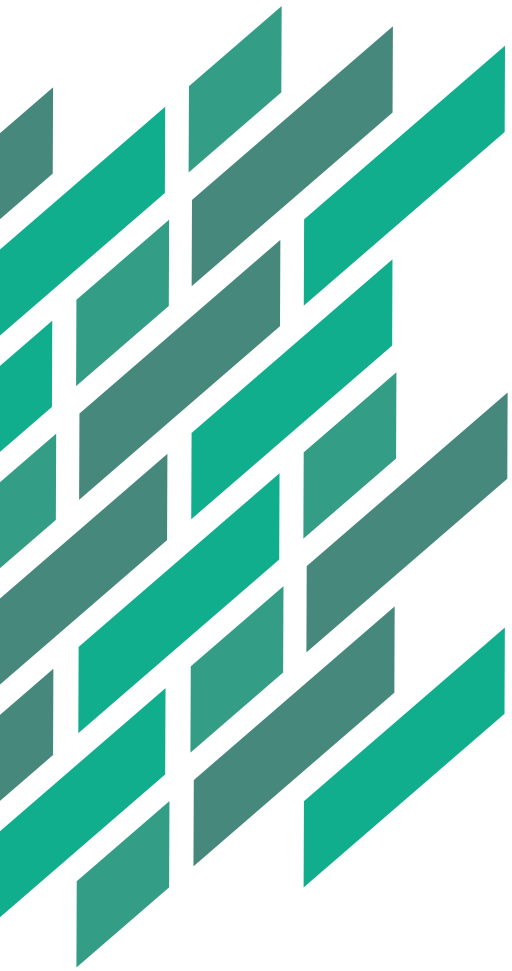
LGMA
An Ghníomhaireacht Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil
Local Government Management Agency

Local Authority Performance Indicator 2025

LGMA Summary



Contents

1.	**Introduction**		**5**
	1.1	Summary of Results – At A Glance	5
	1.2	Methodology	6
	1.3	Comparing Local Authority Performance	6
	1.4	Reporting Figures	6
	1.5	Context	7
	1.6	Local Government Resources	7
2.	**Housing**		**10**
	2.1	Housing Management	10
	2.2	Private Rented Sector	10
	2.3	Homelessness	10
	2.4	Social Housing Retrofit	10
3.	**Roads**		**11**
	3.1	Pavement Surface Condition Index	11
	3.2	Road Grants Works	12
	3.3	Motor Tax Online	12
4.	**Water and Environment**		**13**
	4.1	Water Services	13
	4.2	Environment	13
	4.3	Pollution & Litter	13
	4.4	Green Flag Status	14
	4.5	Energy Savings	14
	4.6	Climate change	14
5.	**Planning**		**15**
	5.1	New Buildings Inspected	15
	5.2	Appeals to An Bord Pleanála	15
	5.3	Planning Enforcement Cases	15
	5.4	Cost Per Capita of Planning Services	15
	5.5	Fire Safety Certificates	15
6.	**Fire Services**		**16**
	6.1	Fire Scenes	16
	6.2	Non-Fire Scenes	16
	6.3	Cost Per Capita of Fire Services	17

7.	**Library Services, Youth & Community**		**18**
	7.1	Library Services	18
	7.2	Youth	18
	7.3	Public Participation Networks	18
8.	**Corporate**		**19**
	8.1	Staffing	19
	8.2	Working Days Lost to Sickness	19
	8.3	Use of Websites and Social Media	19
	8.4	Cost Per whole time equivalent staff of ICT	19
9.	**Finance**		**20**
	9.1	Commercial Rates	20
	9.2	Rents & Annuities	20
	9.3	Housing Loans	20
10.	**Economic Development**		**21**
	10.1	Local Enterprise Offices	21
	10.2	Tourism	21
11.	**References**		**22**

Table of Figures

Figure 1.1 Local Government Revenue Budgets 2009 - 2025 7

Figure 1.2 Staffing in Local Authorities 2009 - 2025 8

Figure 3.1 Pavement Surface Condition by Road Type 11

Figure 3.2 Motor Tax Transactions Online 2014 - 2025 12

Figure 4.1 Trends in Levels of Litter Pollution 2014 - 2025 14

Figure 6.1 National Average Times to Attend Fire Scenes 2025 16

Figure 6.2 National Average Response Times to Attend Non-Fire Scenes 17

1. Introduction

This commentary has been prepared by the Local Government Management Agency (LGMA) to provide context to the 2025 performance indicators for the local government sector in Ireland. The performance indicators 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 2025 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[1].

