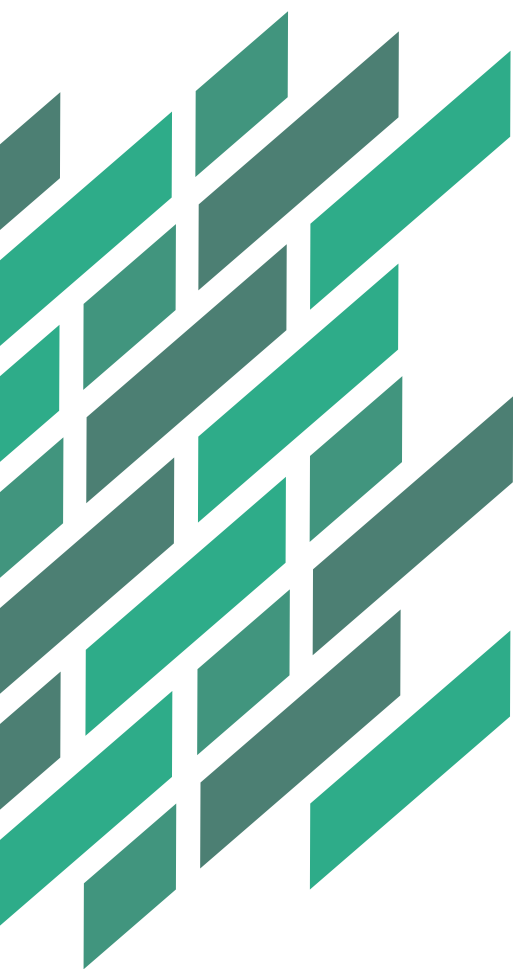


# Local Authority Performance Indicators 2024

## LGMA Summary





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# 1. Introduction

This commentary has been prepared by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) to provide context to the 2024 performance indicators for the local government sector in Ireland. The performance indicators are collected by the LGMA, using the LG Returns 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 LG Returns system. This report presents the performance of local authorities in 2024 based on a summary of some of the 46 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<sup>1</sup>.

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 2024. 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 **2024** performance indicators are:

- ▲ By December 2024 local authorities owned **155,060** social housing units.
- ▲ Local authorities added **5,324** units to the social housing stock in 2024.
- ▲ The average time to **re-let** a social house increased from 33.72 weeks in 2023 to **35.56 weeks** in 2024. The average cost of re-letting a housing unit increased from €28,347 in 2023 to **€31,136 in 2024**.
- ▲ **81.94%** of **motor tax** transactions were conducted **online**.
- ▲ **76,190 pollution complaints** were made to local authorities in 2024, an increase from 70,584 in 2023.
- ▲ In 2024 **97.43%** of the **2,181** registered private water schemes were monitored.
- ▲ There was an increase in **new builds** notified to local authorities, **49,791** in 2024 from 23,283 in 2023. This represents a **113.85%** increase.
- ▲ There were **15,460,242 visits** to libraries in 2024 where **17,453,626 items** were borrowed.
- ▲ There were **32,274 people working in local government** in 2024, up from 31,705 people in 2023.
- ▲ There were over **65,129,018** visits to local authority **websites** in 2024. The number following local authorities via **social media** increased by 10.6% to **5.97 million** in 2024.
- ▲ The percentage of paid working days lost to medically certified leave decreased between 2023 and 2024 from 3.77% to **3.71%**.

1. <https://services.localgov.ie/en-ie/Service-Catalogue>

## 1.2. Methodology

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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 2024 workshop took place on 27th of February 2025.
- ▲ 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 (DoT), 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 2025.
- ▲ 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

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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

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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

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The paragraphs that follow provide the economic and financial context in which local authorities operated in 2024.

The Irish Economy

The Irish economy, measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expanded in 2024 by 2.6%, compared to a contraction of 2.5% in 2023 and growth of 7.5% in 2022. When we look at Gross National Income (GNI), the Irish economy showed a growth rate of 3.4%. Modified Gross National Income (GNI\*) grew by 4.8% (Central Statistics Office, 2025).

Provisional data for 2024 shows a general government surplus of €23.2 billion. This compares to a surplus of €8.3 billion in 2023 (Central Statistics Office, 2025).

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 2024 of €7.23 billion (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2024).

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 2024, the total number of whole-time equivalent staff increased to 32,274. The number of staff increased by 1.87% between 2023 and 2024.

