

Joint Committee on the Future Funding of Domestic Water Services

The Role of EPA in Regulation of Public Water Services

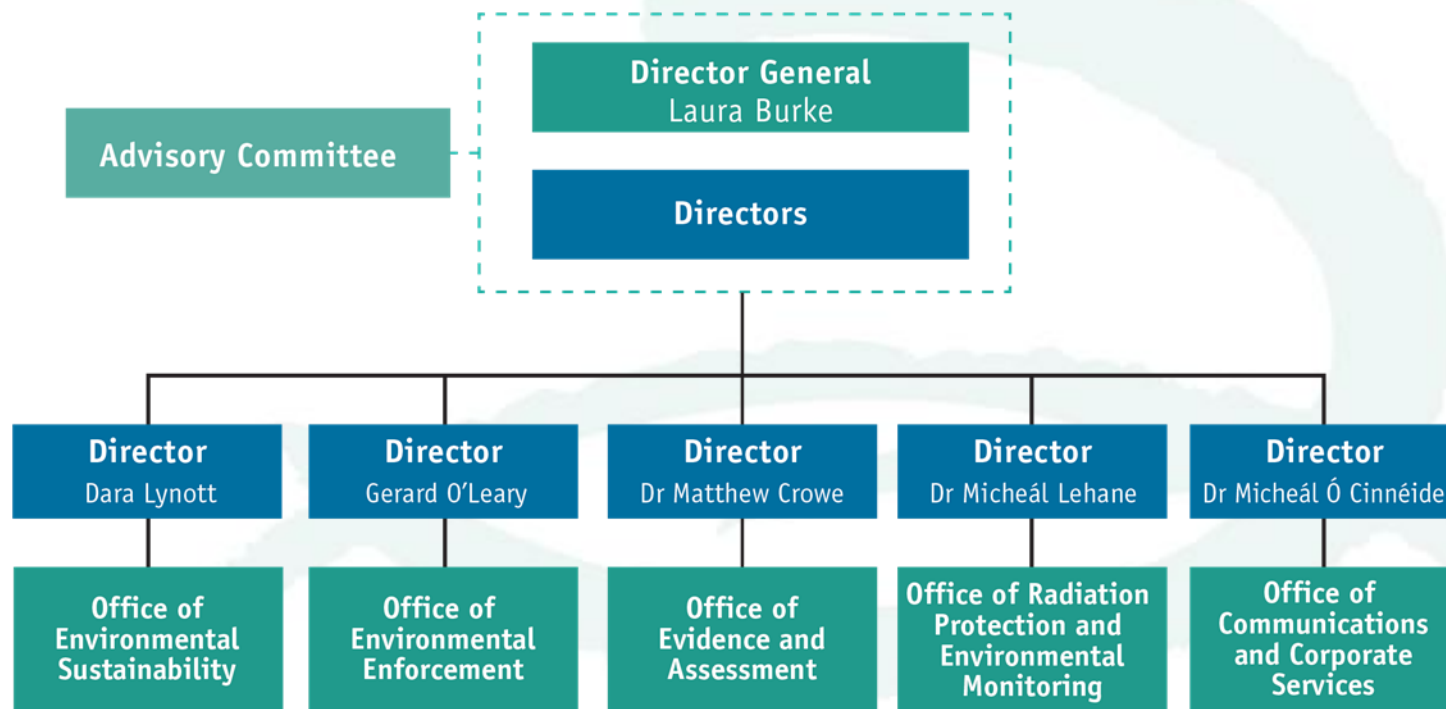


15 February 2017

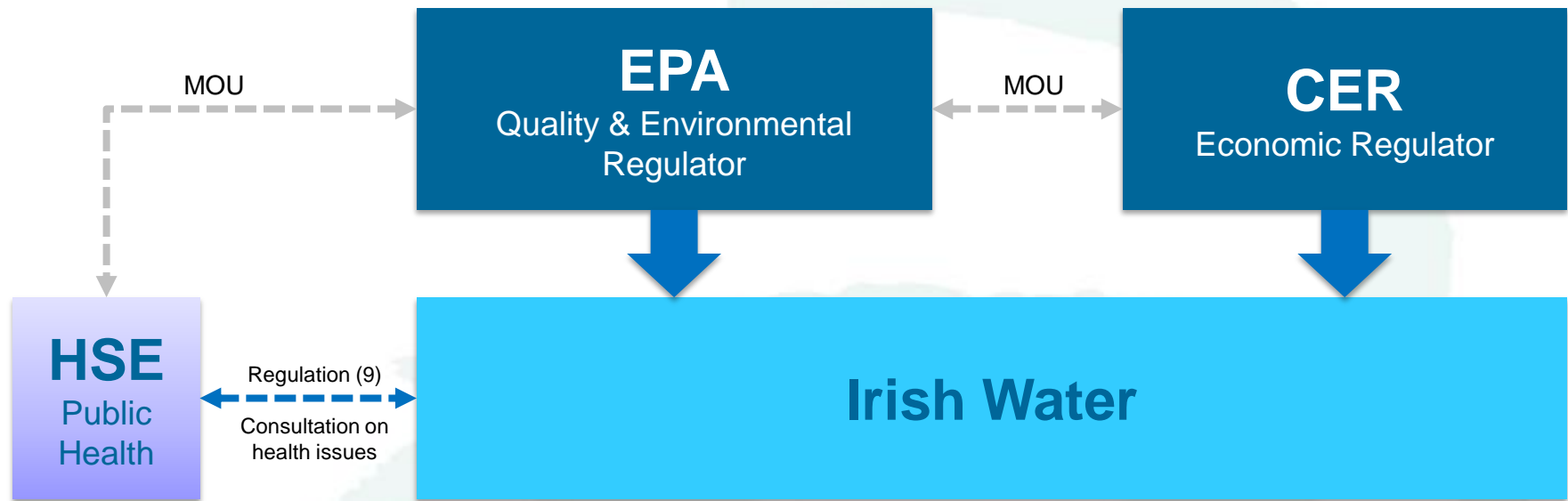
Overview of the Environmental Protection Agency