This section presents a summary of the key results, the methodology used to gather the indicators and an overview of the financial and economic context in which local authorities operated in 2025. 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 **2025** performance indicators are:

- By December 2025 local authorities owned **158,772** social housing units.
- Local authorities added **4,324 units** to the social housing stock in 2025.
- The average time to **re-let** a social house decreased from 35.56 weeks in 2024 to **32.08** weeks in 2025. The average cost of re-letting a housing unit decreased from €31,136 in 2024 to **€31,006** in 2025.
- **82.45%** of **motor tax** transactions were conducted **online** in 2025.
- A total of **85,504 environmental complaints** were made to local authorities in 2025.
- In 2025, **95.46%** of the **2,246** registered private water schemes were monitored, compared with 97.43% of 2,181 registered schemes in 2024.
- There was a decrease in **new build** notifications, with **15,006** new buildings notified to local authorities in 2025 compared with 49,791 in 2024, representing a decrease of **69.86%**.
- There were **15,885,688 visits** to libraries in 2025, during which **22,808,367 items** were borrowed.
- **Whole-time equivalent** (WTE) staffing in local authorities increased from 32,274 WTEs in 2024 to **32,534** WTEs in 2025, an increase of **0.82%**.
- There were over **68,399,460** visits to local authority **websites** in 2025. The number following local authorities via **social media** increased by 4.71% 5,969,049 in 2024 to **6,250,131** in 2025.
- The percentage of **paid working days lost to medically certified leave** decreased from 3.71% in 2024 to **3.64%** in 2025.

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

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 2025 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

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 2025.

The Irish Economy

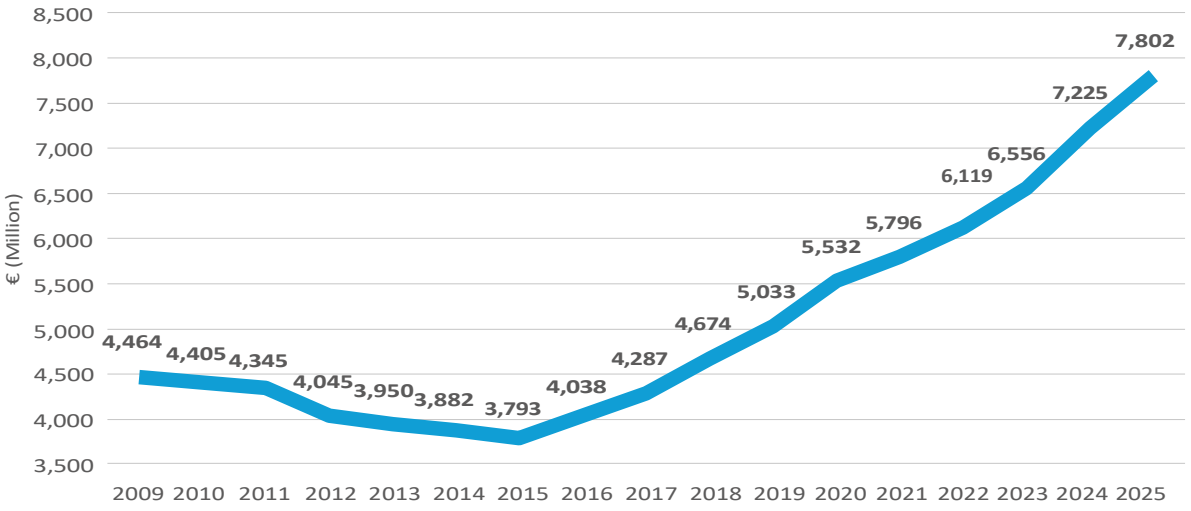
The Irish economy, measured in terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), expanded by 8.0% in 2025, compared to 2.6% in 2024, and a contraction of 2.5% in in 2023. When we look at Gross National Income (GNI), the Irish economy showed a growth rate of 0.9%. Modified Gross National Income (GNI*) grew by 3.7% (Central Statistics Office, 2025).

Provisional data for 2025 shows a general government surplus of €11.2 billion. This compares to a surplus of €23.2 billion in 2024 (Central Statistics Office, 2025).

