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023, divided by the WTE number supplied under the C1 indicator	A. All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure
Carlow County	5,403.67	2.77
Cavan County	3,575.62	1.67
Clare County	4,014.11	2.21
Cork City	3,371.29	1.88
Cork County	3,509.96	1.89
Donegal County	3,990.33	2.29
Dublin City	3,304.28	1.64
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown	4,911.48	2.38
Fingal County	5,382.09	2.82
Galway City	4,492.49	2.25
Galway County	3,677.27	1.83
Kerry County	3,823.55	2.63
Kildare County	4,092.83	1.85
Kilkenny County	4,998.57	2.79
Laois County	4,973.53	2.48
Leitrim County	3,947.33	2.40
Limerick City and County	3,854.88	0.58
Longford County	3,069.19	1.62
Louth County	4,972.30	2.38
Mayo County	3,770.92	2.12
Meath County	4,547.88	2.10
Monaghan County	4,716.38	2.37
Offaly County	3,466.69	1.98
Roscommon County	4,110.84	2.40
Sligo County	4,292.09	2.33
South Dublin County	4,860.66	2.34
Tipperary County	3,483.89	1.90
Waterford City and County	3,674.86	1.71
Westmeath County	3,405.16	1.81
Wexford County	3,710.48	2.10
Wicklow County	4,078.89	2.13

Corporate Statistics

Summary Statistics for Whole Time Equivalent Numbers

C1 A. Total Number of WTE Staff in LA		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Mean	1022.74
	Median	833.05

Summary Sick-Leave Statistics 2016-2023

C2 A. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	True national %		3.78	3.78	3.71	3.01	2.89	3.58	3.77

C2 B. Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
N	Valid	31	31	31	31	31	31	31	31
	Missing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	True national %		0.38	0.35	0.36	0.20	0.19	0.32	0.32

Summary Statistics for Website Visits 2023

A. The per capita total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	13.36
B. The per capita total number of followers at end 2023 of the local authority's social media accounts		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	1.05
C4 A. Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	3,948.63
C5 A. ICT expenditure as a proportion of revenue expenditure		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	True national %	1.86

Total page views of the local authority's websites in 2023		2023
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	2,219,042
	Median	1,864,409
Total number of followers at end 2023 of the LA's social media accounts		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	174,328
	Median	125,496

Section 10 - Finance

M1: 5 Year Summary of Revenue Account Balance

Authority	A. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2019 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (€)	B. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2020 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (€)	C. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2021 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (€)	D. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2022 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (€)	E.Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 in the Revenue Account from the Income & Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS (€)	F. Cumulative surplus or Deficit at 31/12/2023 as a percentage of Total Income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	G. Revenue Expenditure per Capita in 2023 (based on 2022 Census	H. Revenue expenditure per capita in 2023 excluding significant out of county / shared service expenditure
Carlow	744,827	772,516	818,701	860,054	949,612	1.34	1,023.70	0.00
Cavan	1,743,260	1,743,352	1,743,569	1,743,917	1,744,212	1.85	1,103.32	0.00
Clare	2,472,728	2,733,562	2,906,016	3,112,252	3,349,552	1.91	1,185.74	0.00
Cork City	945,643	980,829	1,040,841	1,102,989	1,177,672	0.40	1,291.88	0.00
Cork County	7,452,166	7,530,107	7,595,252	7,656,878	7,749,517	1.74	1,247.23	0.00
Donegal	-7,733,836	-6,882,639	-6,092,540	-4,895,529	-3,743,530	-1.95	1,090.51	0.00
Dublin City	23,784,693	34,747,188	41,305,051	41,918,838	36,797,403	2.93	2,021.49	1,680.23
DLR	8,735,240	8,740,812	8,810,086	8,875,579	8,930,296	3.53	1,026.23	0.00
Fingal	15,979,356	15,979,679	15,979,812	15,980,204	15,980,456	4.76	880.28	0.00
Galway City	2,343,703	2,509,228	67,765	2,646,046	2,693,758	2.40	1,303.45	0.00
Galway Co	4,852	7,601	27,916	42,926	46,204	0.03	869.78	0.00
Kerry	6,605,635	6,687,884	6,772,409	6,854,784	6,937,746	3.59	1,181.31	0.00
Kildare	-334,804	-171,440	-48,008	4,164	13,712	0.01	885.30	0.00
Kilkenny	27,998	44,633	90,540	108,770	127,922	0.11	1,025.28	0.00
Laois	5,009	70,614	145,274	222,625	300,467	0.28	1,128.35	1,064.76
Leitrim	-259,115	-256,122	-254,609	-250,581	-251,966	-0.46	1,541.03	0.00
Limerick	833,704	15,979,679	907,878	932,320	956,037	0.10	4,288.64	1,017.20
Longford	246,348	250,963	359,729	365,106	384,471	0.55	1,443.05	0.00
Louth	950,351	1,007,413	2,370,230	3,962,840	4,159,761	2.68	1,058.16	0.00
Mayo	-4,065,676	-3,871,794	-3,687,441	-3,087,380	-2,155,373	-1.10	1,312.09	0.00
Meath	-684,544	-497,931	47,033	151,175	276,273	0.14	820.66	0.00
Monaghan	-2,223,599	-1,865,179	130,409	404,986	531,320	0.60	1,303.09	0.00
Offaly	-1,873,757	-1,661,523	-1,637,257	-1,213,190	-791,561	-0.84	1,069.60	0.00
Roscommon	201,740	218,803	243,944	269,994	297,113	0.38	1,037.36	0.00
Sligo	-18,483,135	-17,454,453	-16,536,990	-16,050,248	-9,638,938	-12.01	1,102.49	0.00
Sth Dublin	12,189,910	12,210,777	12,237,737	12,282,493	12,337,595	3.91	864.22	0.00
Tipperary	5,562,106	5,569,307	5,573,356	5,577,401	5,584,803	2.61	1,191.35	0.00
Waterford	-5,790,294	-5,155,764	-2,715,650	-1,271,104	159,080	0.09	1,336.89	0.00
Westmeath	415,746	424,521	435,236	446,277	455,067	0.45	969.77	0.00
Wexford	-2,127,851	-873,153	36,684	85,417	134,937	0.08	929.61	0.00
Wicklow	-2,052,474	-1,646,264	-1,288,068	-938,828	-597,890	-0.41	921.56	0.00

M2 (A): 5 Year Summary of the Percentage Collection Levels for Commercial Rates

Authority	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2020	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022	Collection level of Rates from the Annual Financial Statement for 2023
Carlow County	86.0	82.0	83.0	88.0	87.0
Cavan County	79.0	76.0	76.0	83.0	87.0
Clare County	87.0	82.0	82.0	87.0	88.0
Cork City	83.0	65.0	78.0	85.0	86.0
Cork County	93.0	87.0	89.0	93.0	93.0
Donegal County	76.0	61.0	70.0	78.0	78.0
Dublin City	94.0	84.0	87.0	92.0	93.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	89.0	73.0	76.0	79.0	81.0
Fingal County	97.9	93.0	93.0	98.1	99.1
Galway City	83.0	61.0	67.0	84.0	86.0
Galway County	87.0	82.0	84.0	87.0	86.0
Kerry County	86.2	65.4	80.5	86.2	88.0
Kildare County	83.0	70.0	82.0	86.0	88.0
Kilkenny County	94.0	83.0	87.0	95.0	87.0
Laois County	80.0	71.0	85.0	91.0	89.0
Leitrim County	83.0	72.0	72.0	79.0	77.0
Limerick City and County	88.0	91.0	88.0	92.0	94.0
Longford County	88.0	81.0	84.0	90.0	87.0
Louth County	83.0	63.0	76.0	83.0	87.0
Mayo County	87.7	82.0	83.2	90.4	92.9
Meath County	93.0	88.0	92.0	95.0	96.0
Monaghan County	86.0	80.0	95.0	98.0	94.0
Offaly County	88.0	77.0	86.0	85.0	87.0
Roscommon County	89.0	68.0	89.0	89.0	88.0
Sligo County	82.0	69.0	78.0	74.0	72.0
South Dublin County	88.0	82.0	87.0	91.0	92.0
Tipperary County	83.2	75.2	83.0	88.0	90.0
Waterford City and County	82.0	67.0	86.0	95.0	98.0
Westmeath County	85.0	81.0	90.0	95.0	96.0
Wexford County	89.9	84.0	89.4	92.0	94.4
Wicklow County	87.0	70.0	83.0	88.0	91.0
Mean	**86.5**	**76.3**	**83.3**	**88.3**	**88.8**
Median	**87.0**	**77.0**	**84.0**	**88.0**	**88.0**

M2 (B): 5 Year Summary of the Percentage Collection Levels for Rent & Annuities

Authority	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2020	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022	Collection level of Rent & Annuities from the Annual Financial Statement for 2023
Carlow County	94.0	96.0	95.0	92.0	94.0
Cavan County	85.0	82.0	81.0	79.0	78.0
Clare County	85.0	86.0	86.0	86.0	86.0
Cork City	88.0	88.0	88.0	89.0	88.0
Cork County	97.0	100.0	100.0	96.0	97.0
Donegal County	90.0	90.0	92.0	90.0	88.0
Dublin City	73.0	73.0	73.0	72.0	73.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	79.0	79.0	77.0	76.0	77.0
Fingal County	83.9	79.6	77.4	76.1	75.3
Galway City	80.0	79.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
Galway County	91.0	92.0	91.0	88.0	88.0
Kerry County	93.0	91.7	92.5	91.9	92.7
Kildare County	92.0	92.0	93.0	92.0	93.0
Kilkenny County	95.0	96.0	97.0	96.0	96.0
Laois County	96.0	93.0	96.0	97.0	95.0
Leitrim County	90.0	91.0	95.0	97.0	98.0
Limerick City and County	96.0	79.6	96.0	97.0	75.0
Longford County	90.0	89.0	90.0	89.0	89.0
Louth County	80.0	81.0	84.0	84.0	83.0
Mayo County	88.0	87.0	85.9	87.9	89.6
Meath County	89.0	88.0	89.0	86.0	87.0
Monaghan County	95.0	97.0	96.0	96.0	95.0
Offaly County	89.0	92.0	93.0	93.0	93.0
Roscommon County	91.0	93.0	93.0	91.0	90.0
Sligo County	80.0	82.0	83.0	83.0	83.0
South Dublin County	76.0	74.0	74.0	77.0	78.0
Tipperary County	95.4	96.9	97.0	90.0	92.0
Waterford City and County	77.0	77.0	79.0	80.0	78.0
Westmeath County	98.0	98.0	98.0	98.0	97.0
Wexford County	90.7	93.0	95.1	94.0	92.8
Wicklow County	88.0	85.0	85.0	84.0	83.0
Mean	**88.2**	**87.8**	**88.8**	**88.0**	**87.2**
Median	**90.0**	**89.0**	**91.0**	**89.0**	**88.0**

M2 (C): 5 Year Summary of the Percentage Collection Levels for Housing Loans

Authority	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2019	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2020	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2021	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2022	Collection level of Housing Loans from the Annual Financial Statement for 2023
Carlow County	95.0	94.0	94.0	97.0	97.0
Cavan County	81.0	84.0	91.0	89.0	100.0
Clare County	74.0	78.0	78.0	80.0	88.0
Cork City	79.0	83.0	87.0	90.0	89.0
Cork County	65.0	62.0	69.0	71.0	75.0
Donegal County	68.0	65.0	64.0	59.0	62.0
Dublin City	75.0	75.0	77.0	77.0	77.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	61.0	61.0	60.0	61.0	60.0
Fingal County	97.7	96.5	100.0	96.8	97.0
Galway City	86.0	86.0	88.0	88.0	88.0
Galway County	79.0	79.0	81.0	83.0	86.0
Kerry County	94.2	95.0	94.2	95.3	96.5
Kildare County	62.0	62.0	69.0	73.0	75.0
Kilkenny County	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0	90.0
Laois County	75.0	72.0	75.0	81.0	87.0
Leitrim County	65.0	70.0	75.0	81.0	84.0
Limerick City and County	78.0	96.5	86.0	86.0	87.0
Longford County	59.0	65.0	69.0	77.0	77.0
Louth County	82.0	85.0	88.0	86.0	87.0
Mayo County	76.6	79.0	81.4	83.1	83.1
Meath County	81.0	83.0	83.0	86.0	91.0
Monaghan County	78.0	83.0	80.0	83.0	84.0
Offaly County	62.0	75.0	82.0	85.0	94.0
Roscommon County	76.0	62.0	65.0	71.0	75.0
Sligo County	64.0	68.0	66.0	69.0	68.0
South Dublin County	79.0	80.0	83.0	77.0	84.0
Tipperary County	90.1	93.7	99.0	97.0	99.0
Waterford City and County	63.0	65.0	68.0	70.0	72.0
Westmeath County	99.0	102.0	100.0	98.0	102.0
Wexford County	102.7	104.0	104.6	105.0	106.2
Wicklow County	80.0	80.0	83.0	84.0	90.0
Mean	**78.0**	**79.8**	**81.6**	**82.9**	**85.5**
Median	**78.0**	**80.0**	**82.0**	**83.1**	**87.0**

M3: Public Liability Claims

Authority	A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2023
Carlow County	9.63
Cavan County	7.05
Clare County	9.58
Cork City	22.33
Cork County	8.60
Donegal County	10.38
Dublin City	25.19
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	9.49
Fingal County	2.57
Galway City	8.69
Galway County	10.32
Kerry County	28.40
Kildare County	4.70
Kilkenny County	31.99
Laois County	1.63
Leitrim County	5.69
Limerick City and County	13.56
Longford County	12.77
Louth County	22.67
Mayo County	8.02
Meath County	2.42
Monaghan County	9.39
Offaly County	9.21
Roscommon County	7.10
Sligo County	6.36
South Dublin County	11.34
Tipperary County	14.15
Waterford City and County	9.84
Westmeath County	9.76
Wexford County	4.83
Wicklow County	8.11
National Mean %	**12.21**

M4:Overheads

Authority	A. Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account	B. Total payroll costs as a percentage of revenue expenditure
Carlow County	13.65	34.11
Cavan County	13.39	36.34
Clare County	16.37	37.47
Cork City	14.42	37.83
Cork County	12.56	36.61
Donegal County	11.85	40.69
Dublin City	11.69	38.85
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	15.08	33.06
Fingal County	16.71	35.53
Galway City	13.16	31.11
Galway County	13.60	36.93
Kerry County	13.13	43.43
Kildare County	12.54	31.58
Kilkenny County	14.66	40.17
Laois County	10.44	32.95
Leitrim County	15.75	42.28
Limerick City and County	4.22	10.11
Longford County	16.01	40.83
Louth County	13.91	34.63
Mayo County	12.91	38.83
Meath County	13.15	31.96
Monaghan County	17.46	36.35
Offaly County	14.63	34.05
Roscommon County	16.95	41.92
Sligo County	16.17	40.80
South Dublin County	15.10	32.13
Tipperary County	13.85	38.38
Waterford City and County	12.79	36.45
Westmeath County	15.19	34.76
Wexford County	14.54	38.38
Wicklow County	15.27	35.49
National Mean %	**12.35**	**33.30**

Finance Statistics

5 Year Summary of the Percentage Collection Levels for Commercial Rates

Commercial Rates %		2019
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	87.0
Commercial Rates %		**2020**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	77.0
Commercial Rates %		**2021**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	84.0
Commercial Rates %		**2022**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	88.0
Commercial Rates %		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	88.0

5 Year Summary of the Percentage Collection Levels for Rent & Annuities

Rent & Annuities %		2019
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	90.0
Rent & Annuities %		**2020**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	89.0
Rent & Annuities %		**2021**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	91.0
Rent & Annuities %		**2022**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	89.0
Rent & Annuities %		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	88.0

5 Year Summary of the Percentage Collection Levels for Housing Loans

Housing Loan %		2019
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	78.0
Housing Loan %		**2020**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	80.0
Housing Loan %		**2021**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	82.0
Housing Loan %		**2022**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	83.1
Housing Loan %		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
	Median	87.0

5 Year Summary of Revenue and Account Balances

2019 Balance		2019
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	€1,471,481.61
	Median	€246,348.00
2020 Balance		**2020**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	€2,512,038.90
	Median	€250,963.00
2021 Balance		**2021**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	€2,496,287.26
	Median	€243,944.00
2022 Balance		**2022**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	€2,835,521.77
	Median	€404,986.00
2023 Balance		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Average	Mean	€3,061,152.52
	Median	€455,067.00
Cumulative surplus/deficit as % of AFS Total Income		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Mean	True national	€1.34
Revenue Expenditure per Capita (2022 Census) (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	31
	Missing	0
Mean	True national	€1,305.56
Revenue Expenditure per capita excluding significant out of county / shared services expenditure (€)		**2023**
N	Valid	3
	Missing	28
Mean	True national	€1,461.61

M3: A. Per capita total cost of settled claims for 2023

Per capita total cost of settled claims		2023
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
Mean	True national	12.21

M4: Overheads

A. Overall central management charge as a percentage (%) of total expenditure on revenue account		
N	Valid	31
	N/A	0
Mean	True national	12.35
B. Total payroll costs as a percentage (%) of revenue expenditure		
N	Valid	31
	N/A	0
Mean	True national	33.30
Overall central management charge from the Local Authority FMS and defined in the Annual Budget		
N	Valid	31
	N/A	0
Average	Mean	€26,792,258.14
	Median	€21,927,484.00
Total payroll costs from Appendix 1 of the AFS for 2023 (including Salaries, Wages and Pensions)		
N	Valid	31
	N/A	0
Average	Mean	€72,221,189.86
	Median	€57,923,498.00

Section 11 - Economic Development

	J1A	J2A	J2B	J3	J4A	J4B
Authority	The number of jobs created with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	The number of trading online voucher applications approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 per 100,000 of population	The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023 per 100,000 of population	The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 1/1/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population	Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?
Carlow County	1.61	50.03	24.21	398.59	No	Yes
Cavan County	78.33	35.49	18.36	132.18	Yes	Yes
Clare County	48.46	32.05	17.20	225.89	Yes	Yes
Cork City	34.37	28.57	10.27	186.16	No	Yes
Cork County	46.37	28.04	10.83	283.21	Yes	Yes
Donegal County	46.68	41.90	17.36	187.93	Yes	Yes
Dublin City	28.68	26.66	11.30	214.78	Yes	Yes
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	50.46	42.33	21.38	281.79	Yes	Yes
Fingal County	23.90	26.32	7.87	378.51	Yes	Yes
Galway City	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	Yes	Yes
Galway County*	18.72	31.68	12.24	268.24	Yes	Yes
Kerry County	41.54	46.02	21.09	219.87	Yes	Yes
Kildare County	6.86	28.66	15.74	273.23	Yes	Yes
Kilkenny County	50.88	41.28	17.28	531.87	Yes	Yes
Laois County	43.54	34.83	10.88	469.11	No	No
Leitrim County	73.87	34.09	14.20	863.66	Yes	Yes
Limerick City and County	113.58	31.02	12.41	191.85	Yes	Yes
Longford County	106.95	29.95	12.83	233.15	Yes	Yes
Louth County	18.61	25.77	3.58	374.37	Yes	Yes
Mayo County	16.67	32.62	15.95	310.21	Yes	Yes
Meath County	5.89	27.62	10.42	102.80	Yes	Yes
Monaghan County	119.47	53.61	19.91	363.01	Yes	Yes
Offaly County	12.03	28.86	6.01	266.99	Yes	Yes
Roscommon County	37.01	35.58	21.35	415.61	Yes	Yes
Sligo County	52.71	34.19	19.94	484.34	Yes	Yes
South Dublin County	8.97	30.89	10.30	199.62	Yes	Yes
Tipperary County	57.18	42.88	23.82	411.57	Yes	Yes
Waterford	36.90	53.39	32.98	311.71	Yes	Yes
Westmeath County	150.69	33.26	17.67	405.32	Yes	Yes
Wexford County	107.98	35.38	16.47	106.15	Yes	Yes
Wicklow County	44.27	41.71	14.76	340.71	Yes	Yes

NOTE: LEO Galway supports Galway County and City. Overall figures are included under Galway County Council.*

	J5A
Authority	The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population
Carlow County	171.85
Cavan County	102.07
Clare County	324.32
Cork City	172.29
Cork County	128.04
Donegal County	132.05
Dublin City	240.11
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	260.42
Fingal County	185.69
Galway City	238.62
Galway County	22.07
Kerry County	159.18
Kildare County	101.23
Kilkenny County	152.66
Laois County	114.28
Leitrim County	218.99
Limerick City and County	146.28
Longford County	214.28
Louth County	129.44
Mayo County	141.62
Meath County	96.71
Monaghan County	181.36
Offaly County	129.52
Roscommon County	116.14
Sligo County	102.30
South Dublin County	203.63
Tipperary County	145.35
Waterford City and County	228.01
Westmeath County	104.03
Wexford County	134.16
Wicklow County	107.38

Economic Development Statistics

Summary Statistics for 2023

J1. Average number of jobs created in 2023 with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
Average	Mean	68.7
	Median	53

J1 A. The number of jobs created in 2023 with assistance from the Local Enterprise Office per 100,000 of population		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
True National Mean %		41.39

J2. Average number of trading online vouchers approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
Average	Mean	55
	Median	58

J2 A. The number of trading online vouchers approved by the Local Enterprise Office in 2023 per 100,000 of population		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
True National Mean %		33.31

J2. Number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
Average	Mean	24
	Median	23

J2 B. The number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down in 2023 per 100,000 of population		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
True National Mean %		14.25

J3. Average number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
Average	Mean	458
	Median	397

J3. A. The number of participants who received mentoring during the period 01/01/2023 to 31/12/2023 per 100,000 of population		
N	Valid	30
	N/A	1
True National Mean %		275.72

Summary Statistics for 2014-2023

J1: Number of jobs created									
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3,479	3,153	3,355	3,252	3,656	3,149	-1,494	2,999	3,447	2,131

Summary Statistics for 2016-2023

J2 A. Number of trading online vouchers approved by the Local Enterprise Office							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,141	1,189	1,107	1,220	12,946	4,450	1,881	1,715

J2 B. Number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
658	546	521	478	4,578	2,677	855	734

J3: Number of mentoring recipients							
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
7,564	8,393	9,625	10,756	16,231	14,149	12,201	14,197

J4 A. Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Yes	29	28	28	28	29	28	28

J4 B. Does the local authority have a designated tourism officer?	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Yes	26	28	30	30	29	29	30

J5. The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023

N	Valid	31
	N/A	0
Average	Mean	27,143,393.73
	Median	20,142,742.00

J5. The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population

N	Valid	31
	N/A	0
True National Mean		163.41

J5 A. The spend on local economic development by the local authority in 2023 per head of population (€)

2021	2022	2023
129.73	141.21	163.41

Test indicator in 2021 - data not published.

Chapter 5

Summary of Trends: Tables and Figures

Over the years, NOAC has gathered an extensive body of data and performance-based information, which has enabled local authorities to use the results to focus on areas where performance is below the norm and streamline their processes where necessary. It allows for the monitoring of several areas of performance more accurately, and to consider and comprehend their individual results for the year in question and over a period of time, to support a process of continuous improvement. Additionally, it facilitates the comparison of their performance with other local authorities of a similar profile and size.

Looking at trends over the years is a powerful tool but it is important to note that during the process every effort has been made to have consistent data. Some of the PIs have evolved over the years to reflect changes in national policy or have been updated to ensure their relevance is vital, principally in respect of emerging national priorities. Also over the years some new PIs have been introduced and therefore ten year comparative data is not available.

Presented in this chapter are comparative figures and every effort has been made to provide them from 2014, however, as outlined above when changes have been made or new PIs have been introduced that data will only appear for the relevant years.

Section 1
Housing (H1 to H7)

Re-letting time (weeks) **2023**

33.72

(31.43 in 2014)

Re-letting Cost **2023**

€28,347

(€11,535 in 2014)

Housing Maintenance Cost **2023**

€1,493.19

(€1,272.30 in 2014)

Registered tenancies **2023**

290,836

(285,025 in 2014)

Long term homeless **2023**

57.61%

(46.73% in 2014)

H1: Social Housing Stock

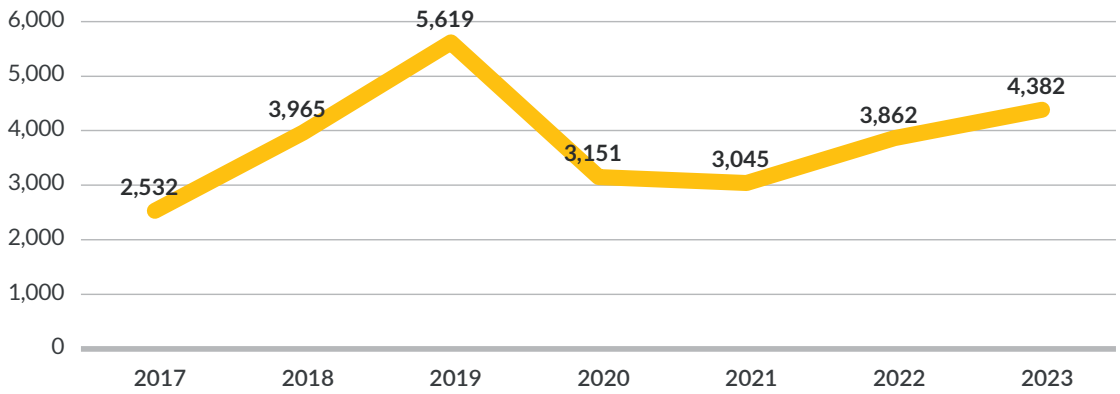
One of the key indicators evaluated by NOAC annually is the quantity of social housing stock in local authorities. This is housing stock that is owned by local authorities and is expanded each year through local authority build and acquisition programmes. From a performance management perspective, the management of housing stock is a key function of local authorities for assessment. Variances between the Department of Housing published figures and the local authority figures included in LG returns have been checked and NOAC is satisfied that the figures for 2023 agree with local authority data.

H1 (A): Number of dwellings in the ownership of local authorities at the start of year

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
131,375	131,614	134,782	138,405	138,884	143,248	146,429

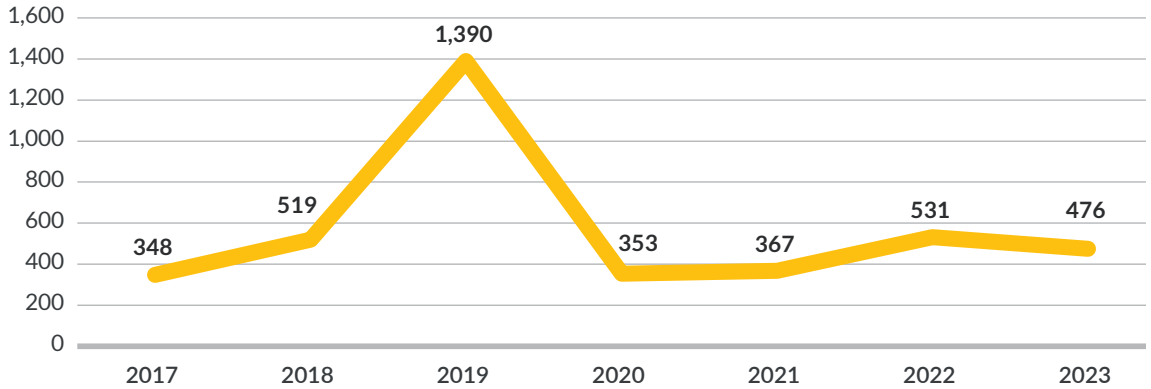
H1 (B): Number of dwellings in the ownership of local authorities at the end of the year

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2,532	3,965	5,619	3,151	3,045	3,862	4,382



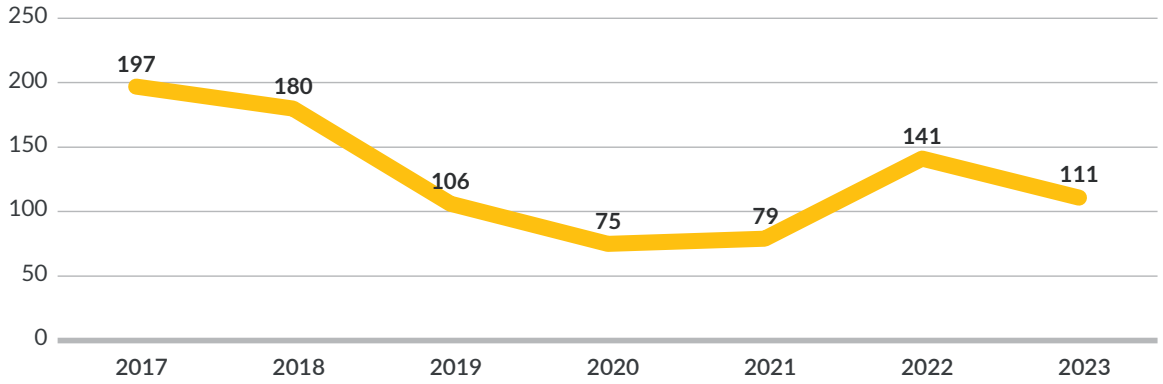
H1 (C): Number of local authority owned dwellings sold in year

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
348	519	1,390	353	367	531	476



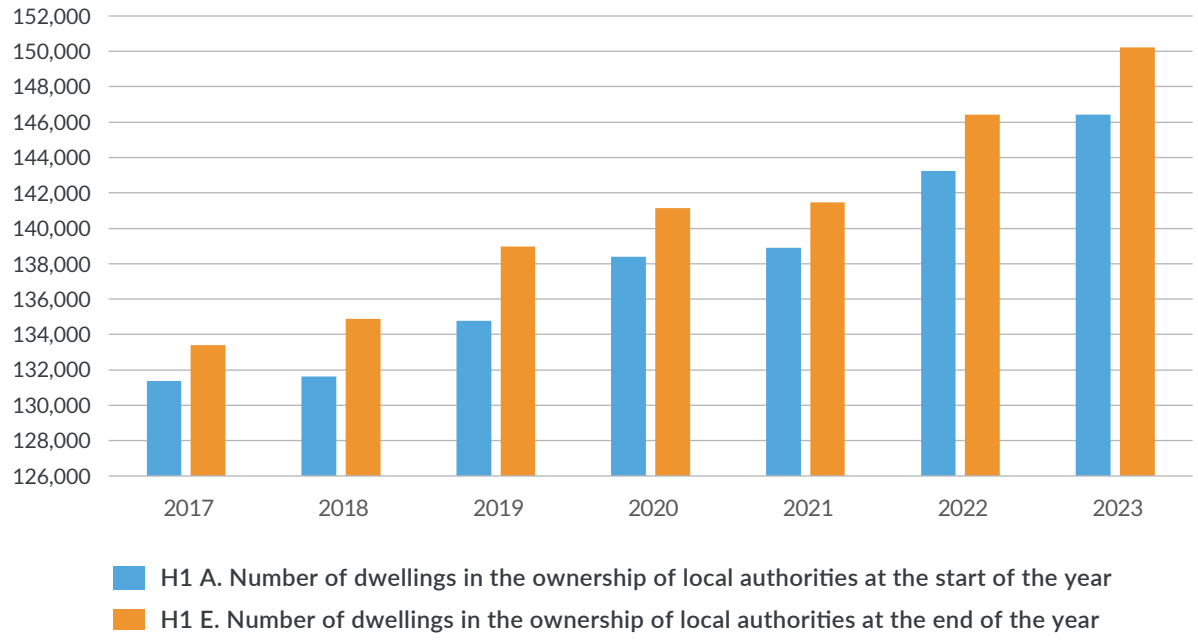
H1 (D): Number of local authority owned dwellings demolished in year

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
197	180	106	75	79	141	111



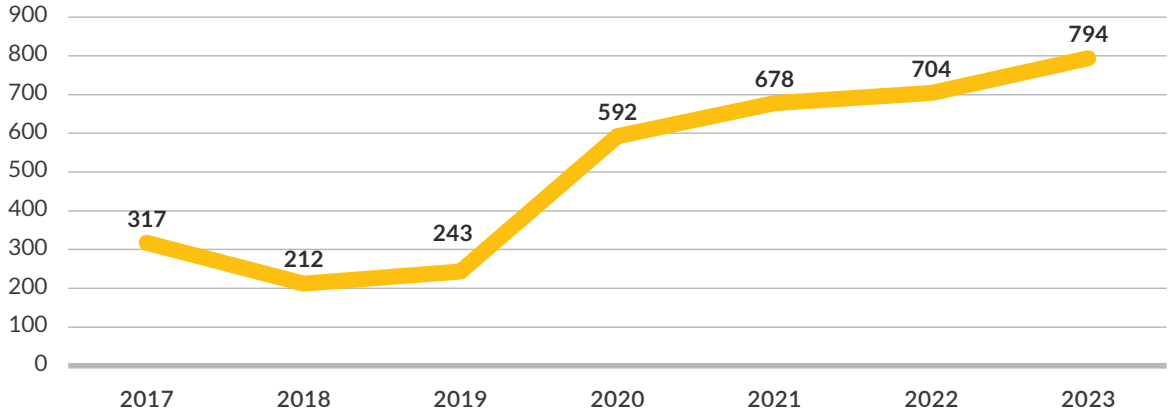
H1 (E): Number of dwellings in the ownership of local authorities at the end of the year