- EPA Established in 1993
- Operates independently, under the aegis of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment
- Initially focused on licensing of industrial and waste activities as well as environmental monitoring, reporting, and research.
- Since 1993 over 60 further statutory instruments and regulations assigning additional responsibilities including;
 - Drinking Water
 - Waste Water
 - Septic Tanks

Structure of the EPA



Regulator Landscape for Public Water Supply



EPA Regulator Duties

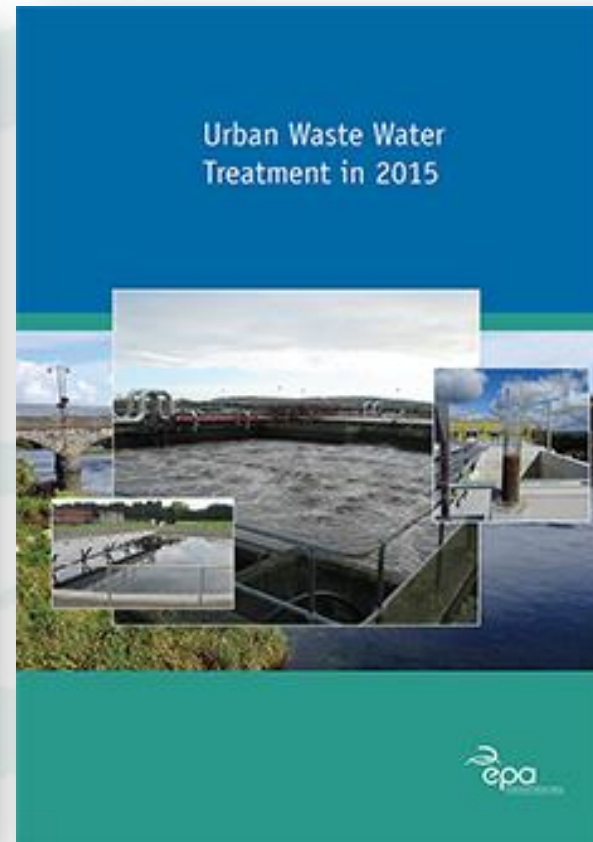
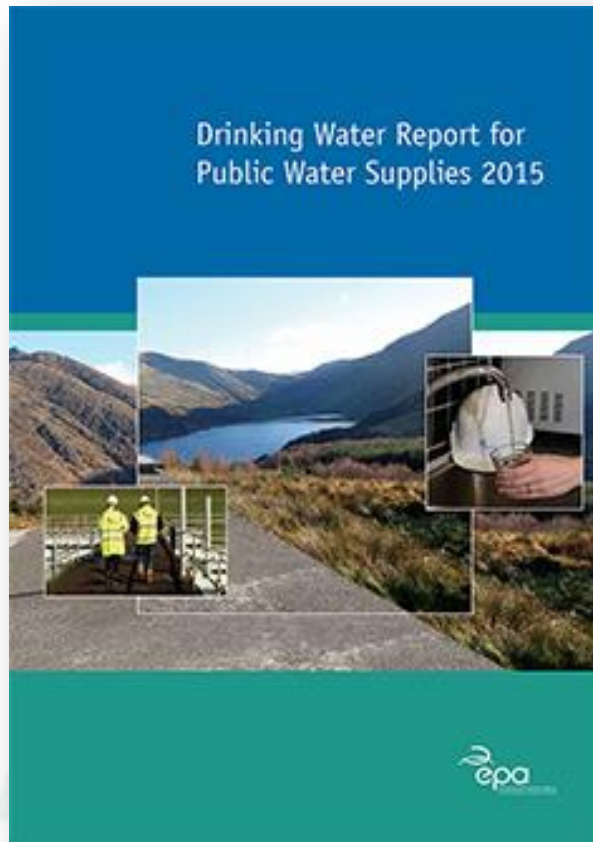
■ Drinking Water

- Supervise Irish Water's corrective actions following quality failures
- Produce legally binding guidance on water services
- Audit water supplies and monitoring programmes
- Publish an annual report on drinking water quality
- Objectives set by Drinking Water Directive

■ Urban Waste Water

- Monitor, audit and enforce waste water licences
- Produce guidance on best practice
- Publish an annual report on urban waste water quality
- Objectives set by Urban Waste Water Directive & Water Framework Directive and related directives