Figure 1.1 Local Government Revenue Budgets 2009 - 2024

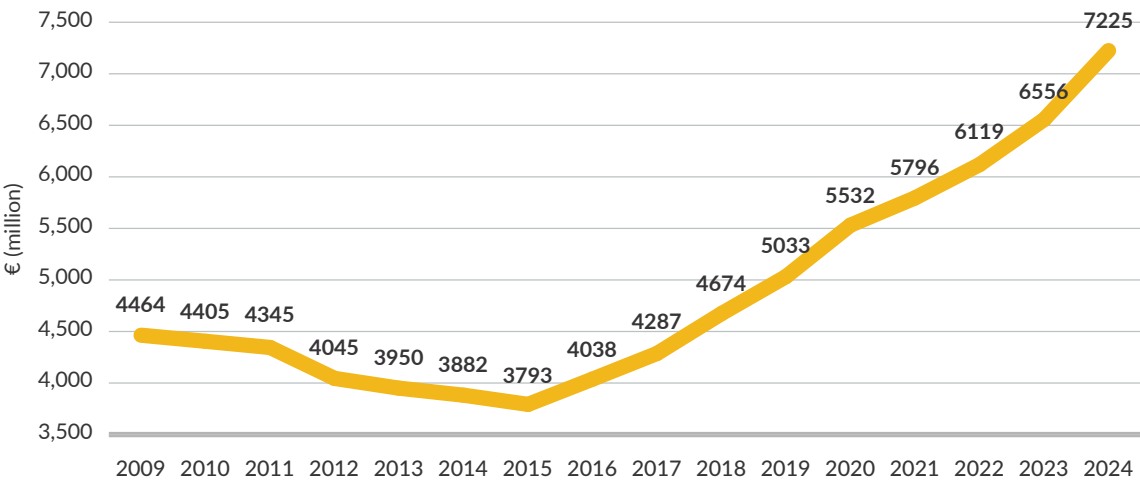
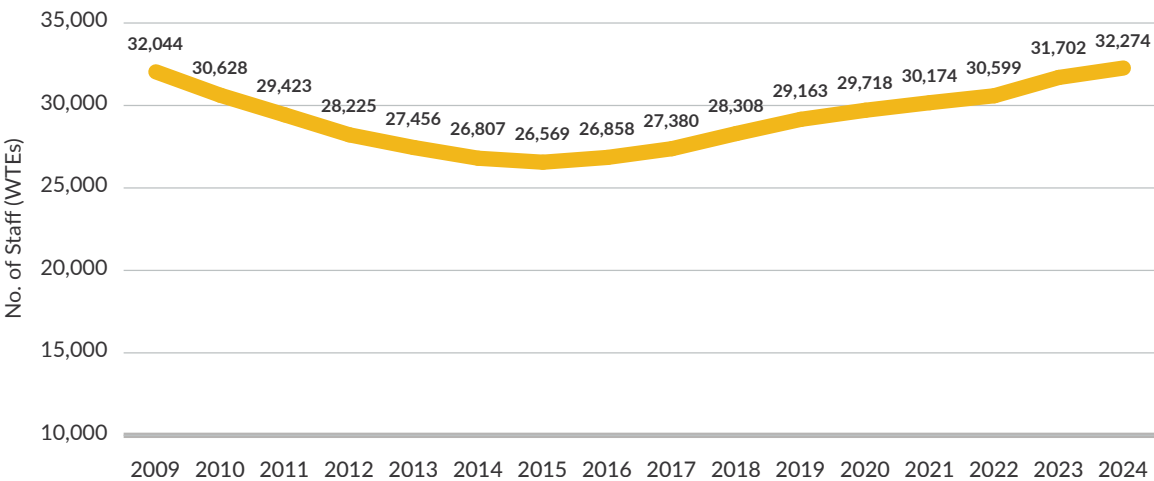


Figure 1.2 Staffing in Local Authorities 2009 - 2024



## Irish Census 2022

The national census was carried out in 2022, with results showing a population of 5,149,139 (Central Statistics Office, 2024). 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, 2024).

## 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. In 2024, the LGMA released a local government ICT/Digital strategy to digitise services called Digital Local Government: Working for Everyone<sup>2</sup>.

'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. digital-ict-strategy\_2024\_2030\_web\_final-compressed.pdf



## 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 2024 the local government sector owned **155,060** social housing units, an increase in overall stock of 3.2% compared to December 31st, 2023. The number of dwellings added by local authorities increased from 4,382 in 2023 to **5,324** in 2024, an increase of 21.5%.

