

Service Indicators in Local Authorities 2006

Report to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and
Local Government by the Local Government
Management Services Board

June 2007

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Published by the Local Government Management Services Board.

Foreword

As Chairman of the Local Government Management Services Board, I have great pleasure in submitting this report to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Mr. John Gormley, T.D.

This is the third report and covers the results of the service indicators in local authorities for the year 2006. Because it represents the end of a three year cycle, the opportunity is taken to provide comparison with the performance in 2004 and 2005 where this is appropriate.

Looking to the future , the Board is keen to ensure that the value of measuring performance is optimised by individual local authorities and by the system as a whole. For that reason, the report includes relevant material on this issue and the Board looks forward to facilitating engagement with all of those involved on this and also on the outcome of the formal review that is currently underway under the auspices of the Local Government Customer Service Working Group.

D. Mahon

Chairman

Local Government Management Services Board

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Executive Summary

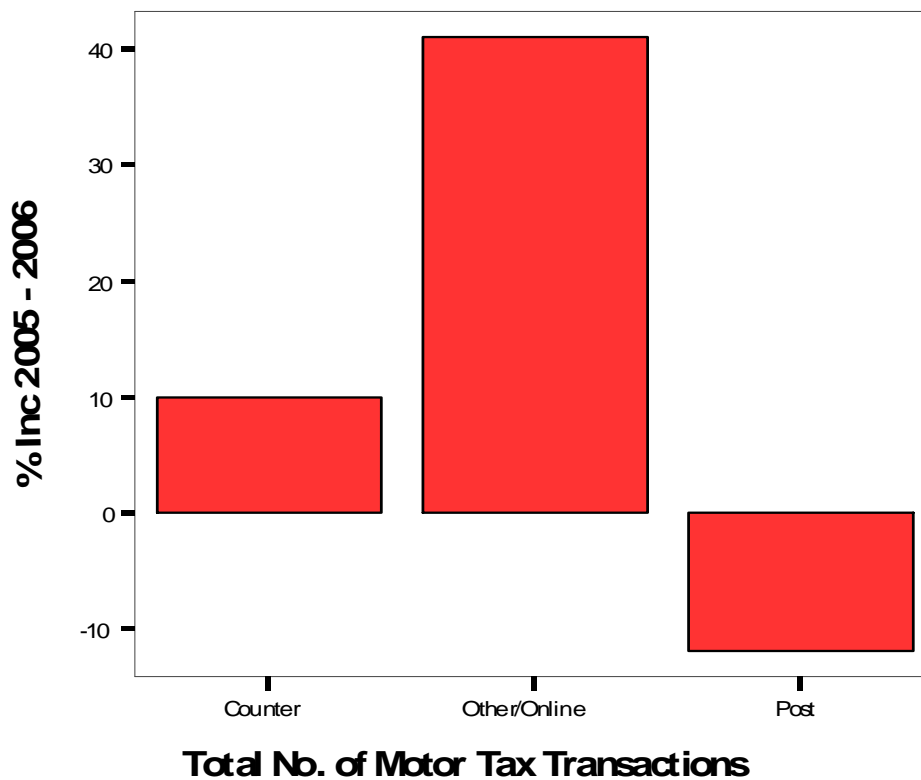
1. Service indicators across 42 headings were introduced to the local authority system in 2004. This was a major initiative designed to measure performance by local authorities across a range of services in a uniform way. The initiative was recognised by a Public Service Excellence award in 2006. The results of the indicators are collated by the Local Government Management Services Board (LGMSB), in conjunction with the Local Government Computer Services Board. They are audited by an Independent Assessment Panel. The LGMSB is required to present an annual report to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. This is the third such report. It contains the results for each indicator for 2006; it also compares the results at national level for the years 2004 to 2006.
2. One of the key issues in measuring performance is to ensure that the same approach is used by all of those involved: the definitions and methodology are key to ensuring validity of the data. It is recognised that this is very difficult to achieve. However considerable effort has been expended over the past three years to reduce the potential for misinterpretation. Arising from this, some limited change in interpretation has been agreed within the three year period: where this has happened, clearly it is not appropriate to compare the results.
3. The indicators measure a wide range of the functions carried out by local authorities. However they do not capture the full picture and indeed it is difficult to measure the role that local authorities play, for instance, in leading development locally. Nonetheless, they give the reader – local management, elected members, customers and citizens - a balanced picture of performance over time.
4. Apart from the results in this report, the opportunity is taken to look back at the overall experience and to suggest how in the years ahead the maximum value can be derived from this work. Attention is paid to the idea of comparison between authorities. This is a contentious area given the fact that by definition local authorities are all different and their remit is to respond to local needs as articulated by the elected members. By illustrating some ideas on an approach to comparing authorities, the LGMSB hopes to provoke a debate so that

in time an accepted approach to comparison between authorities can be developed. In the meantime, the results provide information on the performance of individual authorities over the three year period.

5. The range of indicators covers many of the key services provided by local authorities: housing, planning, environment, recreation and amenity. They also provide data on the speed of service to customers where this is relevant. Some of the indicators measure the level of activity of authorities in the areas of enforcement of legislation. Others – a smaller number at this point – analyse the decision making processes, e.g. in relation to planning applications. In this regard it should be noted that it is accepted internationally that measuring quality is difficult and that in general the emphasis in measuring performance tends to be on the quantitative.
6. The data in respect of 2006 is presented for each heading in tabular form; following that there is a comparison with the national performance over the three years 2004 to 2006. Some examples of performance over the three year period are:
 - An increase in the use of the library service – both in the number of registered members over the period - and a significant increased availability and usage of the internet, now available in virtually all libraries in the country, resulting in its use in 1.7 million sessions in 2006
 - Increased number of complaints and of follow-up on complaints by local authorities in both planning and environment
 - Considerable usage of pre-planning consultations, which have become a key feature of the service provided by planning sections – with a total of 28,113 meetings being facilitated nationally.
 - In housing, the indicators record a general improvement in performance. For instance, there has been a small improvement in the time taken to relet dwellings from 4 to 3.8 weeks, and an increase (of 3%) in the number of housing repairs completed. There have also been improvements in the average times taken to let people know the outcome of applications for some categories of housing service: the average time taken

to inform in relation to housing loans has fallen from 15 to 8 days while in the case of shared ownership, it has decreased from 14 to 8.7 days.

- In motor tax, over 5 million transactions were carried out in 2006, an increase of 9.5% on 2005. Transactions carried out over-the-counter have increased by 9.7% between 2005 and 2006, while the number of postal transactions has declined by 12.3%. Most notably, the 2006 figures also confirm the continuing trend in the use of online services to carry out motor tax transactions which now represent 21% of activities, compared to 16.5% in 2005.



- A largely positive story emerges on the environment, with almost all households served by local authorities having a segregated service, tonnages of household waste being recycled have increased by 18%; in addition there is an increase in the number of bring banks across the country, up by 4% since 2004.

- In relation to litter fines, there have been increases in the number of fines issued and prosecutions taken. It is heartening to note that a comparison of the results between 2005 and 2006 show that the total percentage of litter free areas has increased from 6.1 to 6.8 per cent; the total percentage of slightly polluted areas has increased from 49.5 to 53.6 per cent; the total percentage of areas significantly polluted has decreased from 8.5 to 7.4 per cent; the total percentage of areas grossly polluted has also fallen from 1.5 to 0.6 per cent.
 - In the area of environmental enforcement too, activities on the part of local authorities have increased. The average number of complaints received has increased by 63% since 2004. The average number of complaints investigated increased by 46%, while the average number of enforcement procedures taken also increased by 26%.
7. The process for validating the results has been outlined at 1. above. The report of the Independent Assessment Panel, which reflects its experience in auditing the results for a selected number of indicators, is included at Appendix 1. The Panel noted the commitment to the assessment process among the staff of each authority visited.
8. Finally, given that the report for 2006 represents the end of a three year cycle in which a considerable amount of learning took place, it is important to draw attention to the work being undertaken by a review group established under the aegis of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government that is expected to report later in the year. The work of that group has drawn on the experience of the last three years from the perspectives of all of the stakeholders involved. The group has taken on board the comments and suggestions of those closest to the process and the outcome of their deliberations is awaited with considerable interest. It is likely to result in some changes to the range of indicators to be reported on in the next phase. Revised Service Indicators are due to come into effect from 2008 onwards.

Section 1: Introduction

Background and Context

The current system of measuring performance in local authorities was introduced in December 2003. It has been operating now for three years and this report captures the data for 2006 and compares it where possible with that for 2004 and 2005. Given that we are at the end of a three year cycle, it is appropriate in this report to review the process in a general way and to look ahead to the future.

Whilst the system now in operation was new, it is important to point out that local authorities were already accountable to the public in a number of ways, mainly through the elected members, but in recent years to an increased extent through public consultation and the creation of Strategic Policy Committees on which a number of outside interests are represented. This point was highlighted by the then Chairman of the County and City Managers Association, Mr. Des Mahon, at the launch of the first report in 2005 when he stated: "Local authorities are subject to public measurement on an ongoing basis. The elected members effectively operate as a board of directors- influencing policy and monitoring our performance. Council meetings are open to the public and there is extensive local media coverage of our activities as a result. What is new about the service indicators report is the introduction of a formal system which, in a uniform way, measures aspects of our performance."