EPA Publishes Two Annual Reports



Drinking Water: Types of Water Supply in Ireland

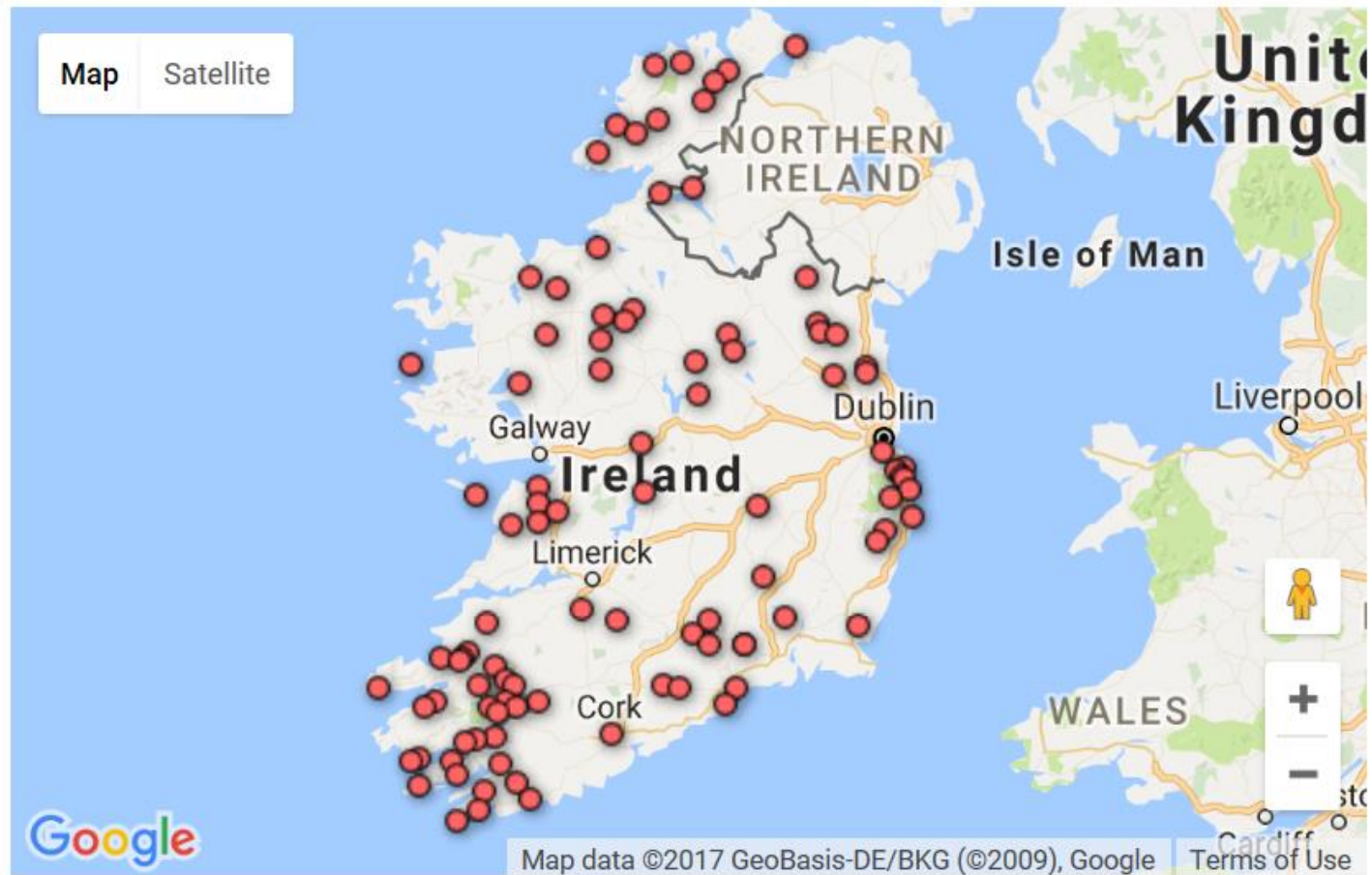
Type of Supply	% Pop.	Water Source	Mains Pipework	Quality Regulator
Public Supplies (Irish Water)	83.3 %	Public	Public	EPA
Public Group Water Schemes	1.8 %	Public	Private	Local Authority
Private Group Water Schemes	4.2 %	Private	Private	Local Authority
Private Supplies (e.g. hotels with their own well).	0.9 % <small>(Estimated)</small>	Private	n/a	Local Authority
Private Household Wells	11.1 % <small>(CSO)</small>	Private	n/a	Exempt