1.6 Local Government Resources

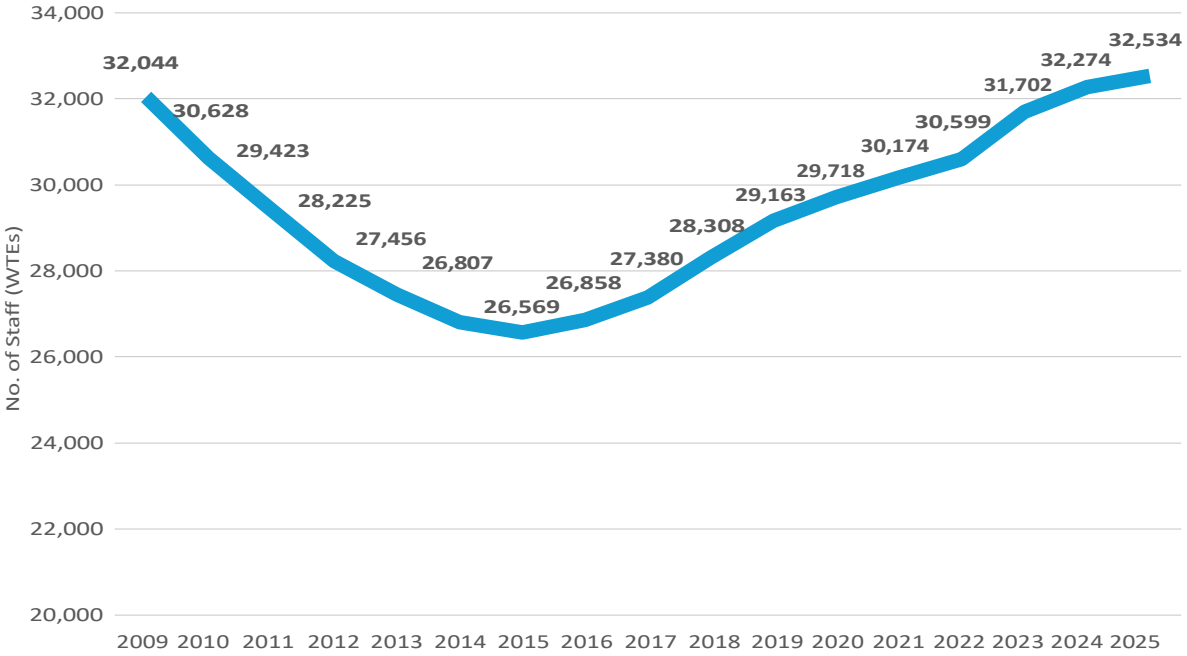
As illustrated in Figure 1.1 below, local government revenue budgets decreased from €4.46 billion in 2009 to a low of €3.79 billion in 2015. Since 2015, local government revenue budgets have increased steadily, rising from €3.79 billion to €7.80 billion in 2025 (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2025). This represents an increase of approximately 106% over the ten-year period.

Figure 1.1 Local Government Revenue Budgets 2009 - 2025



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 2025, the total number of whole-time equivalent staff increased to 32,534. The number of staff increased by 0.82% between 2024 and 2025. Over the entire period 2009 to 2025 total staff in the sector increased by 1.53%.

Figure 1.2 Staffing in Local Authorities 2009 - 2025



Irish Census 2022

The national census was carried out in 2022, with results showing a population of 5,149,139 (Central Statistics Office, 2025). 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, 2025).

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[2].

'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

2 digital-ict-strategy_2025_2030_web_final-compressed.pdf

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 2025 the local government sector owned **158,772** social housing units, an increase in overall stock of 2.4% compared to December 31st, 2024. The number of dwellings added by local authorities decreased from 5,324 in 2024 to **4,324** in 2025, a decrease of 18.8%.

In 2025, local authorities sold **500** dwellings which they owned, an increase from the **462** dwellings sold in 2024. The number of dwellings owned by local authorities which were demolished increased from 165 in 2024 to **312** in 2025. Local authorities directly provided **158,518** dwellings in 2025.

2.1 Housing Management

In 2025, the percentage of vacant dwellings within the social housing stock was **2.44%**. 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 2.75% in 2024.

The average time from vacation of a dwelling to commencement of a new tenancy decreased from 35.56 weeks in 2024 to **32.08** weeks in 2025. The average re-letting cost of a unit decreased by 0.42% from €31,136 in 2024 to **€31,006** in 2025. The average cost of housing maintenance increased from €1,824 in 2024 to **€1,898** per unit in 2025, an increase of 4.0% from 2024.

2.2 Private Rented Sector

A total of **64,120** private rented dwellings were inspected by local authorities in 2025, an increase of 3.3% from 2024. There was a decrease in the percentage of dwellings non-compliant during the first inspection to **82.66%** from 84.86% in 2024.

2.3 Homelessness

As of 31st December 2025, there was a total of **11,826** adults homeless and in emergency accommodation, of which **67.77%** were in emergency accommodation for 6 months continuously an increase from 59.43% in 2024.

