

# Joint Committee on Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

## Regulation of Waste Water Services



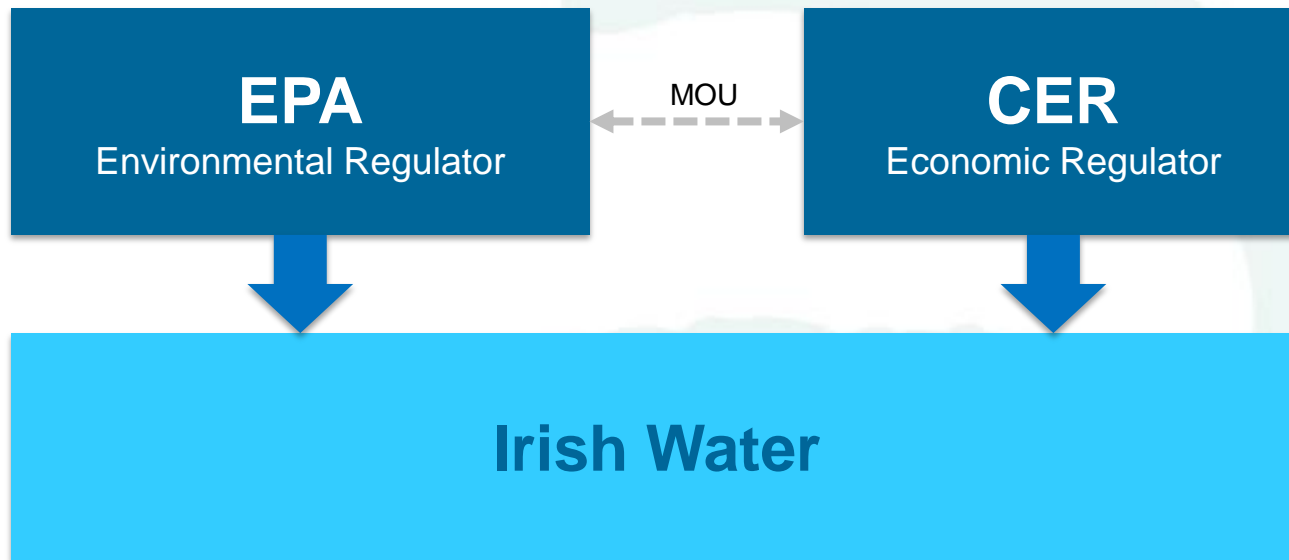
**Dara Lynott,** *Director, Office of Environmental Sustainability*  
**David Flynn,** *Programme Manager, Office Environmental Enforcement*  
**Noel Byrne,** *Senior Inspector, Office Environmental Enforcement*