EPA Priority Actions in Public Water Regulation

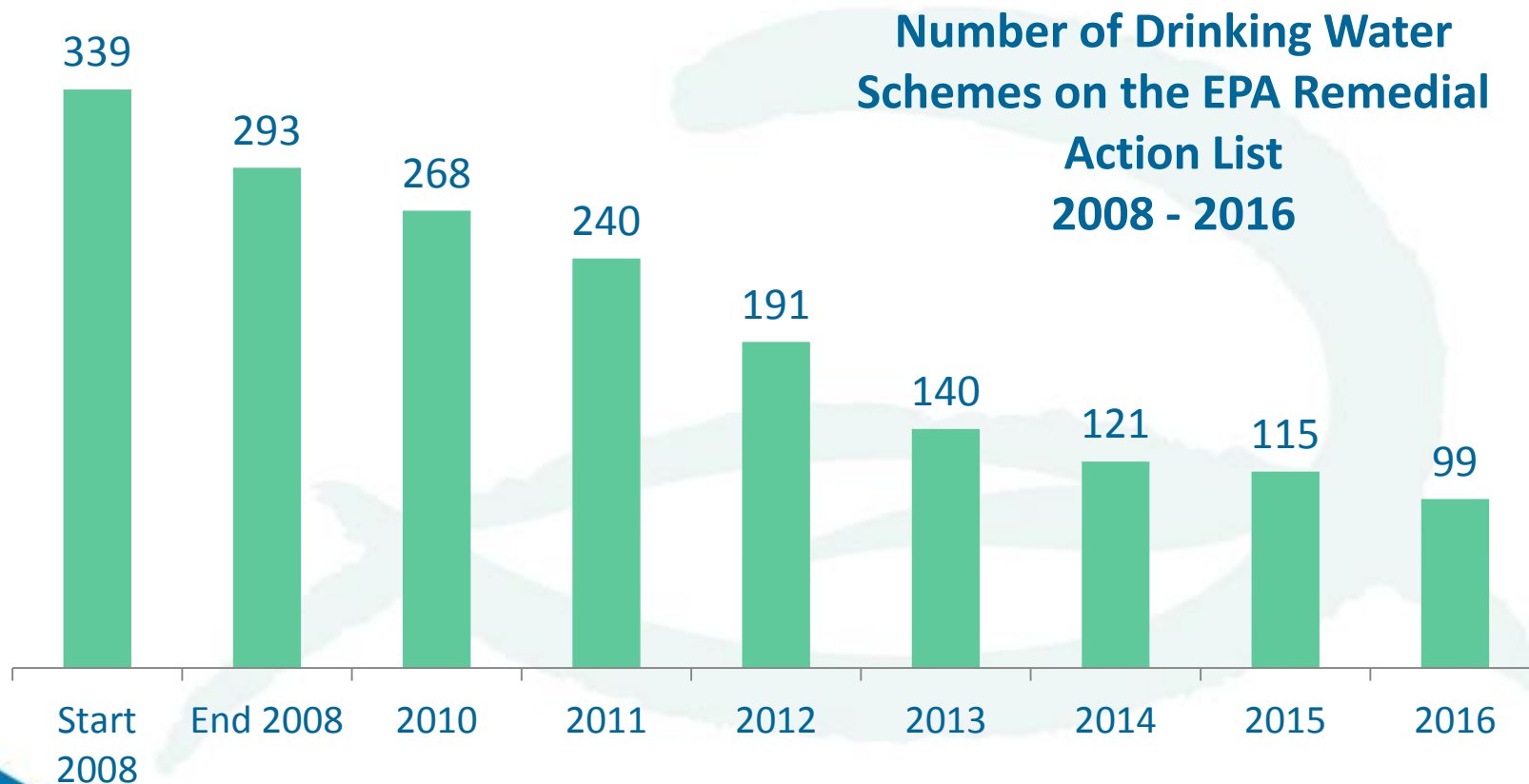
Focusing on:

- Delivery of safe and secure drinking water from **962** Drinking Water Supplies including;
 - Eliminating long-term **boil water notices**;
 - Removing all drinking water supplies from the **EPA remedial action list**;
- Ensuring adequately treated waste water from **1,048** waste water agglomerations, including;
 - Eliminating discharges of **raw sewage**;
 - Ensuring 171 Large urban areas **comply with the Urban Waste Water Directive**;
 - Removing all discharges from the **EPA Waste Water Priority list**

Drinking Water: EPA Remedial Action List (99)