2.4 Social Housing Retrofit

In 2025, local authorities completed retrofitting 2,671 social housing units resulting in an estimated annual energy saving of 37,704.0 MWh/Yr. which equates to a saving of 10,264.0 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.

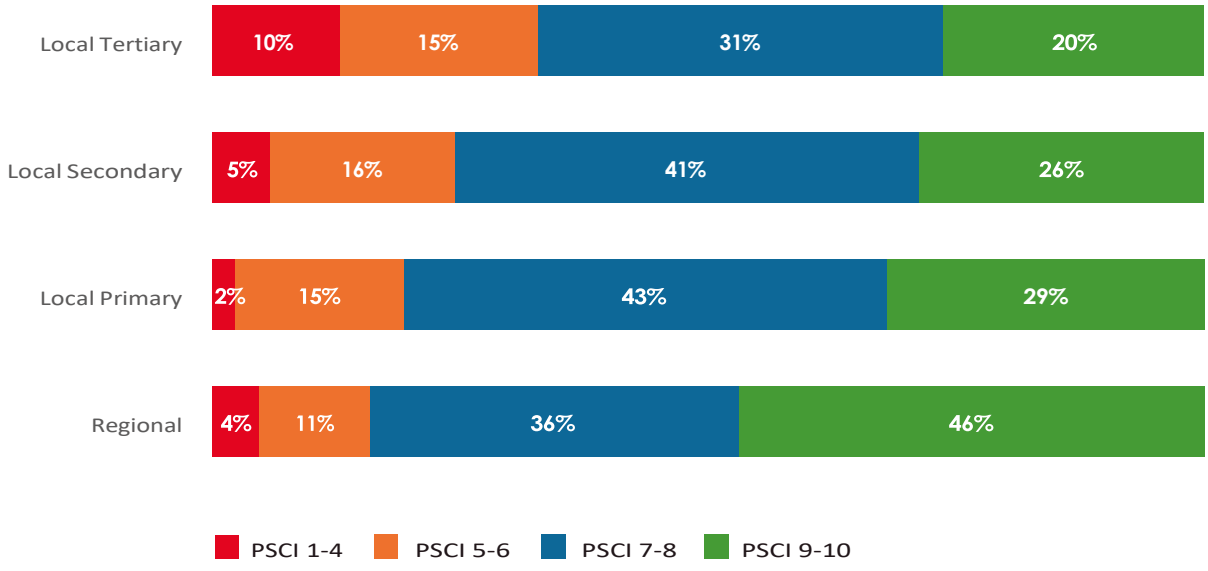
- **99%** of regional roads were PSCI rated in the 24-month period to 31/12/2025
- **97%** of local primary roads were PSCI rated in the 24-month period to 31/12/2025.
- **96%** of local secondary roads were PSCI rated in the 24-month period to 31/12/2025.
- **87%** of local tertiary roads were PSCI rated in the 60-month period to 31/12/2025.

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

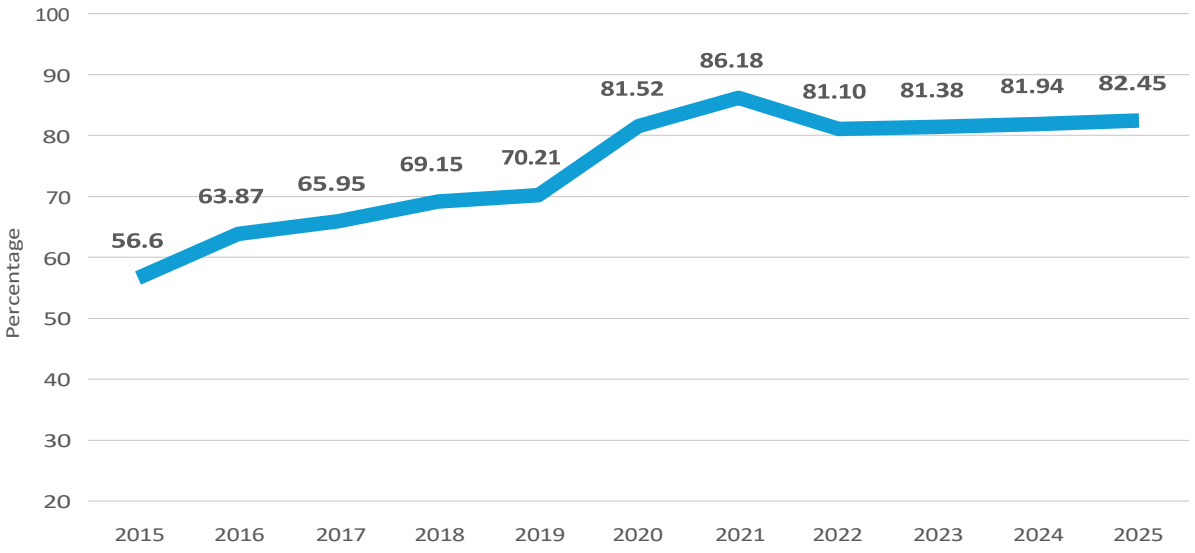
In 2025, the Department of Transport and the local authorities invested:

- **€126.8** million to strengthen **421.2 km** of regional roads, and **€18.1** million to reseal **436.9 km** of regional roads.
- **€289.0** million to strengthen **2,221.4 km** of local roads, and **€66.0** million to reseal **2,691.5 km** of local roads.