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
133,394	134,880	138,980	141,128	141,483	146,438	150,224



H1 (F): Number of local authority owned dwellings planned for demolition under D/HLGH approved scheme at year end

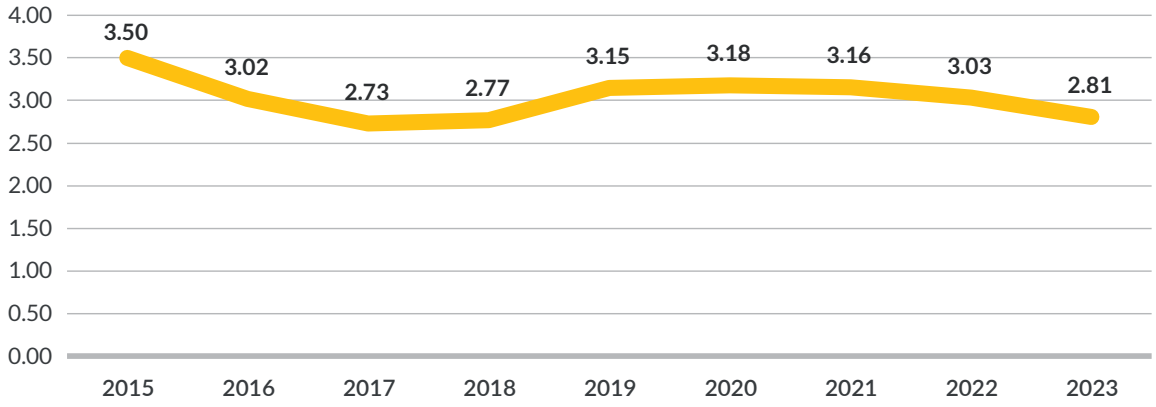
2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
317	212	243	592	678	704	794



H2: Housing Vacancies

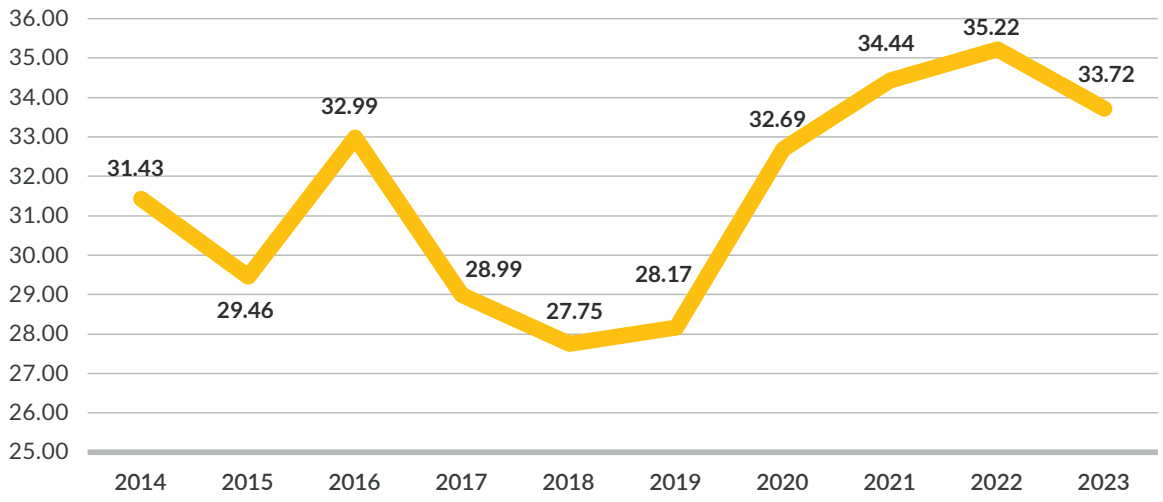
H2 (A): Percentage of the total number of local authority owned dwellings that were vacant at year-end

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3.50	3.02	2.73	2.77	3.15	3.18	3.16	3.03	2.81



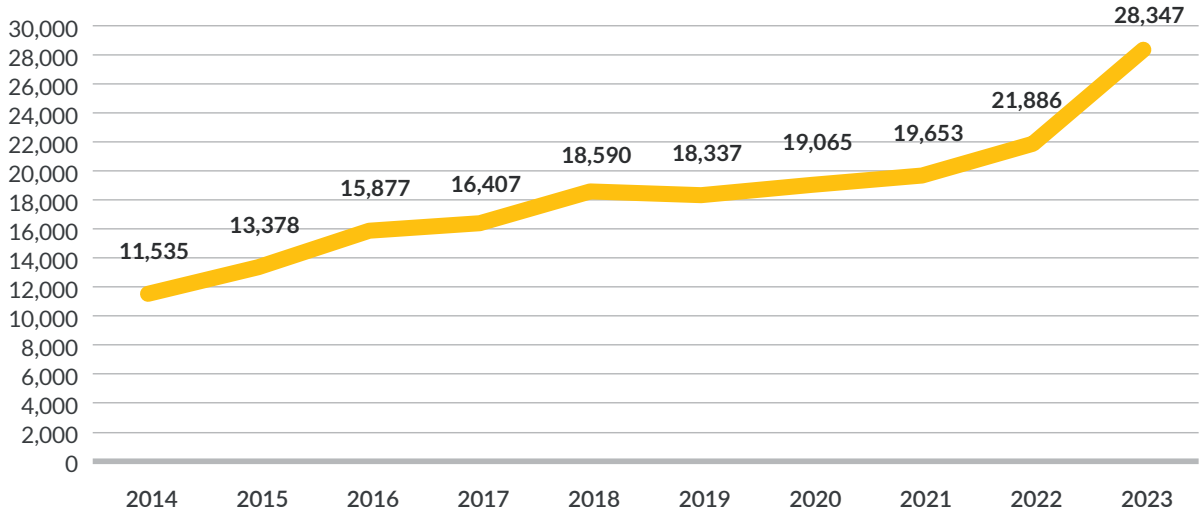
H3 (A): The time taken from the date of vacation of a dwelling to the date in year when the dwelling is re-tenanted, averaged across all dwellings re-let during year (weeks)

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
31.43	29.46	32.99	28.99	27.75	28.17	32.69	34.44	35.22	33.72



H3 B: Average Cost Expended on Getting the Re-tenanted Dwellings Ready for re-letting in year (€)

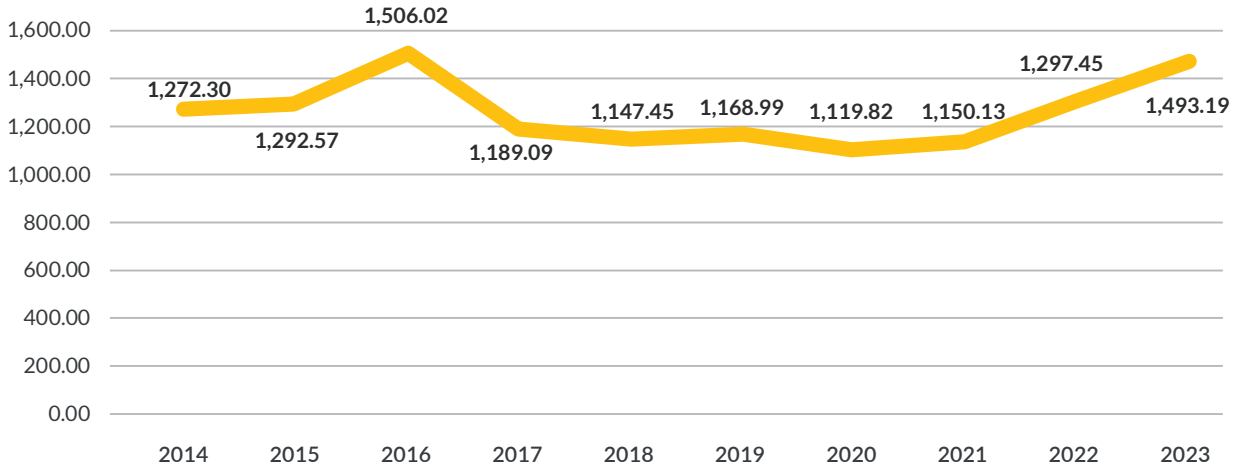
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
11,535	13,378	15,877	16,407	18,590	18,337	19,065	19,653	21,886	28,347



H4: Housing Maintenance Direct Costs

H4 (A): Average expenditure during year on the repair and maintenance of housing bought or built by the LA divided by the number of directly provided dwellings in the LA stock at year end

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,272.30	1,292.57	1,506.02	1,189.09	1,147.45	1,168.99	1,119.82	1,150.13	1,297.48	1,493.19



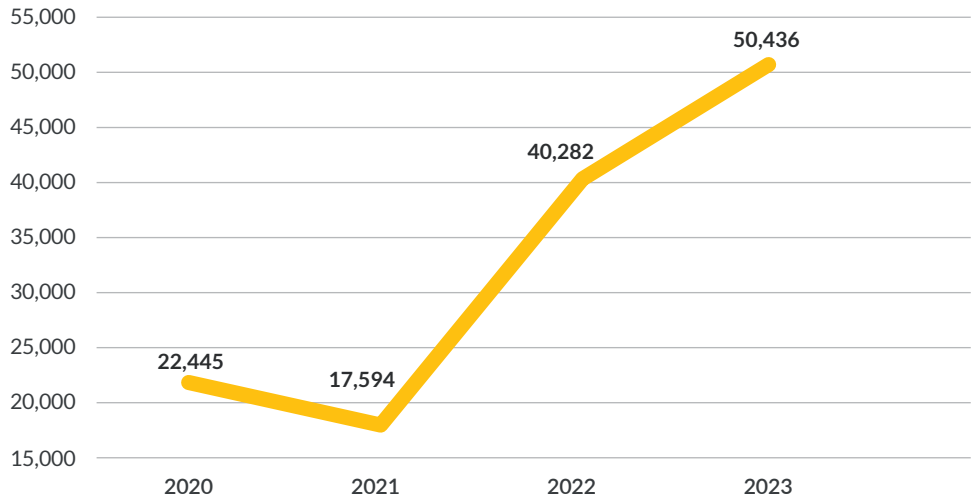
H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections

H5 (A): Total number of registered tenancies in the LA area

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
285,025	308,729	311,295	327,187	322,230	324,188	334,588	N/A	N/A	290,836

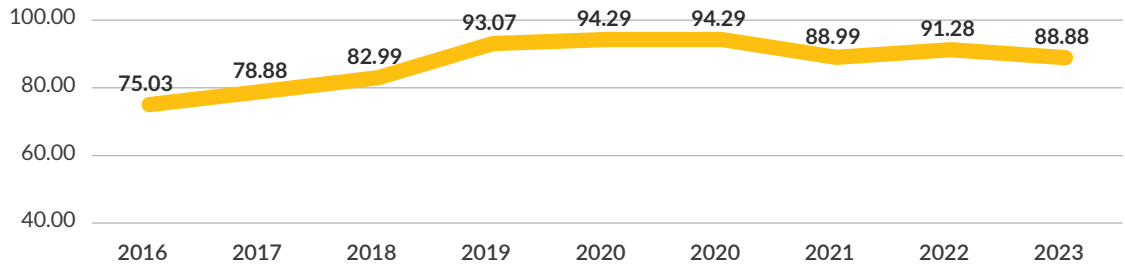
H5 (B): Number of rented dwellings inspected

2020	2021	2022	2023
22,445	17,594	40,282	50,436



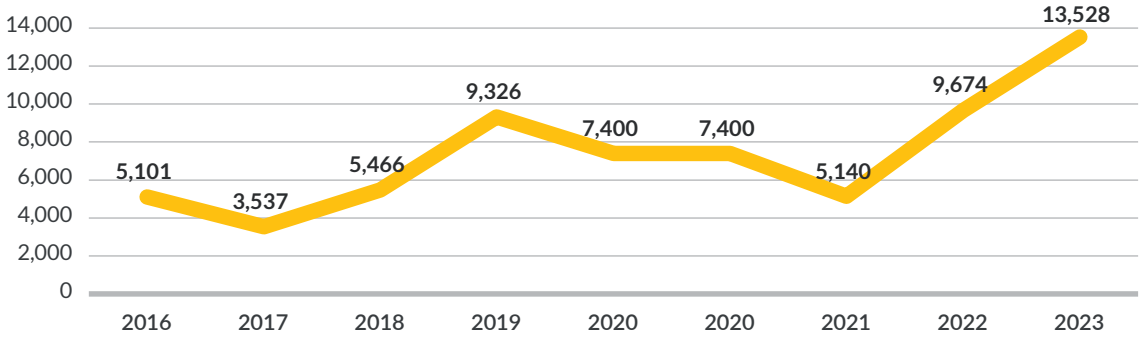
H5 C: Percentage of inspected dwellings in year that were found not to be compliant with the Standards Regulations

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021	2022	2023
75.03	78.88	82.99	93.07	94.29	94.29	88.99	91.28	88.88



H5 (D): Number of dwellings deemed compliant in year (including those originally deemed non-compliant)

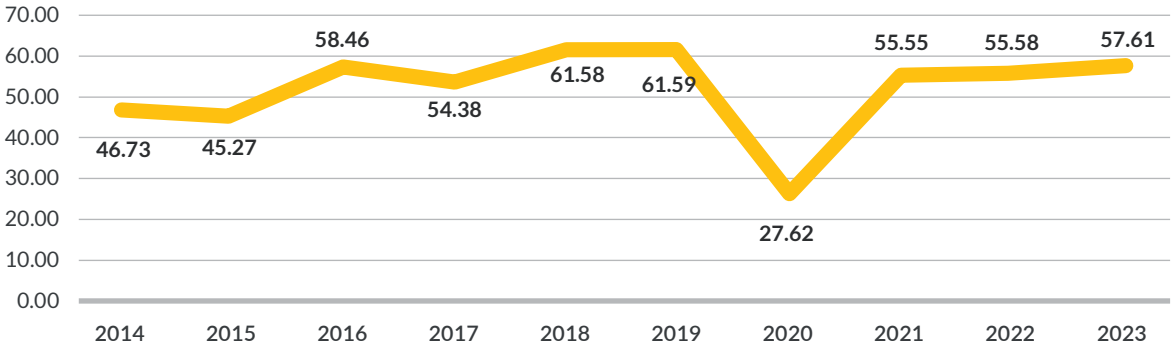
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020	2021	2022	2023
5,101	3,537	5,466	9,326	7,400	7,400	5,140	9,674	13,528



H6: Long-term Homeless Adults

H6 (A): Number of adult individuals in emergency accommodation that are longterm (i.e. 6 months or more within the previous year) homeless as a percentage of the total number of homeless adult individuals in emergency accommodation at the end of year

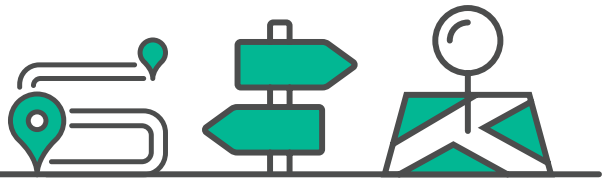
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
46.73	45.27	58.46	54.38	61.58	61.59	27.62	55.55	55.58	57.61



H7: Social Housing Retrofit

	2023
A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	2,445
A. (2) The number of houses that achieved a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	2,315
A. (3) The number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	2,200
B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	35,663.4
C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023	10,376.3

Section 2
Roads (R1 to R3)



Roads R1 B: Median % Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - A – Regional

Regional 1-4 Rating **2023**	Regional 5-6 Rating **2023**	Regional 7-8 Rating **2023**	Regional 9-10 Rating **2023**
2%	**9%**	**42%**	**41%**
(7% in 2014)	(16% in 2014)	(42% in 2014)	(20% in 2014)

The local government sector is responsible for a total of 96,478km of regional, local primary, secondary and tertiary roads in Ireland. Road maintenance is primarily funded through grants from the Department of Transport (DoT), except for some of the urban local authorities. The performance indicators related to roads present information on the road surface ratings, the road maintenance programme and collection of motor tax.

R1: Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Rating

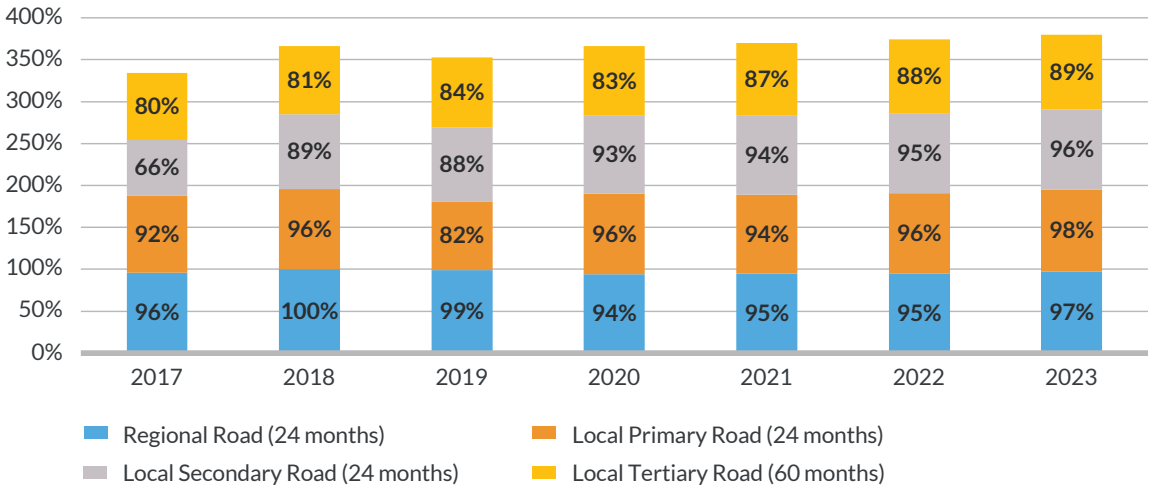
In graphs R1 (B) below, the data is presented as stacked bar charts showing the relative performance of each road type for each condition category for the period. The results illustrate that the number of roads with condition rating 1 to 4 remain constant for all categories, including regional roads.

For the purpose of the performance indicators, the roads that have a PSCI rating are categorised as follows:

Overall PSCI Rating	Primary Rating Indicators
9 to 10	No defects or minor surface defects
7 to 8	Surface defects
5 to 6	Surface defects, localised distress
1 to 4	Some to severe structural distress

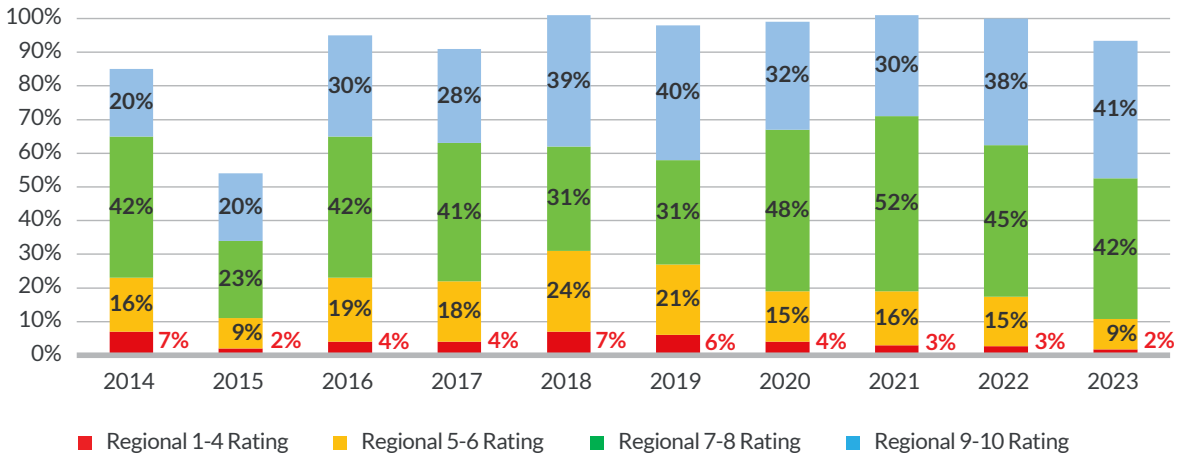
R1 (A): Median % of Regional, Local Primary, Local Secondary and Local Tertiary Road that received a PSCI Rating

Indicator	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Regional Road (24 months)	96%	100%	99%	94%	95%	95%	97%
Local Primary Road (24 months)	92%	96%	82%	96%	94%	96%	98%
Local Secondary Road (24 months)	66%	89%	88%	93%	94%	95%	96%
Local Tertiary Road (60 months)	80%	81%	84%	83%	87%	88%	89%



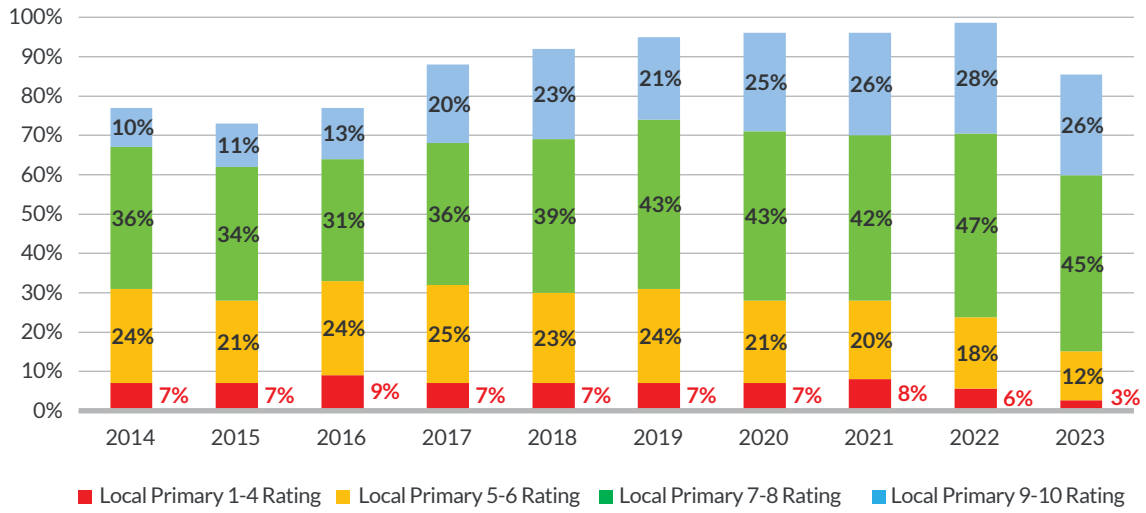
R1 (B): Median % Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - A – Regional

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Regional 1-4 Rating	7%	2%	4%	4%	7%	6%	4%	3%	3%	2%
Regional 5-6 Rating	16%	9%	19%	18%	24%	21%	15%	16%	15%	9%
Regional 7-8 Rating	42%	23%	42%	41%	31%	31%	48%	52%	45%	42%
Regional 9-10 Rating	20%	20%	30%	28%	39%	40%	32%	30%	38%	41%



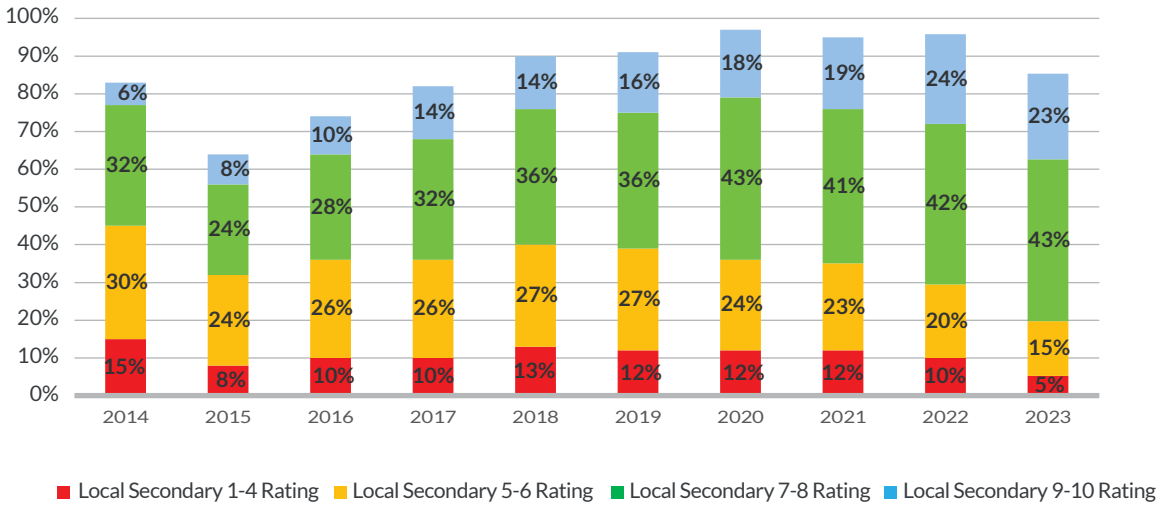
R1 (B): Median % Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - B – Local Primary

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Local Primary 1-4 Rating	7%	7%	9%	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%	6%	3%
Local Primary 5-6 Rating	24%	21%	24%	25%	23%	24%	21%	20%	18%	12%
Local Primary 7-8 Rating	36%	34%	31%	36%	39%	43%	43%	42%	47%	45%
Local Primary 9-10 Rating	10%	11%	13%	20%	23%	21%	25%	26%	28%	26%



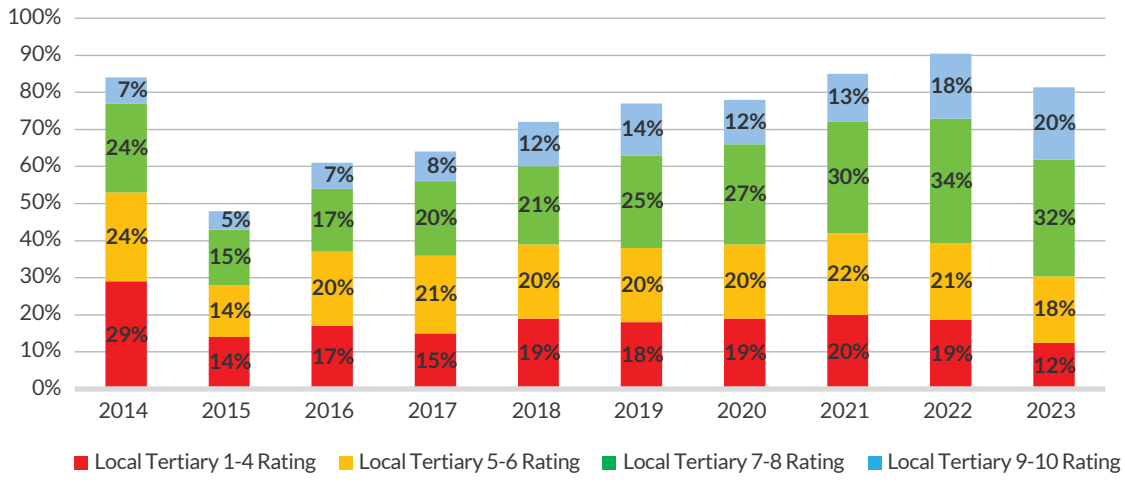
R1 (B): Median % Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - C – Local Secondary

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Local Secondary 1-4 Rating	15%	8%	10%	10%	13%	12%	12%	12%	10%	5%
Local Secondary 5-6 Rating	30%	24%	26%	26%	27%	27%	24%	23%	20%	15%
Local Secondary 7-8 Rating	32%	24%	28%	32%	36%	36%	43%	41%	42%	43%
Local Secondary 9-10 Rating	6%	8%	10%	14%	14%	16%	18%	19%	24%	23%



R1 (B): Median % Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) Ratings - D – Local Tertiary

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Local Tertiary 1-4 Rating	29%	14%	17%	15%	19%	18%	19%	20%	19%	12%
Local Tertiary 5-6 Rating	24%	14%	20%	21%	20%	20%	20%	22%	21%	18%
Local Tertiary 7-8 Rating	24%	15%	17%	20%	21%	25%	27%	30%	34%	32%
Local Tertiary 9-10 Rating	7%	5%	7%	8%	12%	14%	12%	13%	18%	20%

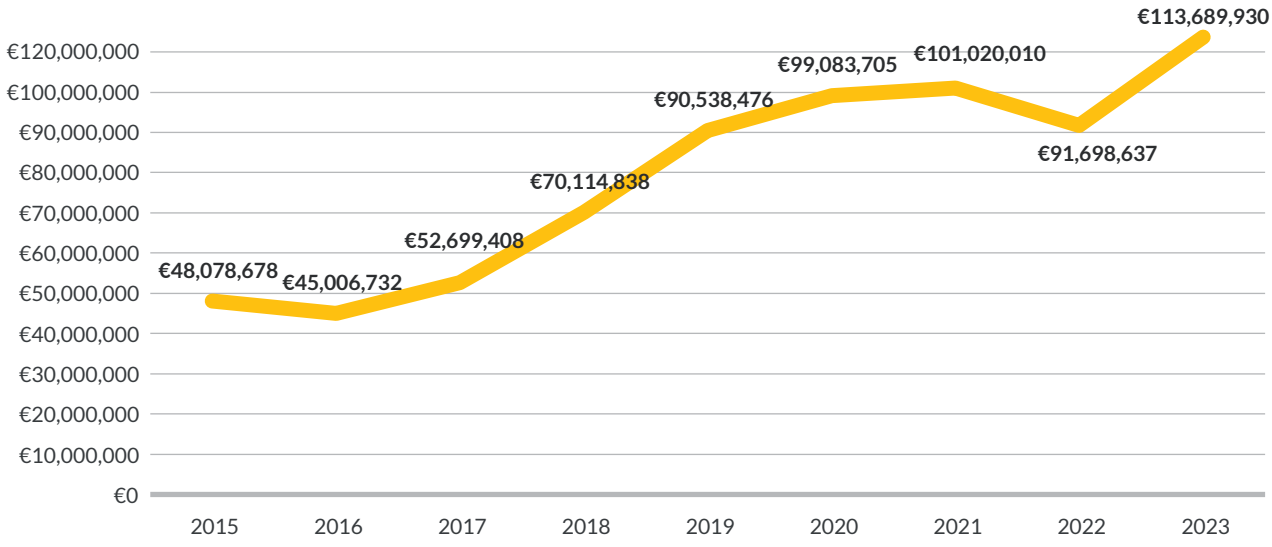


R2: Road Works

The Kilometres of regional road strengthened increased from 345.60km in 2022 to 419.9km in 2023. In line with this, the amount expended on regional roads strengthening work increased from €91,698,637 in 2022 to €113,689,930 in 2023. The kilometres of regional road resealed rose from 447.2 km in 2022 to 464.2km in 2023 with expenditure in this area of €17,822,393.