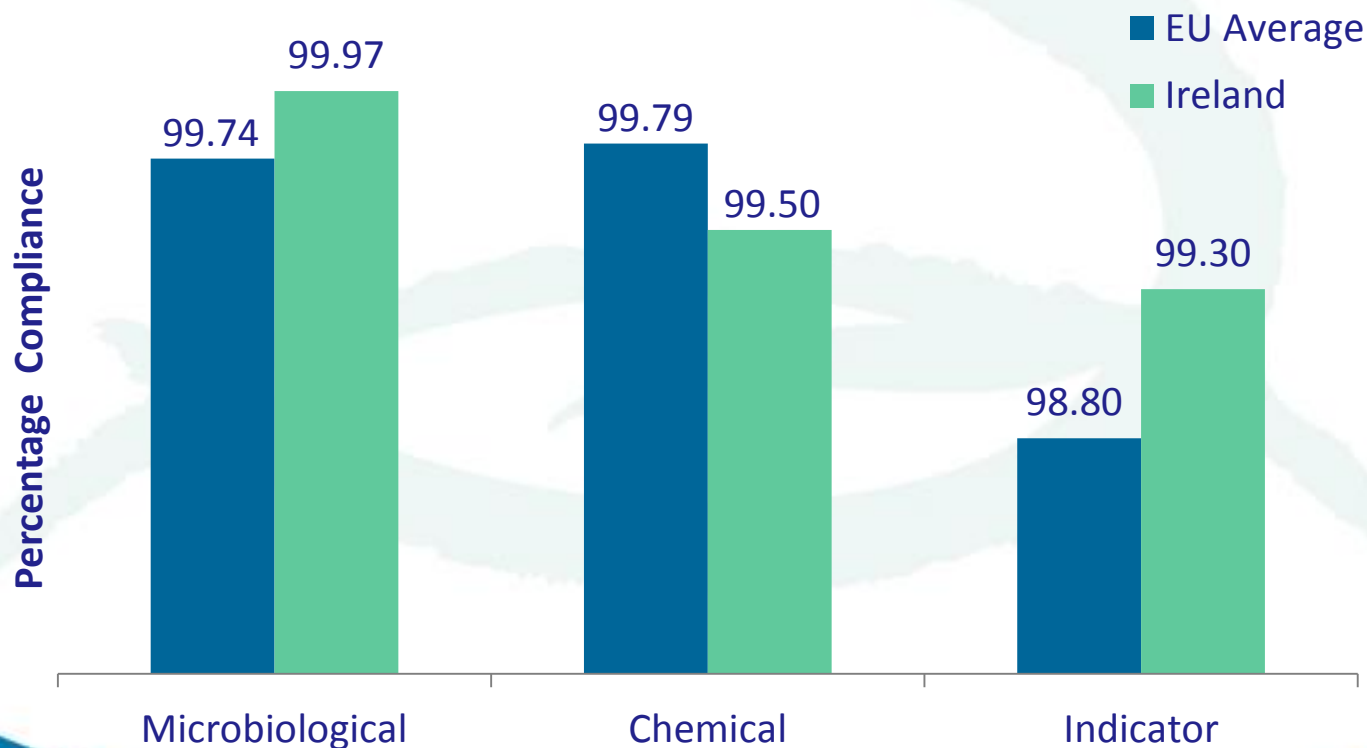


Drinking Water: Remedial Actions 2008-2016

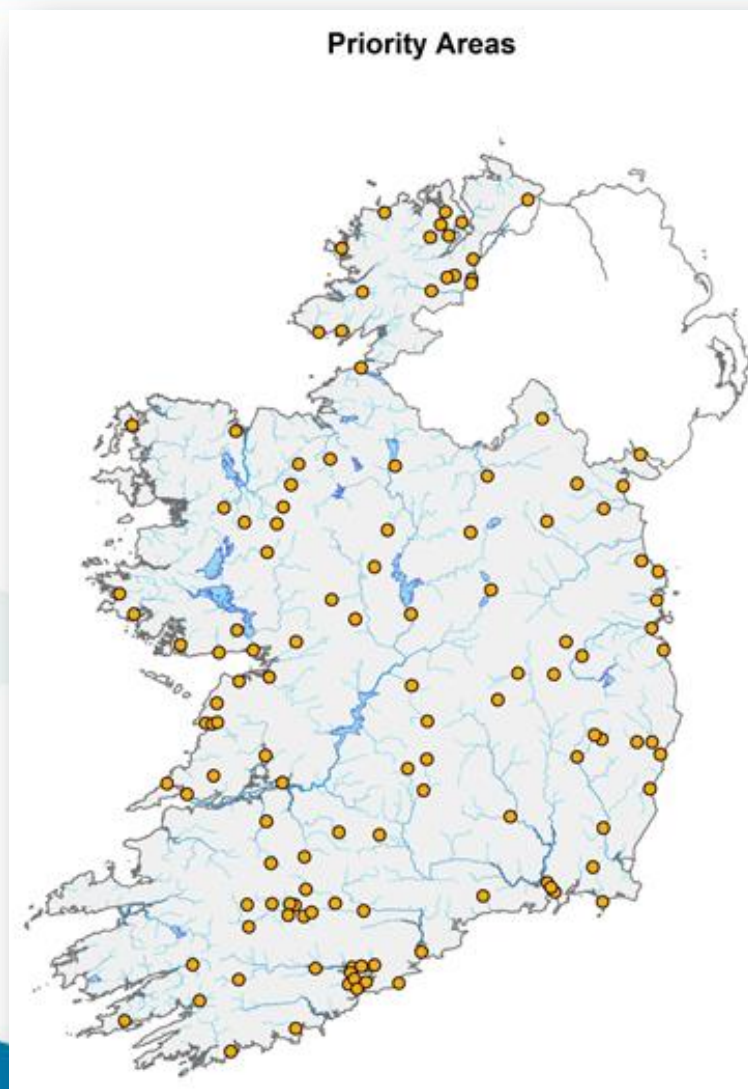


Drinking Water: Comparing Ireland to EU Average