3.3 Motor Tax Online

In 2025, **4,623,834** motor tax transactions were conducted online (Figure 3.2). This represents **82.45%** of all motor tax transactions. Over a ten-year period, the percentage of motor tax transactions online increased from 56.6% in 2015 to **82.45%** in 2025.

Figure 3.2 Motor Tax Transactions Online 2015 - 2025



4. Water and 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

Local authorities are responsible for the monitoring of group water schemes and regulated small private supplies, also known as private water schemes. In 2025, **99.46%** 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 2024, **97.43%** of private water schemes were monitored by local authorities. In 2025, **2,144 of 2,246** registered schemes **(95.46%)** 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 1,288,562 in 2024 to **1,478,857** in 2025 which is a **14.77%** increase. Last 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 2025, **80.52%** of all households availed of a 3-bin service, compared to 70.16% in 2024.

4.3 Pollution and Litter

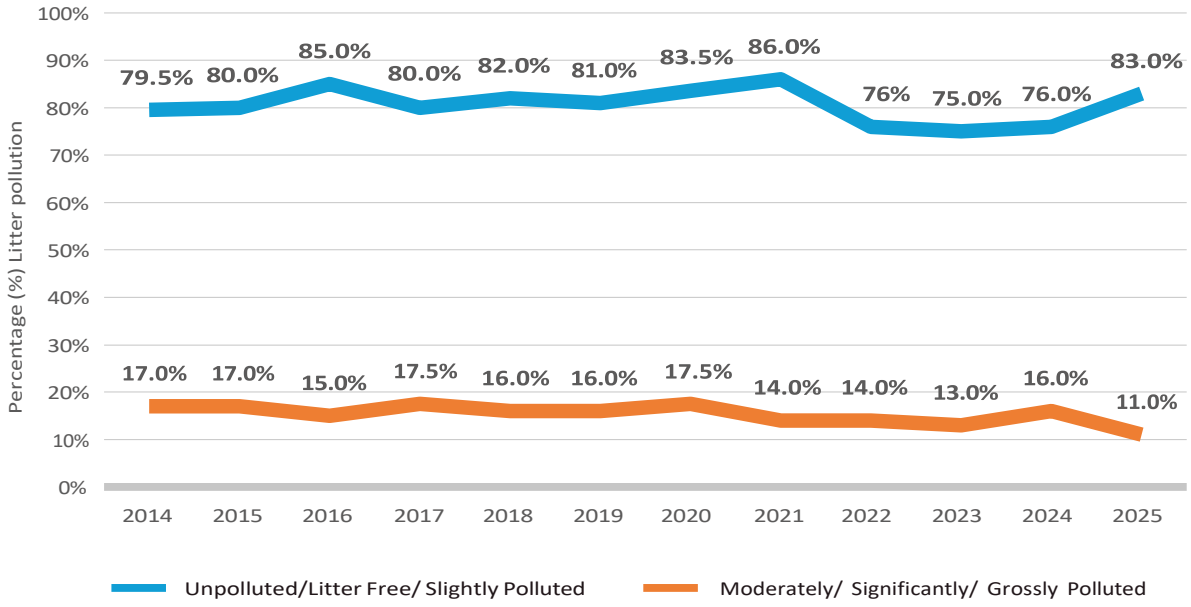
In 2025, the pollution indicator changed from pollution complaints to environmental complaints. This indicator is now an external dataset provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A total of **85,504** environmental complaints[3] were made to local authorities in 2025.

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 2025, the national median percentage of areas surveyed which were unpolluted/litter-free/slightly polluted increased to **83%** from 76% in 2024 as illustrated in Figure 4.1. The level of moderately/significantly/grossly polluted decreased from a median value of 16% in 2024 to **11.0%**[4] in 2025.

3 This includes air, noise, water or waste pollution.

4 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 - 2025



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 2025, **1,502** schools held a Green Flag, representing **38.03%** of all schools nationally.