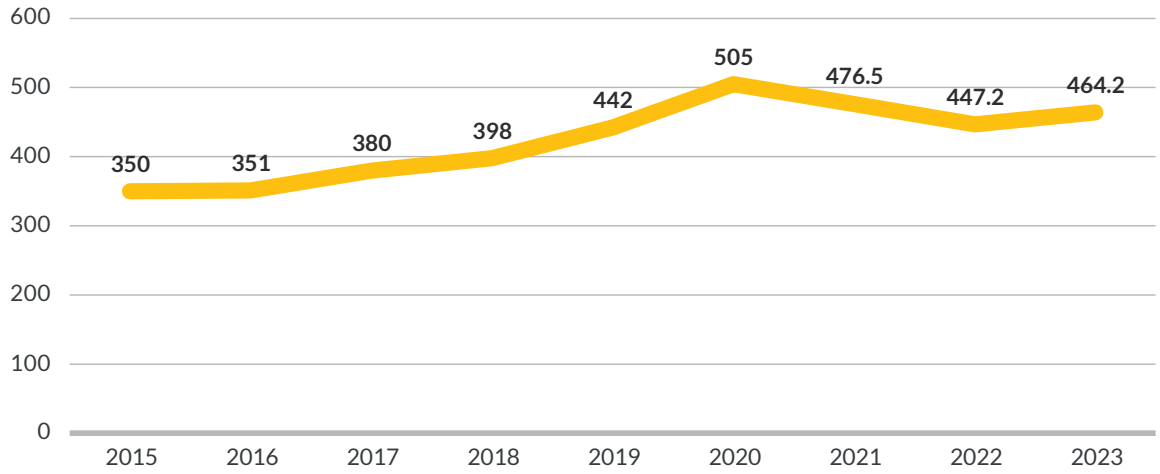
R2 A: Kilometres of regional road strengthened

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
48,078,678	45,006,732	52,699,408	70,114,838	90,538,476	99,083,705	101,020,010	91,698,637	113,689,930



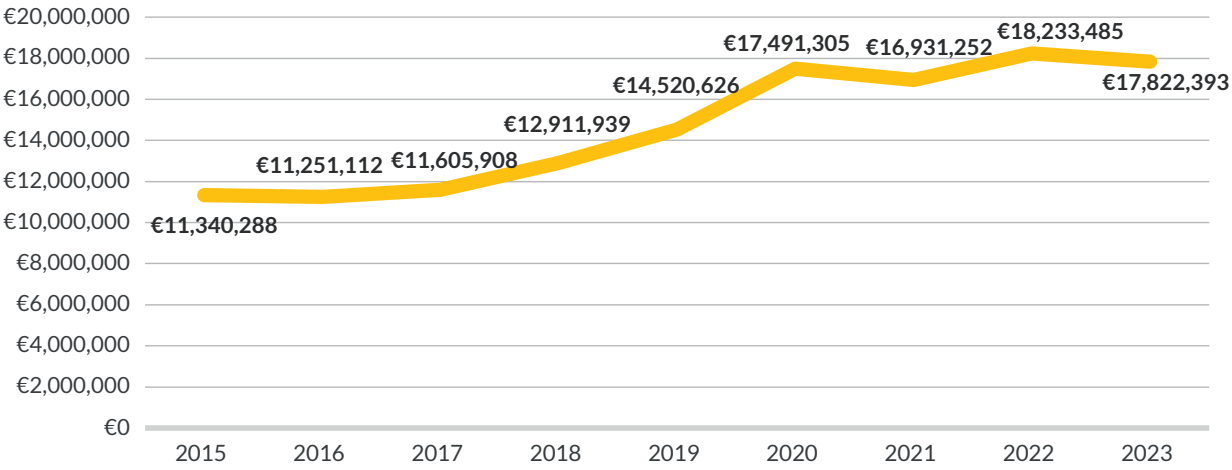
R2 (B): Kilometres of regional road resealed

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
350	351	380	398	442	505	476.5	447.2	464.2



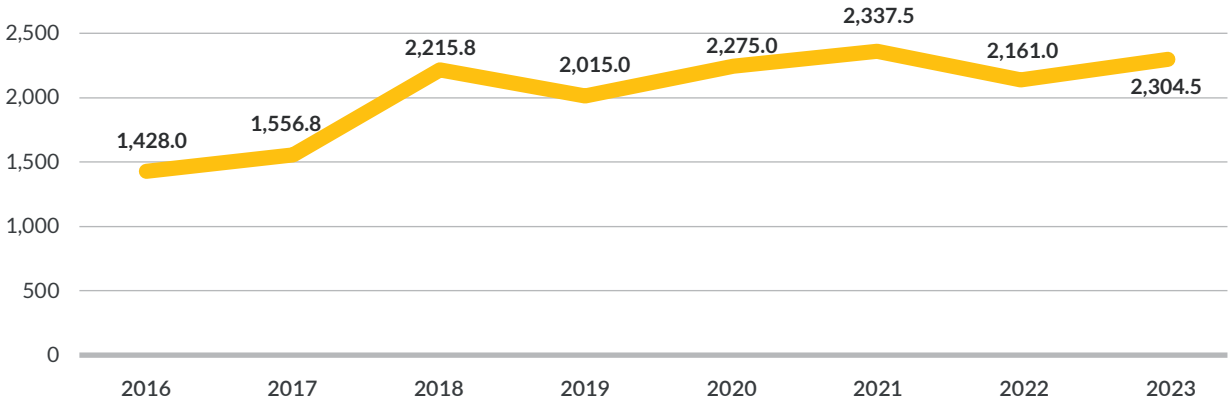
R2 (B): Amount expended on regional road resealing (€)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
11,340,288	11,251,112	11,605,908	12,911,939	14,520,626	17,491,305	16,931,252	18,233,485	17,822,393



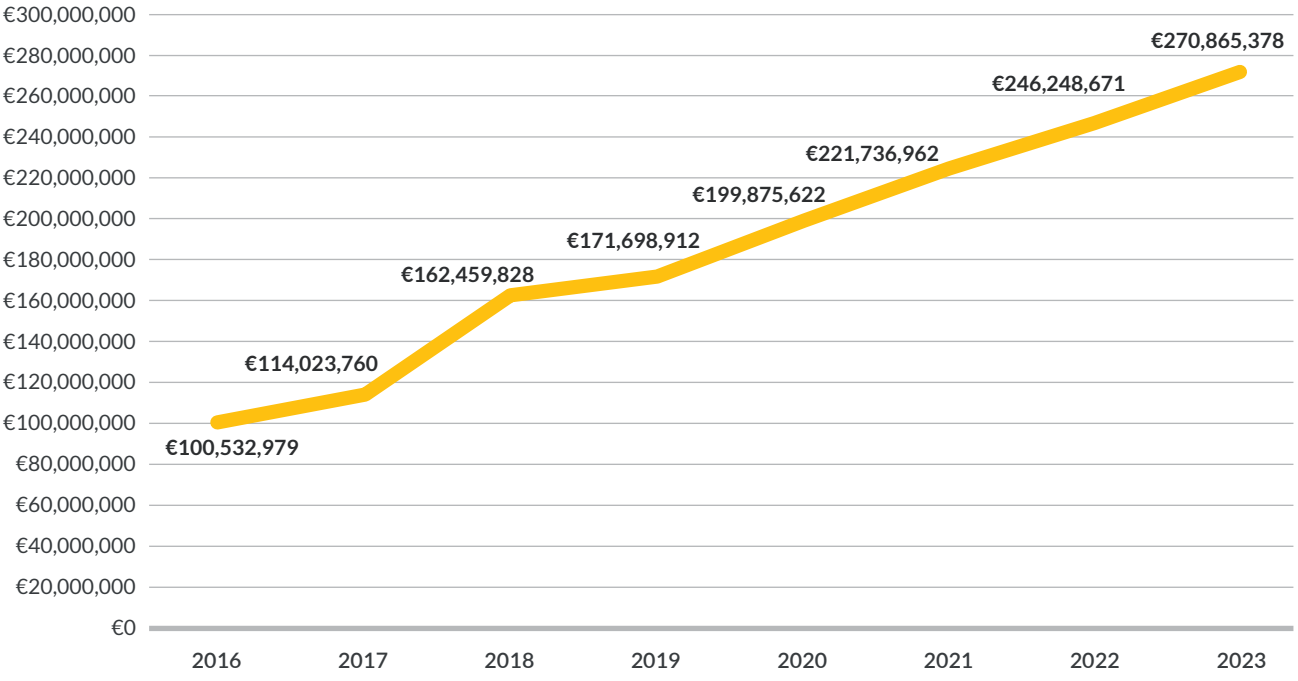
R2 (C): Kilometres of local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthened

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,428.0	1,556.8	2,215.8	2,015.0	2,275.0	2,337.5	2,161.0	2,304.5



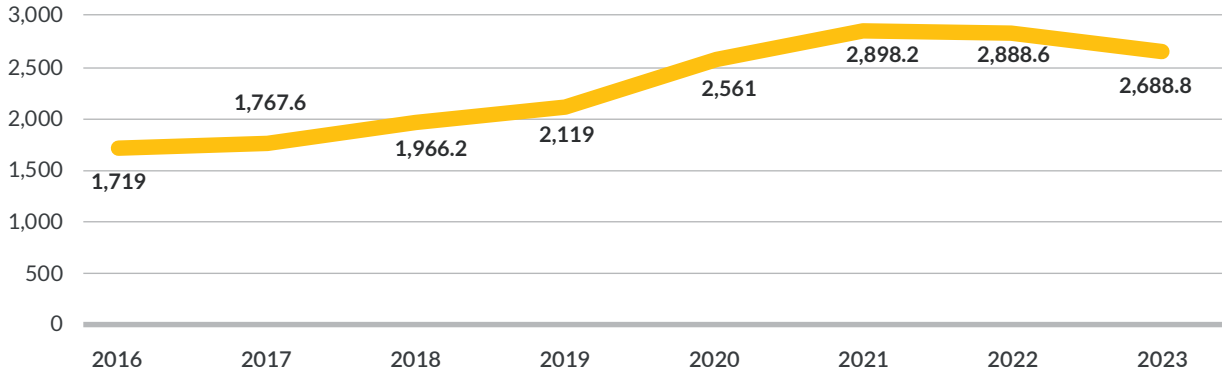
R2 (C): Amount expended on local road (i.e. total of primary, secondary and tertiary) strengthening (€)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
€100,532,979	€114,023,760	€162,459,828	€171,698,912	€199,875,622	€221,736,962	€246,248,671	€270,865,378



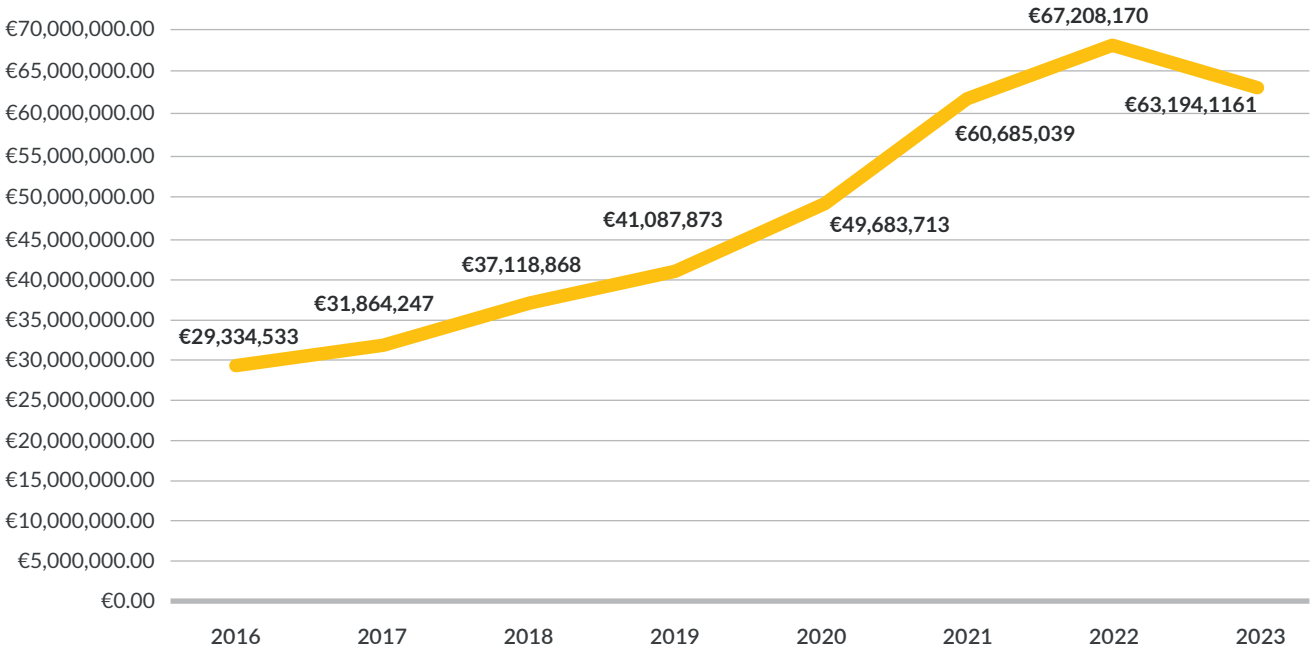
R2 (D): Kilometres of local road resealed

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,719.0	1,767.6	1,966.2	2,119.0	2,561.0	2,898.2	2,888.6	2,688.8



R2 (D): Amount expended on local road resealing (€)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
€29,334,533	€31,864.25	€37,118,868	€41,087,873	€49,683,713	€60,685,039	€67,208,170	€63,194,161

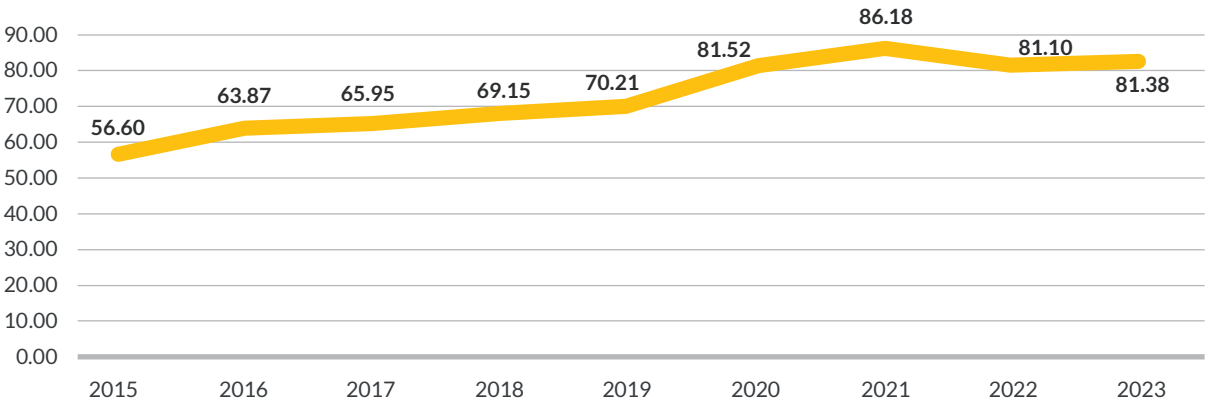


R3: Motor Tax Transactions Conducted Online

Data for this indicator is supplied directly by the Department of Transport's Vehicle Registration Unit in Shannon.

R3 (A): % of motor tax transactions which were dealt with online (i.e. transaction is processed and the tax disc is issued)

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
56.6	63.87	65.95	69.15	70.21	81.52	86.18	81.10	81.38



Section 3
Water (W1 to W2)

Percentage of private water scheme **2014**

98.89%

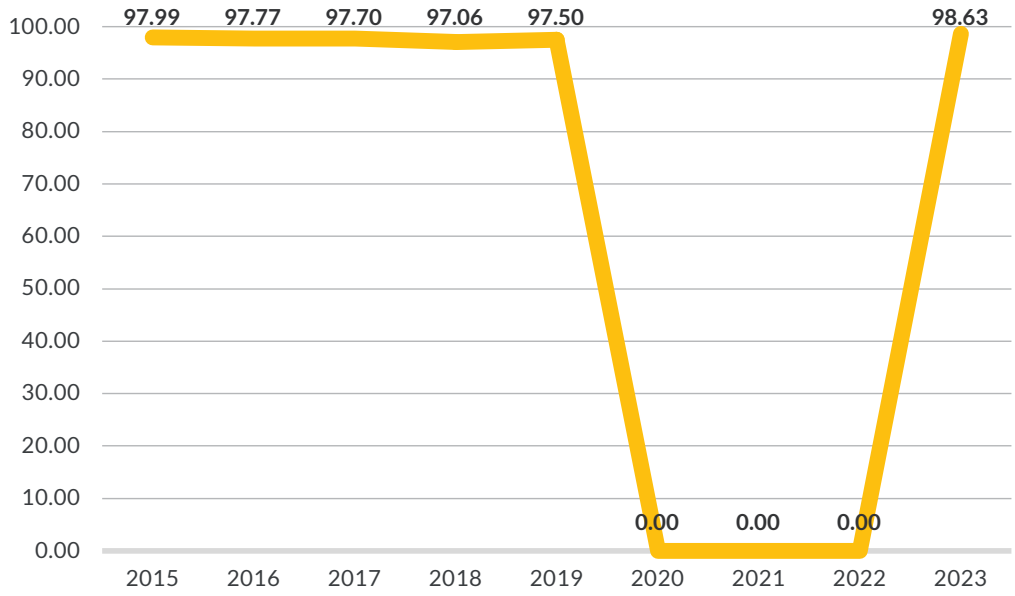
Percentage of private water scheme **2023**

98.93%

The water indicators are W1 percentage of drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements and W2 percentage of registered schemes monitored. For the last 3 years the EPA have not been in a position to provide W1 data in time for publication therefore NOAC welcomes receipt of this data for 2023. There is limited historical trend data available for W2, 83.45% in 2023 is in line with previous years (83.05% in 2022).

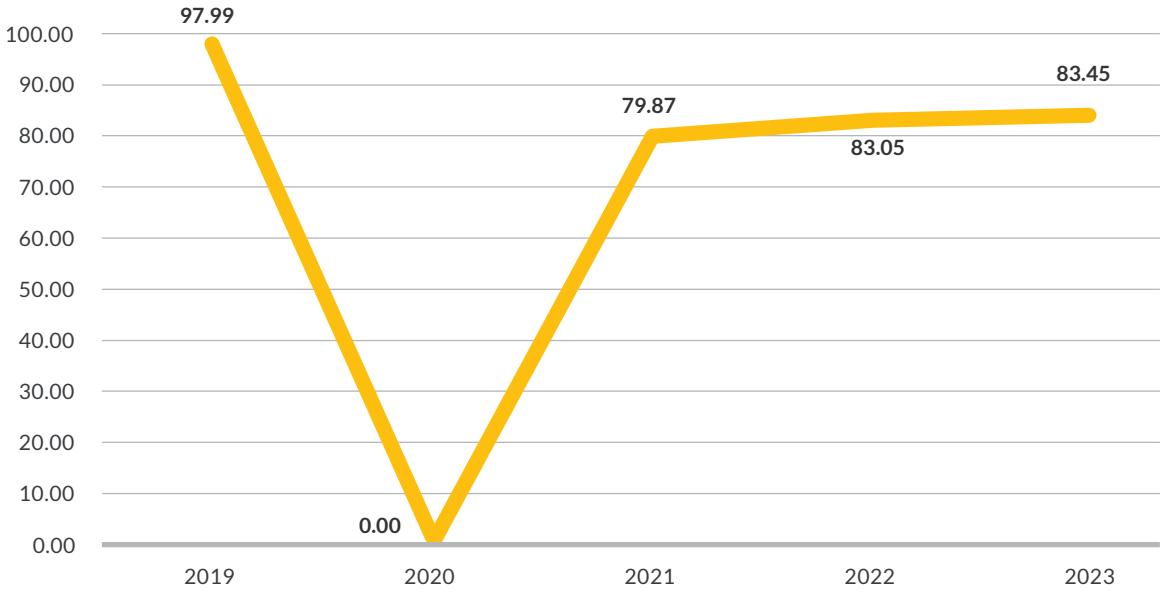
W1: % Drinking water in private schemes in compliance with statutory requirements

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
97.99	97.77	97.70	97.06	97.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	98.63



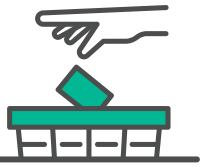
W2: % of registered schemes monitored

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
97.99	n/a	79.87	83.05	83.45



Section 4

Waste and Environment (E1 to E7)



Number of households which availed of a 3-bin service **2014**

522,141

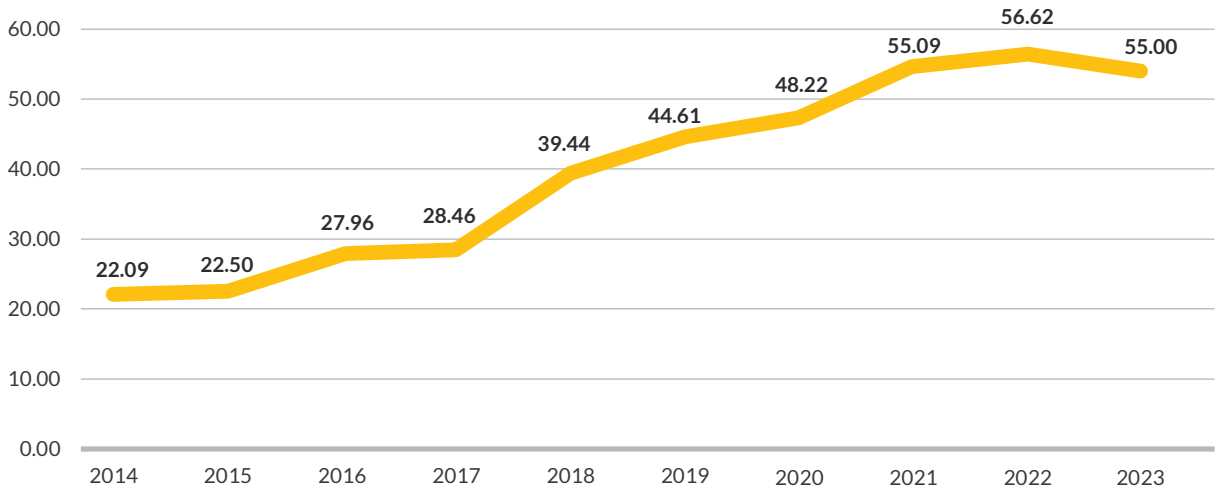
Number of households which availed of a 3-bin service **2023**

1,012,665

A range of indicators are contained in this section, including waste management, environmental pollution, litter management and green flags for schools. 94.13% of households in an agglomeration over 500 availed of a 3-bin service in 2023.

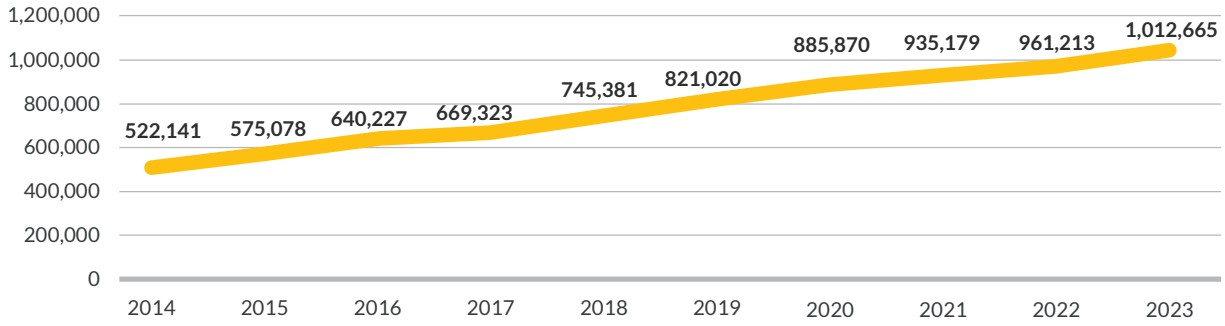
E1 (A): The number of households, which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator at year end

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
22.09	22.50	27.96	28.46	39.44	44.61	48.22	55.09	56.62	55.00



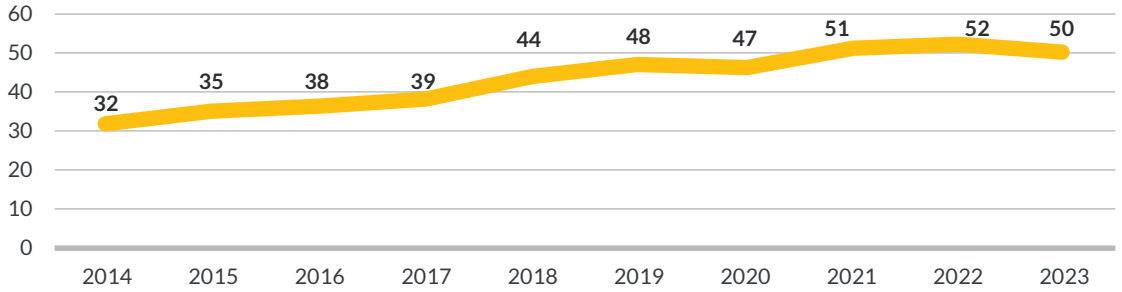
E1 (A): The number of households, which availed of a 3-bin service offered by a licensed operator

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
522,141	575,078	640,227	669,323	745,381	821,020	885,870	935,179	961,213	1,012,665



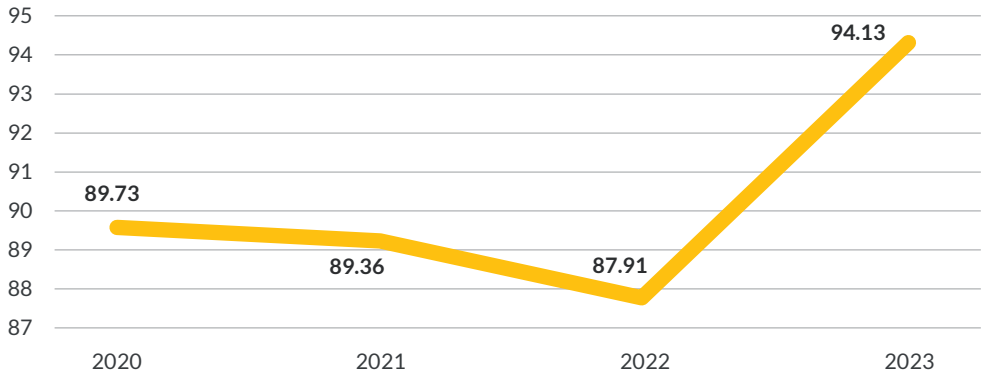
E1 (B): Percentage of households, which availed of a 3-bin service at year end

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
32	35	38	39	44	48	47	51	52	50



E1 (B): Percentage of households within the local authority that the number at A represents (based on agglomerations > 500)

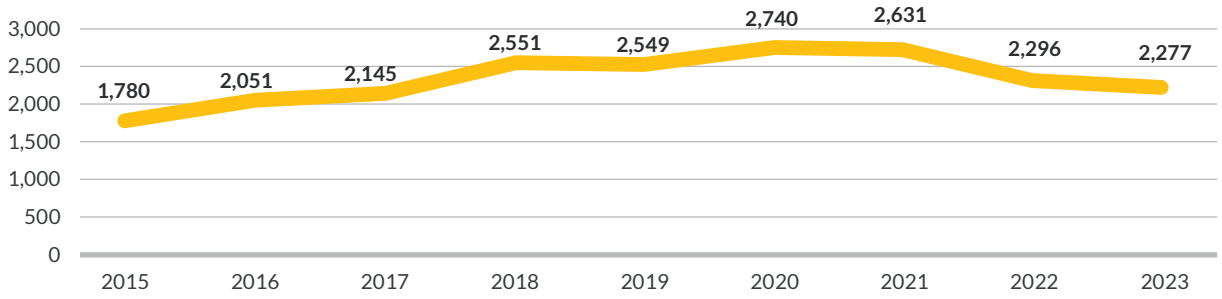
2020	2021	2022	2023
89.73	89.36	87.91	94.13



E2: % Environmental pollution

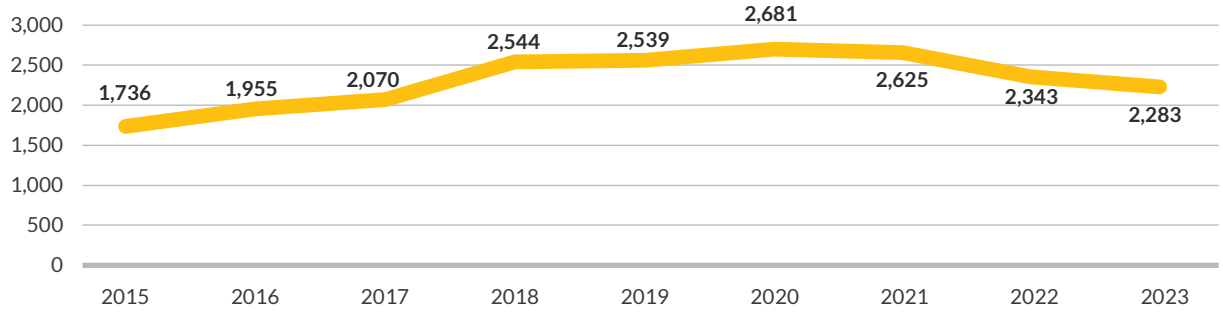
E2: The average number of pollution cases in respect of which a complaint was made

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,780	2,051	2,145	2,551	2,549	2,740	2,631	2,296	2,277



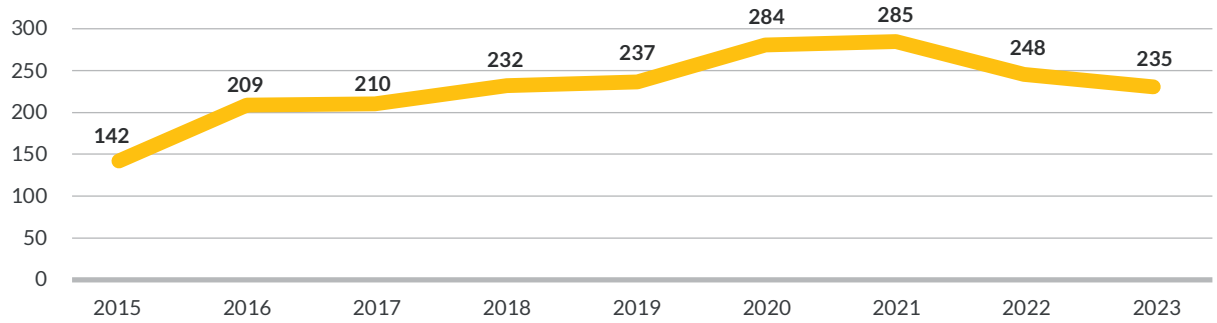
E2 (A): The number of pollution cases closed during the year

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,736	1,955	2,070	2,544	2,539	2,681	2,625	2,343	2,283



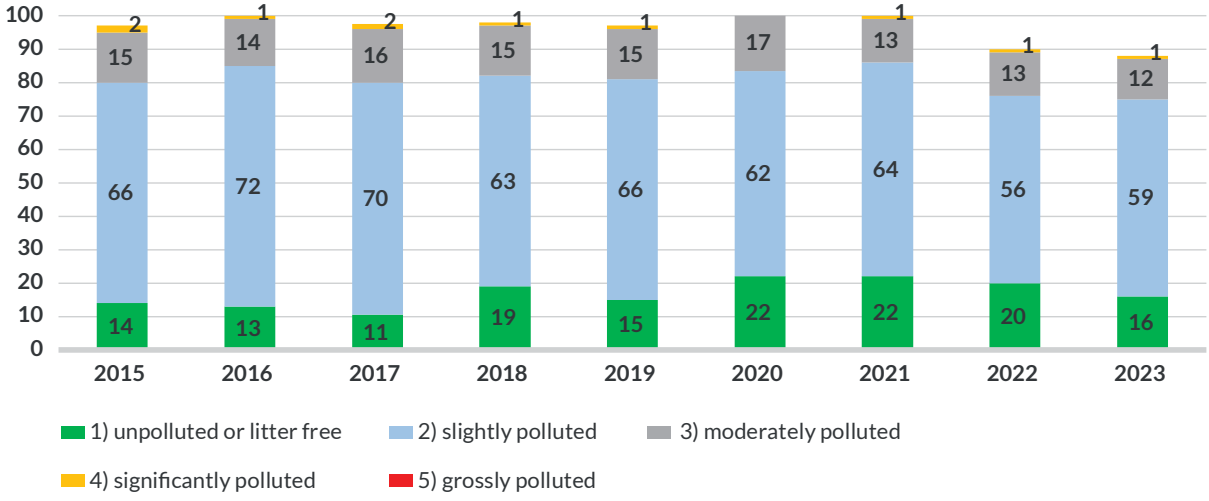
E2 (B): The average number of cases on hand at end of year

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
142	209	210	232	237	284	285	248	235



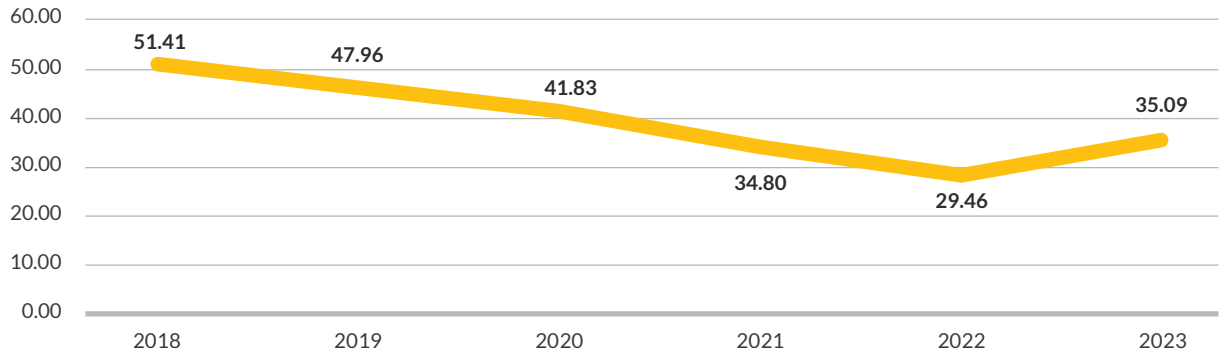
E3: % LA area within the 5 levels of litter pollution

E3 (A): The median percentage of the area within local authorities that when surveyed in year was at a certain level of pollution	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1) unpolluted or litter free	14	13	10.5	19	15	22	22	20	16
2) slightly polluted,	66	72	69.5	63	66	61.5	64	56	59
3) moderately polluted	15	14	16	15	15	16.5	13	13	12
4) significantly polluted	2	1	1.5	1	1	1	1	1	1
5) grossly polluted	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



E4: % of schools that currently hold and have renewed their green flag status

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
51.41	47.96	41.83	34.80	29.46	35.09



E5: Percentage Energy Efficiency Performance

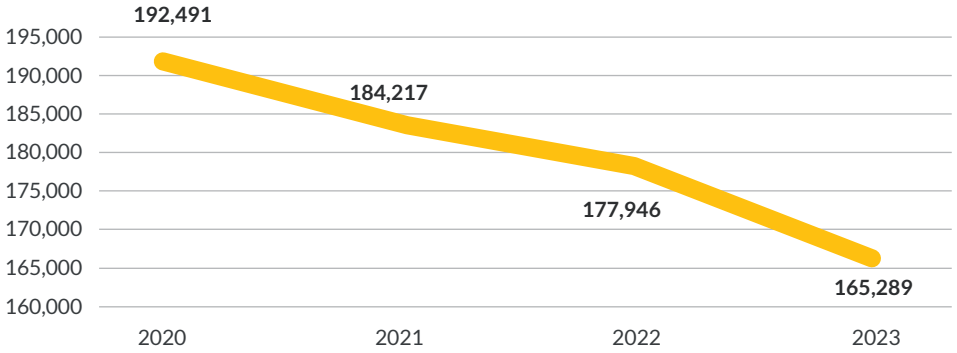
The cumulative percentage of energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009).