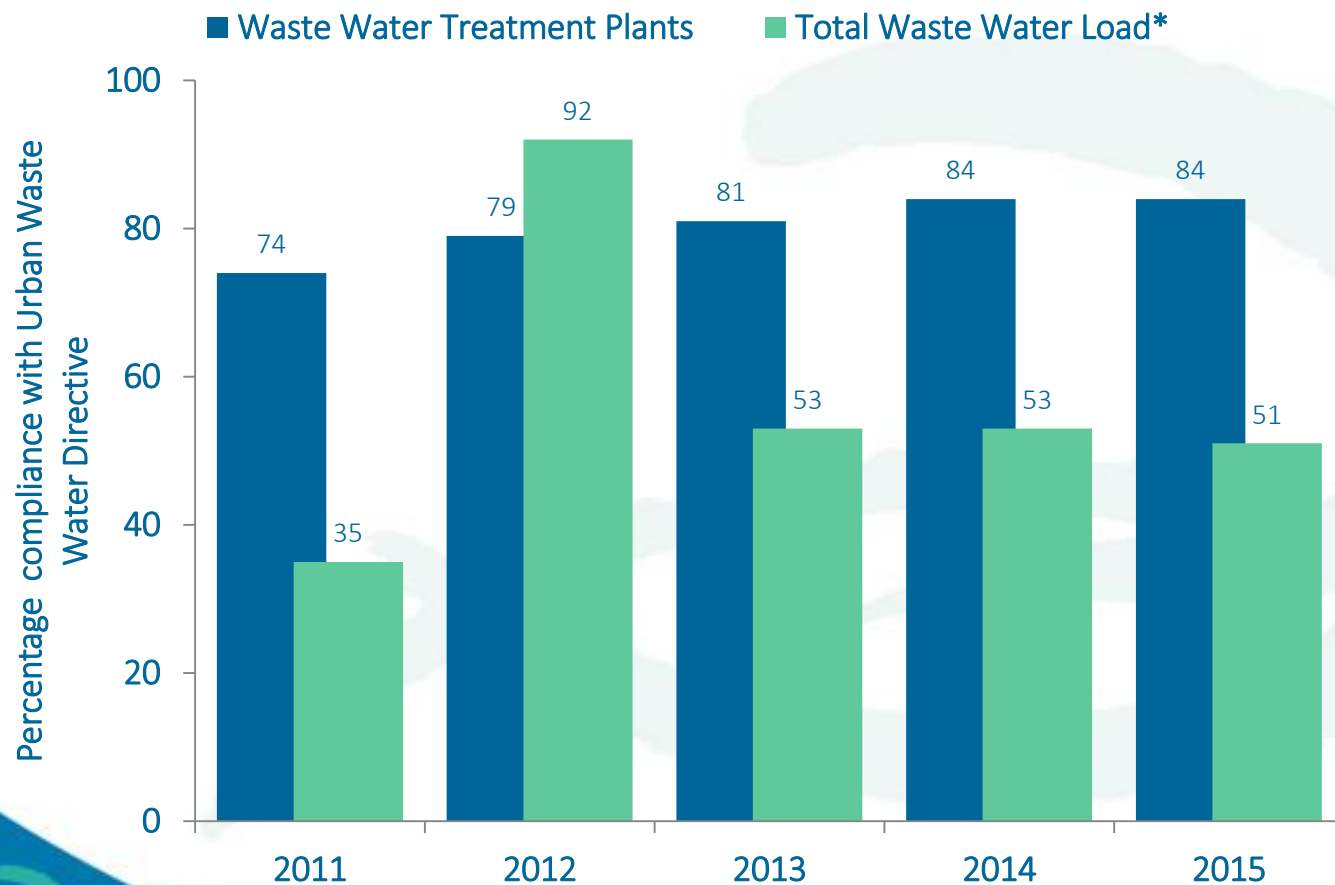
Compliance with the Microbiological, Chemical and Indicator Parametric Values for large supplies (2011-2013)



Waste Water: EPA Priority List (124)