In 2024, local authorities sold **462** dwellings which they owned, a decrease from the 476 dwellings sold in 2023. The number of dwellings owned by local authorities which were demolished increased from 111 in 2023 to **165** in 2024. Local authorities directly provided **154,748** dwellings in 2024.

### 2.1. Housing Management

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In 2024, the percentage of vacant dwellings within the social housing stock was **2.75%**. 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 2.81% in 2023.

The average time from vacation of a dwelling to commencement of a new tenancy increased from 33.72 weeks in 2023 to **35.56** weeks in 2024. The average re-letting cost of a unit increased by 9.84% from €28,347 in 2023 to **€31,136** in 2024. The average cost of housing maintenance increased from €1,493 in 2023 to **€1,824** per unit in 2024, an increase of 22.2% from 2023.

### 2.2. Private Rented Sector

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A total of **62,085** private rented dwellings were inspected by local authorities in 2024, an increase of 23.1% from 2023. There was a decrease in the percentage of dwellings non-compliant during the first inspection to **84.86%** from 88.88% in 2023.

### 2.3. Homelessness

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As of 31st December 2024, there was a total of **10,444** adults homeless and in emergency accommodation, of which **59.43%** were in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously.

### 2.4. Social Housing Retrofit

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In 2024, local authorities completed retrofitting 2,634 social housing units resulting in an estimated annual energy saving of 37,711.8 MWh/Yr. which equates to a saving of 10,360.3 tCo2/Yr.

## 3. Roads

The local government sector is responsible for most 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. However, this only represents a fraction of the work 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 2024, there was no data for PSCI

rating of regional roads due to an external audit being carried out.

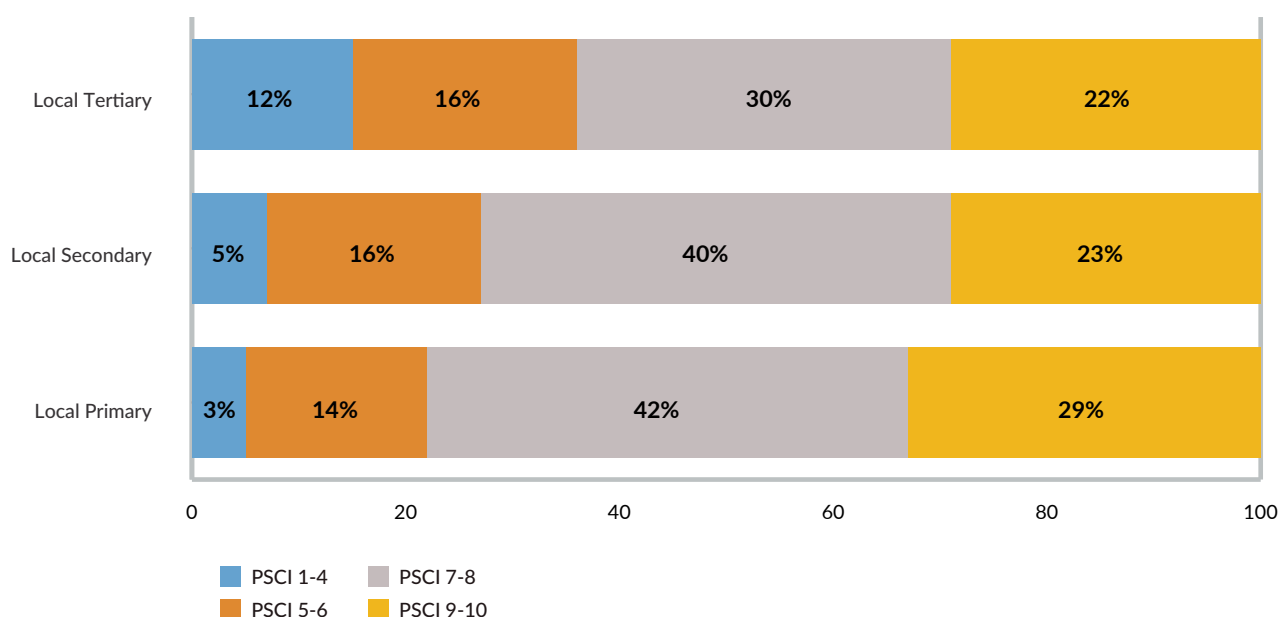
- ▲ The national median percentage of local primary roads that were PSCI rated during the 24-month period ending 31/12/2024 was 97%.
- ▲ The national median percentage of local secondary roads that were PSCI rated during the 24-month period ending 31/12/2024 was 95%.
- ▲ The national median percentage of local tertiary roads that were PSCI rated during the 60-month period ending 31/12/2024 was 88%.