2022	2023
-35.94	-38.79

E6: Public Lighting

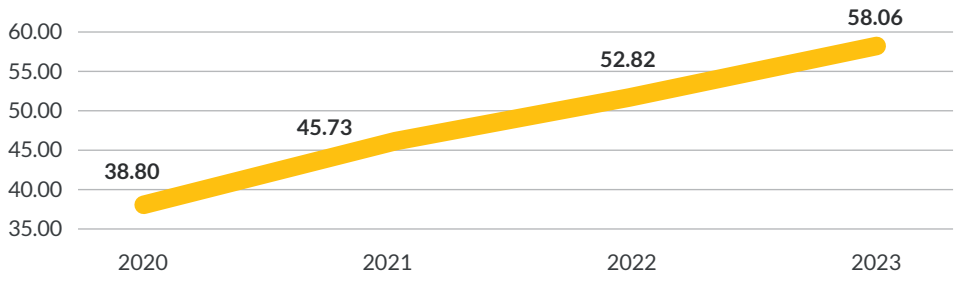
E6 (A). Total annual consumption of the public lighting system

2020	2021	2022	2023
192,491	184,217	177,946	165,289



E6 (B): Percentage of the total system that LED lights represent

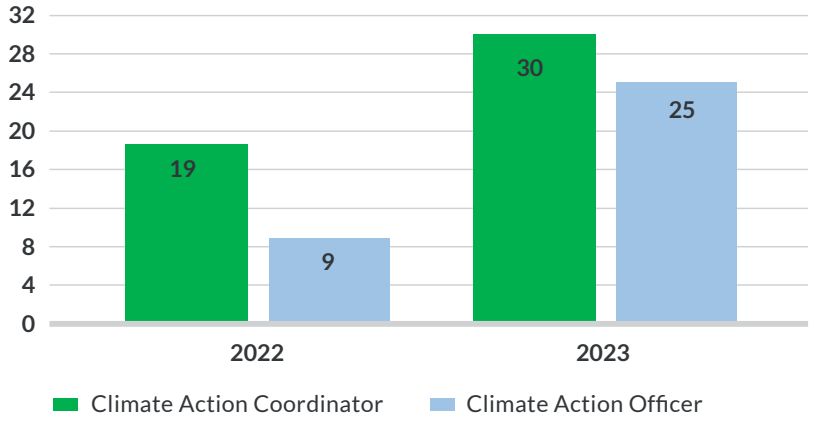
2020	2021	2022	2023
38.80	45.73	52.82	58.06



E7: Climate Change

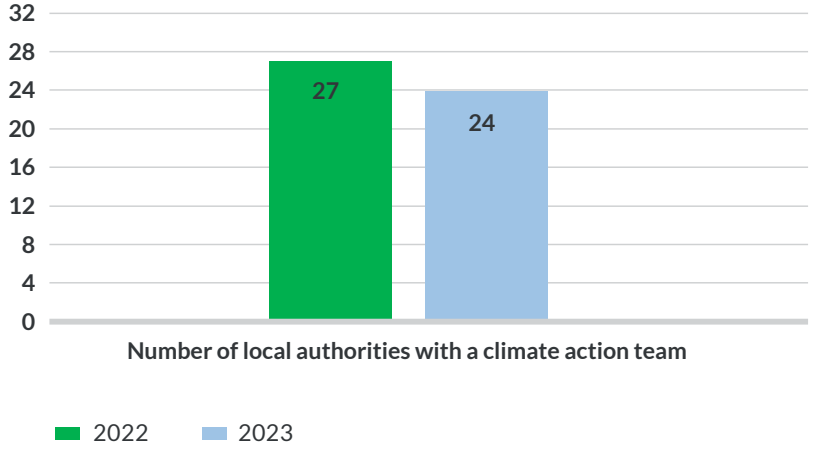
E7. Number of Local authorities with designated FTE climate action resources under the following headings

	2022	2023
Climate Action Coordinator	19	30
Climate Action Officer	9	25



E7. Number of local authorities with a climate action team

2022	2023
27	24



Section 5
Planning (P1 to P5)

Percentage new builds inspected **2023**
22.39%
(17.71% in 2014)

Number of planning decisions subject to appeal to An Bord Pleanála **2023**
1,713
(1,095 in 2014)

Percentage of decisions confirmed **2023**
75.72%
(69.95% in 2014)

Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved **2023**
6,783
(6,428 in 2014)

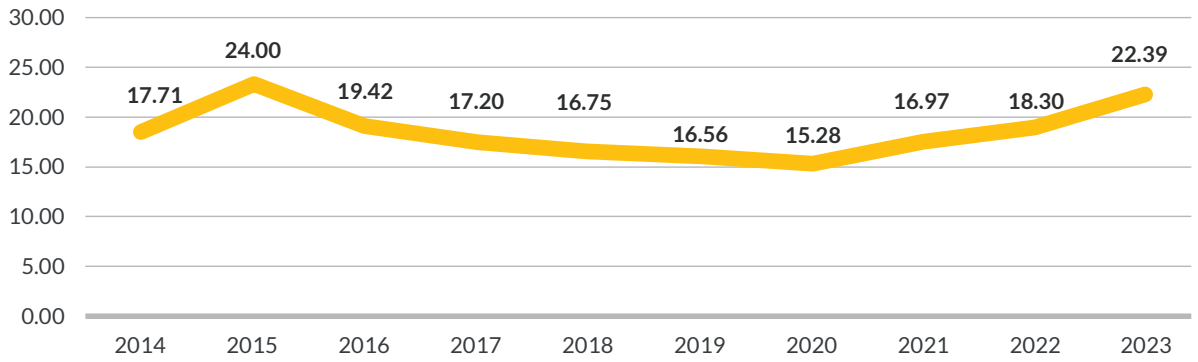
Cost per capita of Planning service **2023**
€35.97
(€26.23 in 2014)

P1: New Buildings Inspected

The Code of Practice for Inspecting and Certifying Buildings and Works (The Code), sets a minimum requirement of 12-15% in relation to inspections of new buildings, for which valid commencement notices have been received. These inspections are vital to ensure buildings are constructed in line with legislation.

P1 (A): Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority in the year

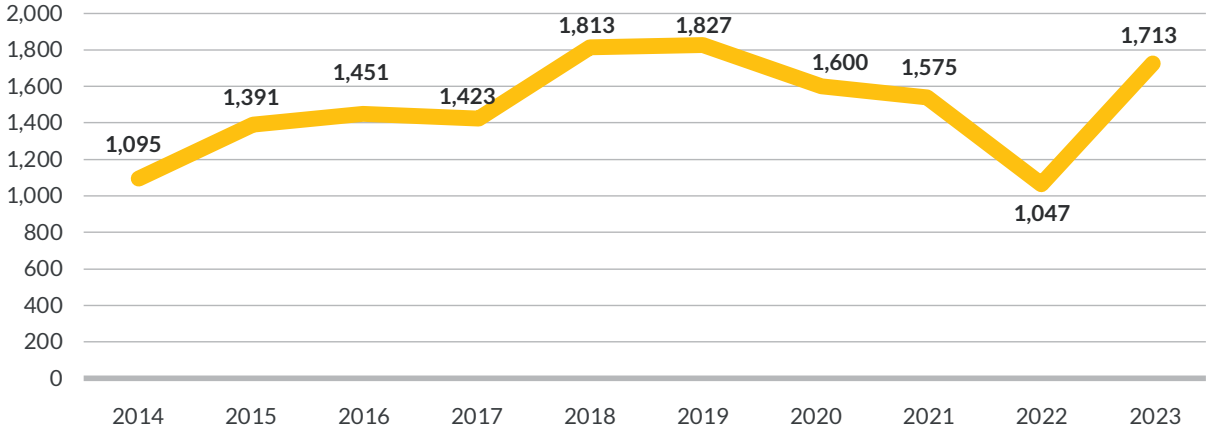
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
17.71	24.00	19.42	17.20	16.75	16.56	15.28	16.97	18.30	22.39



P2: Number / Percentage decisions confirmed by An Bord Pleanála

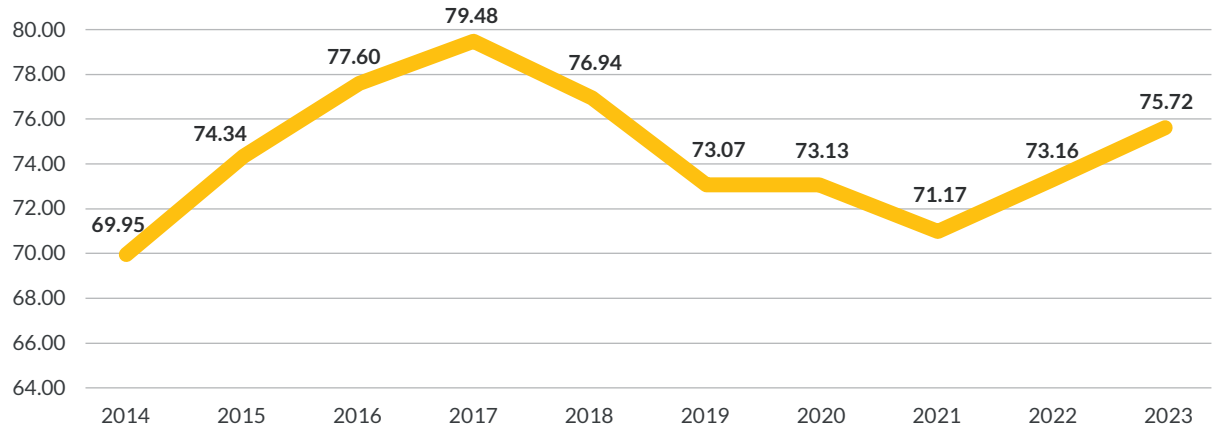
P2 (A): Number of local authority planning decisions which were the subject of an appeal to An Bord Pleanála that were determined by the Board on any date in the year

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,095	1,391	1,451	1,423	1,813	1,827	1,600	1,575	1,047	1,713



P2 (B): Percentage of the determinations at A which confirmed (either with or without variation of the plan) the decision made by the local authority

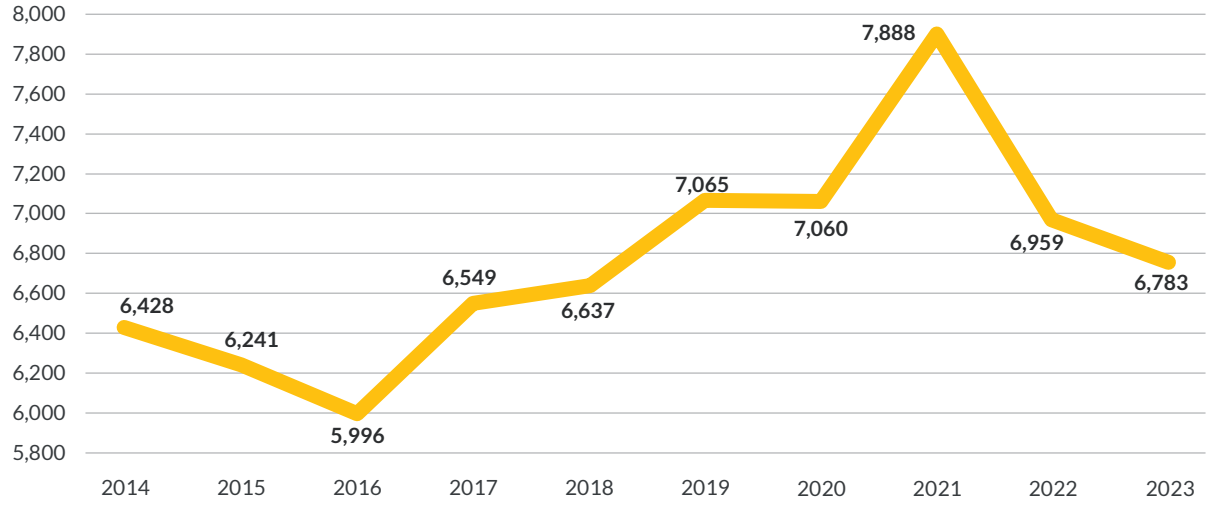
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
69.95	74.34	77.60	79.48	76.94	73.07	73.13	71.17	73.16	75.72



P3: Planning Enforcement cases closed as resolved

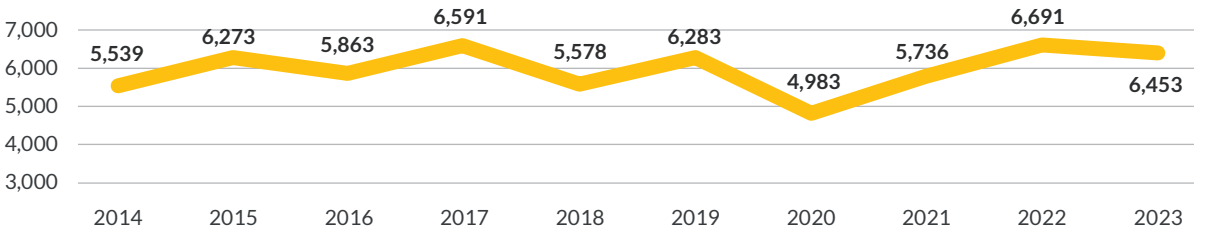
P3 (A): Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority that were investigated

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
6,428	6,241	5,996	6,549	6,637	7,065	7,060	7,888	6,959	6,783



P3 (B): Total number of planning cases referred to or initiated by the local authority that were closed in the year

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
5,539	6,273	5,863	6,591	5,578	6,283	4,983	5,736	6,691	6,453



P3 (C): Percentage of cases that were dismissed as trivial, minor or without foundation or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development

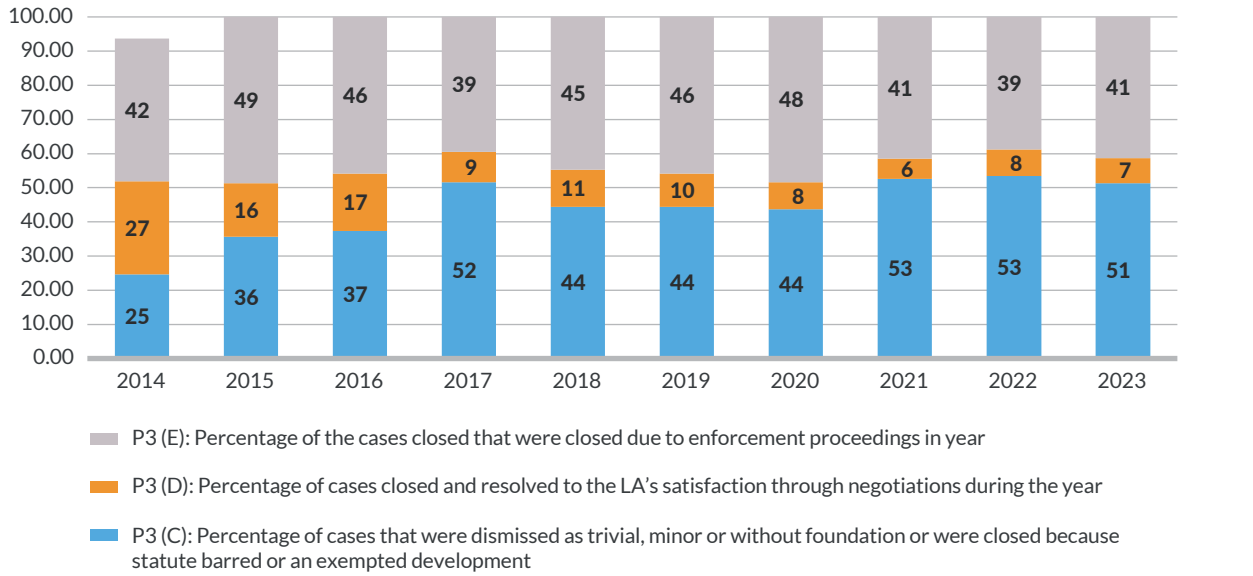
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
24.59	35.58	37.37	51.60	44.42	44.39	43.71	52.55	53.39	51.39

P3 (D): Percentage of cases closed and resolved to the LA's satisfaction through negotiations during the year

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
27.28	15.70	16.82	8.94	10.90	9.69	7.89	6.01	7.76	7.31

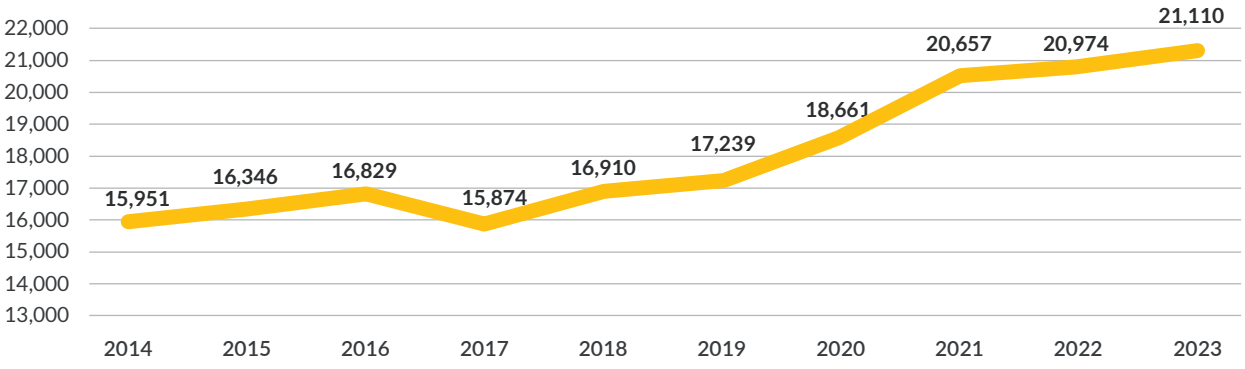
P3 (E): Percentage of the cases closed that were closed due to enforcement proceedings in year

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
41.79	48.72	45.81	39.46	44.68	45.92	48.40	41.44	38.87	41.30



P3 (F): Total number of planning cases being investigated at year end

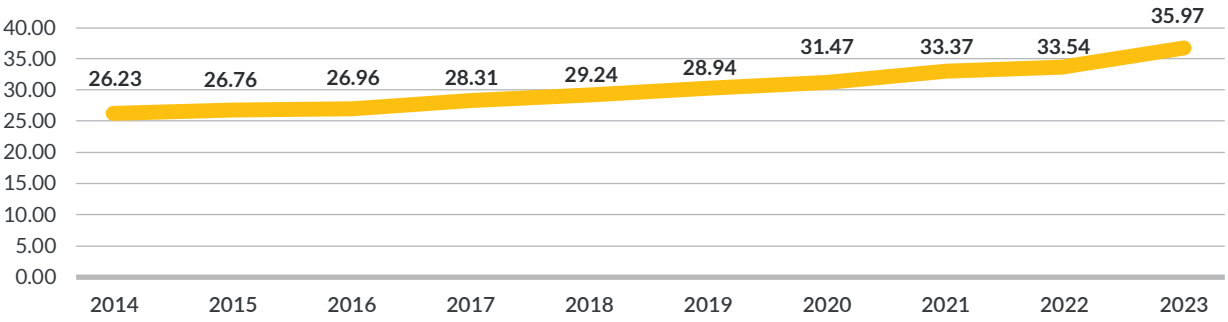
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
15,951	16,346	16,829	15,874	16,910	17,239	18,661	20,657	20,974	21,110



P4: Cost per Capita of the Planning Service

P4 (A): The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme D data divided by the population of the LA area per 2022 Census (€)

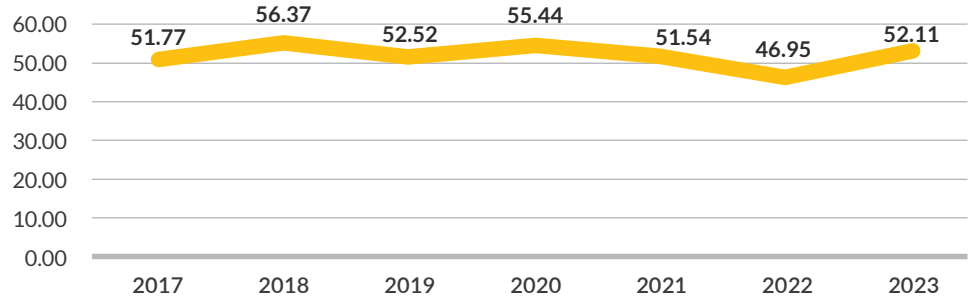
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
26.23	26.76	26.96	28.31	29.24	30.27	31.47	33.37	33.54	35.97



P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates

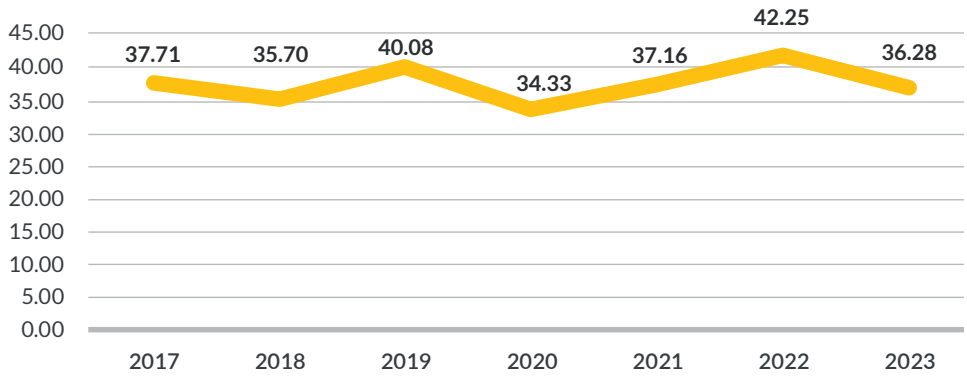
P5 (A): % of applications for fire safety certificates received that were decided (granted or refused) within two months of their receipt

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
51.77	56.37	52.52	55.44	51.54	46.95	52.11

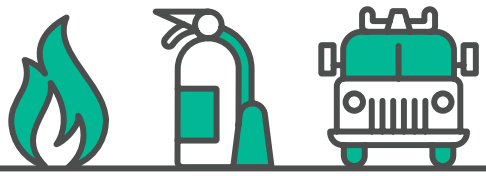


P5 (B): % of applications for fire safety certificates received that were decided (granted or refused) within an extended period agreed with the applicant

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
37.71	35.70	40.08	34.33	37.16	42.25	36.28



Section 6
Fire (F1 to F3)



Cost per capital of fire service **2023**

€65.76

(€55.19 in 2014)

Average minutes to mobilise fire service in full time station **2023**

1.25

(1.40 in 2014)

Average minutes to mobilise fire service in part time station **2023**

5.56

(5.32 in 2014)

Average minutes to mobilise fire service in full time station for non-fire emergency **2023**

1.34

(1.47 in 2014)

Average minutes to mobilise fire service in part time station for non-fire emergency **2023**

5.59

(5.55 in 2014)

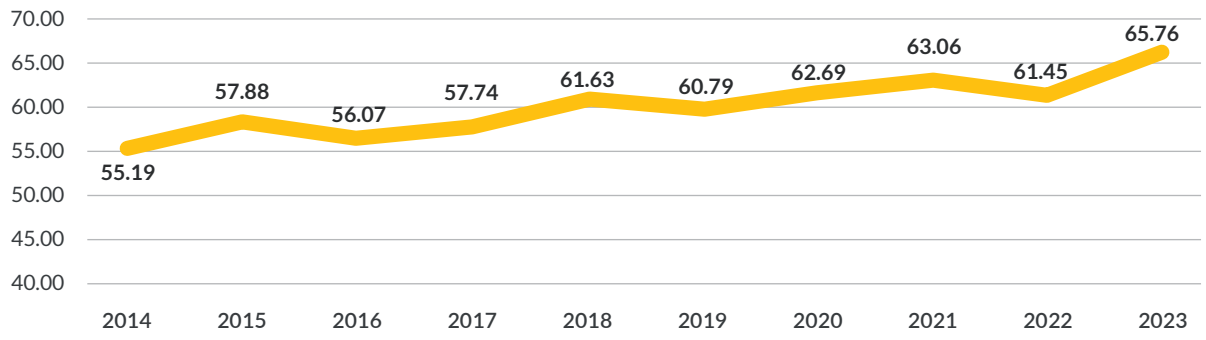
Fire Service indicators cover the cost of a service per capita, service mobilisation times, and times to attend at the scene of an incident.

In relation to fire incident mobilisation times and for mobilisation in relation to other incidents, the full-time stations data for 2023 is the same or on a par with 2022. Data in relation to fire incidents is presented together and shows little variation from 2014 to 2023. The majority of incidents continue to be attended to within 10 minutes, with the percentage showing slight improvement from 52.65% to 52.83%.

F1: Cost per Capita of the Fire Service (Full & Part-Time Station)

F1 (A): Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme E expenditure data divided by the population of the LA area per the 2022 Census figures for the population served by the fire authority as per the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports (€)

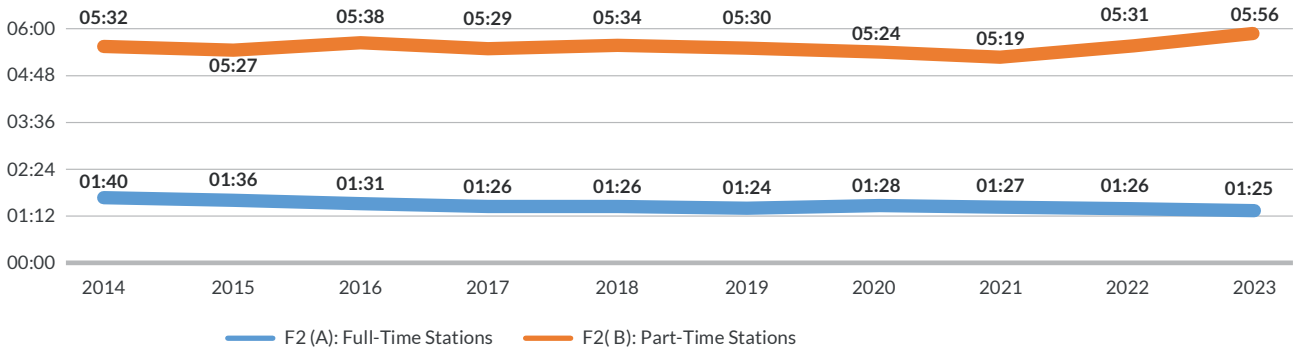
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
55.19	57.88	56.07	57.74	61.63	60.79	62.69	63.06	61.45	65.76



F2: Service Mobilisation

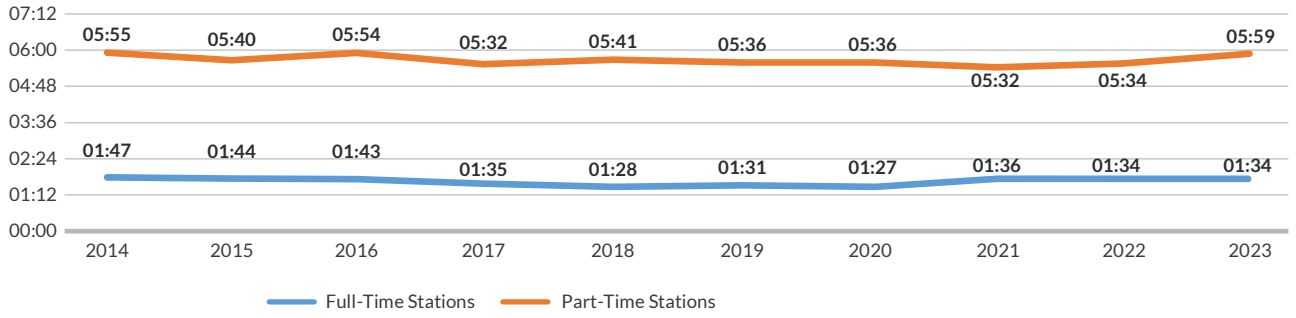
F2 (A and B): Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in respect of fire

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
F2 (A): Full-Time Stations	01:40	01:36	01:31	01:26	01:26	01:24	01:28	01:27	01:26	01:25
F2 (B): Part-Time Stations	05:32	05:27	05:38	05:34	05:30	05:38	05:24	05:19	05:31	05:56



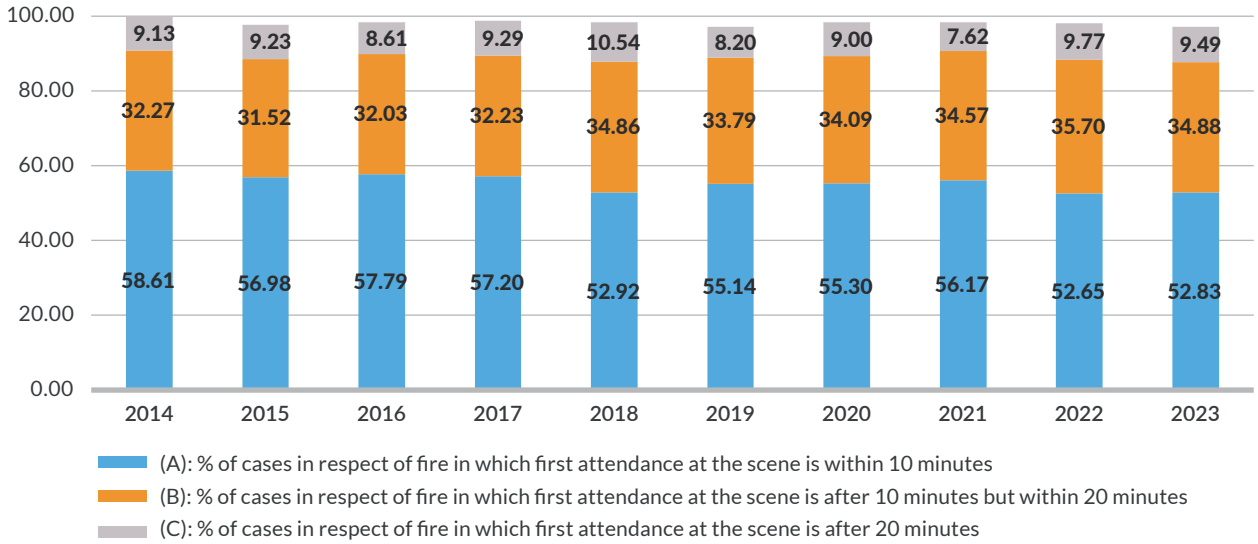
F2 (C) and F2 (D): Average time taken, in minutes, to mobilise fire brigades in respect of all other (non-fire) emergency incidents