4.5 Energy Savings

Across all local authorities, the average cumulative percentage energy savings achieved by the 31st of December 2025 relative to baseline year (2009) was **42.48%** in 2025, an increase from 40.76% in 2024.

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 2025, **79.21%** of all public lighting had been upgraded to LED lights. This was an increase from the 2024 figure of 66.99%.

4.6 Climate change

Twenty-nine local authorities had Climate Action Teams in place by the end of 2025, compared to 31 in 2024. In 2025, 30 local authorities had a designated Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) Climate Action Coordinator, compared to 31 in 2024 and 29 had an WTE Climate Action Officer in 2025 compared to 30 in 2024.

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 2025, local authorities were notified of a total of **15,006** new buildings, a 69.86% decrease on the **49,791** new buildings notified in 2024. Of these, local authorities inspected **25.75%** in 2025.

5.2 Appeals to An Bord Pleanála

A total of **2,056** planning decisions made by local authorities were appealed to An Bord Pleanála in 2025. Of these, **74.85%** of decisions made by local authorities were confirmed by An Bord Pleanála. This compares with 75.36% of decisions in 2024.

5.3 Planning Enforcement Cases

Local authorities investigated **7,387** cases referred to or initiated by local authorities in 2025, a larger number than the 7,396 cases in 2024. Of those cases, **6,547** cases were closed during the year. At the end of 2025, **21,939** planning enforcement cases were being investigated.

In 2025, **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, **6%** were resolved to the local authority's satisfaction through negotiations, and **43%** were closed due to enforcement proceedings during the year. These indicators compare to 2024 when 52% of planning enforcement cases were also dismissed, 8% of cases were closed through negotiations and 40% 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 2025, the cost per capita of planning services across the sector was **€43.20**. This represents an increase from €38.47 in 2024.

5.5 Fire Safety Certificates

In 2025, **48.57%** of applications for fire safety certificates received during the year were decided within two months of their receipt. This is an increase from 45.35% in 2024. The percentage of fire safety certificates applications that were decided within an extended period agreed with the applicant increased from 36.73% in 2024 to **39.57%** in 2025.

6. Fire Services

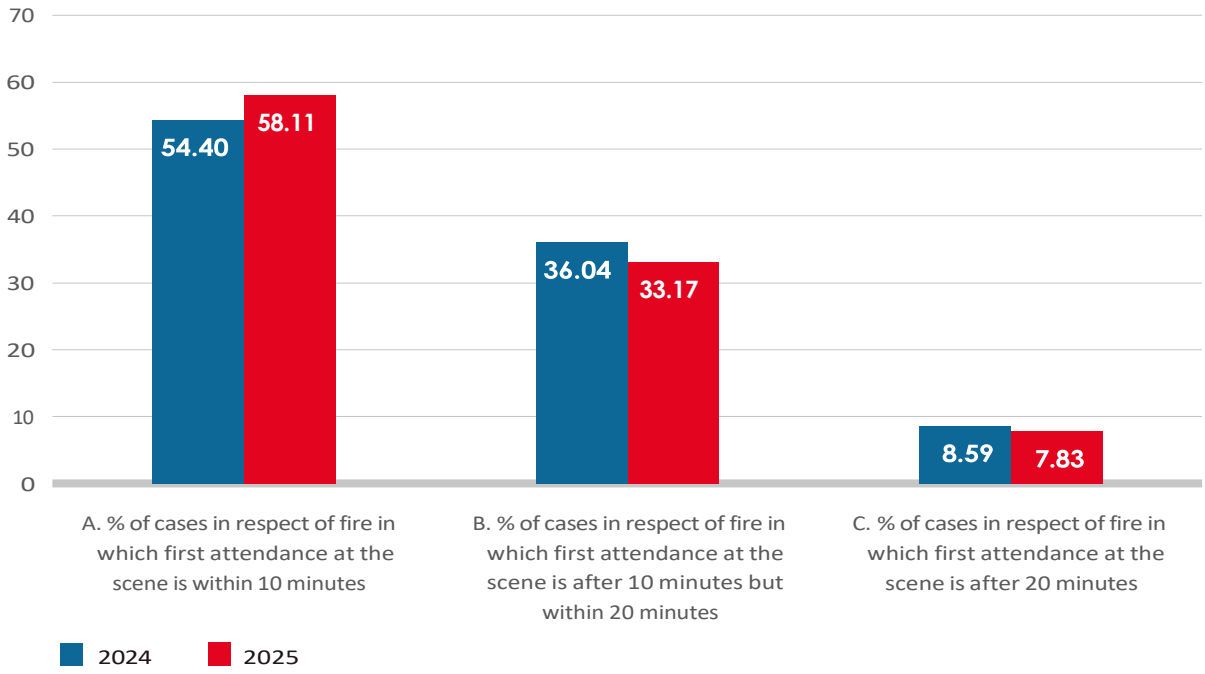
In addition to fire emergency services, local authorities conduct inspections on buildings for fire safety and provide a range of fire prevention services. The performance indicators focus on mobilisation of fire emergency services. For the purpose of the performance indicators there is a distinction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

6.1 Fire Scenes

In the case of **fire**, in 2025 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 **6 minutes 32 seconds**. This compared with 1 minute 23 seconds and 5 minutes 47 seconds respectively in 2024.