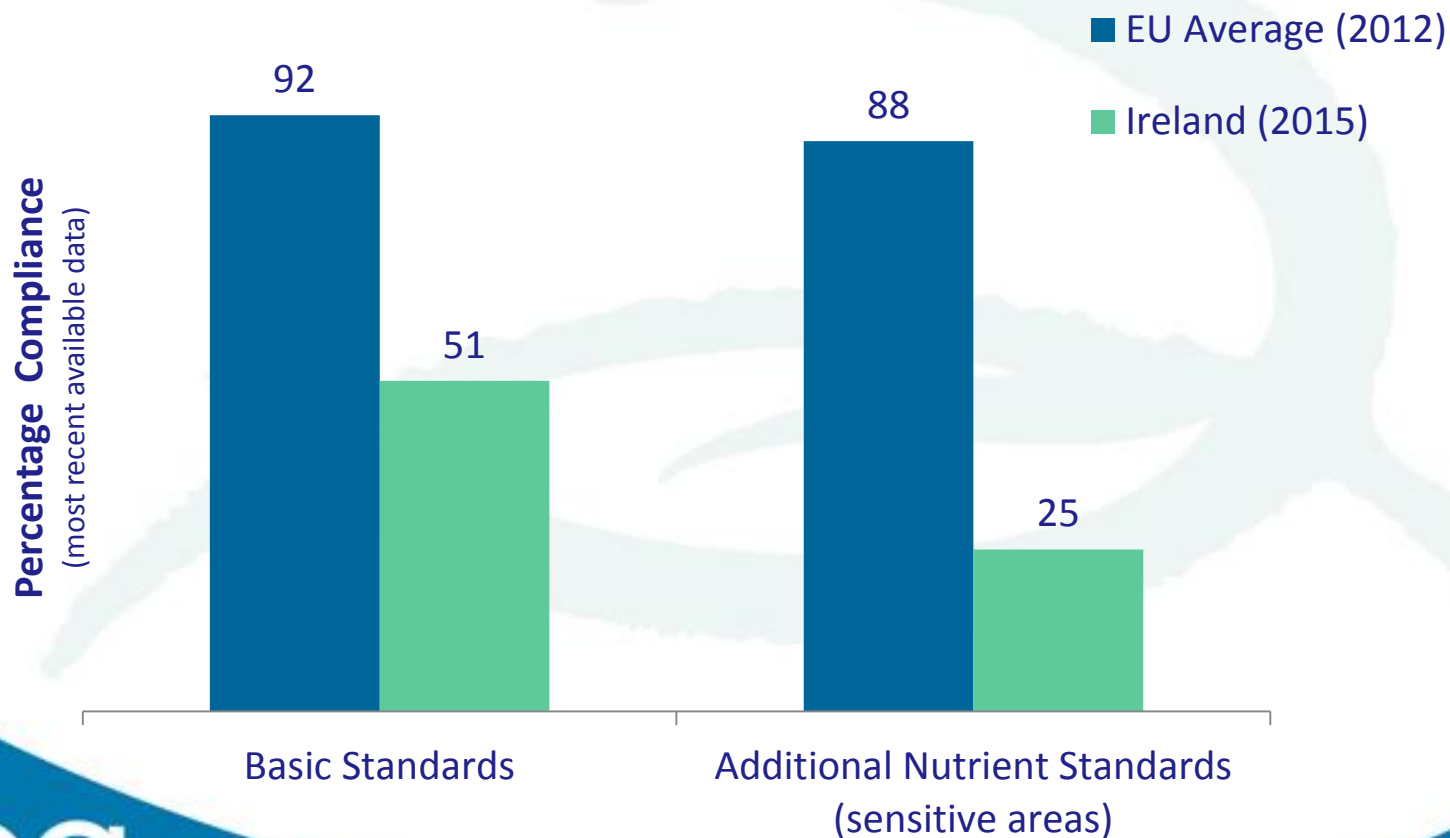
Waste Water: Directive Compliance



* Dublin-Ringsend accounts for 40% of the total national waste water load and much of the variation in compliance.

Waste Water: Comparing Ireland to EU Average

Compliance with mandatory urban waste water treatment requirements assessed by national treatment load



EPA Enforcement Actions

■ Drinking Water

- 61 audits completed of drinking water treatment systems in 2016
- Assessment of over **185,000** sample results of drinking water analysis
- Quarterly updates of all public supplies on the **EPA Remedial Action List**
- **15** legally binding directions served on Irish Water
- **Two** prosecution cases in the District Court

■ Urban Waste Water

- **281** audits and sampling visits of waste water treatment plants
- Assessment of over **23,000** sample results of waste water analysis
- **Five** district court cases – four before the courts.