**18 May 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 Urban Waste Water since 2007.

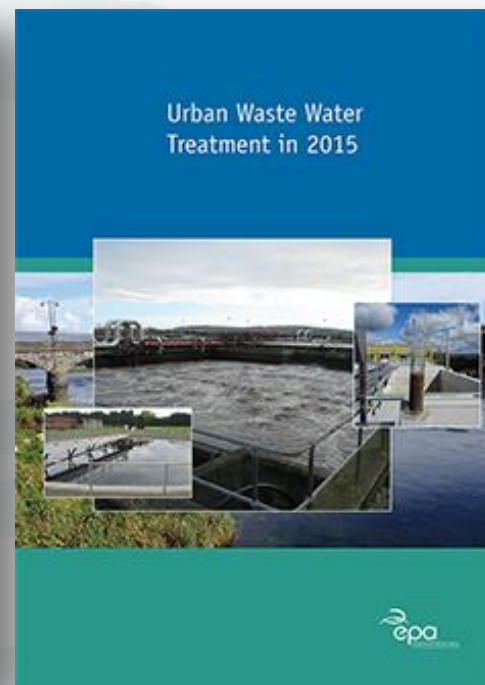
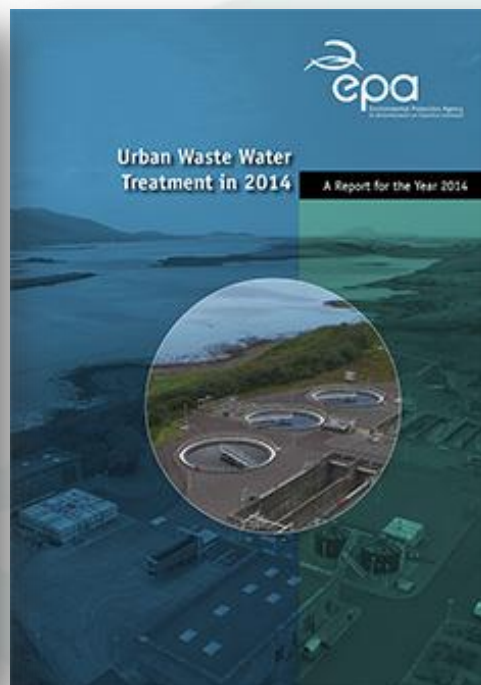
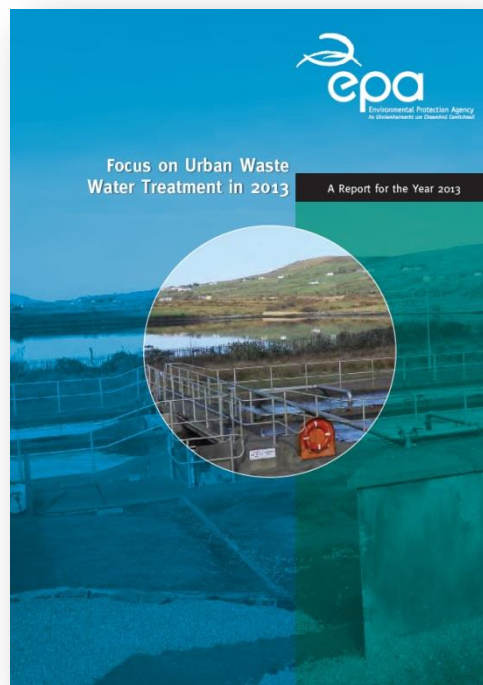
# Regulation of Urban Waste Water Discharges



# EPA Regulatory Activity

- Licence, monitor, and audit waste water discharges.  
(2016: 185 monitoring visits and 96 audits)
- Take enforcement action, including court actions, targeting priority environmental issues (13 cases to date).
- Publish annual public enforcement reports on urban waste water quality.
- EPA's regulatory objectives (for waste water compliance) are set by EU Directives, including;
  - Urban Waste Water Directive and
  - the Water Framework Directive.

# EPA Annual Reports on Urban Waste Water



# Comparison of Ireland to EU Average for Compliance

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



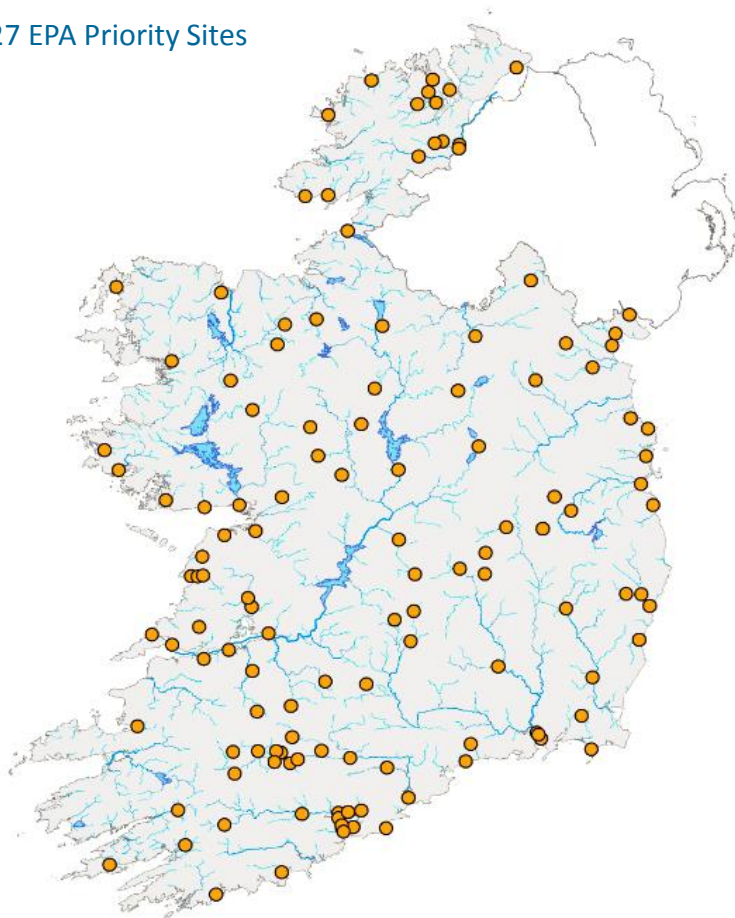
# EPA Assessment of progress towards compliance