Figure 6.1 below compares the times of **first attendance** at a fire scene in 2024 and 2025. In 2025, **58.11%** of fire scenes were attended within 10 minutes while **33.17%** were attended within 10-20 minutes. This compares with 54.40% and 36.04% respectively in 2024.

Figure 6.1 National Average Times to Attend Fire Scenes 2025

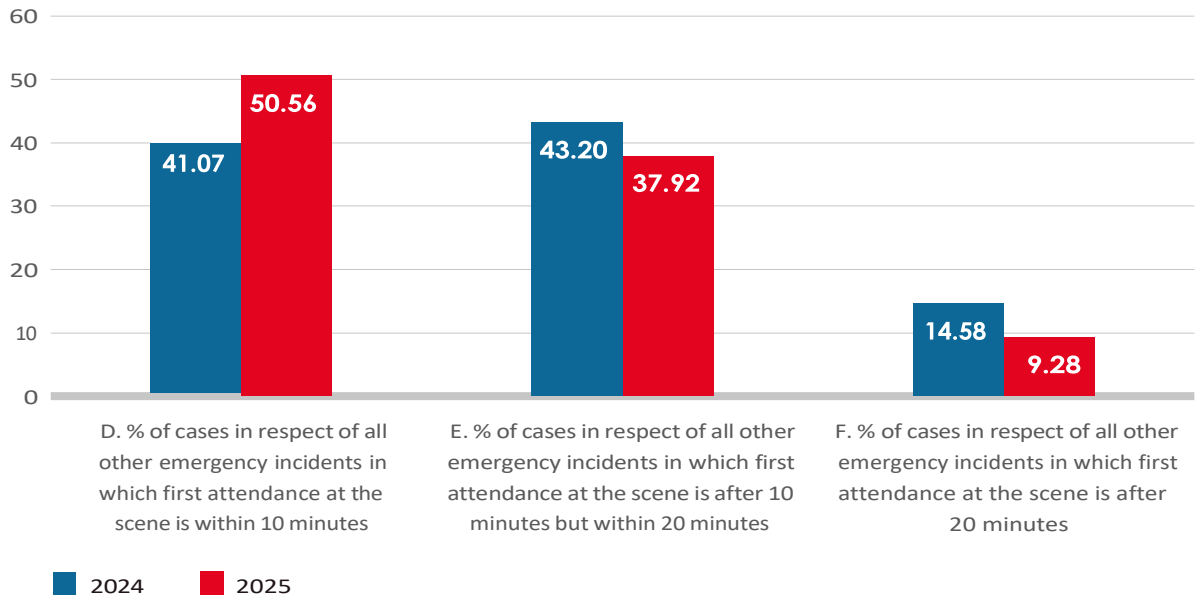


6.2 Non-Fire Scenes

In 2025, it took a median of **1 minute 24 seconds** to mobilise from full-time fire stations and **5 minutes 18 seconds** to mobilise from part-time fire stations for **all non-fire emergency incidents**. This compares with response times of 1 minute 19 seconds and 5 minutes 50 seconds respectively in 2024.

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 2025. In 2025, **51%** of non-fire scenes were attended within 10 minutes and a further **38%** were attended within 10-20 minutes. This compares with 41% and 43% respectively in 2024.

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 2025 was **€82.24**[5,6], an increase from €74.85 in 2024. The cost of operating fire services is influenced by whether the fire service operates a full-time or retained fire brigade.

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 2025 census figures, so the calculations for this indicator for 2025 have reverted to standard census population figures by local authority area.

7. Library Services, Youth and Community

7.1 Library Services

In 2025, there were a total of **15,885,688** visits to libraries run by local authorities, an increase of 2.8% compared to 2024. A total of **22,808,367 items**[7] were borrowed, which is an increase of 30.7% since 2024.