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 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

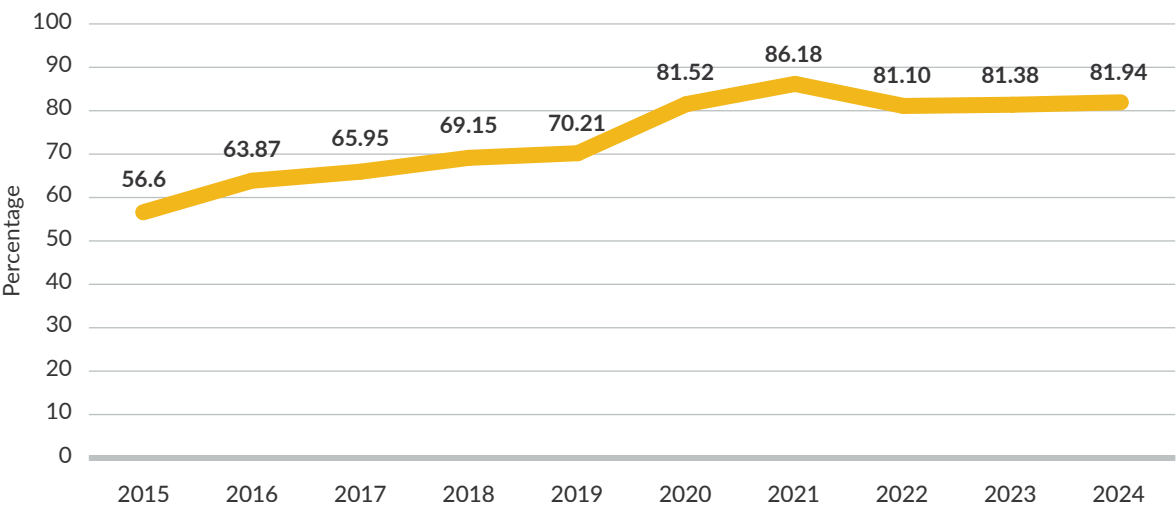
In 2024, the Department of Transport and the local authorities invested:

- ▲ **€117.8** million to strengthen **390.0 km** of regional roads, and **€17.8** million to reseal **431.1 km** of regional roads.
- ▲ **€308.6** million to strengthen **2,332.1 km** of local roads, and **€64.7** million to reseal **2,699.6 km** of local roads.

### 3.3. Motor Tax Online

In 2024, **4,505,886** motor tax transactions were conducted online (Figure 3.2). This represents **81.94%** of all motor tax transactions. Over a nine-year period, the percentage of motor tax transactions online increased from 56.6% in 2015 to **81.94%** in 2024.

Figure 3.2 Motor Tax Transactions Online 2014 - 2024



## 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, water 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

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Local authorities are responsible for the monitoring of group water schemes and regulated small private supplies, also known as private water schemes. In 2024, **97.55%** 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 2023, 83.45% of private water schemes were monitored by local authorities. In 2024 **97.43%** of the **2,181** registered private water schemes were monitored.

### 4.2. Environment

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The total number of households in an area covered by a licensed operator providing a 3-bin service increased from 1,012,665 in 2023 to **1,288,562** in 2024 which is a **27.24%** increase. This year there was a change in this indicator, from measuring 3-bin availability only in agglomerations of over 500 people, to measuring across all households in the state. In 2024, **70.16%** of all households availed of a 3-bin service.

### 4.3. Pollution & Litter

In 2024, a total of **76,190** pollution complaints<sup>3</sup> were made to local authorities, an increase of 7.9% from the 70,584 complaints made in 2023.

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 2024, the national median percentage of areas surveyed which were unpolluted/litter-free/slightly polluted increased to **76.0%** from 75.0% in 2023 as illustrated in Figure 4.1. The level of moderately/significantly/grossly polluted increased from a median value of 13% in 2023 to **16.0%**<sup>4</sup> in 2024.

### 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 2024, **1,518** schools held a Green Flag, representing **38.35%** of all schools nationally.