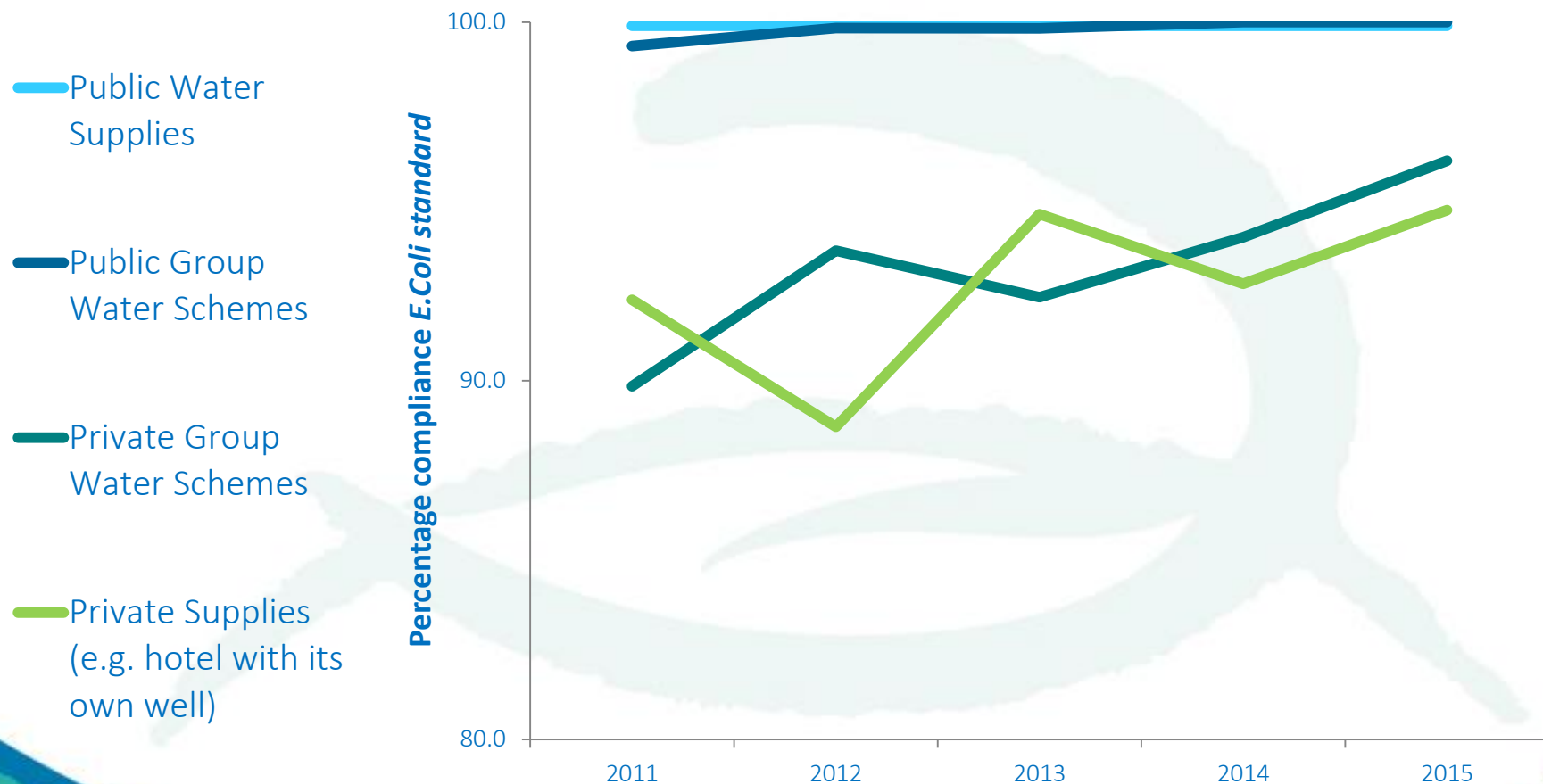
External Assessment

- EU Environmental Implementation Review (February 2017)
Examined all areas of Ireland's environmental compliance
- Comments;
 - '...Ireland has made significant progress across a range of environmental policy areas...'
 - 'Maintaining the important investments required for water services, given the urgent need to invest in water infrastructure.'
 - 'There are substantial implementation issues in Ireland when it comes to the Urban Waste Water Directive'.

Summary of EPA Assessment

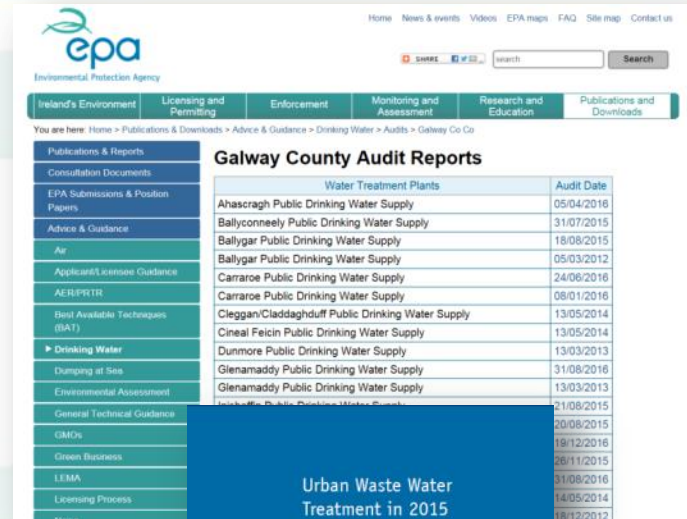
Indicator Description	Jan 2014	Jan 2016	Feb 2017	Projected 2021*
Drinking Water People on Boil Water Notices	50,000 in 42 supplies	20,221 in 20 supplies	4,944 in 10 supplies	0
Drinking Water EPA Remedial Action List	140	115	99	0
Urban Waste Water No Discharge of Raw Sewage	44	43	42	3
Urban Waste Water Large Urban Areas (no. of non-compliant plants)	38	29	+29*	6
Urban Waste Water EPA Waste Water Priority List	n/a	134	124	<60*

Rural Water Services: Private Supplies



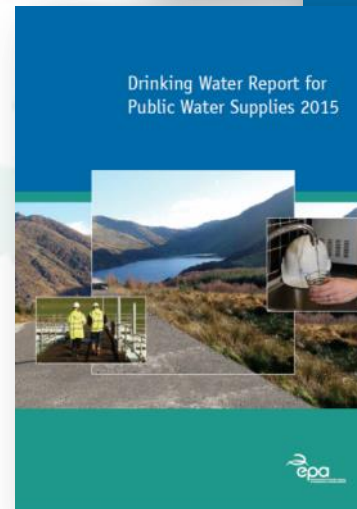
Keeping the Public Informed

- Two annual reports on drinking water quality and waste water
- EPA Audit reports
- Map of supplies on the EPA Remedial Action List
- Map of waste water priority sites
- All EPA advice notes and guidance available online
- Regular local and national media



The screenshot shows the EPA website with a navigation menu and a table of Galway County Audit Reports. The table lists various water treatment plants and their audit dates.

Water Treatment Plants	Audit Date
Ahascragh Public Drinking Water Supply	05/04/2016
Ballyconneely Public Drinking Water Supply	31/07/2015
Ballygar Public Drinking Water Supply	18/08/2015
Ballygar Public Drinking Water Supply	05/03/2012
Carraroe Public Drinking Water Supply	24/06/2016
Carraroe Public Drinking Water Supply	08/01/2016
Cleggan/Claddaghduff Public Drinking Water Supply	13/05/2014
Cineal Feilcin Public Drinking Water Supply	13/05/2014
Dunmore Public Drinking Water Supply	13/03/2013
Glenamaddy Public Drinking Water Supply	31/08/2016
Glenamaddy Public Drinking Water Supply	13/03/2013
Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2015	21/08/2015
	20/08/2015
	19/12/2016
	26/11/2015
	31/08/2016
	14/05/2014
	18/12/2012





epa

Environmental Protection Agency
An Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil