

To each member of the Climate Action, Environment & Energy SPC.

27 November 2019.

Dublin City Council achieves excellence standard in EPA Environmental Enforcement Assessment

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently notified Local Authorities of their assessment findings on Environmental Enforcement & Planning activities for 2018. Dublin City Council was one of a small number of Local Authorities to achieve an excellence standard following a detailed and intensive assessment by the EPA.

The EPA has designed a Performance Framework to measure the performance of local authorities in delivering their environmental enforcement activities. Local authorities have provided data annually and the EPA has reported on the Framework since 2014. The purpose of the Framework is to assist local authorities in implementing programmes of continual improvement in the areas of environmental enforcement and inspection. By providing local and national comparative data, a local authority can benchmark their own enforcement processes and plan for making performance improvements.

For the purposes of the assessment the environmental enforcement conducted by the local authorities were classified into five 'Enforcement Areas' – Enforcement Systems, Waste, Water, Producer Responsibility Initiatives (PRI) & Food Waste, and Air. Each Enforcement Area was further subdivided into 26 Performance Indicators. The Performance Indicators were the basis of the scoring and grading system used to assess local authorities' environmental enforcement performance with the Framework. Some of the key indicators for Dublin City Council included:

- Inspection Plan & statistical data
- Complaints investigations
- Litter & Waste Inspections
- Waste Audits
- Water Framework Directive Assessments
- Drainage Discharge Licences
- Groundwater & Hydrometric Activities
- Decorative Paints & Solvent Regulations
- Petroleum Vapours Regulations* (Under remit of Dublin Fire Brigade)
- Smoky Coal Regulations

The overall summary contextual data for Dublin City Council for 2018 is as follows:

Number of Enforcement Staff	51
Staff/5,000 population	.50
Environmental Complaints Received	22,274

Number of Environmental Inspections	21,487
Number of Enforcement Actions	2,077
Number of Licences/Certs/Permits	498

The achievement of this standard is testament to the professionalism and hard work of the staff involved and furthermore it demonstrates Dublin City Councils commitment to the highest environmental standards for our City.

John Flanagan

JOHN W. FLANAGAN PhD MBS CEng Eurlng FIEI FICE Chartered Engineer
Assistant Chief Executive (Acting) & City Engineer,