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
F2 C: Full-Time Stations	01:47	01:44	01:43	01:35	01:28	01:31	01:27	01:36	01:34	01:34
F2 D: Part-Time Stations	05:55	05:40	05:54	05:32	05:41	05:36	05:36	05:32	05:34	05:59

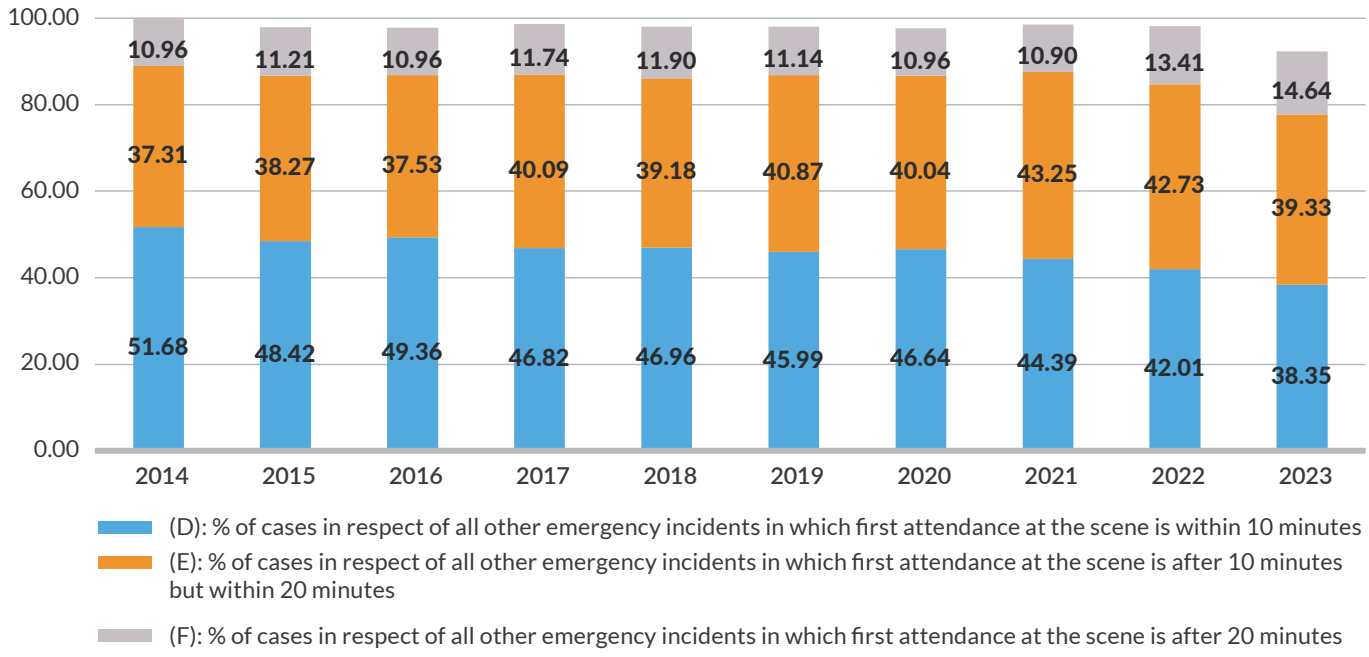


F3: % Attendance Times at Scenes

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
(A): % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	58.61	56.98	57.79	57.20	52.92	55.14	55.30	56.17	52.65	52.83
(B): % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	32.27	31.52	32.03	32.23	34.86	33.79	34.09	34.57	35.70	34.88
(C): % of cases in respect of fire in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	9.13	9.23	8.61	9.29	10.54	8.20	9.00	7.62	9.77	9.49

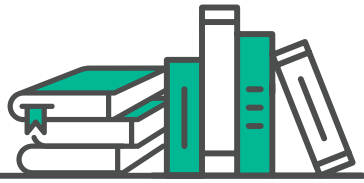


	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
(D): % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is within 10 minutes	51.68	48.42	49.36	46.82	46.96	45.99	46.64	44.39	42.01	38.35
(E): % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes	37.31	38.27	37.53	40.09	39.18	40.87	40.04	43.25	42.73	39.33
(F): % of cases in respect of all other emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene is after 20 minutes	10.96	11.21	10.96	11.74	11.90	11.14	10.96	10.90	13.41	14.64



Section 7

Library / Recreation Services (L1 and L2)



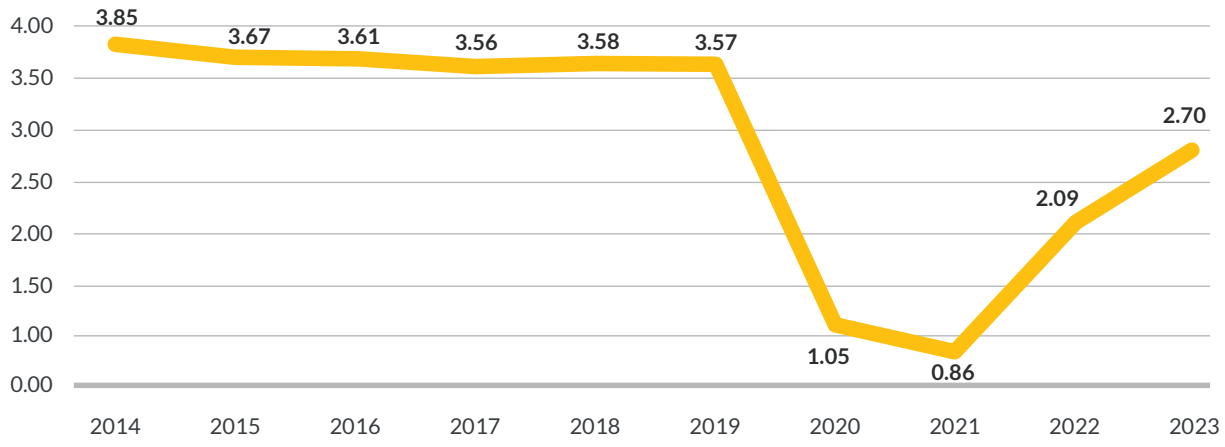
Visits per head of population **2023**	Items borrowed **2023**	Cost of Operating library service **2023**
2.70	**16,219,445**	**38.87**
(3.85 in 2014)	(18,188,339 in 2014)	(30.18 in 2014)

L1: Library Visits, Issues and Registered Members

Library / Recreational Service indicators cover the number of members, visits and issued material as well as the cost of operating a library service. In 2022, post pandemic, library visits per head of population greatly improved at 2.09, 2023 shows continued increase in visits at 2.70.

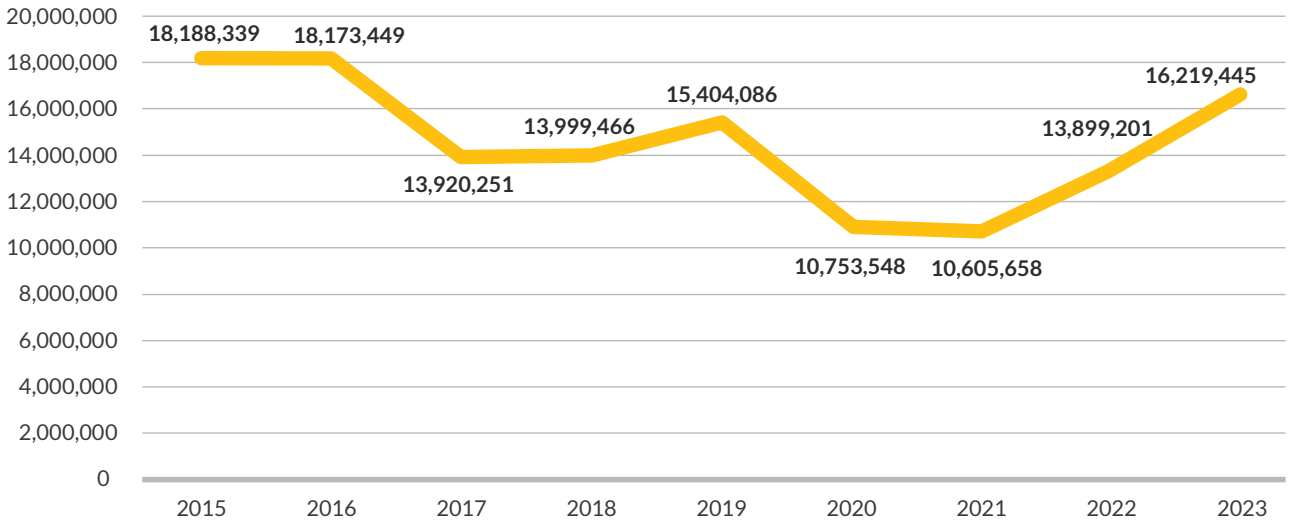
L1 (A): Number of library visits per head of population for the LA area per the 2022 census

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3.85	3.67	3.61	3.56	3.58	3.57	1.05	0.86	2.09	2.70



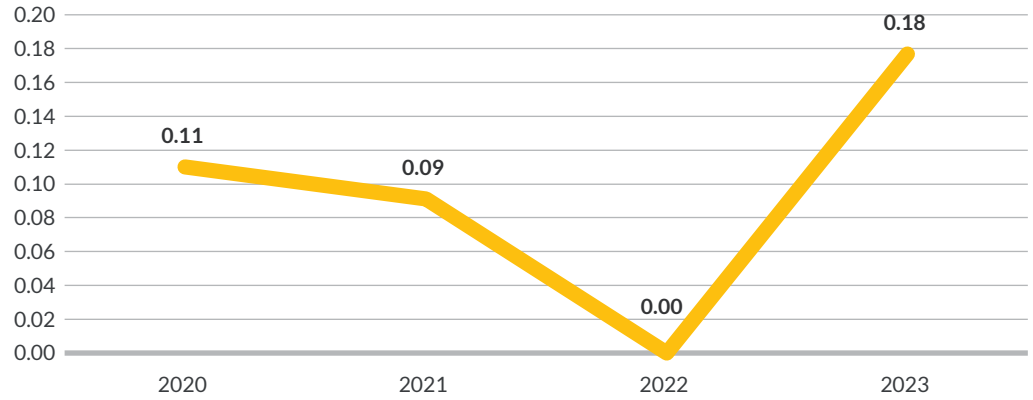
L1 (B): Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
18,188,339	18,173,449	13,920,251	13,999,466	15,404,086	10,753,548	10,605,658	13,899,201	16,219,445



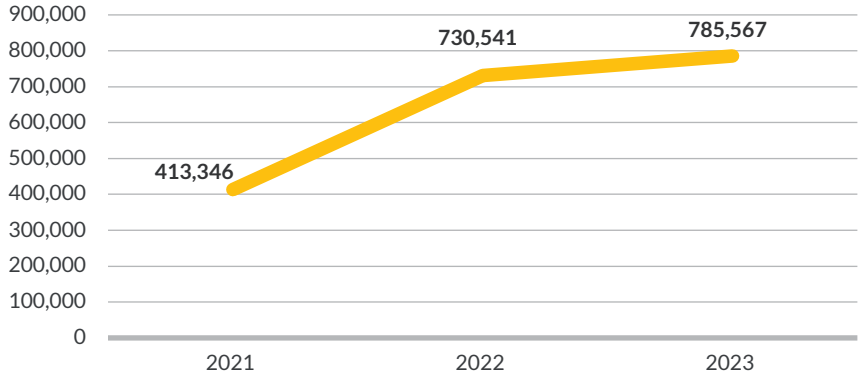
L1 (C): Library active members per head of population

2020	2021	2022	2023
0.11	0.09	Not Available	0.18



L1 (D): Number of Registered Members

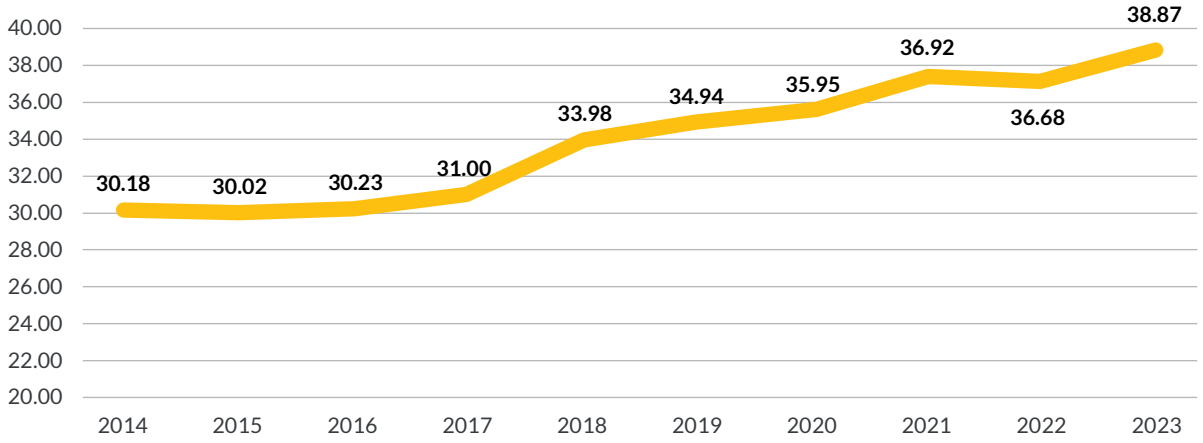
2021	2022	2023
413,346	730,541	785,567



L2: Cost of Operating a Library Service

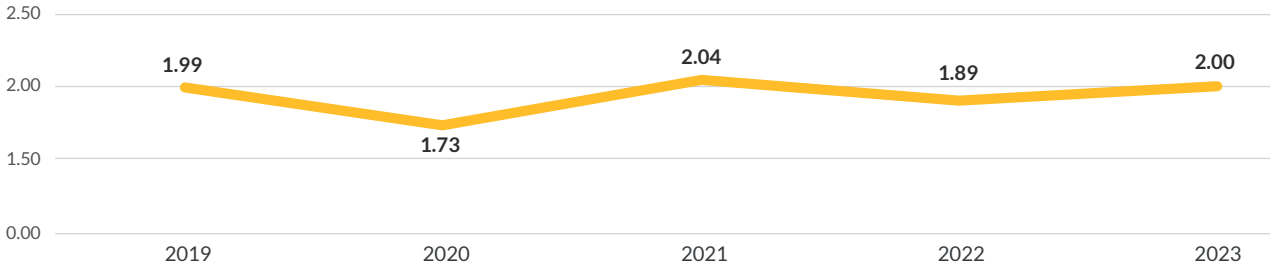
L2 (A): The Annual Financial Statement (AFS) Programme F data divided by the population of the local authority area per the 2022 Census

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
30.18	30.02	30.23	31.00	33.98	34.94	35.95	36.92	36.68	38.87



L2 (B): Annual per capita expenditure on collections

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.99	1.73	2.04	1.89	2.00



Section 8
Youth/Community (Y1 and Y2)

% Schools involved in the local Comhairle na nOg **2014**

51.86%

% Schools involved in the local Comhairle na nOg **2023**

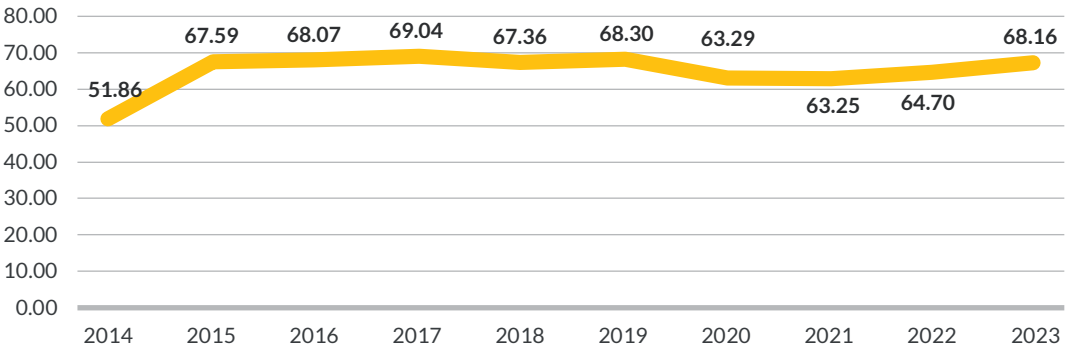
68.16%

Youth / Community indicators cover the percentage level of participation in the Local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nÓg scheme and the percentage of organisations that opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College within the Public Participation Network (PPN).

Y1 (A): % of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/Comhairle na nÓg scheme

Comhairle na nÓg are local councils for young people to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in the development of local policy.

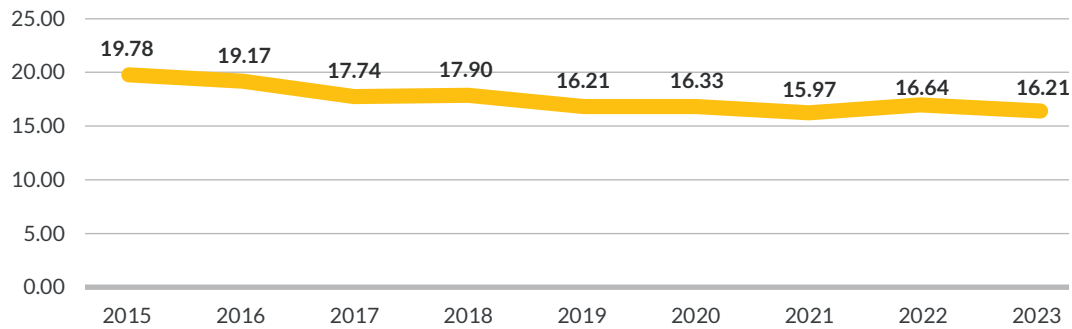
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
51.86	67.59	68.07	69.04	67.36	68.3	63.29	63.25	64.70	68.16



Y2: Groups associated with the Public Participation Network (PPN)

Public Participation Networks enable the public to take an active and formal role in the policy-making activities of local authorities that will affect their communities.

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
19.78	19.17	17.74	17.9	16.21	16.33	15.97	16.64	16.21



Section 9
Corporate (C1 to C5)

Whole time equivalent 2023	% of paid sick leave 2023	% of self-certified sick leave 2023	Page views on the website 2023
31,704.94	**3.77%**	**0.32%**	**68,790,307**
(28,806.86 in 2014)	(3.34% in 2014)	(0.40% in 2014)	(45,957,765 in 2014)

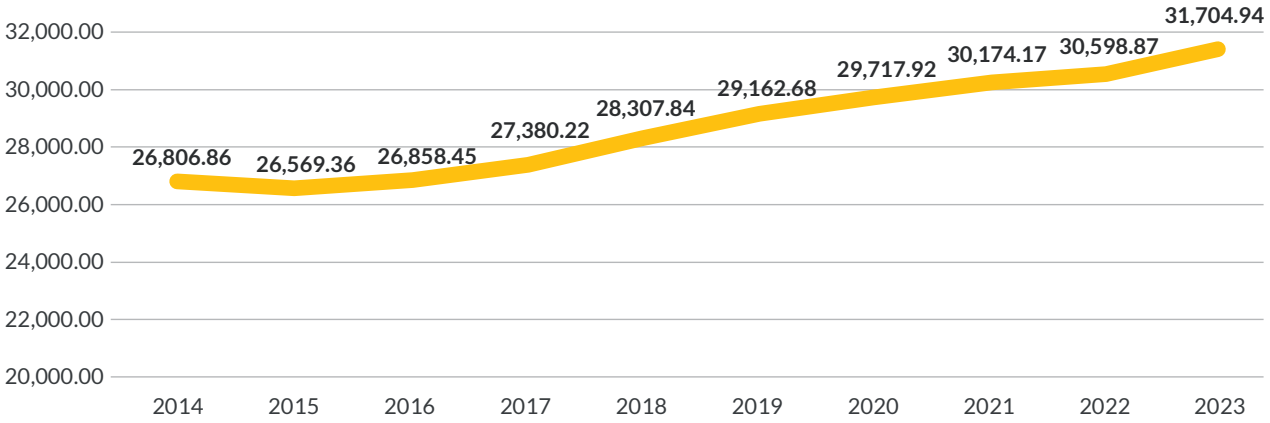
Corporate indicators cover the total number of whole time equivalent staff (WTE) working days lost to sickness, website and social media usage and overall cost of ICT provision.

C1: Total Number of Whole Time Equivalent Staff (WTE)

Since 2015, the number of Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) staff working in local authorities has been steadily increasing. The number of staff members increased to 31,704.94 in 2023 from 26,806.86 in 2014. Overall, the numbers have increased by a total 4,898.08 or by 18.27% on the 2014 figure.

C1 (A): The whole time equivalent staffing number

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
26,806.86	26,569.36	26,858.45	27,380.22	28,307.84	29,162.68	29,717.92	30,174.17	30,598.87	31,704.94

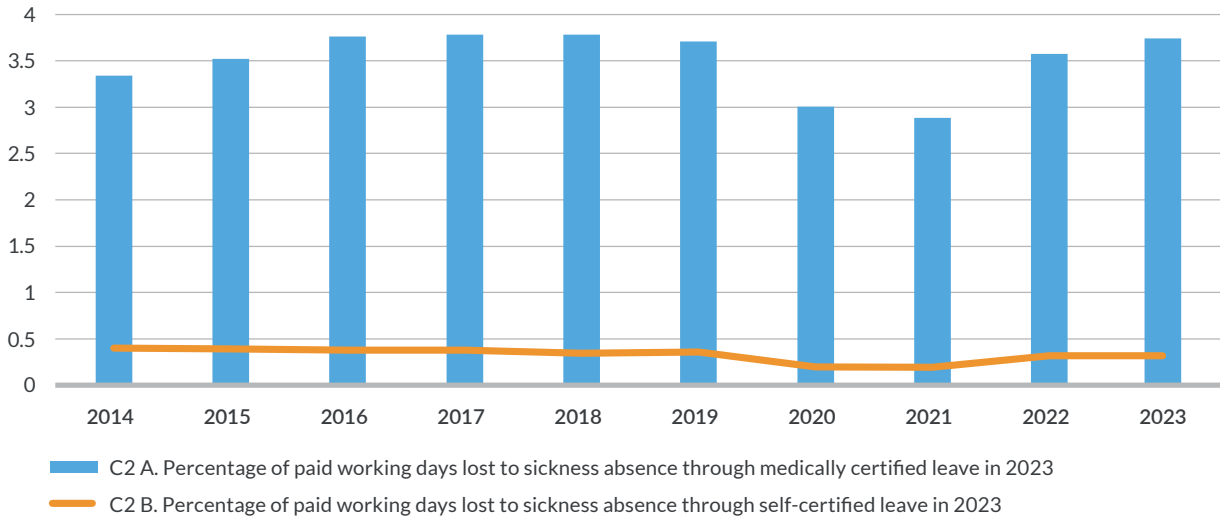


C2 (A): Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through medically certified leave in 2023

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3.34	3.52	3.76	3.78	3.78	3.71	3.01	2.89	3.58	3.77

C2 (B): Percentage of paid working days lost to sickness absence through self-certified leave in 2023

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
0.40	0.39	0.38	0.38	0.35	0.36	0.20	0.19	0.32	0.32

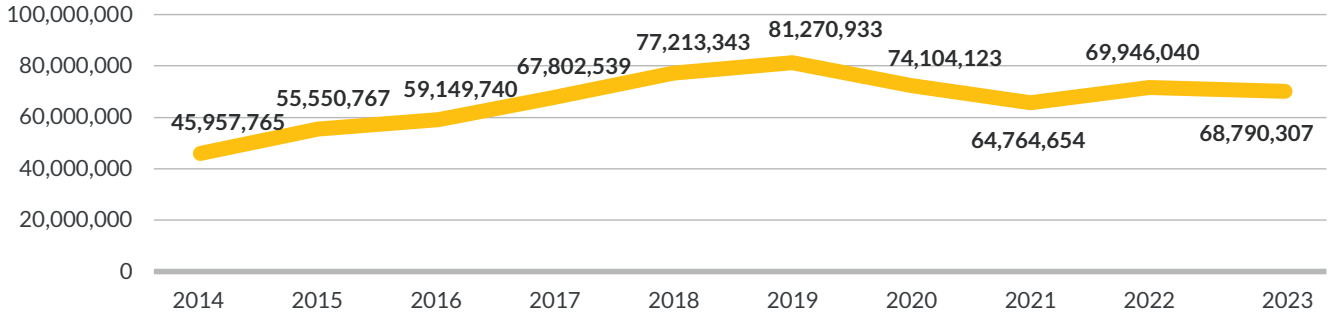


C3: LA Website and Social media Usage

Since 2015, the total number of followers of local authority social media accounts has increased substantially from 644,521 to 5,404,168. This figure reflects the increasing importance of social media, across a number of platforms, as part of the complete set of communications. Social media can be used for various purposes, including news and events, notifications and receiving complaints.

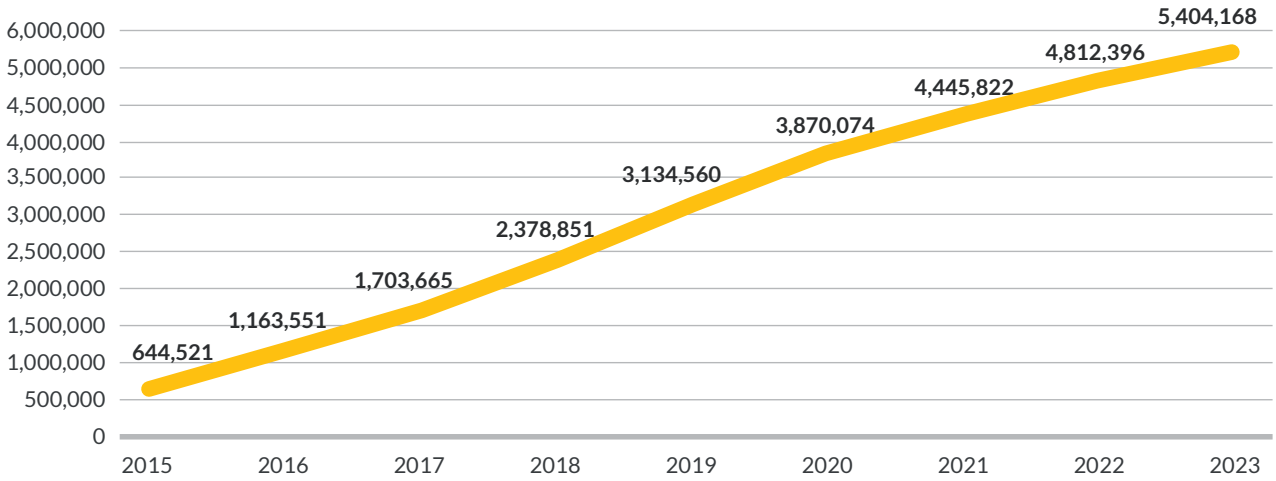
C3 (A): The cumulative total page views of the local authorities websites

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
45,957,765	55,550,767	59,149,740	67,802,539	77,213,343	81,270,933	74,104,123	64,764,654	69,946,040	68,790,307



C3 (B): The total number of social media users who were following the local authority on any social media sites

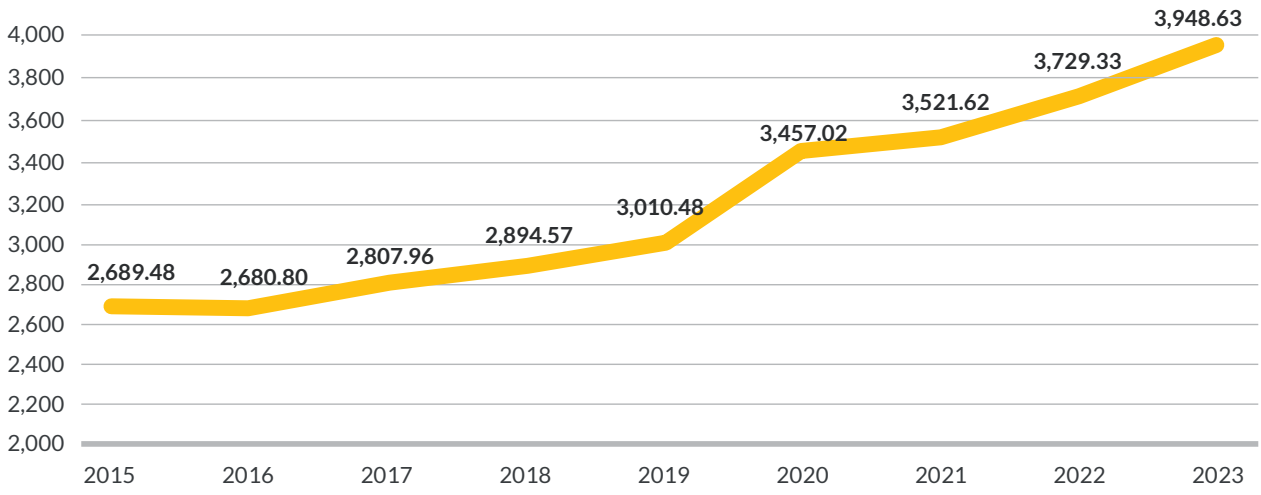
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
644,521	1,163,551	1,703,665	2,378,851	3,134,560	3,870,074	4,445,822	4,812,396	5,404,168



C4: Overall Cost of ICT Provision per WTE

C4 (A): All ICT expenditure, divided by the WTE no. supplied under the C1 indicator

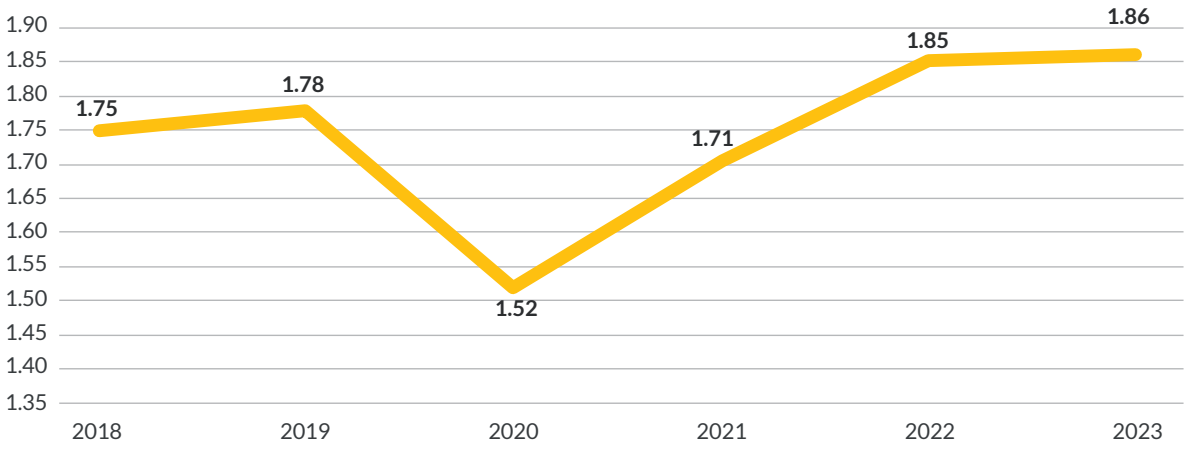
2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
2,689.48	2,680.80	2,807.96	2,894.97	3,010.48	3,457.02	3,521.62	3,729.33	3,948.63



C5: Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue expenditure

C5 (A): All ICT expenditure calculated in C4 as a proportion of Revenue expenditure

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1.75	1.78	1.52	1.71	1.85	1.86



Section 10
Finance (M1 to M4)

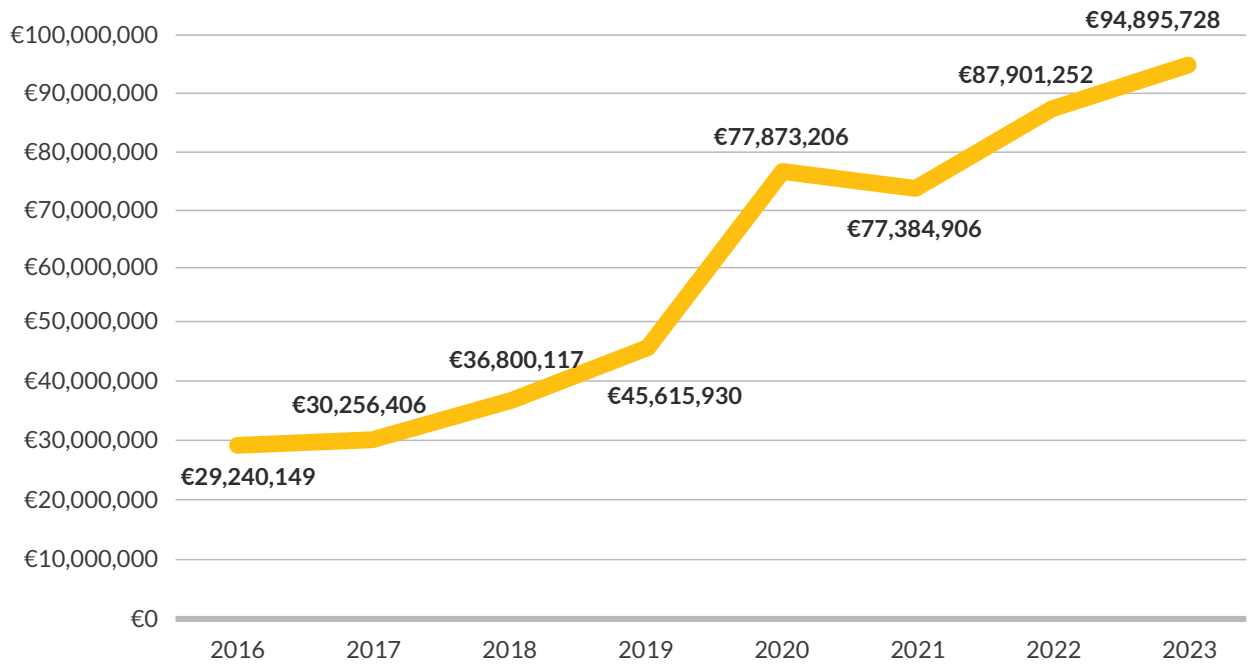
M1: 5-year summary of Revenue account Balance

NOAC finance indicators cover a summary of the Revenue Account balances, revenue collections rates, public liability claims and overheads.