### 4.5. Energy Savings

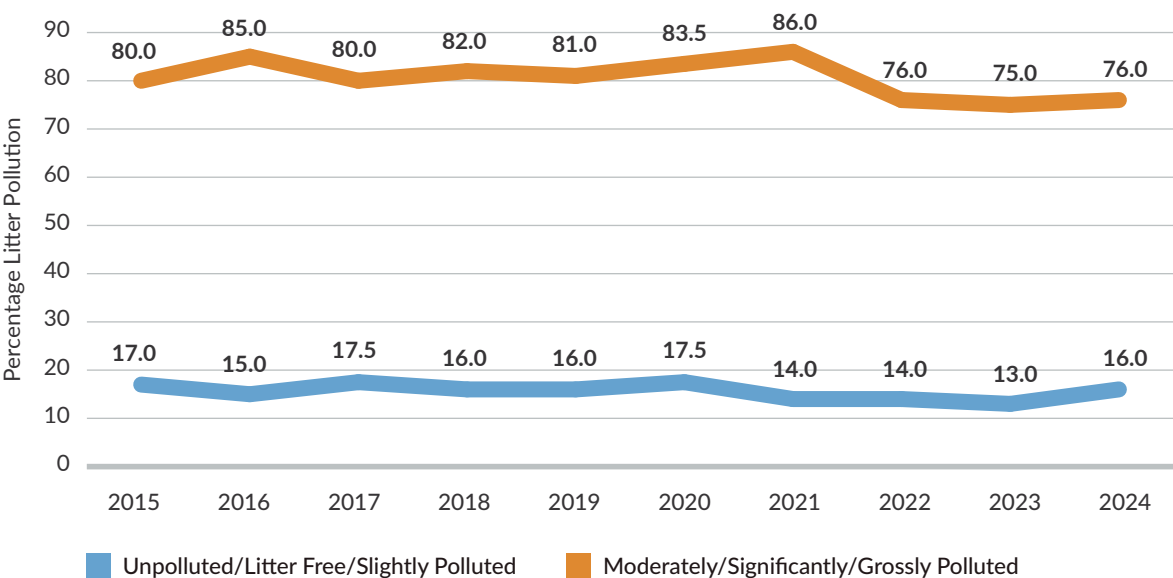
Across all local authorities, the average cumulative percentage energy savings achieved by the 31st of December 2024 relative to baseline year (2009) was **40.76%** in 2024, an increase from 38.79% in 2023.

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 2024, **66.99%** of all public lighting had been upgraded to LED lights. This was an increase from the 2023 figure of 58.06%.

### 4.6. Climate Change

All 31 local authorities had Climate Action Teams in place by the end of 2024, compared to 24 in 2023. In 2024, **31** local authorities had a designated Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Climate Action Coordinator, compared to 30 in 2023 and **30** had an WTE Climate Action Officer in 2024 compared to 25 in 2023.

Figure 4.1 Trends in Levels of Litter Pollution 2014 - 2024



3. This includes litter, air, noise, water or waste pollution  
4. This data is based on areas surveyed and to that extent median values are used

## 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

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In 2024, local authorities were notified of a total of **49,791** new buildings, a 113.85% increase on the **23,283** new buildings notified in 2023. Of these, local authorities inspected **16.76%** in 2024.

### 5.2. Appeals to An Bord Pleanála

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A total of **2,258** planning decisions made by local authorities were appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2024. Of these, **74.36%** of decisions made by local authorities were confirmed by An Bord Pleanála. This compares with 75.72% of decisions in 2023.

### 5.3. Planning Enforcement Cases

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Local authorities investigated **7,396** cases referred to or initiated by local authorities in 2024, a larger number than the 6,783 cases in 2023. Of those cases, **6,349** cases were closed during the year. At the end of 2024, **21,762** planning enforcement cases were being investigated.

In 2024, **52%** 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, **8%** were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations, and **40%** were closed due to enforcement proceedings during the year. These indicators compare to 2023 when 51% of planning enforcement cases were also dismissed, 7% of cases were closed through negotiations and 41% of cases were closed due to enforcement proceedings.

### 5.4. Cost Per Capita of Planning Services

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The cost of planning services includes forward planning, development management and enforcement. In 2024, the cost per capita of planning services across the sector was **€38.47**. This represents an increase from €35.97 in 2023.

### 5.5. Fire Safety Certificates

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In 2024, **45.35%** of applications for fire safety certificates received during the year were decided within two months of their receipt. This is a decrease from 52.11% in 2023. The percentage of fire safety certificates applications that were decided within an extended period agreed with the applicant increased from 36.28% in 2023 to **36.73%** in 2024.