The cost per capita of operating the library service in 2025 was **€41.66**. In 2024, this was €40.72. In 2025, the total expenditure on new stock acquired by libraries was **€12,437,201**, or **€2.42** 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 2025, **67.22%** of second level schools participated in the Youth Councils/Comhairle na nÓg, a decrease compared to 65.47% in 2024.

7.3 Public Participation Networks

Public Participation Networks enable the public to take an active and formal role in local authority policy-making that affects their communities. In 2025, **22,482** community organisations were included in the County Registers nationally, an increase of 1,851 from 20,631 in 2024. Of these organisations, 15.85% opted to be part of the Social Inclusion College of their respective Public Participation Network (PPN) in 2025, compared with **15.86%** in 2024. 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

Since 2016, the number of whole-time equivalent (WTEs) staff working in local authorities has increased steadily. It reached **32,534** WTEs in 2025, up from 32,274 in 2024. Figure 1.2 at the beginning of this report illustrates changes in local authority staffing levels over time.

8.2 Working Days Lost to Sickness

The percentage of paid working days lost to medically certified sick leave decreased from 3.71% in 2024 to **3.64%** in 2025. The percentage lost to self-certified sick leave also decreased, from 0.34% to **0.33%**.

8.3 Use of Websites and Social Media

Local authorities increasingly use technology to provide information and services to the public. In 2025, local authority websites recorded **68,399,460** page views, an increase of 5.02% from 65,129,018 in 2024. Social-media followers increased by 4.71%, from 5,969,049 in 2024 to **6,250,131** in 2025.

8.4 Cost Per whole time equivalent staff of ICT

In 2025, the cost of ICT per whole-time-equivalent staff member across the local government sector was **€4,636.77**, compared with €4,270.61 in 2024 - an increase of €366.16 (8.57%).

9. Finance

In 2025, **5** local authorities operated at a deficit, unchanged from 2024. Total revenue expenditure increased from €7.65 billion in 2024 to **€7.77 billion** in 2025. Average revenue expenditure per capita rose from €1,485.05 to **€1,508.67**.

The per-capita cost of settled public-liability claims decreased from €13.74 in 2024 to **€11.85** in 2025. The central management charge represented **12.37%** of total revenue expenditure in 2025, compared with 11.67% in 2024.

9.1 Commercial Rates

In 2025, commercial-rates collection increased or remained unchanged in **28** of 31 local authorities, compared with 30 in 2024. The median collection level remained unchanged at **92.0%** in both 2024 and 2025.

9.2 Rents & Annuities

The median collection rate for rents and annuities increased from 88% in 2024 to **89%** in 2025. In 2025, collection rates improved in **18** local authorities, remained unchanged in **6** and declined in **7**.

9.3 Housing Loans

In 2025, housing-loan collection rates improved in **21** local authorities, remained unchanged in **5** and declined in **5**. The median collection rate increased from 88% in 2024 to **90%** in 2025.

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. Their support contributes to creating and sustaining jobs in local communities and strengthens new and existing businesses nationwide. In 2025, the net number of jobs created nationally with LEO assistance was 2,479, up from **2,459** in 2024.

LEOs also provide financial assistance, training and advice through the Trading Online Voucher scheme. In 2025, **620** vouchers were approved and **433** were drawn down, compared with 2,397 approved and 755 drawn down in 2024. The number of mentoring participants increased from 16,207 in 2024 to **16,628** in 2025.

10.2 Tourism

Local authorities deliver festivals, events and place-branding initiatives that attract visitors to cities and towns throughout Ireland. In 2025, **28** local authorities had a designated Tourism Strategy to assist with tourism development, up from 26 in 2024. The number with a designated Tourism Officer - who assist in tourism promotion - increased from 30 in 2024 to **31** in 2025.

11. References

CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE. 2025. CSO *statistical release: Monthly Unemployment* [Online]. Central Statistics Office. Available at: https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/er/mue/monthlyunemploymentdecember2025/

CENTRAL STATISTICS OFFICE. 2025. *National Income and Expenditure 2025* [Online]. Central Statistics Office. Available at: https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-nie/nie2025/summary/

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING, LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HERITAGE. 2025. Local Authority Budget Publication 2025. Dublin: Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. Available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-housing-local-government-and-heritage/collections/local-authority-budgets/

GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND 2019. Climate Action Plan 2019 To Tackle Climate Breakdown. Dublin: Government of Ireland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY. 2025 Digital Local Government: Working for Everyone Ireland's Local Government Digital and ICT Strategy 2030.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT AGENCY. 2025. Local Government Services Catalogue. Available at: https://services.localgov.ie/en-ie/Service-Catalogue/Search

LGMA
An Ghníomhaireacht
Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil
Local Government
Management Agency

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

Email: info@lgma.ie