The national revenue account balance across the 31 local authorities increased since 2016 from €29.24m to €94.89m in 2023. This is a very significant improvement over the period. Since 2016 the cumulative surplus or deficit as a percentage of total income has increased nationally from 0.68% to 1.34% in 2023. This trend is accounted for by those local authorities with deficits making focused efforts to reduce them.

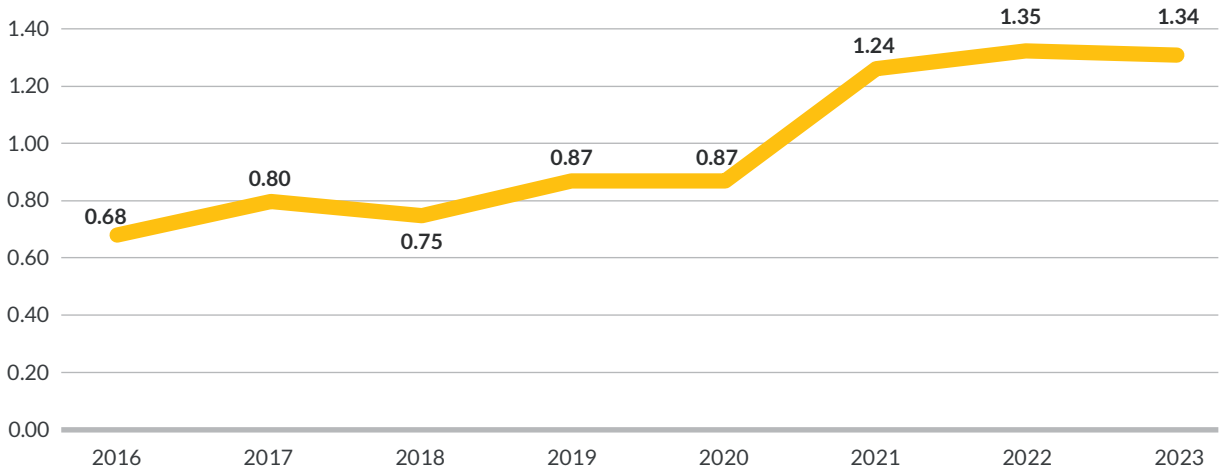
M1 (A to E): Cumulative surplus/deficit balance in the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the Annual Financial Statement (AFS) (€)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
€29,240,149	€30,256,406	€45,615,930	€77,873,206	€77,384,905	€87,901,175	€87,901,252	€94,895,728



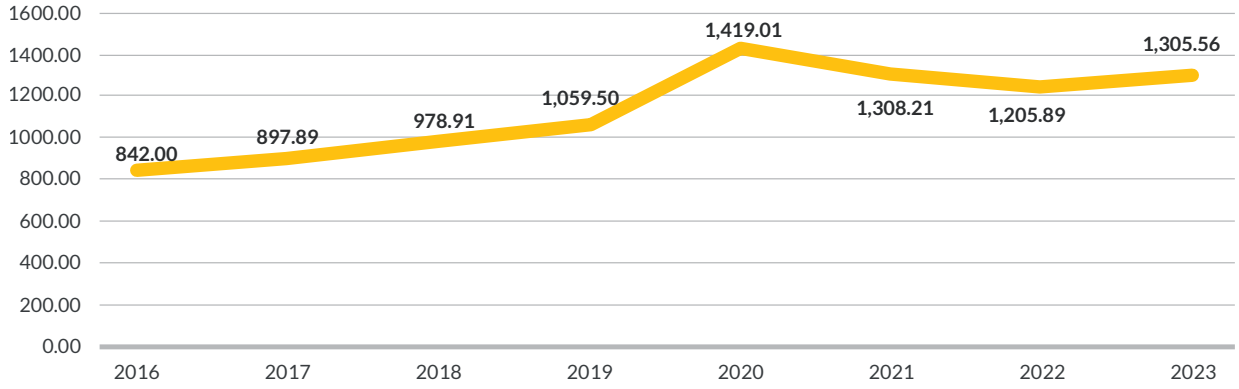
M1 (F): Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2023 as a percentage of Total Income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
0.68	0.80	0.75	0.87	0.87	1.24	1.35	1.34



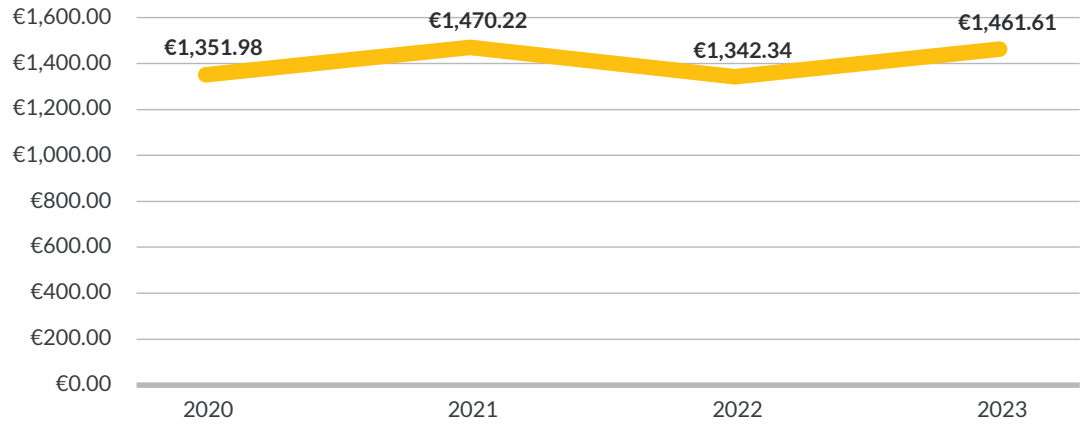
M1 (G): Revenue Expenditure per Capita (based on 2022 Census)

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
842.00	897.89	978.91	1,059.50	1,419.01	1,308.21	1,205.89	1,305.56



M1 (H): Revenue Expenditure per Capita excluding significant out of county/shared services

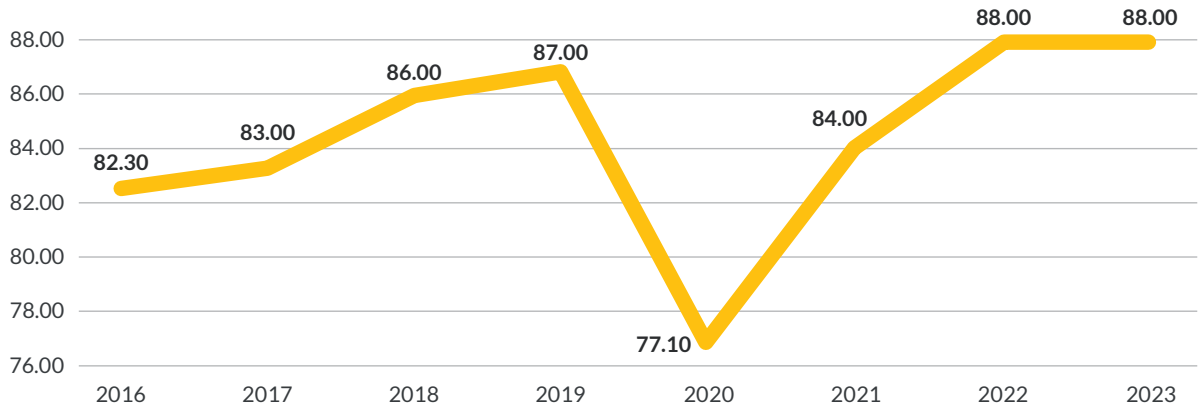
2020	2021	2022	2023
€1,351.98	€1,470.22	€1,342.34	€1,461.61



M2: 5-year summary of percentage collection levels for major revenue sources

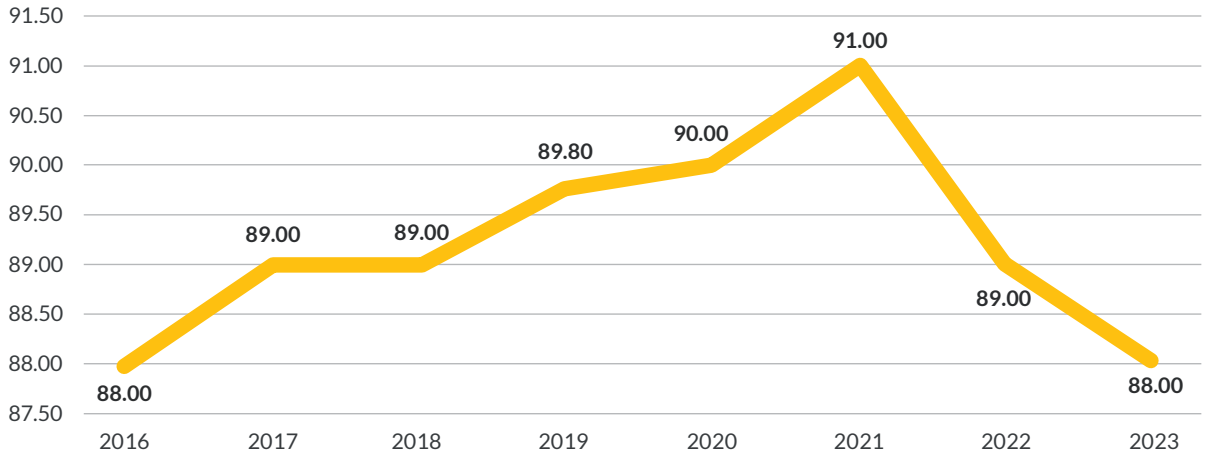
M2 (A): 5 Year Summary of Collection of Commercial Rates

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
82.30	83.00	86.00	87.00	77.10	84.00	88.00	88.00



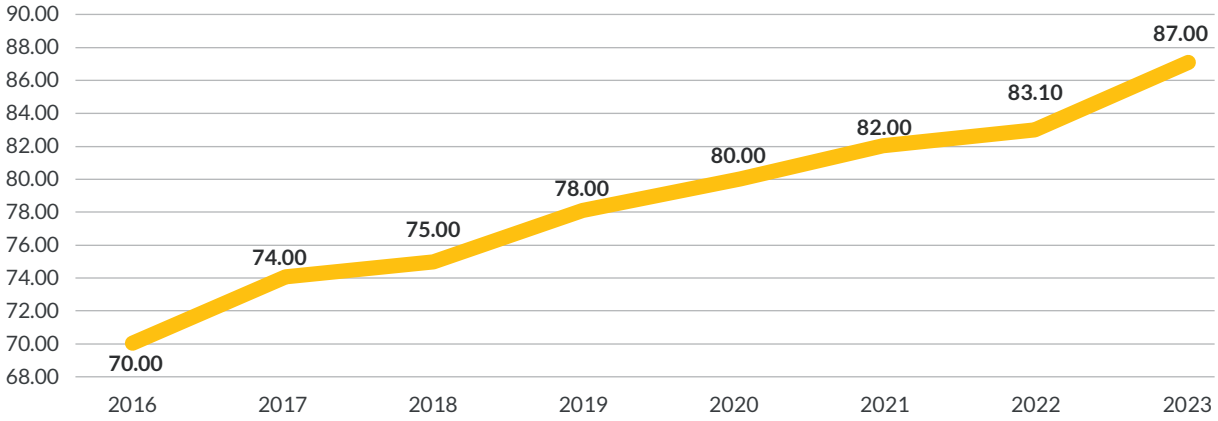
M2 (B): 5 Year Summary of Collection of Rent and Annuities

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
88.00	89.00	89.00	89.80	90.00	91.00	89.00	88.00



M2 (C): 5 Year Summary of Collection of Housing Loans

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
70.00	74.00	75.00	78.00	80.00	82.00	83.10	87.00

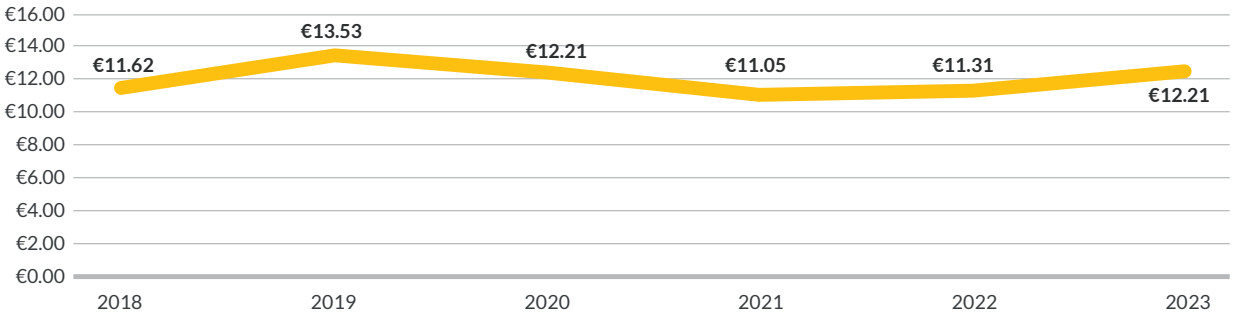


M3: Public Liability Claims

The average amount paid out on public liability claims per capita in 2023 was €12.21 up from €11.31 in 2022.

M3 (A): Per capita total cost of settled claims

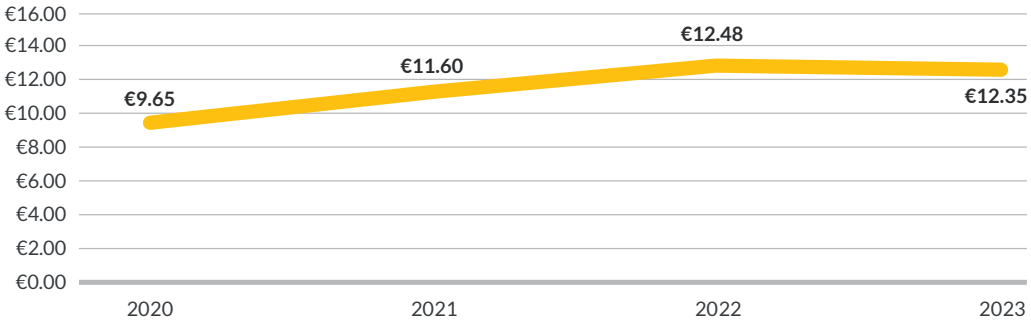
2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
€11.62	€13.53	€12.21	€11.05	€11.31	€12.21



M4: Overheads

M4 (A): Overall central management charge as a percentage of total expenditure on revenue account

2020	2021	2022	2023
9.65	11.60	12.48	12.35



Section 11
Economic Development (J1 to J4)

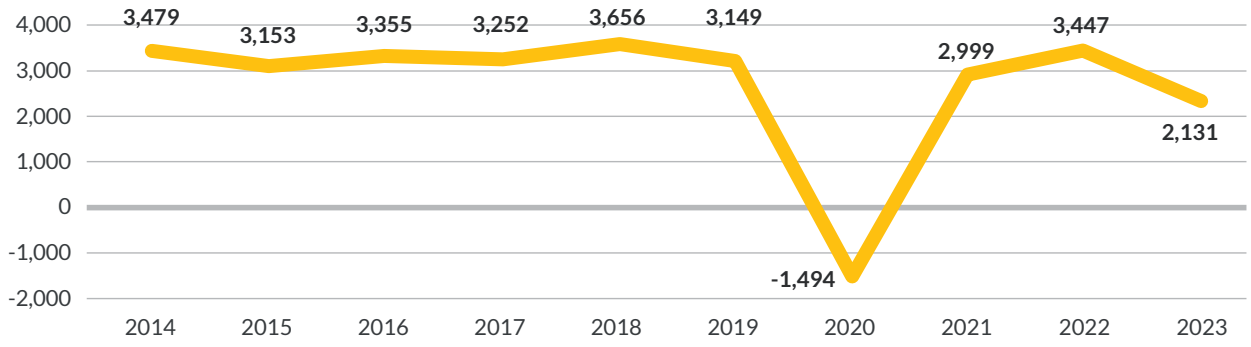
Number of jobs created 2014	Number of jobs created 2023
3,479	2,131

Economic Development indicators cover the number of jobs created, trading online vouchers, the number of mentoring recipients, tourism and expenditure on local economic development per head of population.

J1: Number of jobs created

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are central to local economic development. This support structure contributes to the creation and sustainability of jobs in local communities, strengthening new and existing business development nationwide.

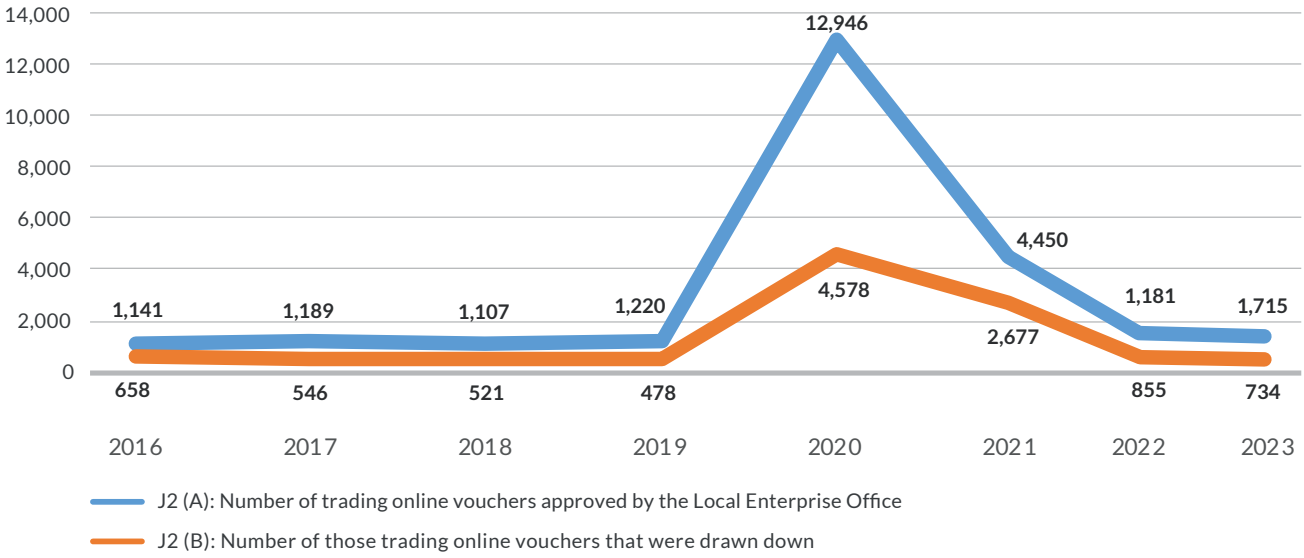
2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
3,479	3,153	3,355	3,252	3,656	3,149	-1,494	2,999	3,447	2,131



J2: Trading Online Vouchers

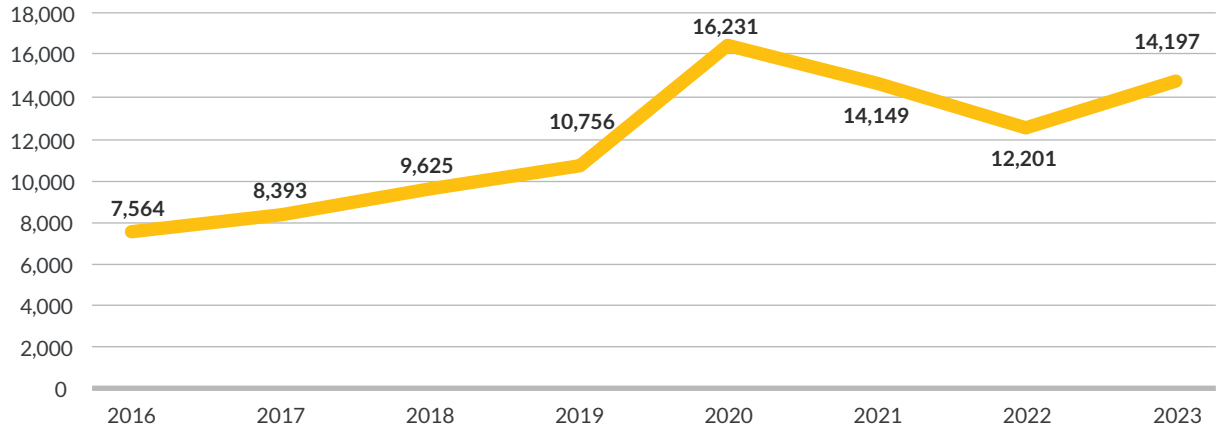
J2 (A): Number of trading online vouchers approved by the Local Enterprise Office
J2 (B): Number of those trading online vouchers that were drawn down

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1,141	1,189	1,107	1,220	12,946	4,450	1,881	1,715
658	546	521	478	4,578	2,677	855	734



J3: No. of mentoring recipients

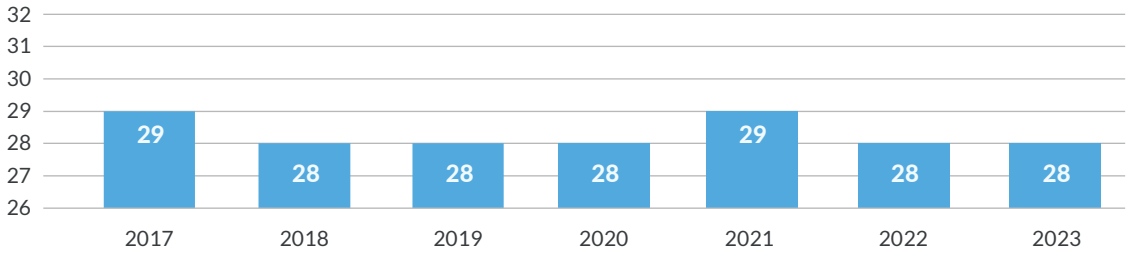
2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
7,564	8,393	9,625	10,756	16,231	14,149	12,201	14,197



J4: Tourism

J4 (A): Does the local authority have a current tourism strategy?

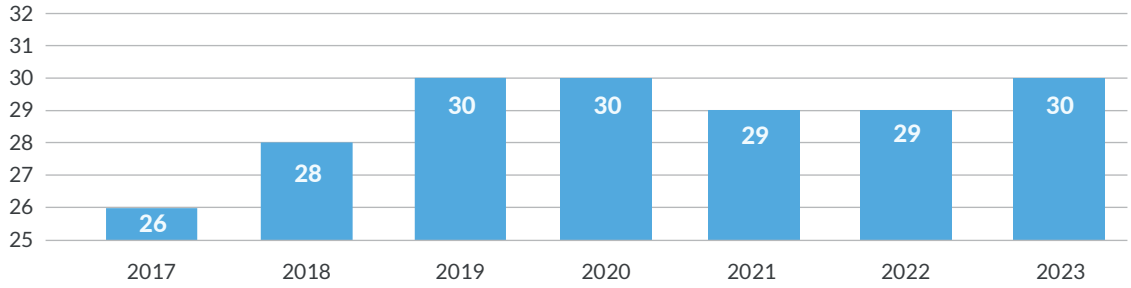
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Yes	29	28	28	28	29	28	28

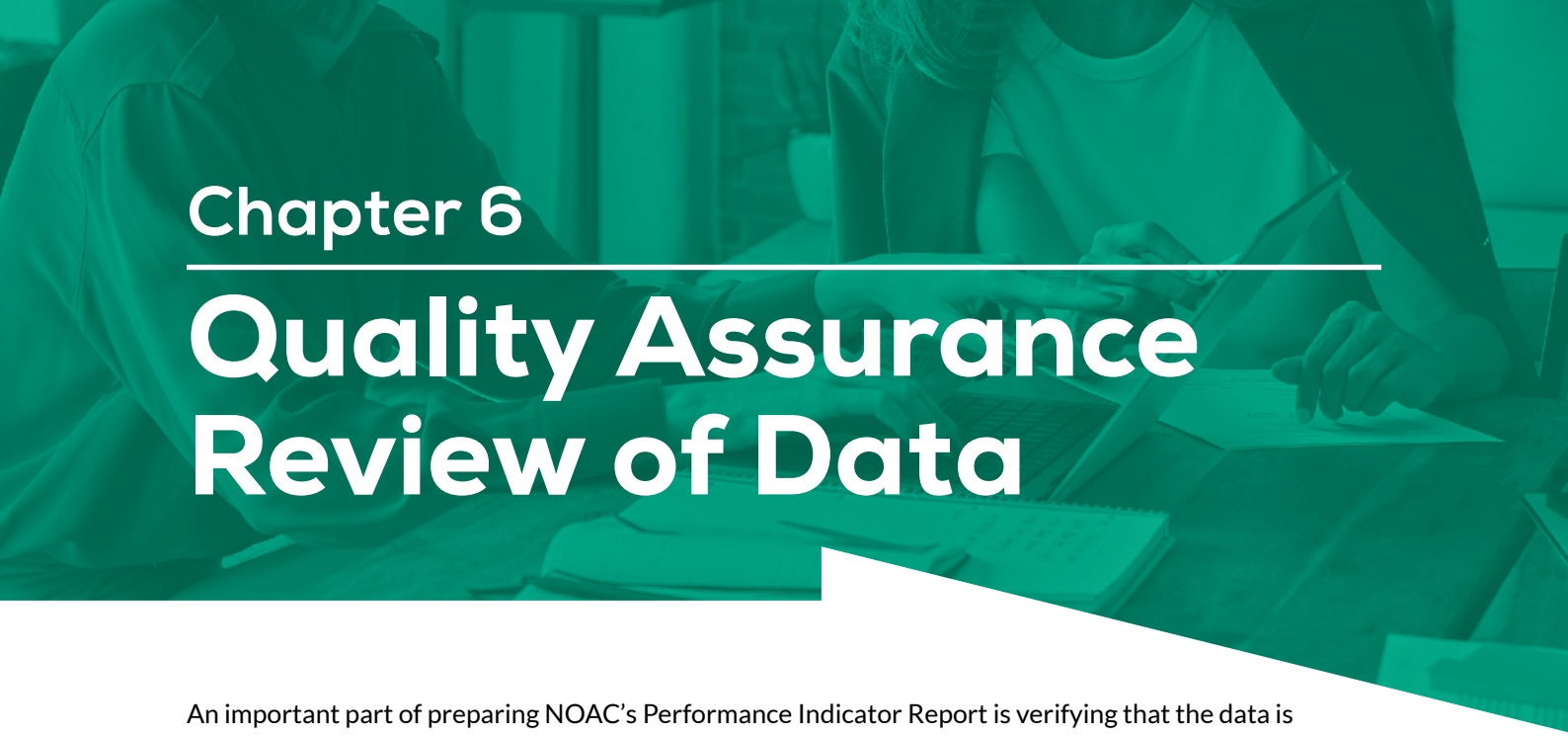


J4 (A): Does the local authority have a designated Tourism Officer?

The number of local authorities that have Tourism Officers in place, to assist with tourism promotion, remained the same as in 2021 at 29 local authorities in 2022.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Yes	26	28	30	30	29	29	30





Chapter 6

Quality Assurance Review of Data

An important part of preparing NOAC's Performance Indicator Report is verifying that the data is correctly collected and recorded. Therefore each year NOAC members and Secretariat staff visit a number of local authorities to review the data for a selected range of the indicators. These visits and discussions on the indicators ensure a deeper understanding of how local authorities compile the data and in particular, the approach they use to return data as part of the annual validation process.

NOAC considers that the annual validation process is a key part of the preparation of the report. It is an opportunity to assess the accuracy and reliability of a subset of the indicators in a number of local authorities. It also provides an opportunity to discuss overall performance issues and the experience of individual local authorities with the validation process and its findings.

Furthermore, it allows local authorities to provide feedback on any matters that are not covered in the validation process, but which they consider warrant inclusion in the report, or require further consideration by NOAC. It may also identify exemplars of best practice for the annual NOAC Good Practice Seminar.

This year seven local authorities were chosen for review, based on the length of time since their last review and to ensure that NOAC reviewed a mix of rural and urban and large and small local authorities.

Meetings with Chief Executives

The meetings took place between the 30th of May and the 1st of July 2024. Prior to the meetings NOAC contacted the seven local authorities to outline the format for the meetings and requested that the Chief Executives provide a brief overview at the start of the meeting, regarding the following;

- Three areas where performance has improved or maintained high results and the reason for this.
- Three areas where performance could improve and the reason for this.
- Three major policy challenges facing the local authority.
- Any issue that NOAC should be aware of.

It is recognised by NOAC that there is a high level of preparation by the local authorities, with the provision of relevant supporting material and attendance over the course of the validation process. NOAC members themselves gave of their time to prepare and facilitate the meetings. The significant amount of preparation undertaken by the Secretariat for the visits is also recognised, to ensure that the data is available and that the questions and briefing packs are comprehensive. NOAC is grateful to all who contributed to this process.

The validation process was consistent in each of the seven local authorities, the agenda and format of the meetings were similar, as were the questions asked.

Validation visits information:

	Local Authority	Date	Board members	Secretariat
1	Offaly County Council	Thursday 30 May	Ciarán Hayes* Kathleen Holohan	Claire Gavin Deirdre Byrne
2	South Dublin County Council	Wednesday 5 June	Ciarán Hayes* Miriam McDonald Kathleen Holohan	Claire Gavin Deirdre Byrne Val Longmore
3	Louth County Council	Thursday 13 June	Miriam McDonald* Declan Breathnach	Claire Gavin Val Longmore
4	Roscommon County Council	Wednesday 19 June	Ciarán Hayes* Brian Cawley	Joan Comiskey Val Longmore
5	Westmeath County Council	Monday 24 June	Miriam McDonald* Margaret Lane Declan Breathnach	Joan Comiskey Val Longmore
6	Kerry County Council	Tuesday 25 June	Ciarán Hayes* Noel Harrington Kathleen Holohan	Claire Gavin Deirdre Byrne
7	Donegal County Council	Monday 1 July	Ciarán Hayes* Declan Breathnach Kathleen Holohan	Deirdre Byrne

**Denotes the Meeting Chair.*

The seven local authorities selected were asked to identify three areas that they considered they were performing well in and three areas where their performance could be improved. They were also asked to identify three policy challenges. A summary of the information provided can be found below.

The local authorities identified the following as three areas of high performance:

Offaly	
1	M1: Revenue balances have improved and with continued careful planning the current deficit should be written off by 2025.
2	H5: Rented dwelling inspections have improved due to the engagement of outside firm to carry out the work.
3	R3: Online motor tax renewals have increased and allowed for the redeployment of one staff member.

South Dublin	
1	H3: Housing re-lets – re-letting times have reduced, while costs have decreased and standards increased.
2	L1: Library service – increase in visits and items borrowed, as well as in expenditure and the book fund.
3	M2: Debt Collection Performance - while rates and loan performance is good, rent collection is still challenging.

Louth	
1	H1: Housing Delivery – social housing delivery is ahead of target, as is the turnaround of vacant units.
2	P2: Planning Appeals Upheld – new county development plan has assisted in this, as well as the level of detail Louth provide in the planning report.
3	M2: Commercial rates collection – rate collectors have been given focussed training and there are clear processes in place to allow for follow through in cases of arrears.

Roscommon	
1	E6: Public Lighting – LED lighting initiative with improved lighting across the county, including in local authority buildings.
2	H2: Housing Vacancies – streamlined tendering process and selling of houses in areas of less demand.
3	H5: Private Rented Sector Inspections – new app developed to issue letters to landlords and update records on the local authority's database.

Westmeath	
1	M2: Debt Collection – a good tracking system is in place.
2	L1: My Open Library – is resulting in a high volume of users and plans are in in place to extend it to two more libraries.
3	R1: Road conditions – decades of investment and the work of excellent engineers have resulted in a high standard of road conditions in the county.

Kerry	
1	H6: Homelessness – good work done in this area, a dramatic improvement with targeted responses, although the recorded figures might not in fact reflect the work done in this area.
2	R1: Road conditions – to address previous poor performance, the local authority has reshaped its priorities and has dedicated staff working to improve outcomes.
3	P2: Planning decisions – focus by the local authority on improved report writing and on ecological and environmental reports, to deliver better outcomes for this indicator.

Donegal	
1	M1: Revenue account – the revenue balance has improved with a current deficit of €3.7m, which is reducing by approximately €1m annually.
2	E6: LED public lighting – LED lighting initiative has seen a rise from 46% of lights completed in 2020 to 78% by 2023, which is above the national average.
3	H7: Social Housing Retrofit – achieved 222 retrofits in 2023, the second highest number nationally. The decentralised work model in the county played a key role in the achievement of this figure.

Three areas where the local authorities considered improvements could be made:

Offaly	
1	E4: Green flag status of schools.
2	C2: Number of days lost by way of sick leave.
3	H3:Re-letting times, while good relative to national average there is still room for improvement.

South Dublin	
1	H6: Homelessness – over 600 homeless households, an increase of more than 100 in a year despite allocations and other homeless specific plans in place.
2	C2: Sick Leave – despite an improvement it needs to improve further and there is a focus on support and wellbeing, return to work programmes and staff mobility to try to address the issue.
3	E5: Energy Efficiency and Decarbonisation - there are funding and capacity challenges in respect of Housing Retrofit, LED lighting, EV infrastructure and fleet transition, but the authority plans to accelerate these projects.

Louth	
1	F2: Recruitment of retained fire service which impacts on the turnout times- this is being addressed and new recruits are currently being trained which should improve the situation.
2	E3: Litter pollution - despite six wardens and good enforcement improvements are not being achieved. A litter taskforce has now been established to renew focus on this matter and raising awareness of anti-litter initiatives across the county.
3	L1: Library usage and membership – a lot of investment and programmes are being set up in this area. A new library is due to open in 2024 in Dunleer and a new library is planned in Drogheda.

Roscommon	
1	P5: Applications for Fire Safety Certificates – mainly due to poor quality submissions received.
2	C4: Website/Social Media – website is not up to standard but is being addressed and a new Communications Officer is in place.
3	E4: Green Flag Status – figures had dropped but a new Educational Awareness Officer is now on board to address this issue.

Westmeath	
1	E1: issue validating figures especially with new legal obligation re the changes to the access to 3 bin service based on agglomerations >500.
2	P3: Planning Enforcement – there were staffing issues in this area but a new Enforcement Team has been put in place to address this.
3	F3: Fire Service Response Times – there is a slight increase in response times, IR issues in 2023 did impact these, but this is being addressed.

Kerry	
1	H3: Re-letting times have risen in part due to the fact that 33% of vacancies arise out of the death of tenants and deep retrofitting of units is then required.
2	F2: Fire service mobilisation times, due in part to the IR issues in 2023 and also because of gorse fires but steps have been taken to address both matters.
3	C2: Sick leave- this is a challenge and is being considered as part of wider workforce planning.

Donegal	
1	M2(C): Housing Loans collection – 2023 collection rate of 62% is low, due to a number of local arrears issues. Five large Loan Arrears Mortgage to Rent (LAMTR) cases are the cause of significant arrears. Inspections carried out identified Defective Concrete Blocks (DCB) in the properties and the LAMTR cases with DCB were put on hold, as a result. Three other cases in significant arrears may also be affected by DCB and may be also be delayed. Donegal is focussing on improving the rate of collection in 2024 and its Housing team is actively engaging with the affected customers.
2	Digital services: The local authority is keen to improve in areas, such as online motor tax transactions (R3), but notes that this will take time, as its local offices are accessible to a large proportion of the county's citizens, many of whom wish to continue to conduct transactions with the local authority in person.
3	E7: Donegal's Climate Action Team is currently a work in progress. Staff have now been recruited, despite significant challenges, and it is expected to be in place by mid-2024.

Three areas the local authorities felt were major policy issues:

Offaly

- Financial uncertainty in particular due to loss of a significant rate base.
- Recruitment and retention of staff, in particular technical staff.
- The Just Transition Programme, while welcome, has broadened into a number of counties and the burden on Offaly staff as lead is a challenge.

South Dublin

- Climate Action.
- Housing Delivery.
- Economic Development and Quality of Life.

Louth

- Transfer of functions to Uisce Éireann.
- Management of the Refugee function.
- Rise in Homelessness and especially the increase in number of families presenting.

Roscommon

- Housing - the integration of and movement into housing of up to 5,000 International Protection applicants annually is a challenge.
- Climate Change – energy efficiency target of 51% is a challenge to meet.
- Flood Management.

Westmeath
■ Housing – need to maintain and increase housing output of private, social and affordable housing, and student accommodation. ■ Climate Action. ■ Staff recruitment and retention.

Kerry
■ Demand for housing and overspill into the tourism sector. ■ Workforce planning, recruitment and retention of staff. ■ Climate Change.

Donegal
■ Housing - Defective concrete blocks: This is the single biggest issue facing Donegal, it is wide-ranging and difficult to quantify the potential costs that will be involved in remedying the situation in the county. ■ Climate action measures: This will continue to require significant attention. ■ Finance - Co-funding of major capital projects: match funding from its own resources is an issue, so borrowing is often required.

2023 Selected Indicators

The NOAC Performance Indicators Working Group considered all the indicators, and the eight indicators below were selected for review:

Section	Indicator	Title
1	Housing H7	Social Housing Retrofit.
3	Water W2	Percentage of registered schemes monitored.
7	Library/Recreation Services L1 Library/Recreation Services L2	Library visits, Issues and Registered Members; Cost per capita of operating a Library Service and per capita expenditure on collections.
9	Corporate C4 Corporate C5	Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE; Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue expenditure.
10	Finance M1	Five-year summary of Revenue Account balance.
11	Economic Development J5	Economic Development Spend.

The indicators were primarily selected to get a better understanding of the way the data is compiled by the local authorities, that the records kept to support the data and the checks made to ensure all data submitted was valid and correct. J5 is a new indicator which was tested in 2021 and recorded and published in 2022. A wide range of subheads are used in compiling the figure and this gave rise to some level of confusion among local authorities. As it was a new indicator, it was validated in 2022 and it was clear that there was still some level of confusion in the sector. To assist in this, revised guidance was given at the workshop, the CCMA sub-committee to advise on it remained in place in 2024 for the 2023 report, the NOAC guidelines were updated and included a detailed section to assist with the reporting of the data and NOAC also decided to validate the indicator again this year.

1) Housing H7: Social Housing Retrofit

This indicator measures:

A. (1) Total number of houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

(2) Number of houses that achieve a BER rating of B2 or above between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

(3) Number of heat pumps installed in those houses between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo_2 from houses retrofitted between 01/01/2023 and 31/12/2023 under the Social Housing Retrofit Programme.

The data is provided by the Housing Delivery Co-ordination Office (HDCO). It is extracted from the Energy Retrofit Information Capture and Analysis (ERICA) tracker system. The data is reconciled with the DHLGH list of recoupments for all units fully completed within the calendar year and satisfactorily claimed, with all supporting documentation required.

H7: Social Housing Retrofit Data 01/01/2023-31/12/2023	Donegal	Kerry	Louth	Offaly	Roscommon	South Dublin*	Westmeath
A (1) Total no of houses retrofitted	222	11	205	12	38	0	109
A (2) No of houses that achieve a BER rating of B2 or above	222	11	205	12	38	0	109
A (3) No of heat pumps installed in those houses	222	11	205	12	37	0	107
B. Total annual energy savings in MWH from houses retrofitted	3,009.02	222.2	2,545.8	342.9	515.3	0	2,256.3
C. Total carbon emission reduction tCo_2 from houses retrofitted	985.4	64.5	629.1	120.7	158.7	0	801.7

In each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

*South Dublin explained that while work had taken place and 164 social houses had been retrofitted in 2023, they had not submitted all of the supporting documentation required by DHLGH to process the recoupment within the calendar year, so that the completions could be included on the ERICA tracker. This is being addressed in 2024 and claims are now being submitted on a quarterly basis.

Louth explained that they had scope to do more work and fear that as other local authorities increase delivery, this could impact their future performance, due to the limit of the funding available for this programme.

Roscommon and Donegal consider that getting allocations from the DHLGH earlier might improve the process and even with the design process started, it is a challenge time wise.

Westmeath noted that there has been a positive reaction to this scheme, but as the heating system is quite technical customers need to be educated in how it is used.

Kerry explained that they had a slow start to the programme and had issues with the grants being offered and the availability of contractors. As a result, they did fewer houses than other similar sized authorities.

2) W2: Percentage of registered schemes monitored

The following data is provided by local authorities;

- How many local authority registered schemes were monitored in 2023.
- Provide the total number of registered schemes in 2023.

Both figures should agree with those held by the EPA.

Local Authority	(%) of registered schemes monitored	Number of registered schemes
Donegal County Council	100	42
Kerry County Council	99.17	120
Louth County Council	100	17
Offaly County Council	100	50
Roscommon County Council	100	21
South Dublin County Council	100	8
Westmeath County Council	100	51
Average across all local authorities	83.45	

In each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

Kerry, Roscommon and Donegal raised the fact that after 2026 when the transfer of functions to Uisce Éireann is complete, there will be a loss of skills and experience in many local authorities to manage the rural water schemes. Louth also outlined that many of the private schemes are being run by an aging population and this could also present challenges in future.

3) L1: Library Visits, Issues and Registered Members

A. Number of visits to libraries per head of population for the local authority area per the 2022 Census;

B. Number of items issued to library borrowers in the year;

C. Library active members per head of population;

D. Number of registered members of the library in the year.

Local Authority	Visits	Items issued	Active Members	Registered Members
Donegal County Council	1.66	295,589	0.10	32,847
Kerry County Council	2.53	568,494	0.18	22,520
Louth County Council	1.68	295,875	0.15	17,062
Offaly County Council	2.24	205,443	0.16	10,317
Roscommon County Council	1.36	131,145	0.11	6,222
South Dublin County Council	2.78	943,853	0.20	46,321
Westmeath County Council	3.16	365,651	0.18	12,965
Average across all local authorities	2.7	523,208	0.18	25,341

In each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

It was noted that there have been population increases in many areas and this has had an impact on the per head of population counts. It is also noteworthy that usage and borrowing by online members is not currently captured under L1.

South Dublin explained that visits to their libraries were more severely impacted by the pandemic, than the number of items issued to members. Public health measures directly impacted visits with a 70% decrease between 2019 and 2020 but only a 15% decrease in issues. They like many local authorities were able to maintain click and collect, home deliveries and online resources. When restrictions were lifted their issues went up by 30% but visits by 122%, so the ratio between the two has been somewhat uneven as the sector recovers.

Louth noted that an increase in opening hours in Dundalk and Drogheda with six day openings, and four late nights, has resulted in a rising trajectory in members, visitors and issue figures. It is one of the few local authorities in the country which has continued to operate a school's service following the removal of the Department of Education grant. Louth is also the first in the country to win the "Library of Sanctuary Award", this award recognises inclusion with the community. It is also the first in the country to partner with the neonatal unit in Drogheda hospital for the "Baby Talk Project".

Kerry noted that changing the library website address to kerrylibrary.ie has been significant in engaging the public in relation to the services it provides.

Donegal is of the view that it would be useful for the indicators to capture and measure outreach and numbers of people using libraries for services, other than borrowing books. Donegal also noted that its library active members per head of population figure is low, due to increases in the population of the county as mentioned above, and to the fact that opening hours of the libraries have not returned to pre-Covid levels, due to staff shortages.

L2: Cost per capita of operating a Library Service and per capita expenditure on collections.

Local Authority	Cost Per Capita of operating a Library Service (€)	Per capita expenditure on collections (€)
Donegal County Council	29.56	1.03
Kerry County Council	26.74	1.69
Louth County Council	28.05	1.19
Offaly County Council	37.93	1.80
Roscommon County Council	33.01	1.50
South Dublin County Council	49.05	3.24
Westmeath County Council	31.32	1.02
Average across all local authorities	38.87	2.00

In each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

Louth has invested considerably in its book fund increasing from €170,000 in 2023 to €280,000 in 2024, which will see the per capita spend rise to €2.00.

As outlined in the National Public Library Strategy 2023–2027 and in the previous five year strategy, the minimum book fund annual spend target is €4 per head of population. Kerry noted that the €4 figure is somewhat aspirational, due to space/capacity and supplier issues.

Donegal would like to get a little closer to the €4 target and add to its core stock.

4) C4: Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE
C5: Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue expenditure

C4: Overall cost of ICT provision per WTE C5: Overall cost of ICT as a proportion of Revenue expenditure	2023	2023
Donegal County Council	3,990.33	2.29
Kerry County Council	3,823.55	2.63
Louth County Council	4,972.30	2.38
Offaly County Council	3,466.69	1.98
Roscommon County Council	4,110.84	2.40
South Dublin County Council	4,860.66	2.34
Westmeath County Council	3,405.16	1.81
Average across all local authorities	3,948.63	1.86

In each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

Offaly has reduced costs, due to achieving some operational savings in reviewing their licencing arrangements and reducing some hardware costs by transferring staff over to laptops. This also saved on maintenance and energy costs and is more environmentally friendly.

Roscommon advised that due to the cyclical nature of ICT upgrades, the local authority can have larger expenditure in certain years.

Kerry has a significant investment in Cyber Security and outlined the full disaster recovery and business continuity process that they have invested in. They outlined that despite the capital and revenue investment that the capital costs are only really reflected in the fixed asset register.

Donegal's C5 figure of 2.29 in 2023, is a little high when compared to the national average of 1.86, due to the local authority operating five regional offices around the county.

5) M1: Five-year summary of Revenue Account balance

M1: Five-year summary of Revenue Account Balance	E. Cumulative surplus/deficit balance at 31/12/2023 the Revenue Account from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	F. Cumulative surplus or deficit at 31/12/2023 as a percentage of Total Income in 2023 from the Income and Expenditure Account Statement of the AFS	G. Revenue Expenditure per Capita in 2023 (based on 2022 Census)
Donegal	-3,743,530	-1.95	1,090.51
Kerry	6,937,746	3.59	1,181.31
Louth	4,159,761	2.68	1,058.16
Offaly	-791,561	-0.84	1,069.60
Roscommon	297,113	0.38	1,037.36
South Dublin	12,337,595	3.91	864.22
Westmeath	455,067	0.45	969.77

In each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

Offaly outlined that there are budget arrangements in place to see the deficit cleared by 2026. Donegal has reduced its deficit significantly in recent years and will continue to reduce it by €1m annually by prudently managing its finances.

6) J5: Economic Development Spend

This indicator shows the revenue spend (per head of population) on local economic development.

J5: Economic Development Spend The spend on local economic development by the local authority per head of population	2023
Donegal County Council	132.05
Kerry County Council	159.18
Louth County Council	129.44
Offaly County Council	129.52
Roscommon County Council	116.14
South Dublin County Council	203.63
Westmeath County Council	104.03
Average spend across all local authorities	163.41

In each of the seven local authorities validated, it was noted that the figures on LG Returns matched the records of the local authority under this indicator.

Most of the local authorities noted that this is a very broad indicator spread across many budget holders and therefore ensuring the figures are accurate is a challenge. The local authorities see the value of the indicator but further refinement of it may still be required.

Kerry advised the new NOAC guidelines assisted them in ensuring all items were included in this very relevant indicator and suggested that the indicator remains unchanged so that trends can now be built up over the years. Kerry also noted, along with Donegal, that the involvement of local authority finance sections is of great assistance in ensuring accuracy of returns under this indicator.

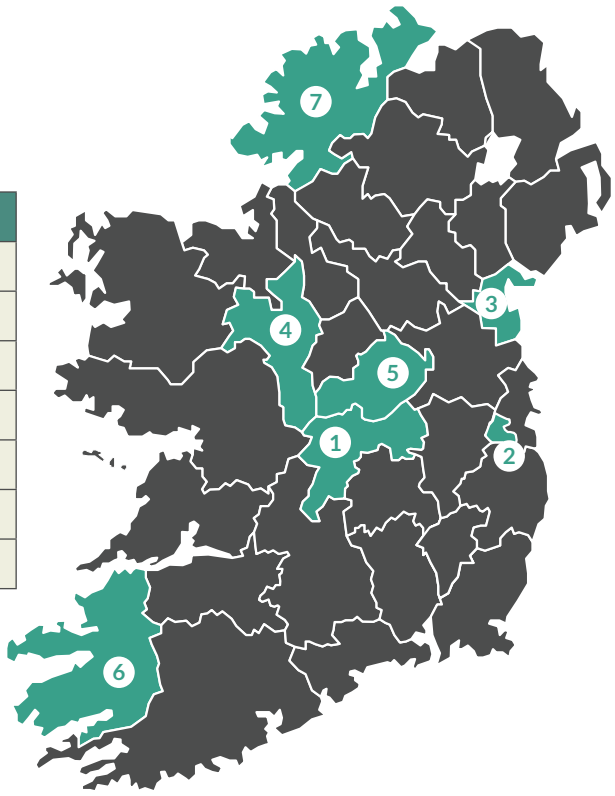
Appendices

Appendix 1

Details of Local Authorities validated

The summaries below were provided by each of the seven local authorities, as requested by NOAC during its validation visits, which took place on the dates listed.

No.	Local Authority	Date
1	Offaly County Council	30 May 2024
2	South Dublin County Council	5 June 2024
3	Louth County Council	13 June 2024
4	Roscommon County Council	19 June 2024
5	Westmeath County Council	24 June 2024
6	Kerry County Council	25 June 2024
7	Donegal County Council	1 July 2024



Offaly County Council – 30 May 2024

Offaly's blend of historical sites, natural landscapes and vibrant cultural life make it a unique and attractive part of Ireland. It is centrally located and shares boundaries with a number of counties. With a growing population of 77,961 Offaly has made several significant achievements in recent years contributing to the development and improvement of the county. These include the successful implementation of town and village renewal schemes, improving infrastructure, and boosting local economies, as well as the provision of social and affordable housing projects to address housing shortages and provide homes for those in need.

Offaly County Council continues to improve the quality of life for its residents through fostering economic development and preserving the country's natural and cultural heritage. The challenges for the local authority include job creation and retention; transport and connectivity and managing financial resources efficiently to ensure that funding for services and development projects continue.

South Dublin County Council – 5 June 2024

South Dublin County has a population of 301,075 people (2022 census) across an area of 222.74 km^2, comprising seven local electoral areas, represented by 40 elected members. The County town is Tallaght, with additional towns and villages including Lucan, Clondalkin, Rathfarnham, Palmerstown, Templeogue, Rathcoole, Newcastle, and Saggart, along with Adamstown and Clonburris Strategic Development Zones.

The County contributes significantly to the economy of Dublin and Ireland with 6,968 businesses, 137,111 jobs and major business parks including Citywest and Grange Castle.

South Dublin County Council delivers a comprehensive, diverse, and evolving range of services to citizens, businesses, and visitors, and its corporate vision is to make South Dublin a vibrant and inclusive place for the people living, working, visiting and doing business in the county, now and for the future.

South Dublin County Council's workforce of 1,500 posts, its 2024 Revenue Budget totals €338,321,100 and its Capital Programme 2024–2026 provides for investment of €1,584,393,900 in housing and other projects.

Louth County Council – 13 June 2024

Louth is a modern county that boasts the unusual strength of being both rural and urban. It contains the two growth centres of Dundalk and Drogheda, which are the county's two biggest towns, both sitting on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor. The local authority addresses issues on the above basis with staff employed to address the needs of the county. As an urban centric authority, it has both a wholetime and retained fire service, which operate as a combined service.

Its Housing Department is ranked next after the cities when one considers stock numbers, applicant numbers, homeless presentations, and maintenance requests. As a rural authority, it has a busy planning service managing and preserving both its rural context, whilst other rural functions such as Rural Water continue to perform well.

The 790 staff deliver a service funded by a €160 million budget and a capital budget that exceeds €1 billion.

Roscommon County Council – 19 June 2024

Roscommon is an inland, rural county containing the geographic centre of Ireland and is dotted with towns and villages that support vibrant communities. Roscommon Town is the principal town and administrative centre with a population of 6,555 and the county is part of the Northern and Western Regional Assembly area.

Roscommon is notable in terms of its rivers and lakes and Lough Key is one of the county's most notable natural assets.

The county is served by the M6 Dublin to Galway motorway in the south, with the N4 and N5 national primary routes to the north, and rail lines through the county provide east-west connectivity.

The county is undergoing substantial transformations and has an above average population growth rate. Three quarters of this growth is from in-migration, contributing to a diversifying demographic landscape. Roscommon has a changing employment landscape with a growth in enterprise and employment, reflecting the county's adaptability and economic vitality.

The county is actively engaged in environmental development initiatives, underlying its commitment to climate action and ecological conservation.

Westmeath County Council – 24 June 2024

County Westmeath, known as the Lake County, is located in the Midlands region and has a population of 96,221 (2022 Census). The county is home to the two large towns of Athlone and Mullingar. Athlone is located on the river Shannon and is a designated Regional Growth Centre under the National Planning Framework. It hosts attractions such as Athlone Castle, the Luan Gallery, Lough Ree and many more tourist attractions. Athlone is undergoing substantial regeneration of the town centre and environs.

Mullingar is the county's administrative capital and is a thriving business town that has hosted Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2022 and 2023, providing a major boost to the economy of the town and county. The town offers easy access to the greater Dublin area, with Dublin Airport and Dublin Port just one hour's drive from Mullingar.

The challenges facing Westmeath County Council include housing provision and maintenance, climate change, refugee accommodation and integration, and staff recruitment and retention.

Kerry County Council – 25 June 2024

Kerry County Council provides a full range of local government services to its citizens. The Council has 33 elected members and approximately 1,400 staff, with five Municipal Districts; Tralee, Killarney, Listowel, Castleisland-Corca Dhuibhne and Kenmare. The population of Kerry is 156,458 (2022 Census), the tenth most populated county in the State, and it is the fifth largest county in the country.

Kerry is located within the Atlantic Economic Corridor region on the Wild Atlantic Way and attracts over 2 million tourists annually. The Council's corporate objectives include the enhancement of the county's attractiveness as a place in which to invest, work, and live, and it takes a lead role in economic and community development.

Priorities for the Council include delivery of a significant Housing Capital Programme, Climate Action, Roads, Water and Amenity Infrastructure Investment and Urban and Rural Regeneration Projects. Kerry's 2024 Revenue Budget is €211 million and its Capital Budget is €217 million.

Donegal County Council – 1 July 2024

Donegal County Council has 37 elected members, its 2024 Revenue Budget is €185,577,941 and its estimated Capital Budget (2024 to 2026) is €1,022,406,467.

Located in the northwest corner of Ireland, Donegal is the island's northernmost county and it is geographically extensive and predominantly rural. The vast majority of its land border (93%) is shared with Northern Ireland and it has a small border with county Leitrim in the Republic.

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Derry City and Strabane District Council, comprise the North West City Region. It is recognised that while the North West faces many challenges - not least because of its periphery from Dublin and Belfast and associated lack of investment over many decades - the region is an untapped source of potential - economically, socially and environmentally. It is accepted that the challenges can only be met, and the opportunities pursued, with a consistent and long-term approach to coordinating the development of the region.

Appendix 2

Revisions and Timelines

Revisions

Each year during its validation visits, NOAC reviews the set of indicators and liaises with the local authorities and other stakeholders on improvements or changes that could be made and incorporated into its report. Most of the suggestions at this year's validation visits will be considered by the working group and if necessary changes will be made to the guidelines and in some cases the indicators themselves. Revisions for the report are outlined below:

- **Roads:** A wording change, suggested by the RMO, was made to provide clarity.
  - **Previous text for R1B:** The percentage of total (a) Regional, (b) Local Primary, (c) Local Secondary and (d) Local Tertiary road kilometres represented by the numbers of kilometres at 31/12/2022 rated in each of the following 4 groupings of the 10 PSCI rating categories; 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 for each road type.
  - **Revised text for R1B:** The percentage length of (a) Regional, (b) Local Primary and (c) Local Secondary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 24-month period prior to 31/12/2023 and the percentage length of (d) Local Tertiary roads that received a PSCI condition rating in the 60-month period prior to 31/12/2023, in each of the following PSCI rating categories: 1-4, 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10.
- **Planning:** The P1 explanatory note was changed to provide clarity on the figure to be included.
  - **Previous text:** In both sets of data for this indicator, return only commencement notices and inspection figures for new buildings and exclude notices and inspections related to material alteration/changes of uses and extensions to existing buildings. If a commencement notice or an inspection covers multiple new buildings, the number included in both parts of the indicator should be the multiple number.
  - **Revised text:** In both sets of data for this indicator, return only commencement notices and inspection figures for new buildings. If a commencement notice or an inspection covers multiple new buildings, the number included in both parts of the indicator should be the actual number of units inspected.
- **Finance:** In respect of indicator M2, Limerick City & County Council will now report on the collection of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) separately.
  - **M2 new text:**

    Please note that for 2023 in the case of Limerick City & County Council only, M2 (b) Rent and Annuities will be reported in two parts, to account for the collection of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) separately.
- Economic Development J5: Updated information on the processing of queries and an FAQ section was included in the guidelines.
  - **New text on query handling:**

    Further to the arrangements last year, agreement in principle was received from the Chair of the CCMA Finance Committee that a sub-group of the Committee will be established annually, to address technical queries with regard to J5. The CCMA Finance J5 PI Oversight Group was re-instated for 2023.

J5 query handling process:

1. Local authorities should submit queries by email to NOAC info@noac.ie in the first instance.
2. If NOAC is unable to assist, it will send the query to the LGMA Research Team, to be forwarded to the CCMA Finance J5 PI Oversight Group.
3. The CCMA Finance J5 PI Oversight team will send responses to the LGMA Research Team and NOAC.
4. NOAC will forward responses to Data Co-ordinators.

NOAC has built up a list of J5 FAQs, so that responses can be provided in a timely manner and has included these in its published Guidelines.

The Process and Timelines

The following steps were taken to prepare the 2023 report for publication;

- The 2023 Performance Indicator guidelines were completely revised and updated, to include clearer guidance notes and Frequently Asked Questions, to help provide clarity for many of the indicators. The guidelines were published and presented to each local authority at the workshop referred to below. They were also circulated in soft copy and published on the website.
- NOAC hosted a workshop for Local Authority Data Co-ordinators, and staff from other relevant local authority areas such as Housing, on Tuesday 27 February 2024 in Local Government House and it was attended by 29 local authorities.
- A training programme was organised by the NOAC Secretariat for all relevant local authority staff on the operation of the LG Returns* system. 28 people from 19 local authorities attended the five courses offered.
- LGReturns opened on 28 February 2024 and the deadline for data submission for the 2023 report was 19 April 2024.
- All local authorities, with the exception of four, adhered to the deadline. It was necessary to re-open the system for a two hour window on Monday 27 April 2024 to facilitate these exceptional delays.
- Once all the data was uploaded to LG Returns system and the system was fully closed on 28 April 2024, the NOAC Secretariat began the process of carrying out a quality assurance review of the data.
- Seven local authorities and six indicators were chosen for Quality Assurance/validation visits, which commenced on 30 May and finished on 1 July 2024.
- Audit queries, compilation of the data and writing of the report commenced in early May 2024.

* LG Returns is a system developed in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government & Heritage and the Local Government Management Agency to support local authorities in the entry and processing of national data returns.

Appendix 3

LGMA Summary

Local Authority Performance Indicators 2023

LGMA Local Government Management Agency

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1. Introduction

This commentary has been prepared by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) to provide context to the 2023 performance indicators for the local government sector in Ireland. The performance indicators data are collected by the LGMA, using the LGReturns system, on behalf of the National Oversight and Audit Commission (NOAC) as part of the Commission's role in monitoring the performance of local authorities.

The preparation of this report by the LGMA, forms part of a cross-checking exercise to verify the data extraction and analysis is consistent, and that all audit query changes have been captured and logged in the LGReturns system. This report presents the performance of local authorities in 2023 based on a summary of some of the 45 indicators identified by NOAC. The performance indicators are categorised by local government functions; housing, roads, water, waste/ environment, planning, fire services, library/ recreation, youth/community, corporate, finance and economic development. While the indicators address the core functions of local authorities, it is acknowledged by NOAC that they do not reflect the extensive range of services delivered by county and city councils throughout the State. The local government services directory lists 1,105 distinct services across 18 service types Home (localgov.ie).

This section presents a summary of the key results, the methodology used to gather the indicators, and provides an overview of the financial and economic context in which local authorities operated in 2023. The remainder of the report provides a commentary on the indicators for a range of functions, including housing, roads, water, waste/environmental management, planning, fire services, library/ recreation, youth/community, corporate, finance and economic development.

1.1 Summary of Results – At A Glance

The highlights of the 2023 performance indicators are:

- By December 2023 local authorities owned 150,224 social housing units.
- Local authorities added 4,382 units to the social housing stock in 2023.
- The average time to re-let a social house decreased from 35.22 weeks in 2022 to 33.72 weeks in 2023. The average cost of re-letting a housing unit increased from €21,886 in 2022 to €28,347 in 2023.
- Local authorities manage and maintain 96,478 km of regional and local roads.
- 81.38% of motor tax transactions were conducted online.
- 70,584 pollution complaints were made to local authorities in 2023, a decrease from 71,185 in 2022.
- In 2023 83.45% of the 2,212 registered private water schemes were monitored.
- There was an increase in new builds notified to local authorities, 23,283 in 2023 from 20,101 in 2022. This represents a 15.83% decrease.
- There were 13,879,927 visits to libraries in 2023 where 16,219,445 items were borrowed.
- There were 31,705 people working in local government in 2023, up from 30,599 people in 2022.
- There were over 68,790,307 visits to local authority websites in 2023. The number following local authorities via social media increased by 12.4% to 5.4 million in 2023.
- The percentage of paid working days lost to medically certified leave increased between 2022 and 2023 from 3.58% to 3.77%.

1.2 Methodology

To ensure that the performance indicators are valid and reliable, a thorough approach is taken to collating and analysing the data:

- Performance indicators are consistently measured across each local authority, to enable comparison and track changes over time. On-going monitoring of indicators is undertaken by NOAC in consultation with the CCMA/LGMA. When considering proposed changes to an indicator an assessment is made on the potential impact on the trend analysis over time.
- A data co-ordinator is designated in each local authority to co-ordinate data collection across multiple local authority departments.
- The data is inputted into a bespoke software system, 'LG Returns', which is managed by the LGMA and enables an appropriate audit process to be undertaken on all data. Detailed guidelines are provided annually, and a workshop is hosted by NOAC and the LGMA to ensure staff are fully informed about any new indicators or changes to existing indicators. The 2023 Performance Indicator workshop took place on 27th of February 2024.
- The LGMA collate further datasets from external sources including the Central Statistics Office (CSO), the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH), the Department of Transport (DT), the Road Management Office (RMO), the Residential Tenancies Board (RTB), the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO), Enterprise Ireland (EI), the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), An Taisce and the LGMA.
- Once input, the data is validated and audited. This year NOAC undertook the audit between June and August 2023.
- Following validation of the data, NOAC prepare their report analysing the performance of local authorities, and the LGMA prepare this commentary on the data.

1.3 Comparing Local Authority Performance

Each local authority is different. While local authorities provide a similar range of services, they must take account of national policies, local needs and the democratic priorities of a particular area. In addition, the diversity between local authorities impacts on performance measurement. Specifically, geographic spread, population density, resources and socio-economic profiles are among a range of factors that affect the demand for different services locally. Thus, rather than make comparisons between local authorities, it is more appropriate to measure performance of individual local authorities addressing local priorities over time.

1.4 Reporting Figures

Where possible national average figures are used to illustrate the performance of the local government sector in aggregate. Where this is not the case, or where use of a national average is not available due to data limitations, median values are used. Median is sometimes considered a more accurate reflection than the average because divergent figures across local authorities can disproportionately affect the average, rendering it unrepresentative. In instances where the median is used, the report clearly highlights this.

1.5 Context

The paragraphs that follow provide the economic and financial context in which local authorities operated in 2023.

The Irish Economy

The Irish economy, measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), contracted in 2023 by 5.5%, compared to growth of 8.6% in in 2022 and 16.3% in 2022. When we look at Gross National Income (GNI) the Irish economy showed a growth rate of 5.4%, while Modified Gross National Income (GNI*) grew by 5.0% (Central Statistics Office, 2023).

Provisional data for 2023 shows a general government surplus of €8.3 billion. This compares to a surplus of €8.5 billion in 2022 (Central Statistics Office, 2023).

1.6 Local Government Resources

As illustrated in Figure 1.1 below, local government revenue budgets reduced from €4.46 billion in 2009 to a low of €3.79 billion in 2015. However, since 2015, the local government sector's income has increased, with an aggregate local government revenue budget in 2023 of €6.56 billion (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2023).

Staffing levels in local government were significantly reduced from 32,044 in 2009 to 26,858 in 2016, a reduction of 16.2% over this period. By the end of 2023, the total number of whole-time equivalent staff increased to 31,702. The number of staff increased by 3.61% between 2022 and 2023.

Figure 1.1: Local Government Revenue Budgets 2009 - 2023

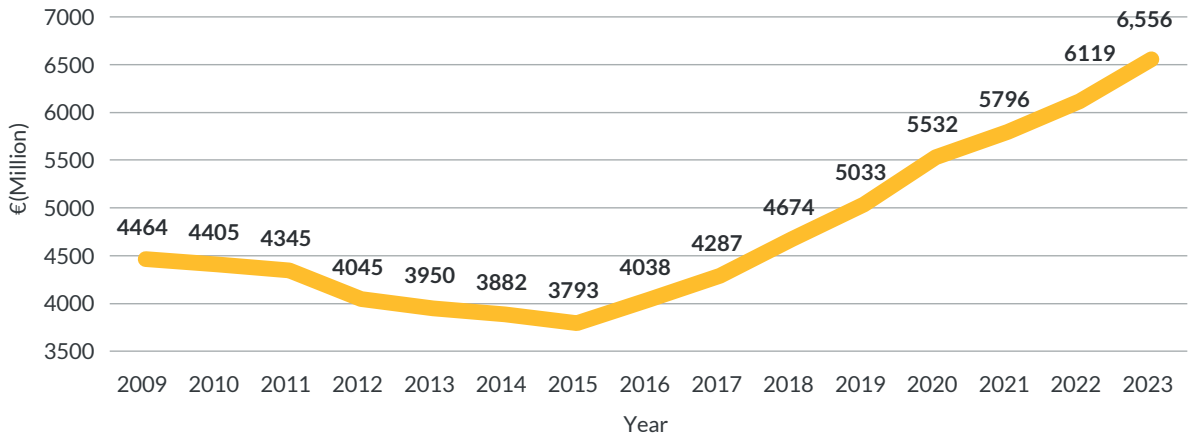
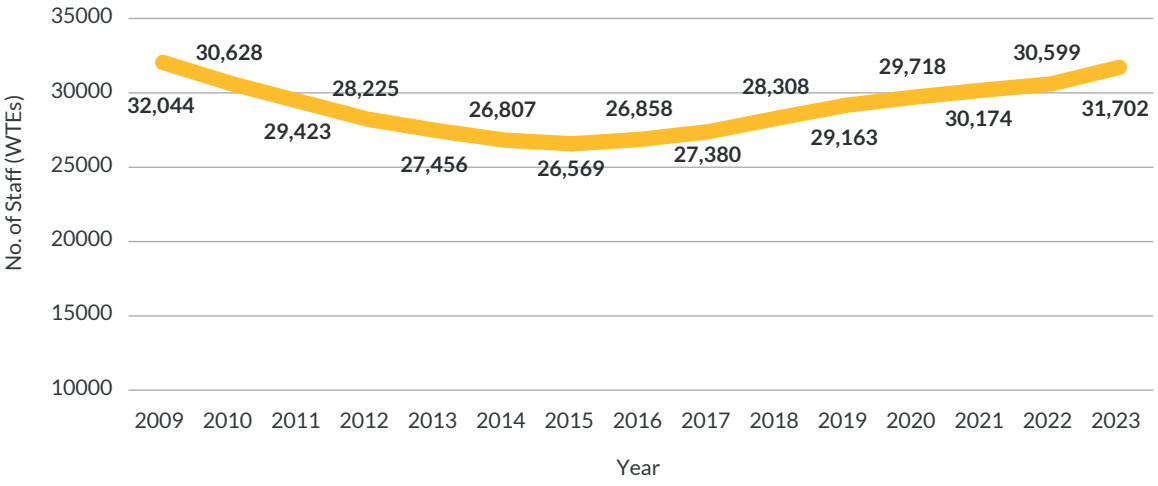


Figure 1.2 Staffing in Local Authorities 2009 - 2023



Irish Census 2022

The national census was carried out in 2022, with results showing a population of 5,149,139 (Central Statistics Office, 2023). The 2022 census figures were used for per capita calculations for performance indicators this year. The population increase since 2016 was 387,274 or 8.1% (Central Statistics Office, 2023).

Local Government Policy Context

In line with EU climate action efforts, the Irish government is also building a framework to support ambitious climate action to achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 commits the State to a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and to climate neutrality by no later than 2050.

Within the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, each local authority has responsibility for the development of a Local Authority Climate Action Plan, which must include both mitigation and adaptation measures they plan to deliver to meet national climate commitments (Government of Ireland, 2021a).

The local government sector continues to implement efficiency reforms and promote innovation through the extension of shared services, build to share models of innovation and the roll-out of sectoral approved projects. The LGMA is currently overseeing the development and roll-out of a local government ICT/Digital strategy to digitise services.

'Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland' is the government's housing plan to 2030. It is a multi-annual, multi-billion-euro plan which will improve Ireland's housing system and deliver more homes of all types for people with different housing needs. The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes:

- to purchase or rent at an affordable price
- built to a high standard and in the right place
- offering a high quality of life

The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:

- supporting home ownership and increasing affordability
- eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion
- increasing new housing supply
- addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock

The pathways contain actions to be taken by government departments, local authorities, State agencies and others. The pathways are supported by actions to enable a sustainable housing system. The LGMA's national Housing Delivery Coordination Office (HDCO) plays a critical role in tracking the pipeline delivery of social housing projects through local authorities, and tracking the national Social Housing Retrofit programme.

2. Housing

The housing performance indicators outlined below, measure housing stock, housing maintenance and management, private rented inspections, and homelessness. In addition to these important services, housing services of local authorities are responsible for estate management, provide disability grants, provide traveller accommodation and administer the tenant purchase scheme, housing loans and rents.

By the 31st of December 2023 the local government sector owned 150,224 social housing units, an increase in overall stock of 2.6% compared to December 31st, 2022. The number of dwellings added by local authorities increased from 3,862 in 2022 to 4,382 in 2023, an increase of 13.46%.

In 2023, local authorities sold 476 dwellings which they owned, a decrease from the 531 dwellings sold in 2022. The number of dwellings owned by local authorities which were demolished decreased from 141 in 2022 to 111 in 2023. Local authorities directly provided 149,430 dwellings in 2023.

2.1 Housing Management

In 2023, the percentage of vacant dwellings within the social housing stock was 2.81%. This includes all units awaiting re-tenanting, illegally occupied units or those awaiting necessary repair work. This represents a decrease on the vacancy level of 3.03% in 2022.

The average time from vacation of a dwelling to commencement of a new tenancy decreased from 35.22 weeks in 2022 to 33.72 weeks in 2023. The average re-letting cost of a unit increased by 29.52% from €21,886 in 2022 to €28,347 in 2023. The average cost of housing maintenance increased from €1,297 in 2022 to €1,493 per unit in 2023, an increase of 15.1% from 2022.

2.2 Private Rented Sector

As of end of June 2023, a total of 50,436 private rented dwellings were inspected by local authorities, an increase of 25.2% from 2022. There was a decrease in the percentage of dwelling non-compliant during the first inspection to 88.88% from 91.28% in 2022.

2.3 Homelessness

As of 31st December 2023, there was a total of 9,239 adults homeless and in emergency accommodation, of which 57.61% were in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously.

2.4. Social Housing Retrofit

In 2023, local authorities completed retrofitting 2,445 social housing units resulting in an estimated annual energy saving of 35,663.4 MWh/Yr. which equates to a saving of 10,373.3 tCo2/Yr.

3. Roads

The local government sector is responsible for a total of 96,478 km of regional, local primary, secondary and tertiary roads in Ireland. Road maintenance is primarily funded through grants from the Department of Transport (DoT), except for some of the urban local authorities. The performance indicators related to roads present information on the road surface ratings, the road maintenance programme and collection of the motor tax. However, this only represents a fraction of the work of local authorities do in relation to roads and transportation. The local government sector also provides key services including public lighting, traffic management, pedestrian pathways, parking management, road safety, safety in severe weather conditions such as flooding and cold weather, and traffic management for festivals and events.

3.1 Pavement Surface Condition Index

The Pavement Surface Condition Index (PSCI) is a standardised means to assess and rate the surface conditions of roads. The data on road surfaces is derived from a central system called MapRoad. In 2023, there were:

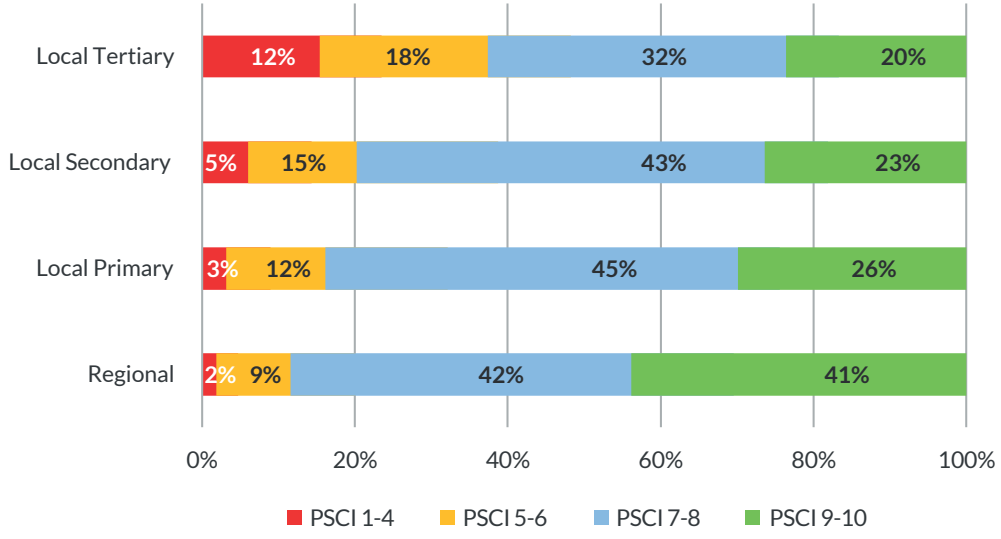
- A total of 13,347 km of regional roads, of which 97% were PSCI rated in the 24-month period to 31/12/2023.
- A total of 23,798 km of local primary roads, of which 98% were PSCI rated in the 24-month period to 31/12/2023.
- A total of 33,608 km of local secondary roads, of which 96% were PSCI rated in the 24-month period to 31/12/2023.
- A total of 25,725 km of local tertiary roads, of which 89% were PSCI rated in the 60-month period to 31/12/2023.

For the purpose of the performance indicators, the roads that have a PSCI rating are categorised as follows:

- Category 1-4: Structural Distress
- Category 5-6: Surface Defect; Localised Distress
- Category 7-8: Surface Defect
- Category 9-10: No/Minor Defects

The PSCI Rating for Regional Roads, Local Primary Roads, Local Secondary Roads and Local Tertiary Roads are presented in Figure 3.1.

Figure 3.1: Pavement Surface Condition by Road Type



3.2 Road Grants Works

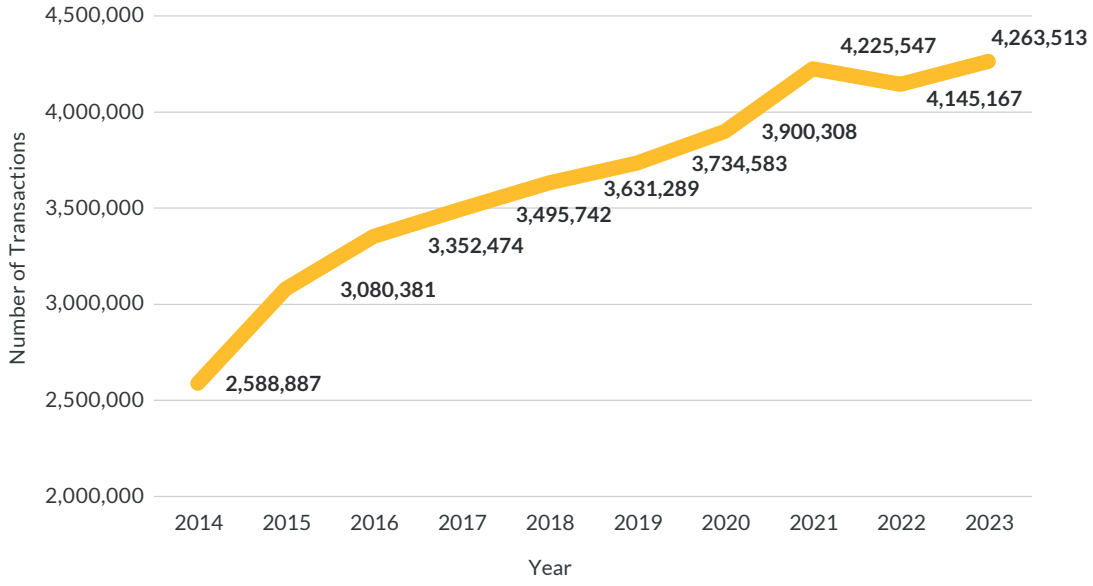
In 2023, the Department of Transport and the local authorities invested:

- €113.7 million to strengthen 419.9 km of regional roads, and €17.8 million to reseal 464.2 km of regional roads.
- €270.9 million to strengthen 2,304.5 km of local roads, and €63.2 million to reseal 2,688.8 km of local roads.

3.3 Motor Tax Online

In 2023, 4,263,513 motor tax transactions were conducted online (Figure 3.2). This represents 81.38% of all motor tax transactions. Over an eight-year period, the percentage of motor tax transactions online increased from 56.6% in 2015 to 81.38% in 2023.

Figure 3.2 Motor Tax Transactions Online 2014 - 2023



4. Water & Environment

Local authorities carry out a broad range of environmental services including street, park and beach cleaning, litter services, veterinary services, cleaning graffiti, road cleaning, management of recycling centres and civic amenity sites, and management of landfill sites. Local authorities have a role in awareness, enforcement, and regulation in the thematic areas of air, noise, wate and waste as well as a significant role as a key stakeholder in the area of climate change. Several shared services support the local government sector in the delivery of these functions.

4.1 Water Services

Local Authorities are responsible for the monitoring of group water schemes and regulated small private supplies, also known as private water schemes. In 2023, 98.63% of drinking water in private schemes monitored was found to be in compliance with statutory regulations. Beginning in 2019, local authorities were asked to provide the percentage of private schemes monitored during the year. In 2022, 83.05% of private water schemes were monitored by local authorities. In 2023 83.45% of the 2,212 registered private water schemes were monitored.

4.2 Environment

The total number of households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3-bin service increased from 961,213 in 2022 to 1,012,665 in 2023 which is a 5.35% increase.

In 2023, 94.13% of households in agglomerations of over 500 people availed of a 3-bin service, compared to 87.91% in 2022.

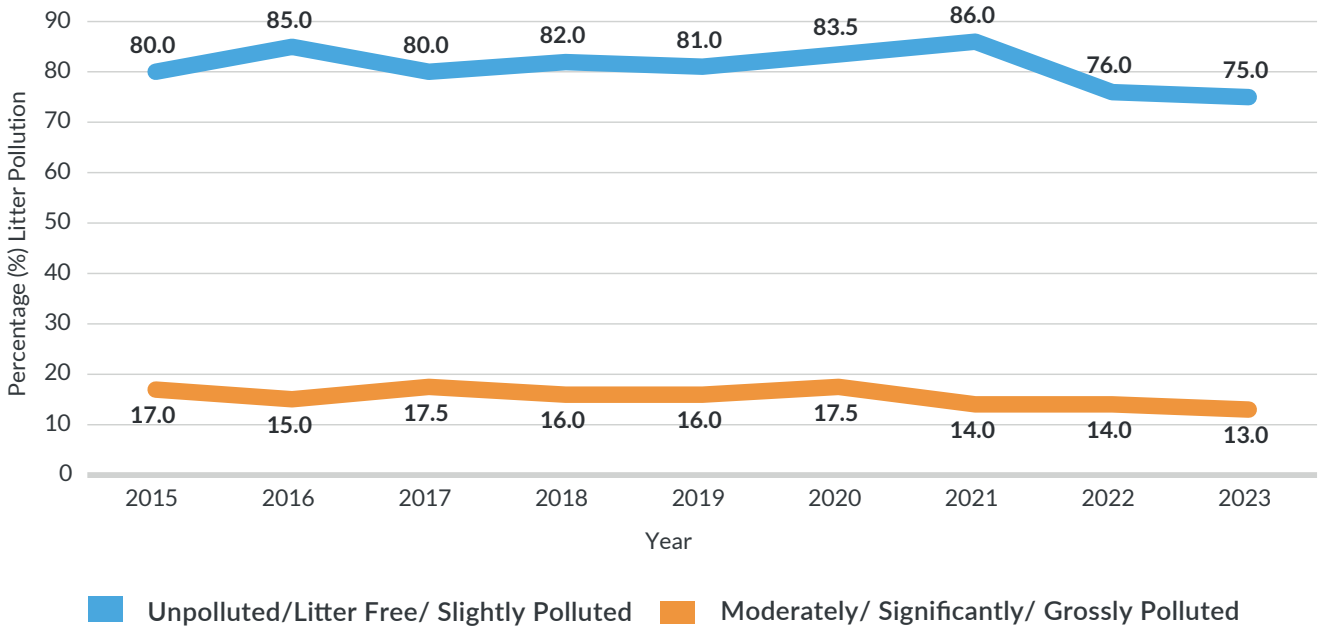
4.3 Pollution & Litter

In 2023, a total of 70,584 pollution complaints[1] were made to local authorities, a decrease of 0.8% from the 71,185 complaints made in 2022.

Local authorities, in partnership with voluntary groups such as Tidy Towns and Chambers of Commerce, are working to reduce the level of litter in their areas. In 2023, the national median percentage of areas surveyed which were unpolluted/litter-free/slightly polluted decreased to 75.0% from 86.0% in 2022 as illustrated in Figure 4.1. The level of moderately/significantly/grossly polluted reduced from a median value of 14% in 2022 to 13.0%[2] in 2023.

1 This includes litter, air, noise, water or waste pollution.
2 This data is based on areas surveyed and to that extent median values are used.

Figure 4.1 Trends in Levels of Litter Pollution 2014 - 2023



4.4 Green Flag Status

Green-Schools is an internationally recognised programme designed to encourage and acknowledge whole school action across seven key environmental themes. The programme offers a structured way for schools to promote environmental sustainability in their day-to-day operations. Nationally, the programme is managed by An Taisce, with local authorities a key partner in this process. Specifically, local authorities provide environmental education and support to schools which are working towards one of seven Green Flags, each linked to a specific environmental theme. At the end of 2023, 1,389 schools held a Green Flag, representing 35.09% of all schools nationally.

4.5 Energy Savings

Across all local authorities, the average cumulative percentage energy savings achieved by 31/12/2023 relative to baseline year (2009) was 38.79% in 2023, an increase from 35.94% in 2022.

NOAC introduced the E6: Public Lighting indicator for the 2020 report. Ireland's 31 local authorities and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) manage and maintain over 520,000 public lights across the country. As of 2023, 58.06% of all public lighting had been upgraded to LED lights. This was an increase from the 2022 figure of 52.82%.

4.6. Climate change

Twenty-four local authorities had Climate Action Teams in place by the end of 2023, while a further 5 local authorities had teams which were a work in progress. In 2023, 30 local authorities had a designated FTE Climate Action Coordinator, and 25 had an FTE Climate Action Officer.

5. Planning

Local authorities are responsible for forward planning, in addition to providing regulatory, development management and enforcement functions for their areas.

5.1 New Buildings Inspected

In 2023, local authorities were notified of a total of 23,283 new buildings, a 15.83% increase on the 20,101 new buildings notified in 2022. Of these, local authorities inspected 25.87% in 2023.

5.2 Appeals to An Bord Pleanála

A total of 1,713 planning decisions made by local authorities were appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2023. Of these, 75.72% of decisions made by local authorities were confirmed by An Bord Pleanála. This compares with 73.16% of decisions in 2022.

5.3 Planning Enforcement Cases

Local authorities investigated 6,783 cases referred to or initiated by local authorities in 2023, a smaller number than the 6,959 cases in 2022. Of those cases, 6,453 cases were closed during the year. At the end of 2023, 21,110 planning enforcement cases were being investigated.

In 2023, 51% of planning enforcement cases were dismissed under 152(2), Planning and Development Act 2000 or were closed because statute barred or an exempted development during the year. Of the closed cases, 7% were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations, and 41% were closed due to enforcement proceedings during the year. These indicators compare to 2022 when 53% of planning enforcement cases were also dismissed, 8% of cases were closed through negotiations and 39% of cases were closed due to enforcement proceedings.

5.4 Cost Per Capita of Planning Services

The cost of planning services includes forward planning, development management and enforcement. In 2023, the cost per capita of planning services across the sector was €35.97. This represents an increase from €33.54 in 2022.

5.5 Fire Safety Certificates

In 2023, 52.11% of applications for fire safety certificates received during the year were decided within two months of their receipt. This is an increase from 46.95% in 2022. The percentage of fire safety certificates applications that were decided within an extended period agreed with the applicant decreased from 42.25% in 2022 to 36.28% in 2023.

6. Fire Services

In addition to fire emergency services, local authorities conduct inspections on buildings for fire safety and provide a range of fire prevention services. The performance indicators focus on mobilisation of fire emergency services. For the purpose of the performance indicators there is a distinction made between mobilisation and attendance at both fire and non-fire scenes.

6.1 Fire Scenes

In the case of fire, in 2023 the median number of minutes taken to mobilise the fire brigade in full-time stations was 1 minute 25 seconds, while the median time in part-time fire stations was 5 minutes 56 seconds. This compared with 1 minute 26 seconds and 5 minutes 31 seconds respectively in 2022.

Figure 6.1 below compares the times of first attendance at a fire scene in 2022 and 2023. In 2023, 52.83% of fire scenes were attended within 10 minutes while 34.88% were attended within 10-20 minutes. This compares with 52.65% and 35.70% respectively in 2022.

6.2 Non-Fire Scenes

In 2023, it took a median of 1 minute 34 seconds to mobilise from full-time fire stations and 5 minutes 59 seconds to mobilise from part-time fire stations for all non-fire emergency incidents. This compares with response times of 1 minute 34 seconds and 5 minutes 34 seconds respectively in 2022.

Attendance at non-fire scenes presented in Figure 6.2 below shows that there is a slight decrease in the percentage of non-fire emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene was within 10 minutes in 2023. In 2023, 38% of non-fire scenes were attended within 10 minutes and a further 39% were attended within 10-20 minutes. This compares with 42% and 43% respectively in 2022.

Figure 6.1 National Average Times to Attend Fire Scenes 2023

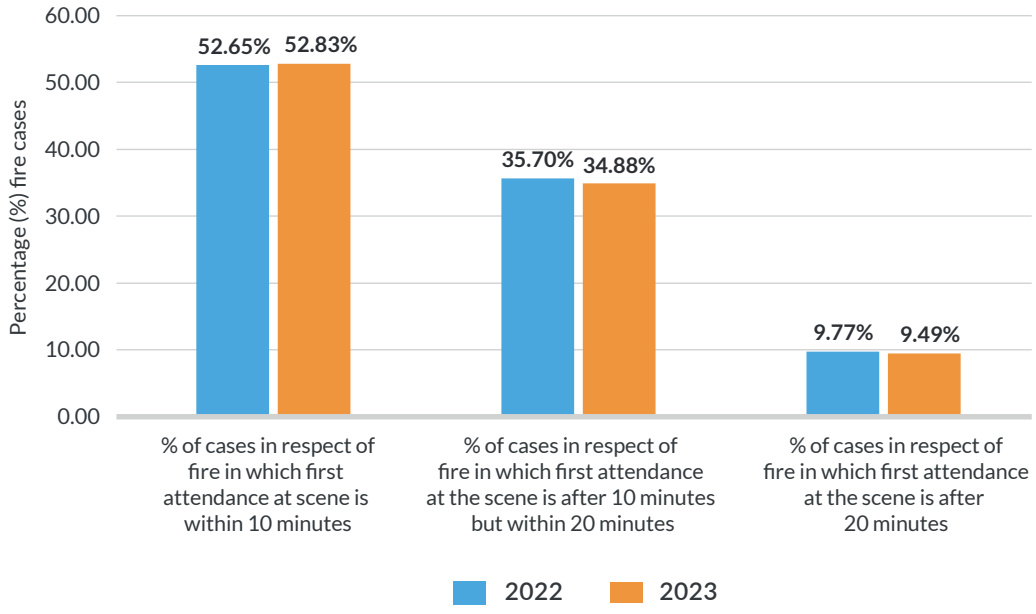
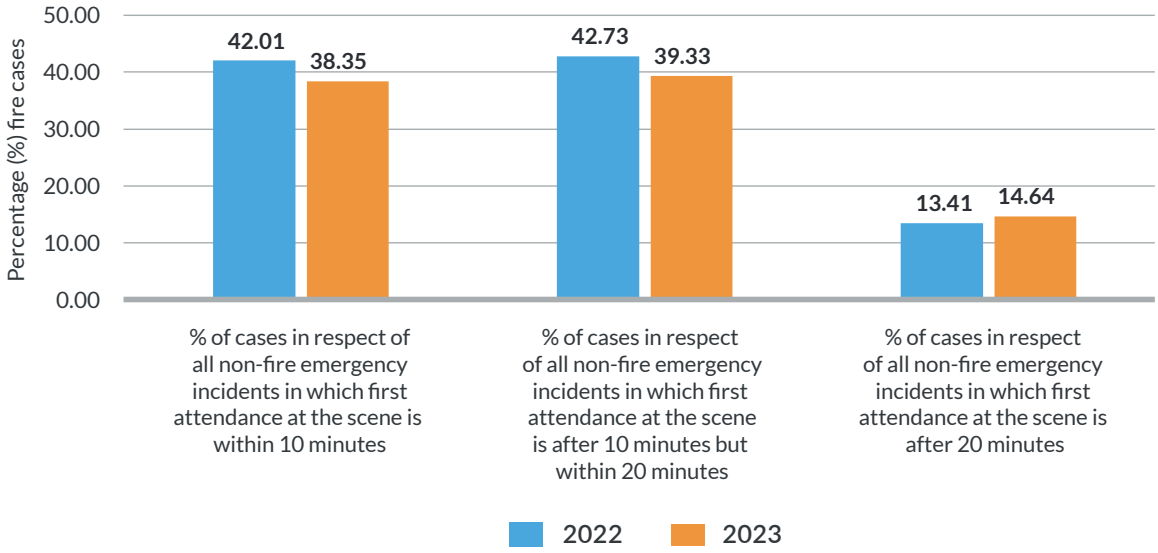


Figure 6.2: National Average Response Times to Attend Non-Fire Scenes



6.3 Cost Per Capita of Fire Services

The per capita cost of fire services across the local government sector in 2023 was €65.76[3,4], an increase from €61.45 in 2022. The cost of operating fire services is influenced by whether the fire service operates a full-time or retained fire brigade.

3 Figure excludes population receiving its first response from the Northern Ireland Fire Service from the cost calculation.

4 In previous years, the Cost Per Capita of Fire Services indicator was calculated using population figures from the Risk Based Approach Phase One reports which combine census data by fire station area on a fire authority by fire authority basis and was last updated in 2018. The equivalent calculation is not available for the updated 2022 census figures, so the calculations for this indicator for 2023 have reverted to standard census population figures by local authority area.

7. Library Services, Youth & Community

7.1 Library Services

In 2023, there were a total of 13,879,927 visits to libraries run by local authorities, an increase of 29.9% compared to 2022. A total of 16,219,445 items[5] were borrowed, which is an increase of 16.7% since 2022.

The cost per capita of operating the library service in 2023 was €38.87. In 2022, this was €36.68. In 2023, the total expenditure on new stock acquired by libraries was €10,321,804, or €2.00 per head of population.

7.2 Youth

Comhairle na nÓg are local councils for young people to provide them with an opportunity to be involved in the development of local policies. In 2023, 68.16% of second level schools participated in the Youth Councils/Comhairle na nÓg, an increase compared to 64.70% in 2022.

7.3 Public Participation Networks

Public Participation Networks enable the public to take an active and formal role in the policy-making activities of local authorities that will affect their communities. In 2023, a total of 19,409 community organisations were included in the County Registers nationally, an increase of 1,534 organisations since 2022. Of these, 16.21% opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College of their respective Public Participation Network. Community organisations may opt to participate in one of the two other Colleges of the PPN, the Community and Voluntary College, or the Environmental College.

5 Library borrowings include books, DVDs, audio, eBooks, e-magazines, e-audio and ProQuest etc.

8. Corporate

8.1 Staffing

Since 2015, the number of whole-time equivalent staff working in local authorities has been steadily increasing. The number of staff members increased to 31,705 in 2023, compared to 30,599 in 2022. Figure 1.2 at the beginning of this report illustrates the increase and decrease in the number of staff members in local authorities over the years.

8.2 Working Days Lost to Sickness

The percentage of paid working days lost to medically certified leave increased between 2022 and 2023 from 3.58% to 3.77%, whilst the percentage of paid working days lost to self-certified leave remained the same as 2022 at 0.32%.

8.3 Use of Websites and Social Media

Local authorities are increasingly using technology to provide information and services to the public. In 2023, there were a total of 68,790,307 page views of local authority websites, a decrease of 1.65% from 2022 figures. Between 2022 and 2023 there was an increase of 12.3% in the number of followers of social media pages of local authorities, from 4,812,396 to 5,404,168.

8.4 Cost Per whole time equivalent staff of ICT

In 2023, the cost per whole time equivalent staff member of ICT across the local government sector was €3,948.63. This compares to €3,729.33 in 2022.

9. Finance

IIn 2023, 6 local authorities were operating at a deficit, compared to 7 in 2022. The total revenue expenditure by local authorities in 2023 was €6.72bn, an increase from €6.18bn in 2022. The average revenue expenditure per capita by local authorities was €1,305.56 in 2023, an increase from €1,205.89 in 2022.

The per capita total cost of settled public liability claims in 2023 was €12.21, this was an increase on the 2022 figure of €11.31.

In 2023, the average percentage of total expenditure accounted for by the central management charge in local authorities was 12.35%.

9.1 Commercial Rates

In 2023, the collection of Commercial Rates increased or remained constant in 22 out of 31 local authorities. The median level of commercial rates collection remained constant at 88.0% in 2022 and 88.0% in 2023.

9.2 Rents & Annuities

The median collection rate for Rents and Annuities remained relatively stable between 2022 and 2023 at 89% and 88% respectively. Collection rates improved in 11 local authorities, remained static in 7 local authorities and declined in 13 local authorities.

9.3 Housing Loans

In 2023, the collection rate for Housing Loans improved in 22 local authorities, remained static in 6 local authorities, and declined in 3 local authorities. The median collection rate for housing loans increased from 83% in 2022 to 87% in 2023.

10. Economic Development

Local authorities play a significant role in relation to economic development. In addition to adopting and coordinating the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs) and the Regional Action Plans for Jobs, the sector provides planning and development services, physical infrastructure, and supports social enterprises.

10.1 Local Enterprise Offices

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are central to local economic development. This support structure contributes to the creation and sustainability of jobs in local communities, strengthening new and existing business development nationwide. In 2023, the net number of jobs created nationally with the assistance of the Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) was 2,131, a decrease from 3,447 in 2022.

LEOs also offer financial assistance, training, and advice to help businesses trade online through a Trading Online Voucher scheme. The number of Trading Online Vouchers approved by LEOs in 2023 was 1,715, and 734 were drawn down during the year. The total number of participants that received mentoring in 2023 was 14,197, an increase from 12,201 in 2022.

10.2 Tourism

Local authorities also deliver a range of festivals, events and place branding, bringing tourism into cities and towns throughout Ireland. In 2023, 28 local authorities have a designated Tourism Strategy to assist with tourism development. The number local authorities that have Tourism Officers in place, who assist in tourism promotion, increased from 29 in 2022 to 30 local authorities in 2023.

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