## 6. Fire Services

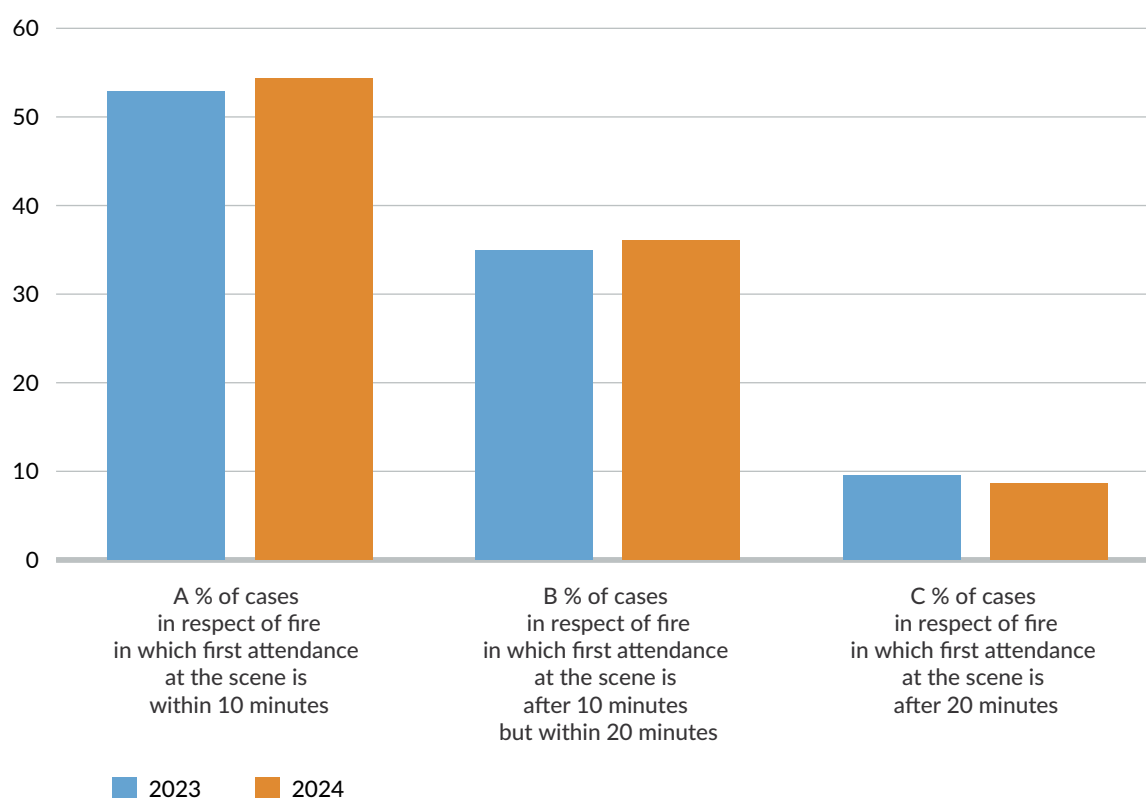
In addition to fire emergency services, local authorities conduct inspections on buildings for fire safety and provide a range of fire prevention services. The performance indicators focus on mobilisation of fire emergency services. For the purpose of the performance indicators there is a distinction made between mobilisation and attendance at both fire and non-fire scenes.

### 6.1. Fire Scenes

In the case of **fire**, in 2024 the median number of minutes taken to mobilise the fire brigade in full-time stations was **1 minute 23 seconds**, while the median time in part-time fire stations was **5 minutes 47 seconds**. This compared with 1 minute 25 seconds and 5 minutes 56 seconds respectively in 2023.

Figure 6.1 below compares the times of **first attendance** at a fire scene in 2023 and 2024. In 2024, **54.40%** of fire scenes were attended within 10 minutes while **36.04%** were attended within 10-20 minutes. This compares with 52.83% and 34.88% respectively in 2023.

**Figure 6.1 National Average Times to Attend Fire Scenes 2024**



## 6.2. Non-Fire Scenes

In 2024, it took a median of **1 minute 19 seconds** to mobilise from full-time fire stations and **5 minutes 50 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 59 seconds respectively in 2023.

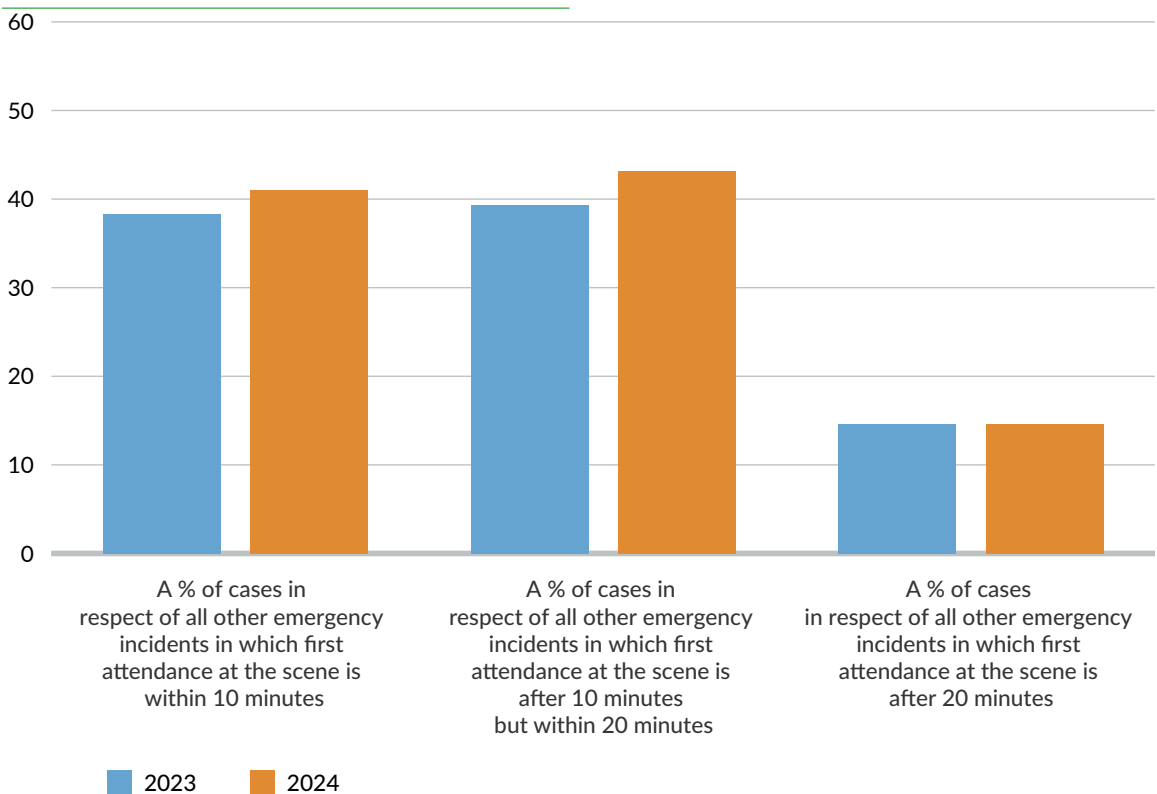
**Attendance** at non-fire scenes presented in Figure 6.2 below show that there is a slight increase in the percentage of non-fire emergency incidents in which first attendance at the scene was within 10 minutes in 2024. In 2024, **41%** of non-fire scenes were attended within 10 minutes and a further **43%** were attended within 10-20 minutes. This compares with 38% and 39% respectively in 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 2024 was **€74.85<sup>5,6</sup>**, an increase from €65.76 in 2023. The cost of operating fire services is influenced by whether the fire service operates a full-time or retained fire brigade.

Figure 6.2 National Average Response Times to Attend Non-Fire Scenes



5. Figure excludes population receiving its first response from the Northern Ireland Fire Service from the cost calculation  
6. 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 2024 census figures, so the calculations for this indicator for 2024 have reverted to standard census population figures by local authority area



## 7. Library Services, Youth & Community

### 7.1. Library Services

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In 2024, there were a total of **15,460,242** visits to libraries run by local authorities, an increase of 11.4% compared to 2023. A total of **17,453,626 items<sup>7</sup>** were borrowed, which is an increase of 7.6% since 2023.

The cost per capita of operating the library service in 2024 was **€40.72**. In 2023, this was €38.87. In 2024, the total expenditure on new stock acquired by libraries was **€11,163,175**, or **€2.17** per head of population.

### 7.2. Youth

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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 2024, **65.47%** of second level schools participated in the Youth Councils/Comhairle na nÓg, a decrease compared to 68.16% in 2023.

### 7.3. Public Participation Networks

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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 2024, a total of **20,631** community organisations were included in the County Registers nationally, an increase of 1,222 organisations since 2023. Of these, **15.86%** 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.

7. Library borrowings include books, DVDs, audio, eBooks, e-magazines, e-audio and ProQuest etc.

## 8. Corporate

### 8.1. Staffing

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Since 2015, the number of whole-time equivalent staff working in local authorities has been steadily increasing. The number of staff members increased to **32,274** in 2024, compared to 31,705 in 2023. 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

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The percentage of paid working days lost to medically certified leave decreased between 2023 and 2024 from **3.77%** to 3.71%, whilst the percentage of paid working days lost to self-certified sick leave increased from 0.32% in 2023 to **0.34%** in 2024.

### 8.3. Use of Websites and Social Media

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Local authorities are increasingly using technology to provide information and services to the public. In 2024, there were a total of **65,129,018** page views of local authority websites, a decrease of 5.32% from 2023 figures. Between 2023 and 2024 there was an increase of 10.5% in the number of followers of social media pages of local authorities, from 5,404,168 to **5,969,049**.

### 8.4. Cost Per whole time equivalent staff of ICT

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In 2024, the cost per whole time equivalent staff member of ICT across the local government sector was **€4,270.61**. This compares to €3,948.63 in 2023.

## 9. Finance

In 2024, 5 local authorities were operating at a deficit, compared to 6 in 2023. The total revenue expenditure by local authorities in 2024 was **€7.65bn**, an increase from €6.72bn in 2023. The average revenue expenditure per capita by local authorities was **€1,485.05** in 2024, an increase from €1,305.56 in 2023.

The per capita total cost of settled public liability claims in 2024 was **€13.74**, this was an increase on the 2023 figure of €12.21.

In 2024, the average percentage of total expenditure accounted for by the central management charge in local authorities was **11.67%**.

### 9.1. Commercial Rates

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In 2024, the collection of Commercial Rates increased or remained constant in **30** out of 31 local authorities. The median level of commercial rates collection increased from 88.0% in 2023 to **92.0%** in 2024.

### 9.2. Rents & Annuities

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The median collection rate for Rents and Annuities remained the same between 2023 and 2024 at **88%**. Collection rates improved in **17** local authorities, remained static in **4** local authorities and declined in **10** local authorities.

### 9.3. Housing Loans

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In 2024, the collection rate for Housing Loans improved in **19** local authorities, remained static in **4** local authorities, and declined in **8** local authorities. The median collection rate for housing loans increased from 87% in 2023 to **88%** in 2024.

## 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

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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 2024, the net number of jobs created nationally with the assistance of the LEOs was **2,459**, an increase from 2,131 in 2023.

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 2024 was **2,397**, and **755** were drawn down during the year. The total number of participants that received mentoring in 2024 was **16,207**, an increase from 14,197 in 2023.

### 10.2. Tourism

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Local authorities also deliver a range of festivals, events and place branding, bringing tourism into cities and towns throughout Ireland. In 2024, **26** 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, remained the same in 2023 and 2024 at **30** local authorities.

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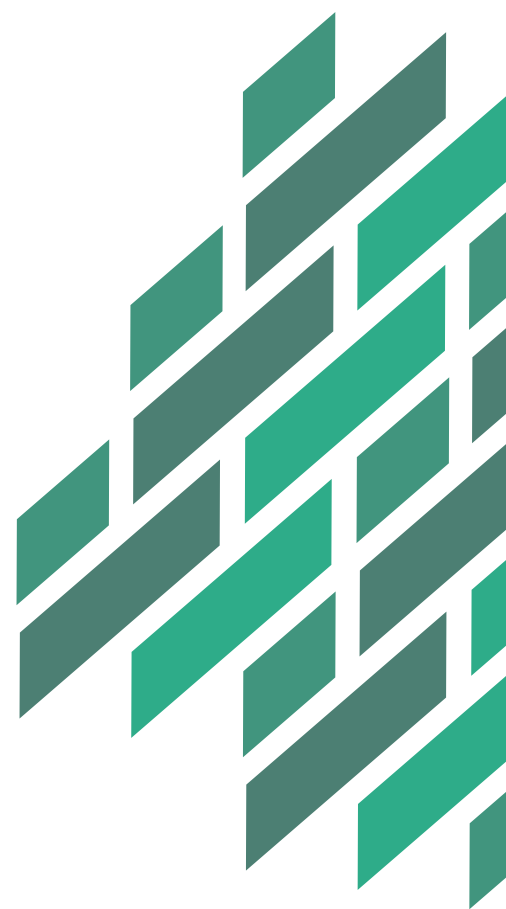
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Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)

**An Ghníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil**

Local Government House, 35-39 Ushers Quay, Dublin 8, D08 H56R.

Phoenix House, 27 Conyngham Road, Dublin 8, D08 EV9T.

**Phone:** 01-6332200

**Website:** [www.lgma.ie](http://www.lgma.ie)

**Email:** [info@lgma.ie](mailto:info@lgma.ie)