| Indicator Description                                 | Jan 2014 | 2016 | May 2017 | Projected 2021* |
|---|----------|------|----------|-----------------|
| EU infringement sites                                 | 70       | 38   | 27       | 5               |
| EPA Waste Water Priority List                         | 146      | 134  | 127      | ~ 60            |
| EPA Priority: Eliminating the discharge of Raw Sewage | 44       | 43   | 45       | 5               |

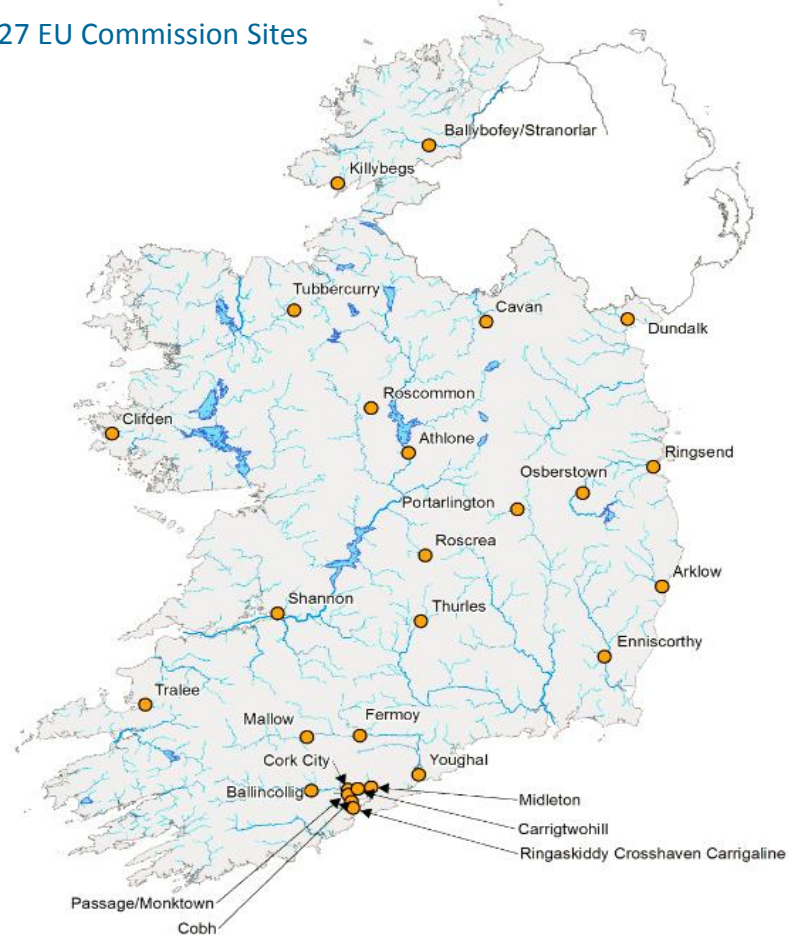


# EU 27 Sites and EPA Priority Sites

127 EPA Priority Sites



27 EU Commission Sites





# EPA Enforcement Priorities

- **127 areas are the focus of EPA's priority actions.**
- Of these, **27 areas** are part of the EU infringement case.
- The remainder of the EPA priority areas include;
  - 38 areas discharging untreated waste water
  - 34 areas linked with a high degree of probability to river pollution.
  - 16 areas where waste water was not treated to the required standards
  - 15 areas where improvements are required to protect pearl mussels.
  - 3 areas where discharges contribute to poor quality bathing waters
  - 3 areas where disinfection is required to protect shellfish waters.
  - 3 areas are linked with other environmental risks

*\* some sites causing multiple issues*