The basic concept of measuring and reporting on performance had also been in use for some time in the local authorities: the practice of using indicators to monitor the progress and improvement in performance had already been established on a limited basis. Some local authorities had been using measures of performance on their own initiative since the mid 1990s. These were usually used to monitor performance within the authority on an ongoing basis.

However, it is fair to say that the modernisation agenda in the public service generally – begun with the Strategic Management Initiative in 1994 - was reflected in the local government sector through the publication of Better Local Government – A Programme for Change – in 1996. It essentially outlined the priorities for modernisation in the sector and stated that local authorities would be asked to set service standards against indicators, and would be required to publish details of their progress against

the standards. The broad thrust outlined in BLG was reflected in the Local Government Act, 2001: it stated that the corporate plan of each local authority should include the objectives and priorities of the authority and the manner by which the authority intended to assess its performance taking into account relevant service indicators.

So, against the background of some limited experience, the current initiative was launched in January 2004 by the then Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Martin Cullen TD. Essentially it heralded a “whole of system” approach to measuring performance through the introduction of a uniform range of indicators, 42 in total, designed to capture the performance of each authority across many of the main areas of service.

The indicators themselves had emerged from the deliberations of a group established to examine ways of improving the customer service of local authorities. The group included representatives of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, management and practitioners from local authorities and the Institute of Public Administration. That group produced a report “Delivering Value for People” in 2004. As well as recommending the specific approach and indicators, the report contained much useful information derived from the extensive international literature on measuring performance ; it also pointed out some of the key requirements and the pitfalls to be avoided based on experience in other countries.

The selection of the indicators was intended to give wide coverage of the range of local authority work; be capable of consistent interpretation and measurement; ensure that the benefit from them was compatible with the resources expended in measuring the results, and that the data emerging would be useful as a tool to enable individual authorities to review performance over time.

The indicators selected span many of the services provided: in some cases they measure the scale of operations of local authorities; in others they measure the direct impact on customers, e.g. response times, accessibility and mode of delivery; others measure the performance by local authorities of their regulatory function, while there are a number that focus on aspects of management and decision

making. In overall terms they convey to the outsider a picture of the performance of individual authorities over time in a clear and meaningful way.

Two other features of the system are worth noting at this point. International experience shows considerable variation in how the data emerging from a process such as this is validated – in some cases by a very rigorous and structured approach and in others through a much less formal approach. Here there are two aspects to the validation. In the first case the Minister appointed an independent assessment panel of three outsiders to “manage the process for external monitoring and verification of the indicators”. This group has adopted a very rigorous approach to examining, assessing and reporting on the processes in place in individual authorities for producing the data. It has done this through visiting a number of authorities in each of the last three years. Its report in respect of this year is contained at Appendix 1 of this publication.

The second is the role of the Local Government Management Services Board (LGMSB). The report which informed the decision of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government advocated a role for the Board in external monitoring and verifying of the national service indicators, as well as making an annual report on monitoring and verification to the Minister. This is the third such report.¹ Our approach to the report has been to record accurately the results of the indicators for each local authority, to make the material capable of interpretation by readers with limited or no knowledge of local government, to depict visually data that may be dense and difficult to interpret through the use of graphs and illustrations. An overriding concern has been to maximise the usefulness of this data and experience so that the potential value added to the system as a whole can be realised.

¹ The Service Indicator reports for 2004 and 2005 are available for download on: www.lgmsb.ie.

Section 2: Method

What the Indicators Tell Us

There are service indicators across a wide range of services. The indicators are presented under ten headings: *Housing & Roads, Water, Planning, Fire Service, Environment, Culture, Recreation and Amenity, Motor Tax, Finance and Internal Corporate*. In many cases a single “indicator” is actually composed of several statistics.

While the indicators provide measurements across the breadth of local authorities’ activities, it is important to remember that not all services are easy to measure and that local authorities also provide a range of supports that are not measured by the selection of indicators. For each indicator, it is important to recall the wider context from which the measurement is taken.

Comparison Between 2004, 2005 and 2006

In this report, the national results for every indicator that has been used for the three years are compared in the same manner between 2004, 2005 and 2006, as shown:

Indicator number and title		
N	Valid	This shows, for each year, the total number of authorities with valid figures for inclusion in the descriptive statistics
	Missing	This shows, for each year, the number of authorities for which the indicator was non-applicable. These are marked N/A in the tables.
Average	Median Mean	These are the average figures for each year – see over
Percentiles	25%	This is the cut-off point for the lowest and highest quarters of the indicators (also called the “first quartile” and “fourth quartile” respectively) - see over
	75%	

In a number of cases, this has not been possible – principally where there has been a revision of the definition and/or methodology that would affect the situation.

Technical Terms

Mean Average

The *mean average* is what most people understand by an “average”. The mean average is the total of a number of scores, divided by the number in question. It is appropriate to use the mean average when discussing the distribution of a count between the total number of cases.

Median Average

The *median average* is obtained by placing all the numbers in rank order and finding the value that sits half-way between the smallest and the largest numbers. In other words, it is the middle number of a sequence of numbers (or else the *mean average* of the two middle numbers when there is an even number of scores). It is more accurate to emphasise the median average when looking at most of the service indicators. This is because they are small sets of numbers and divergent scores (outliers) can disproportionately bias the mean average, making it unrepresentative of the majority of scores.

Quartile

Quartiles divide the data into four groups of equal size, based on the 25th, 50th and 75th percentile. The bottom quartile is the value below which 25% of the cases fall; the top quartile is the value below which 75% of the cases fall. In this report the descriptive statistics provided for each indicator give the value of the lower and upper quartiles, so that a local authority’s performance can be quickly seen relative to those lowest and highest groups. Whether the 25th or 75th represents best practice will depend on whether the indicator values are interpreted as positive when they are higher or lower.

Decimal Places

Some indicators were reported by the local authorities with multiple decimal places. In order to preserve clarity in the tables, these figures were rounded. In most cases, percentages were rounded to one decimal place while counts were rounded to the nearest whole number. In areas where the

indicator focuses on a small range within percentages, these are given to two decimal places to highlight subtle changes in these cases. Numbers ending in 0.5 were consistently rounded up. In some cases percentage figures will total 100.1% or 99.9% due to rounding. This approach has been adopted throughout the report to ensure a clear and consistent focus upon what the indicators represent, rather than on multiple decimal places that do not actually present meaningful information.

The Data Gathering Process

The LGMSB is required to report to the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on the set of 42 local authority service indicators on an annual basis.

As already indicated, the data gathering process involves active collaboration between key stakeholders including local authorities, the LGMSB, and the Local Government Computer Services Board (LGCSB). Each local authority submitted their figures electronically to the LGCSB.

The LGCSB then created data files from these submissions for use by the LGMSB. The tables and summary statistics which form the basis of this report were prepared by the LGMSB. As part of the quality assurance process, the LGMSB also identified anomalies in the data and, where necessary, gave local authorities an opportunity to review them.

Census Data

In this report, the population figures from the 2002 Census were used to calculate indicators based on services delivered per 1,000 or per 5,000 inhabitants of the area. These measures permit comparison between different local authorities by eliminating any distortion caused by different population sizes. In the next service indicators report, the 2006 Census data will be used. This will have a significant effect on those indicators that are expressed in terms of "per 1,000" or "per 5,000" inhabitants, as rapid change in some local authority areas may lead to a significantly different result for certain service indicators. There may be a need to replace the current use of Census figures with annual estimates of population, in order to prevent this effect from skewing the indicators over time.

It is increasingly the case that local authorities are submitting data in raw form to the LGMSB, which has the task of converting these into indicators. For example, each authority provides total figures for a number of indicators which the LGMSB displays as “per 5,000 inhabitants”. This trend is desirable to ensure better quality data checking and long-term comparability of indicators.

How Local Authority Management Can Use the Indicators

The service indicators can be used in a number of ways by management in the local authorities. In the most basic analysis, the local authorities have a year-on-year record of their performance in the areas that the indicators measure. This allows each authority to check whether its performance is as good as previous years.

The indicators can also be used to see whether internal changes have had a tangible effect on services delivered. For example, if an authority increased opening hours at recycling centres or provided more recycling points, it should expect to see these changes represented in the indicators with an overall increase in the tonnage of material collected for recycling.

Another use for the indicators is that they permit local authorities to compare their performance with their peers – that is, to compare with those local authorities that are sufficiently similar to allow a valid comparison to be made. Traditionally, most local authorities have compared themselves with other authorities that were long held to be similar. In this year’s report, an approach is described by which local authorities have been grouped together into “clusters” on the basis of their overall similarities. This approach gives Managers a more scientific way of choosing which other authority areas to compare with their own. This scientific approach is appropriate as many areas of Ireland are experiencing rapid change, so traditional comparisons may no longer be as valid as they were in the past. (See section 14).

Section 3: Culture, Recreation and Amenity Facilities

Arts Grants

Table 1: Number and Value (€) of Arts Grants Allocated

	AC 1 Total number of arts grants	AC 2 Total value (€) of arts grants allocated per 1,000 population
Carlow County Council	17	565
Cavan County Council	33	619
Clare County Council	82	3,940 ^b
Cork City Council	60	2,833
Cork County Council	156	954
Donegal County Council	109	2,583
Dublin City Council	86	857 ^c
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	19	1,682 ^d
Fingal County Council	62	4,275
Galway City Council	80	4,967
Galway County Council	143	1,697
Kerry County Council	96	752
Kildare County Council	85	1,404
Kilkenny County Council	42	1,954
Laois County Council	43	2,722
Leitrim County Council	43	2,835
Limerick City Council	25	2,684
Limerick County Council	11	132
Longford County Council	45	2,315
Louth County Council	96	621 ^a
Mayo County Council	77	2,011
Meath County Council	27	159
Monaghan County Council	67	3,034
North Tipperary County Council	32	434
Offaly County Council	90	1,826
Roscommon County Council	37	518
Sligo County Council	49	5,590
South Dublin County Council	57	1,898
South Tipperary County Council	91	2,628
Waterford City Council	52	4,705 ^e
Waterford County Council	38	485
Westmeath County Council	93	1,378
Wexford County Council	100	5,013
Wicklow County Council	61	680
Total	2,204	

^a These figures represent only a small percentage of the overall spend on the arts by Louth Local Authorities. This includes expenditure on an extensive Artists Residency programme, Community Arts projects, multi-disciplinary Arts Programme, Arts infrastructure mortgage repayments, as well as wages, and gallery maintenance.

^b Includes subvention to Glor Irish Music Centre of €157,000 from Ennis Town Council and €157,000 from Clare County Council.

^c During 2006 the Council introduced a new Arts Grant scheme incorporating new categories of "Seeder", "Neighbourhood", "Voluntary" and "Revenue". The arts grant allocation was increased by approximately €100,000. In addition to these arts grants 6 Bursaries were paid during 2006, each to the value of €4,000.

^d Value of arts grants does not include additional expenditure incurred on festivals and residency programmes.

^e A further €31,500 was paid to support 3 arts events and over €1,000,000 in Arts capital funding was spent.

Comparison 2004-2006

AC 1		2004	2005	2006
Total number of arts grants				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	49.5	66.5	60.5
	Mean	58.2	66.7	64.8
Percentiles	25%	33.8	43.3	37.8
	75%	77.5	87.8	90.3

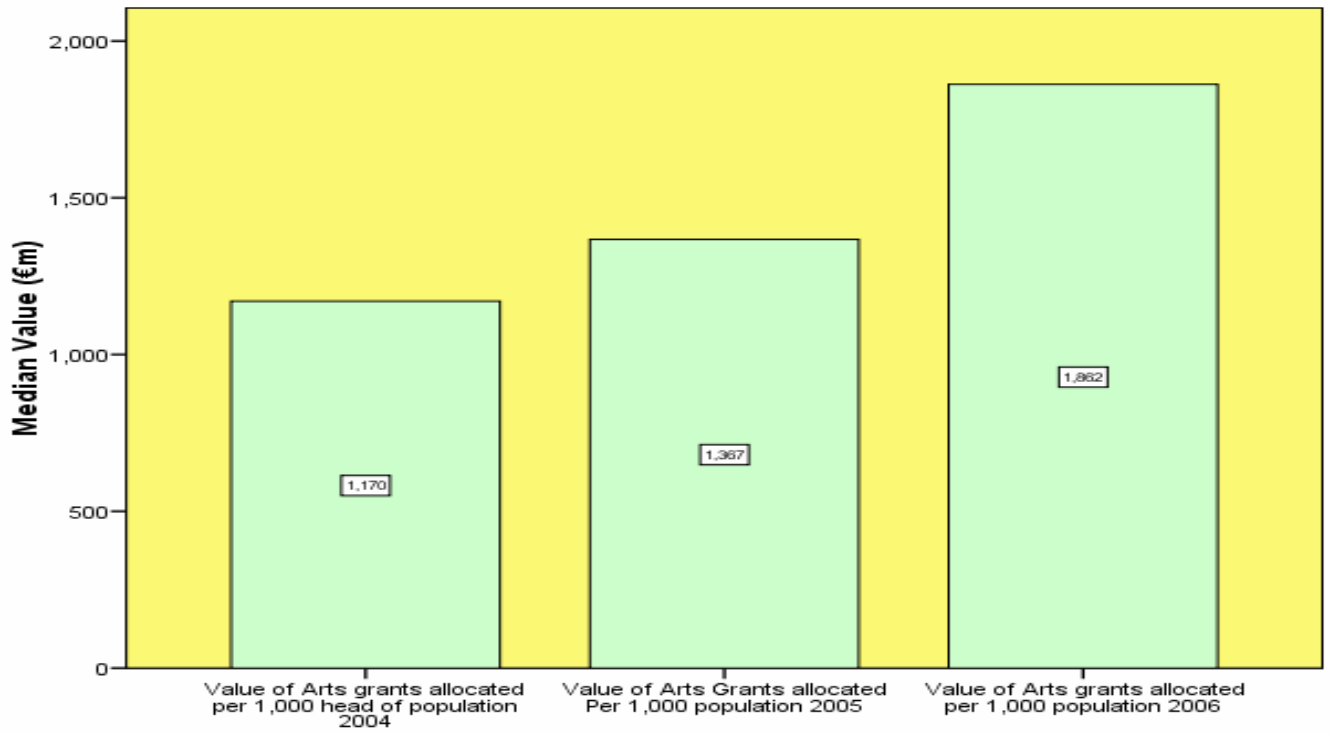
AC 2		2004	2005	2006
Total value (€) of arts grants allocated per 1,000 population				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	1,170.2	1,367.2	1,862.2
	Mean	1,751.5	1,872.7	2,080.9
Percentiles	25%	477.7	536.5	132.0
	75%	2,594.5	2,763.2	665.1

These service indicators measure both the number and value of arts grants allocated by local authorities in a given year. It is recognised that the service indicators relate to Arts Grants only and are not a comprehensive measure of the total level of support, or of the range of varied arts programmes that are directly provided and supported throughout the country by local authorities.

Essentially, therefore, the indicators measure a small proportion only of the total support given to the arts by local authorities on a consistent basis. Many local authorities submitted examples of different and greater forms of financial and other support and provided details of their overall expenditure on the arts. For instance, the indicators do not include local authority capital investment in art galleries and arts centres; they do not reflect total expenditure on council arts programmes, sponsorship of major arts festivals or provision of facilities for outdoor concerts.

In addition, it has become clear that the two indicators may have been interpreted in different ways by local authorities. The reader should bear that in mind in reviewing and interpreting the data in the tables.

Fig 1: Comparison of Arts Grants 2004-2006



- As reported in the indicators, the value of arts grants allocated by local authorities has risen from a median average of €1170 in 2004 to €1862, or a rise of 59%.
- During the same period the average number of grants given out has also risen from 50 to over 60.

Library Service

Table 2: Library Service Opening Hours

	L 1.1 Average number of opening hours per week for full-time libraries	L 1.2 Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)
Carlow County Council	40.4	23.8
Cavan County Council	40.0	9.3
Clare County Council	38.0	18.8
Cork City Council	33.0	5.0
Cork County Council	41.7	16.7
Donegal County Council	38.4	16.9
Dublin City Council	40.7	19.0 ^a
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	35.0	10.0 ^b
Fingal County Council	43.3	3.0
Galway City Council	N/A	N/A
Galway County Council	34.4	10.3
Kerry County Council	32.3	N/A
Kildare County Council	34.6	14.6
Kilkenny County Council	35.0	23.0
Laois County Council	35.0	9.7
Leitrim County Council	37.9	10.7
Limerick City Council	40.3	N/A
Limerick County Council	38.0	9.0
Longford County Council	44.6	18.6
Louth County Council	34.5	19.7
Mayo County Council	36.4	20.8 ^c
Meath County Council	40.3	18.5
Monaghan County Council	32.0	19.0
North Tipperary County Council	39.0	12.3 ^d
Offaly County Council	35.0	18.0
Roscommon County Council	31.3	18.3
Sligo County Council	35.0	15.0
South Dublin County Council	48.6	18.7
South Tipperary County Council	39.0	12.3
Waterford City Council	47.9	20.3
Waterford County Council	34.5	16.4
Westmeath County Council	39.1	16.7
Wexford County Council	32.0	23.0
Wicklow County Council	42.8	14.3

^a Reduction from 2005 due to changed methodology.
^b Implementation of longer opening hours agreed.
^c Ballina library operating on reduced hours for 4 weeks during transition to new library. Castlebar library closed for renovations for 3 weeks.
^d Includes closure of Thurles Library for 5 weeks due to relocation of library.

Comparison 2004-2006

L 1.1		2004	2005	2006
Public opening hours				
N	Valid	33	33	33
	Missing	1	1	1
Average	Median	38.7	39.0	38.0
	Mean	38.7	38.8	37.9
Percentiles	25%	35.0	35.0	31.3
	75%	42.5	42.2	34.6

L 1.2		2004	2005	2006
Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries (where applicable)				
N	Valid	30	30	30
	Missing	4	4	4
Average	Median	15.0	16.5	16.7
	Mean	15.4	15.7	15.5
Percentiles	25%	11.0	11.8	11
	75%	18.9	19.0	18.9

Overall, the 2006 figures show that the average number of opening hours for full-time libraries has fallen slightly, from an average of 38.7 to 38 between 2004 and 2006. However, in some cases a reduction in these figures is the result of a change in the way that the figures are measured. The number of hours for part-time libraries has risen slightly from an average of 15 in 2004 to 16.7 in 2006.

Table 3: Library Services - Registered Members

	L 2 Number of registered library members as a percentage of the local population
Carlow County Council	18.7
Cavan County Council	23.5
Clare County Council	16.6
Cork City Council	17.7
Cork County Council	17.1
Donegal County Council	13.1 ^a
Dublin City Council	39.1
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	25.5 ^b
Fingal County Council	43.2
Galway City Council	N/A
Galway County Council	23.7
Kerry County Council	38.2
Kildare County Council	19.6
Kilkenny County Council	26.3
Laois County Council	11.8
Leitrim County Council	22.2
Limerick City Council	19.4
Limerick County Council	15.5
Longford County Council	18.4
Louth County Council	12.2
Mayo County Council	18.5
Meath County Council	13.0
Monaghan County Council	13.7
North Tipperary County Council	36.8
Offaly County Council	13.8
Roscommon County Council	24.2
Sligo County Council	21.0
South Dublin County Council	33.4
South Tipperary County Council	28.3
Waterford City Council	26.3
Waterford County Council	22.3
Westmeath County Council	17.5
Wexford County Council	24.6
Wicklow County Council	24.8

^a This figure represents total active membership.
^b figure calculated from number of customers with valid library membership.
Library card valid for 3 years.

Comparison 2004-2006

L 2 Registered library members as a percentage of the local population		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	33	33	33
	Missing	1	1	1
Average	Median	17.3	17.6	21.0
	Mean	20.8	20.6	22.4
Percentiles	25%	15.8	14.9	11.8
	75%	24.1	24.2	16.9

According to the results, the number of registered members of libraries has risen as a proportion of the local population from an average of 17.3 in 2004 to 21 in 2006.

Table 4: Library Services - Items Issued

	L 3.1 Number of books issued per head of population (county/city wide)	L 3.2 Number of other items issued per head of population (county/city wide)
Carlow County Council	3.35	0.28
Cavan County Council	2.98	0.00
Clare County Council	4.09	0.20
Cork City Council	4.73	1.31
Cork County Council	4.41	1.11
Donegal County Council	1.97	0.13
Dublin City Council	3.51	0.65 ^a
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	4.05	0.46
Fingal County Council	4.41	0.98
Galway City Council	N/A	N/A
Galway County Council	3.73	N/A
Kerry County Council	2.77	0
Kildare County Council	2.53	0.24
Kilkenny County Council	3.54	0.26
Laois County Council	2.66	0.25
Leitrim County Council	4.24	0.15
Limerick City Council	3.21	0.33
Limerick County Council	2.77	0.06
Longford County Council	3.10	0.13
Louth County Council	2.81	0.50
Mayo County Council	3.88	0.27
Meath County Council	2.00	0
Monaghan County Council	2.68	0.17
North Tipperary County Council	6.06	0.18
Offaly County Council	1.12	0.15
Roscommon County Council	2.73	0.13
Sligo County Council	3.59	0.49
South Dublin County Council	3.39	0.73
South Tipperary County Council	4.67	0.14
Waterford City Council	6.11	2.15
Waterford County Council	3.40	0.17
Westmeath County Council	3.95	0.24
Wexford County Council	2.77	0.10
Wicklow County Council	3.81	0.23

^a Numbers down compared to 2005 due to a combination of maintenance in 3 libraries, refurbishment of Central Library ILAC Centre, and closure of that library due to fire damage.

Comparison 2004-2006

L 3.1		2004	2005	2006
Number of books issued per head of population (county/city-wide)				
N	Valid	33	34	33
	Missing	1	0	1
Average	Median	3.1	3.1	3.4
	Mean	3.4	3.3	3.5
Percentiles	25%	2.8	2.8	1.1
	75%	3.7	3.9	2.8

L 3.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of other items issued per head of population (county/city-wide)				
N	Valid	31	33	32
	Missing	3	1	2
Average	Median	0.2	0.2	0.2
	Mean	0.4	0.3	0.4
Percentiles	25%	0.1	0.1	0.1
	75%	0.4	0.3	0.5

The number of books issued per head of population rose slightly from a median average of 3.1 to 3.4 between 2004 and 2006, while the number of other items issued has remained static.

Table 5: Library Services - Availability of Internet

	L 4 Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public
Carlow County Council	100
Cavan County Council	58
Clare County Council	100
Cork City Council	100
Cork County Council	100
Donegal County Council	82
Dublin City Council	100
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	100
Fingal County Council	100
Galway City Council	N/A
Galway County Council	100
Kerry County Council	100
Kildare County Council	100
Kilkenny County Council	100
Laois County Council	83
Leitrim County Council	100
Limerick City Council	100
Limerick County Council	79
Longford County Council	100
Louth County Council	100
Mayo County Council	94
Meath County Council	100
Monaghan County Council	100
North Tipperary County Council	100
Offaly County Council	100
Roscommon County Council	100
Sligo County Council	100
South Dublin County Council	100
South Tipperary County Council	100
Waterford City Council	100
Waterford County Council	100
Westmeath County Council	100
Wexford County Council	100
Wicklow County Council	100

Comparison 2004-2006

L 4		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of libraries that offer Internet access to the public				
N	Valid	33	33	33
	Missing	1	1	1
Average	Median	100	100	100
	Mean	95	96.2	96.9
Percentiles	25%	100	100	58.3
	75%	100	100	100

Overall, this indicator has not changed significantly since 2004 as continued investment in library services means that the vast majority of libraries now provide free internet access for public use.

Table 6: Library Services - Internet Usage

	L 5 Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population
Carlow County Council	612.1
Cavan County Council	612.2
Clare County Council	1,103.1
Cork City Council	624.1
Cork County Council	448.4
Donegal County Council	298.2 ^a
Dublin City Council	400.5 ^b
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	283.8
Fingal County Council	454.8
Galway City Council	N/A
Galway County Council	541.2
Kerry County Council	467.6
Kildare County Council	186.0
Kilkenny County Council	257.3
Laois County Council	132.5
Leitrim County Council	1,156.4
Limerick City Council	322.6
Limerick County Council	255.6
Longford County Council	717.0
Louth County Council	637.9
Mayo County Council	581.3
Meath County Council	439.0
Monaghan County Council	253.6
North Tipperary County Council	647.2
Offaly County Council	282.3
Roscommon County Council	488.7
Sligo County Council	572.6
South Dublin County Council	268.7
South Tipperary County Council	499.1
Waterford City Council	1,250.9
Waterford County Council	780.9
Westmeath County Council	243.1
Wexford County Council	193.2
Wicklow County Council	463.8

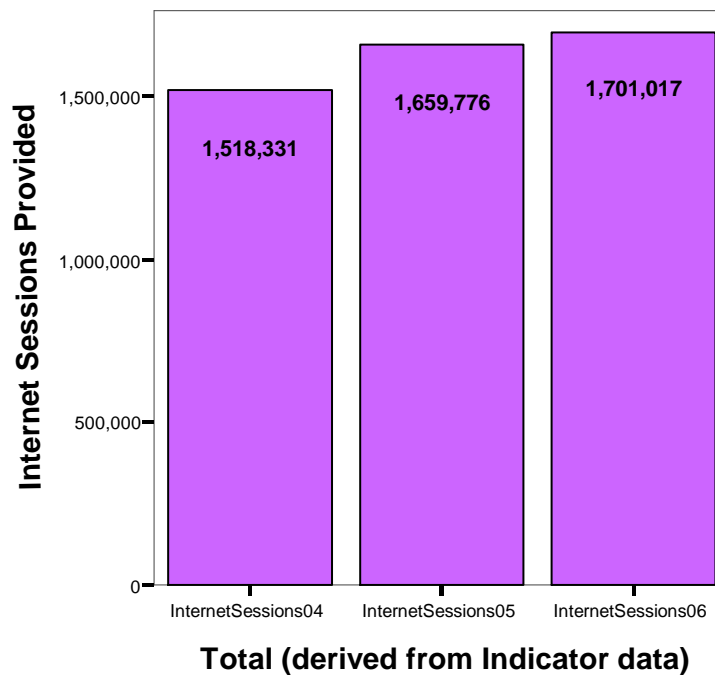
^a This is the number of sessions used. 119,365 X 50 minute sessions were made available.
^b Numbers down compared to 2005 due to a combination of maintenance in 3 libraries, refurbishment of the Central Library, and closure of that library due to fire damage..

Comparison 2004-2006

L 5 Number of Internet sessions provided per 1,000 population		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	33	33	33
	Missing	1	1	1
Average	Median	358.0	407.1	463.8
	Mean	401.5	478.5	499.3
Percentiles	25%	222.5	250.0	132.5
	75%	556.0	569.3	275.5

According to the indicators, public usage of library internet facilities has continued to grow strongly over the past three years. Based on figures supplied, Irish libraries facilitated over 1.7m internet sessions in 2006, an increase of over 18 per cent on similar figures for 2004.

Fig 2: Number of Internet Sessions



Recreation Facilities

Table 7: Recreational Services. Playground Provision

	Rec 1.1 Number of children's playgrounds directly provided per 1,000 population	Rec 1.2 Number of children's playgrounds facilitated per 1,000 population
Carlow County Council	0.02	N/A
Cavan County Council	0.25	N/A
Clare County Council	0.06	0.03
Cork City Council	0.10	N/A
Cork County Council	0.04	0.13
Donegal County Council	0.15	0.17
Dublin City Council	0.16	N/A
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	0.06	0.02
Fingal County Council	0.06	0.05
Galway City Council	0.27	0.02
Galway County Council	0.06	0.04
Kerry County Council	0.04	0.07
Kildare County Council	0.09	0.01
Kilkenny County Council	0.09	0.04
Laois County Council	0.07	N/A
Leitrim County Council	0.19	0.16
Limerick City Council	0.17	0.02
Limerick County Council	0.01	0.02
Longford County Council	0.10	0.03
Louth County Council	0.08	0.01
Mayo County Council	0.07	N/A
Meath County Council	0.09	N/A
Monaghan County Council	0.46	0.02
North Tipperary County Council	0.08	0.05
Offaly County Council	0.05	0.02
Roscommon County Council	0.22	0.02
Sligo County Council	0.09	0.03
South Dublin County Council	0.04	N/A
South Tipperary County Council	0.09	0.03
Waterford City Council	0.11	0.18
Waterford County Council	N/A	0.11
Westmeath County Council	0.06	0.06
Wexford County Council	0.17	N/A
Wicklow County Council	0.10	0.01

Comparison 2004-2006

Rec 1.1 Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population (directly provided)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	0.04	0.08	0.09
	Mean	0.08	0.10	0.11
Percentiles	25%	0.03	0.05	0.01
	75%	0.08	0.14	0.06

Rec 1.2 Number of children's playgrounds per 1,000 population (facilitated)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	25
	Missing	0	0	9
Average	Median	0.01	0.02	0.03
	Mean	0.06	0.04	0.05
Percentiles	25%	0.00	0.00	0.01
	75%	0.04	0.05	0.02

The average number of children's playgrounds provided directly by local authorities increased significantly from .04 to .09 per head of population between 2004 and 2006, while the number of playgrounds facilitated by local authorities also rose from a median average of .01 to .03 per head of population.

Table 8: Recreation Services**Usage of Local Authority - Facilitated Swimming Pools**

	Rec 2 Number of visitors to local authority facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population
Carlow County Council	N/A
Cavan County Council	1,290
Clare County Council	1,622
Cork City Council	3,337
Cork County Council	970
Donegal County Council	1,658
Dublin City Council	998 ^a
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	2,443
Fingal County Council	1,013
Galway City Council	3,532
Galway County Council	929
Kerry County Council	1,734
Kildare County Council	1,358
Kilkenny County Council	1,291
Laois County Council	100 ^b
Leitrim County Council	5,017
Limerick City Council	1,684
Limerick County Council	N/A
Longford County Council	2,215 ^c
Louth County Council	3,009
Mayo County Council	2,300
Meath County Council	2,971
Monaghan County Council	1,084
North Tipperary County Council	1,632
Offaly County Council	N/A
Roscommon County Council	2,258
Sligo County Council	3,316 ^d
South Dublin County Council	597
South Tipperary County Council	4,350
Waterford City Council	N/A
Waterford County Council	N/A
Westmeath County Council	3,922
Wexford County Council	1,398
Wicklow County Council	2,016

^a Reduction compared to 2005 due to closure of Ballymun pool and reinterpretation of methodology to exclude assisted pools which are privately run.

^b Both Portlaoise and Portarlington Swimming Pools closed during 2006 for major redevelopment and refurbishment. Ballinakill Swimming Pool opened for 11 weeks during the summer and 5,892 visitors used the facility during this period.

^c New swimming pool will open in August 2007.

^d One of the major local authority facilities was closed for the first six months of 2006 impacting on numbers of visitors.

Comparison 2004-2006

Rec 2		2004	2005	2006
Number of visitors to local authority-facilitated swimming facilities per 1,000 population				
N	Valid	26	27	29
	Missing	8	7	5
Average	Median	2,253	2,065	1,684
	Mean	2,280	2,265	2,070
Percentiles	25%	1,365	1,406	1,187
	75%	2,933	3,366	2,990

Section 4: Housing and Roads

Housing

Table 9 : Current Status of Local Authority Housing Stock

	H 1.1 Total number of dwellings in local authority stock	H 1.2 Overall percentage of dwellings that are let	H 1.3 Overall percentage of dwellings that are empty
Carlow County Council	1,302	98.6	1.4
Cavan County Council	1,604	92.2	7.8
Clare County Council	2,030	93.8	6.2
Cork City Council	7,891	94.6	5.4
Cork County Council	5,795	96.4	3.6
Donegal County Council	3,795	98.4	1.6
Dublin City Council	26,990	91.0	9.1
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	4,124	96.3	3.7
Fingal County Council	3,919	98.1	1.9
Galway City Council	1,896	97.0	3.0
Galway County Council	2,191	98.0	2.0
Kerry County Council	3,731	94.7	5.3
Kildare County Council	2,958	98.2	1.8
Kilkenny County Council	1,715	96.0	4.0
Laois County Council	1,611	97.0	3.0
Leitrim County Council	940	96.7	3.3
Limerick City Council	3,201	90.9	9.1
Limerick County Council	1,860	97.1	2.9
Longford County Council	1,551	97.2	2.8
Louth County Council	2,967	97.0	3.0
Mayo County Council	2,023	96.0	4.0
Meath County Council	2,398	98.5	1.5
Monaghan County Council	1,108	96.2	3.8
North Tipperary County Council	1,649	96.5	3.5
Offaly County Council	1,374	96.1	3.9
Roscommon County Council	985	92.9	7.1
Sligo County Council	1,815	94.0	6.0
South Dublin County Council	8,034	99.1	0.9
South Tipperary County Council	2,480	95.6	4.4
Waterford City Council	2,704	96.2	3.8
Waterford County Council	1,456	95.4	4.6
Westmeath County Council	1,491	96.6	3.4
Wexford County Council	1,978	96.9	3.1
Wicklow County Council	3,820	98.9	1.2
Total	115,386		

Comparison 2004-2006

H 1.1		2004	2005	2006
Total number of dwellings in local authority stock				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	1,901.5	1,918.5	2,026.5
	Mean	3,278.2	3,335.5	3,393.7
Percentiles	25%	1,445.0	1,511.3	1,590.8
	75%	3,501.8	3,605.0	3,747.0

H 1.2		2004	2005	2006
Overall percentage of dwellings that are let				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	97.4	97.2	96.5
	Mean	97.1	96.7	96.1
Percentiles	25%	96.2	95.3	95.2
	75%	98.1	97.9	97.4

H 1.3		2004	2005	2006
Overall percentage of dwellings that are empty				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	2.8	2.8	3.5
	Mean	3.0	3.3	3.9
Percentiles	25%	1.9	2.1	2.6
	75%	3.9	4.7	4.8

Across all local authorities, 5,265 dwellings (4.6%) are empty compared with 3.9% of all dwellings in 2004. The median average is more appropriate for H 1.2 and H 1.3. In the case of H 1.2 (Overall percentage of dwellings that are let), the median average shows no appreciable change (a very small decrease of 0.3%) in the average proportion of dwellings that are let. In the case of H 1.3, (Overall percentage of dwellings that are empty) there is a slight increase in the median average between 2004 and 2005 from 2.83 to 3.5 per cent. The national total of all local authorities housing stock has increased from 111,457 in 2004 to 115,386 in 2006. This is an increase of 3.5% in two years.

Table 10: Profile of Vacant Dwellings in Local Authority Stock

	H 1.4 Empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes (percentage)	H 1.5 Empty dwellings unavailable for letting (percentage)	H 1.6 Empty dwellings available for letting (percentage)
Carlow County Council	5.6	55.6	38.9
Cavan County Council	16.8	41.4	58.7
Clare County Council	34.5	81.0	19.0
Cork City Council	53.8	79.3	20.8
Cork County Council	26.0	42.5	57.5
Donegal County Council	0.0	50.0	50.0
Dublin City Council	11.0	75.9	24.1
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	79.6	65.6	34.4
Fingal County Council	0.0	85.3	14.7
Galway City Council	24.6	41.9	58.1
Galway County Council	10.0	95.0	5.0
Kerry County Council	15.6	73.2	26.8
Kildare County Council	0.1	53.9	46.2
Kilkenny County Council	35.3	60.9	39.1
Laois County Council	0.0	45.0	55.0
Leitrim County Council	41.0	94.5	5.5
Limerick City Council	21.5	90.0	10.0
Limerick County Council	5.6	96.3	3.7
Longford County Council	0.0	80.1	19.9
Louth County Council	50.0	95.0	5.0
Mayo County Council	24.0	48.0	52.0
Meath County Council	0.0	42.9	57.1
Monaghan County Council	36.0	67.6	32.4
North Tipperary County Council	36.2	89.2	10.8
Offaly County Council	26.4	61.5	38.5
Roscommon County Council	37.1	61.4	38.6
Sligo County Council	14.0	83.0	17.0
South Dublin County Council	1.4	70.0	30.0
South Tipperary County Council	2.0	76.5	23.5
Waterford City Council	31.3	95.4	4.6
Waterford County Council	4.6	28.7	71.3
Westmeath County Council	31.4	65.7	34.3
Wexford County Council	13.1	85.3	14.8
Wicklow County Council	11.5	57.4	42.6

Comparison 2004-2006

H 1.4		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of empty dwellings subject to major refurbishment schemes				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	21.8	17.3	16.2
	Mean	24.3	23.8	20.6
Percentiles	25%	4.9	3.6	4.0
	75%	34.9	39.4	34.7

H 1.5		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of empty dwellings unavailable for letting				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	73.1	66.5	68.8
	Mean	67.5	64.0	68.7
Percentiles	25%	51.9	43.4	52.9
	75%	82.0	82.5	85.3

H 1.6		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of empty dwellings available for letting				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	26.9	33.5	31.2
	Mean	32.0	35.9	31.2
Percentiles	25%	18.0	17.5	14.7
	75%	42.2	56.7	47.1

Table 11: Average Time to Re-let Dwellings

	H 2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting (weeks)
Carlow County Council	3.0
Cavan County Council	5.0
Clare County Council	10.9
Cork City Council	6.0
Cork County Council	8.5
Donegal County Council	8.0
Dublin City Council	6.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	3.6
Fingal County Council	5.6 ^a
Galway City Council	3.0
Galway County Council	20.0
Kerry County Council	9.2 ^b
Kildare County Council	14.2
Kilkenny County Council	1.9
Laois County Council	5.0
Leitrim County Council	2.5 ^c
Limerick City Council	1.0
Limerick County Council	12.0
Longford County Council	1.0
Louth County Council	0.7
Mayo County Council	16.0 ^d
Meath County Council	4.7
Monaghan County Council	3.9
North Tipperary County Council	1.0
Offaly County Council	2.0
Roscommon County Council	14.0 ^e
Sligo County Council	1.4
South Dublin County Council	0.3
South Tipperary County Council	3.1
Waterford City Council	1.7
Waterford County Council	4.9
Westmeath County Council	2.2
Wexford County Council	2.7
Wicklow County Council	2.0

^a Due to high incidence of refusals of casual vacancies
^b Average number of days between keys being returned from engineers and allocation of tenancy is only 4 weeks. Some of Kerry County Council's casual vacancies were held and allocated along with new group houses resulting in delays.
^c Indicator is negatively impacted by a number of refusals of allocations and also by notice requirements where prospective tenants are moving from private rented accommodation
^d Increase due to major refurbishment programme being carried out in period 2006 – 2009
^e Indicator impacted by delays on the part of clients following offers..

Comparison 2004-2006

H 2 Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting (in weeks)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	4.0	4.1	3.8
	Mean	5.1	5.5	5.5
Percentiles	25%	2.3	2.0	2.0
	75%	7.1	7.0	8.1

The figures show a small improvement in the time taken to re-let dwellings - from 4 weeks in 2004 to 3.8 in 2006.

Fig 3: Average time taken to re-let dwellings available for letting (in weeks)

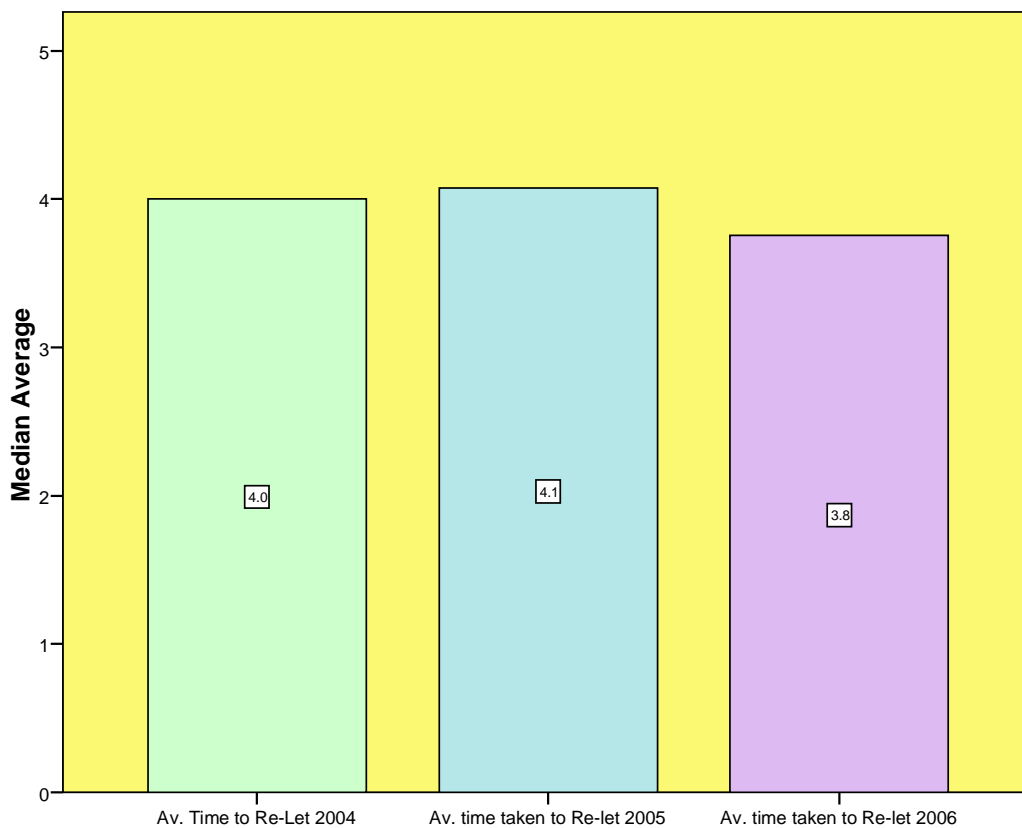


Table 12: Housing Repairs Completed by Local Authorities

	H 3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received
Carlow County Council	94.6
Cavan County Council	82.0
Clare County Council	92.0
Cork City Council	97.0
Cork County Council	86.7
Donegal County Council	94.7
Dublin City Council	91.6
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	96.0
Fingal County Council	97.5
Galway City Council	91.2
Galway County Council	43.0
Kerry County Council	87.3
Kildare County Council	88.8
Kilkenny County Council	75.8
Laois County Council	89.1
Leitrim County Council	93.7
Limerick City Council	83.0
Limerick County Council	85.0
Longford County Council	88.4
Louth County Council	84.0
Mayo County Council	81.7
Meath County Council	86.0
Monaghan County Council	86.1
North Tipperary County Council	89.6
Offaly County Council	85.3
Roscommon County Council	75.0
Sligo County Council	53.0
South Dublin County Council	97.5
South Tipperary County Council	93.0
Waterford City Council	95.0
Waterford County Council	72.0
Westmeath County Council	95.2
Wexford County Council	84.0
Wicklow County Council	83.3

Comparison 2004-2006

H 3 Number of repairs completed as a percentage of the number of valid repair requests received		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	85.0	87.2	87.8
	Mean	85.2	86.1	85.8
Percentiles	25%	79.2	79.9	83.2
	75%	90.7	95.2	93.9

There is an increase of 3% in the average number of repairs completed in 2006 relative to 2004. Overall, repair rates range from over 93.9% completed in the top quarter to less than 83.2% in the lowest quarter of local authorities.

Fig 4: No. of Repairs completed as % of valid repair requests received

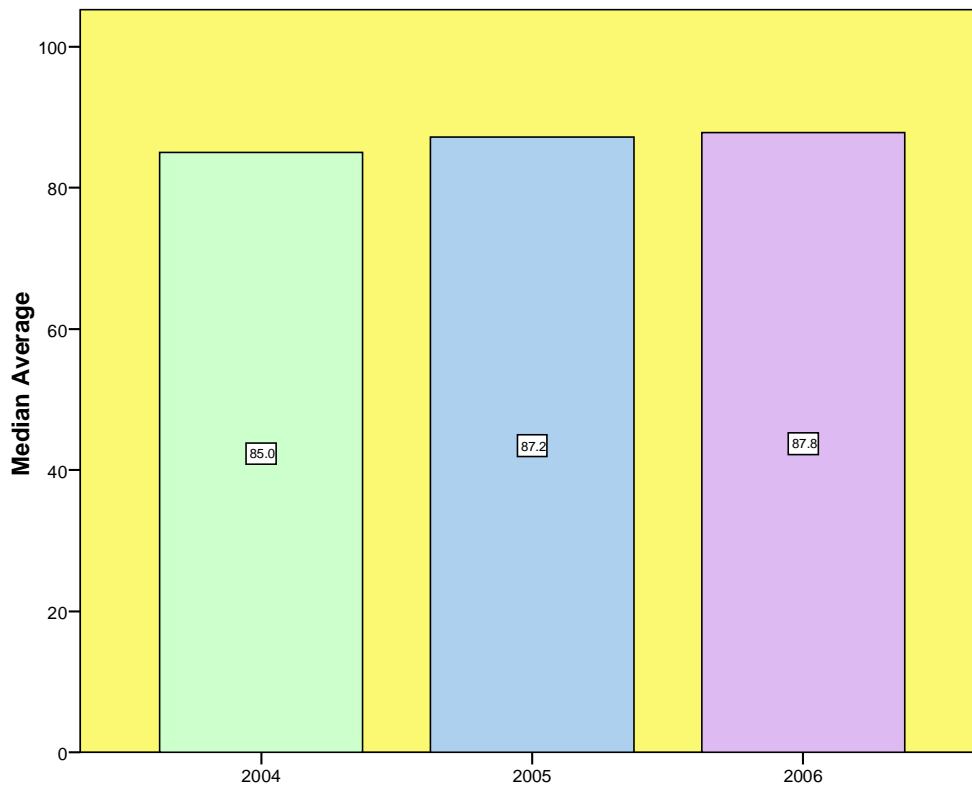


Table 13: Time Taken (days) to Deal With Applications for Local Authority Housing Services

	H 4.1 Average time to inform applicants of shared ownership (days)	H 4.2 Average time to inform applicants of housing loans (days)	H 4.3 Average time to inform applicants of local authority housing (days)
Carlow County Council	8.5	4.3	52.5
Cavan County Council	3.0	8.0	30.0
Clare County Council	16.5	14.2	19.9
Cork City Council	14.0	12.0	27.0
Cork County Council	21.3	23.5	54.2
Donegal County Council	52.0	54.0	50.0
Dublin City Council	22.0	16.0	55.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	5.8	0.0	5.0
Fingal County Council	17.6	18.0	270.0 ^a
Galway City Council	7.0	7.0	42.0
Galway County Council	21.0	27.0	104.9
Kerry County Council	15.0	36.0	121.3
Kildare County Council	5.9	5.0	8.0
Kilkenny County Council	7.0	13.5	15.0
Laois County Council	9.8	1.0	6.0
Leitrim County Council	2.7	2.8	17.3
Limerick City Council	35.0	35.0	56.0
Limerick County Council	9.0	5.0	76.0
Longford County Council	5.0	5.0	10.0
Louth County Council	1.3	4.1	9.0
Mayo County Council	0.2	7.9	48.2
Meath County Council	7.0	7.0	20.0
Monaghan County Council	12.0	15.0	36.5
North Tipperary County Council	1.6	1.7	19.8
Offaly County Council	3.0	7.0	10.0
Roscommon County Council	24.0	7.0	58.2
Sligo County Council	10.5	5.3	7.3
South Dublin County Council	11.5	14.9	29.0
South Tipperary County Council	6.5	26.3	70.0
Waterford City Council	27.4	7.4	20.8
Waterford County Council	0.0	7.0	7.0
Westmeath County Council	15.0	20.0	46.0
Wexford County Council	2.3	9.0	8.7
Wicklow County Council	7.6	8.3	40.5

^a Due to significant increase in housing list-up from 2200 to 5500 in 18 months. Applicants now being informed within 28 days

Comparison 2004-2006

H 4.1		2004	2005	2006
Average time to inform applicants of shared ownership (days)				
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	14.0	11.0	8.7
	Mean	16.0	16.5	12.0
Percentiles	25%	7.0	7.0	4.5
	75%	24.0	20.3	16.8

H 4.2		2004	2005	2006
Average time to inform applicants of housing loan (days)				
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	15.0	13.0	8.0
	Mean	16.1	14.1	12.8
Percentiles	25%	10.2	7.5	5.0
	75%	21.0	17.0	16.5

H 4.3		2004	2005	2006
Average time to inform applicants of local authority housing (days)				
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	28.0	30.1	29.5
	Mean	59.7	45.2	42.7
Percentiles	25%	18.0	9.9	10.0
	75%	92.0	47.8	54.4

The average times taken to inform applicants have generally gone down across the local authorities since 2004. The average time to inform applicants of shared ownership has decreased from 14 to 8.7 days between 2004 and 2006; the average time to inform applicants of housing loans has decreased from 15 to 8 since 2004; and the average time to inform applicants of local authority housing has reduced slightly since 2005.

However, it is clear that the assessment and verification processes in use are not uniform across the country at present, and that this is likely to have impacted on the calculation of these figures. This has

been commented on in the Reports for 2004 and 2005 also. It means that caution should be exercised in comparing the results

Fig 5: Average Time to Inform Applicants in Relation to Housing Applications

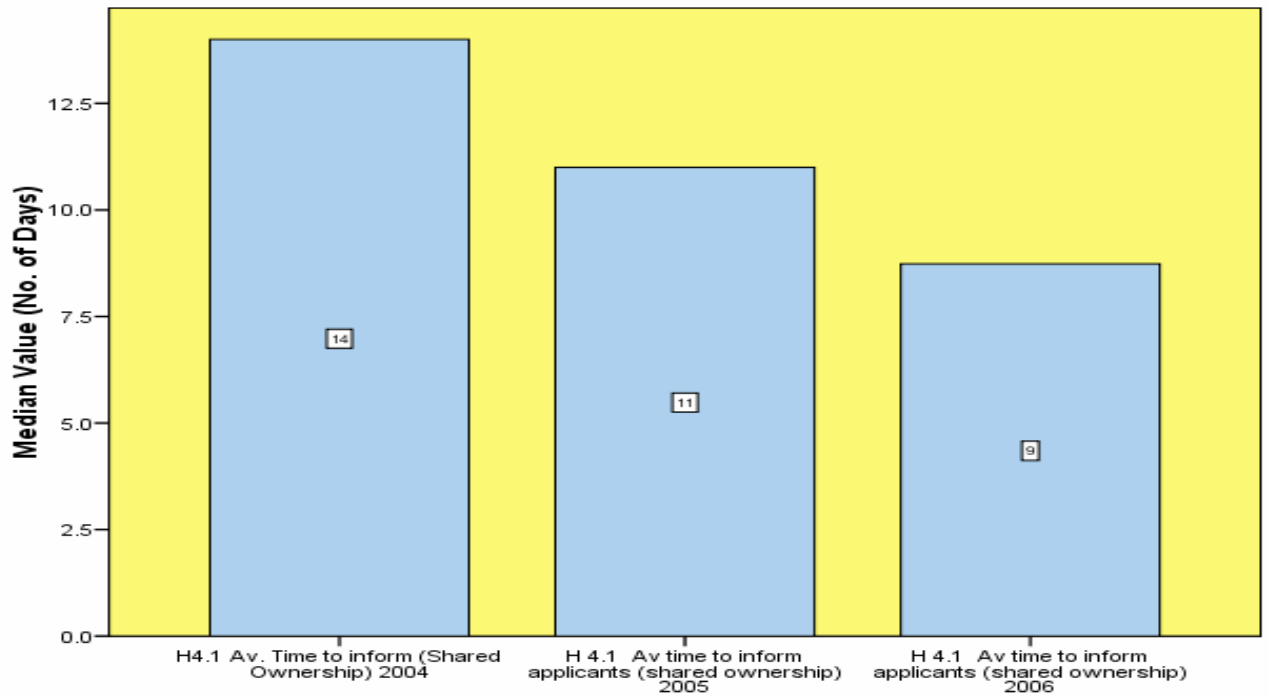


Fig 6: Average Time to Inform Applicants in Relation to Housing Loans

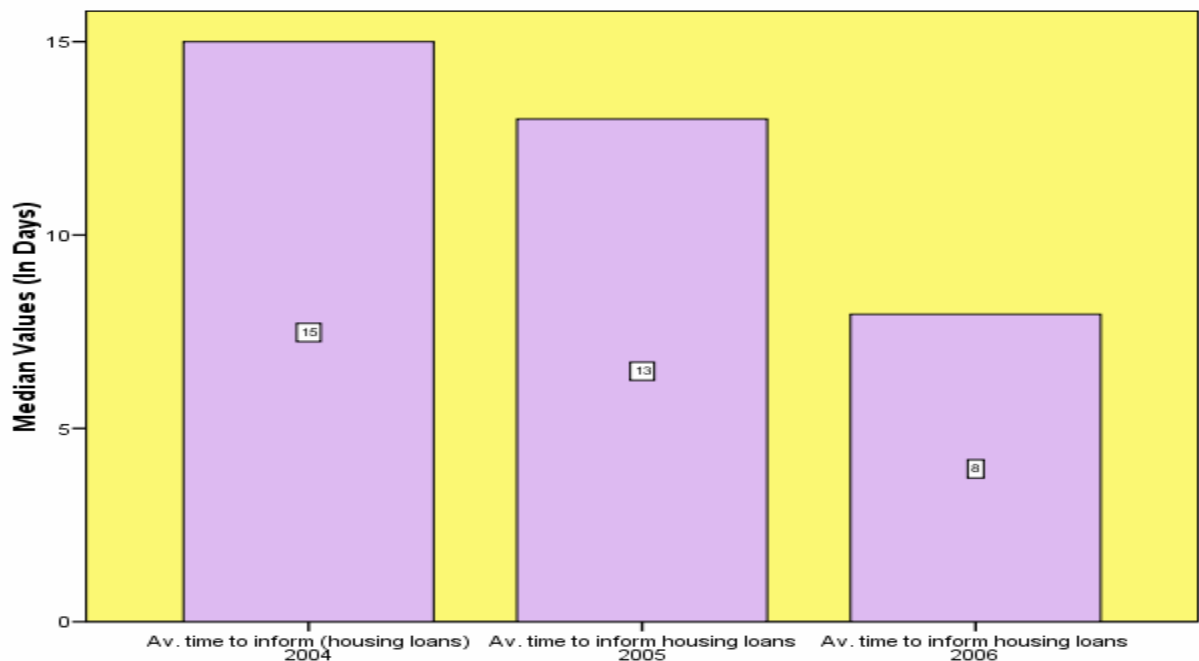


Table 14: Traveller Accommodation

	H 5 Traveller families accommodated (as a percentage of the target in the local Traveller accommodation programme)
Carlow County Council	160.0
Cavan County Council	100.0
Clare County Council	61.3
Cork City Council	57.1
Cork County Council	42.2
Donegal County Council	100.0 ^a
Dublin City Council	93.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	73.0
Fingal County Council	78.3
Galway City Council	73.3
Galway County Council	59.0
Kerry County Council	143.0 ^b
Kildare County Council	80.0
Kilkenny County Council	200.0
Laois County Council	171.4
Leitrim County Council	100.0
Limerick City Council	0.0 ^c
Limerick County Council	166.0
Longford County Council	133.3 ^d
Louth County Council	80.4
Mayo County Council	88.9 ^e
Meath County Council	99.9
Monaghan County Council	150.0
North Tipperary County Council	41.0
Offaly County Council	106.0
Roscommon County Council	13.0
Sligo County Council	33.3
South Dublin County Council	106.8
South Tipperary County Council	20.0
Waterford City Council	80.0
Waterford County Council	100.0
Westmeath County Council	166.0 ^f
Wexford County Council	122.0
Wicklow County Council	73.0

^a 2005/2006 target was 26 units (i.e. 13 each year). 16 units were provided in 2005 and 6 in 2006 i.e. total of 22. The remaining 4 targeted families left the jurisdiction thus all remaining targeted families in 2005/06 were accommodated by 31/12/2006.

^b 30 traveller families housed in 2006. Target in TAP 21.

^c Targets were contained in the 2006 programme. While these targets were not met significant progress was made towards their achievement in 2007.

^d 16 families were accommodated against an allocation of 12 social houses.

^e Includes private rented accommodation secured with assistance of LA Traveller Accommodation Liaison Officers

^f Accommodation provided for 15 travellers. Program requires 9 per year. Work has commenced on a further development which will provide an additional 13 units.

Comparison 2004-2006

H 5 Traveller families accommodated (as a percentage of the target in the local Traveller accommodation programme)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	77.0	80.5	91.0
	Mean	81.8	85.8	93.3
Percentiles	25%	47.8	56.9	60.7
	75%	100.0	102.5	124.8

As an indicator, H5 is intended to capture local authority progress in meeting traveller accommodation targets as outlined in the Traveller Accommodation Programme. However, the indicator makes the assumption that targets are annualised under the Traveller Accommodation Programme, whereas in fact local authority targets are generally set over a longer, four or five year time-period. In addition the indicator assumes that local targets will not change over time.

In practice, many local authorities have an overall five year objective in relation to traveller accommodation, rather than annual targets. Some do have annual targets; others have an annual action plan. In reality, targets under Traveller Accommodation Programmes reflect local circumstances and need. It has also been pointed out that the achievement of targets is dependent on changing local circumstances, particularly in relation to the planning and local consultation processes. These consultation and planning processes would normally be front-loaded within a 5 year programme, with the actual provision of accommodation coming later.

As a result, local authorities generally reported annual targets based on a four to five year programme. On this basis, some authorities exceeded their annual targets and thus reported figures in excess of 100%.

Table 15: Surface Dressing of Local and Regional Roads

	R 1 Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square meters)	R 2 Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum
Carlow County Council	319,470	6.3
Cavan County Council	1,067,619	10.0
Clare County Council	1,010,025	7.0
Cork City Council	N/A	N/A
Cork County Council	2,352,798	5.3
Donegal County Council	1,490,970	5.7
Dublin City Council	N/A	N/A
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	N/A	N/A
Fingal County Council	243,200	4.1
Galway City Council	N/A	N/A
Galway County Council	1,088,246	4.0
Kerry County Council	329,675	3.2
Kildare County Council	646,645	5.1
Kilkenny County Council	796,881	6.0
Laois County Council	633,445	6.3
Leitrim County Council	779,247	10.0
Limerick City Council	N/A	N/A
Limerick County Council	890,429	5.7
Longford County Council	346,311	5.5
Louth County Council	568,358	9.4
Mayo County Council	1,349,420	6.5
Meath County Council	787,660	6.5
Monaghan County Council	870,055	9.5
North Tipperary County Council	404,334	3.3
Offaly County Council	561,100	5.5
Roscommon County Council	914,485	6.1
Sligo County Council	406,810	3.5
South Dublin County Council	N/A	N/A
South Tipperary County Council	419,821	3.5
Waterford City Council	N/A	N/A
Waterford County Council	765,592	6.9
Westmeath County Council	563,019	6.0
Wexford County Council	1,408,431	8.5
Wicklow County Council	612,535	6.7

Comparison 2004-2006

R 1				
Local and regional roads surface dressed per annum (square meters)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	27	27	27
	Missing	7	7	7
Average	Median	701,220	643,406	765,592
	Mean	745,866	700,837	800,984
Percentiles	25%	427,875	413,662	419,821
	75%	1,008,225	814,509	1,010,025

R 2				
Percentage of local and regional roads surface dressed per annum		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	27	27	27
	Missing	7	7	7
Average	Median	6.2	5.1	6.0
	Mean	5.9	5.4	6.2
Percentiles	25%	4.4	3.9	5.1
	75%	7.0	6.9	6.9

The purpose of indicators R1 and R2 was to show the maintenance of roads in the local authority area. It has been acknowledged that these indicators are limited in a number of ways. For instance they are not applicable to urban areas as they contain few "local" or "regional" roads (following the official designation of roads into these categories) and certain resurfacing is excluded. Some authorities also pointed out that the costs involved – e.g. bitumen, binder and labour have increased significantly in recent years with a consequential impact on the area resurfaced.

Section 5: Drinking Water

Table 16: Compliance of Drinking Water with Statutory Requirements

	E 2.1 Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements (public schemes)	E 2.2 Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements (private schemes)
Carlow County Council	99.00	92.49
Cavan County Council	97.40	85.20
Clare County Council	98.70	96.18
Cork City Council	98.47	N/A
Cork County Council	97.72	89.25
Donegal County Council	95.84	93.60
Dublin City Council	98.63	N/A
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	98.66	N/A
Fingal County Council	97.53	N/A
Galway City Council	98.50	N/A
Galway County Council	96.30	95.24
Kerry County Council	96.20	91.33
Kildare County Council	99.30	99.10
Kilkenny County Council	97.17	96.04
Laois County Council	98.70	96.79
Leitrim County Council	97.90	93.57
Limerick City Council	99.40	N/A
Limerick County Council	99.20	95.99
Longford County Council	95.80	94.84
Louth County Council	98.40	93.52
Mayo County Council	97.85	88.10
Meath County Council	98.10	93.21
Monaghan County Council	96.20	92.83
North Tipperary County Council	99.00	99.38
Offaly County Council	98.40	98.87
Roscommon County Council	96.70	92.90
Sligo County Council	97.30	96.30
South Dublin County Council	99.10	N/A
South Tipperary County Council	97.20	96.15
Waterford City Council	99.40	N/A
Waterford County Council	95.00	80.00
Westmeath County Council	99.30	97.16
Wexford County Council	96.00	85.82
Wicklow County Council	96.40	85.69

Comparison 2004-2006

E 2.1		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements (public)				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	97.60	97.88	98.00
	Mean	97.34	97.61	97.79
Percentiles	25%	96.20	96.40	96.63
	75%	99.03	98.84	98.78

E 2.2		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements (private)				
N	Valid	27	26	26
	Missing	7	8	8
Average	Median	92.70	92.75	93.59
	Mean	91.89	92.75	93.06
Percentiles	25%	89.30	88.46	90.81
	75%	95.20	97.14	96.21

Indicator E2 measures the quality of drinking water quality in Ireland. The indicator reflects the percentage of tests carried out in each authority area that are in compliance with statutory requirements and is based on data from the previous year, as collated by the EPA for its published reports on Drinking Water Quality.^c

On average, public water compliance has increased by 0.4% between 2004 and 2006. Private water compliance has also increased on average, by 0.96% since 2004. Public water schemes remain significantly more compliant than private schemes, with public schemes now on average 98% compliant and private schemes on average under 94% (93.59%) compliant

^c The data for 2005 is taken from the report, "Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland: A Report for the year 2004" (published in 2005). This is the first report based on new EU Regulations, the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations 2000 (SI No. 439 of 2000), which came into force on 1st January 2004. The data for 2006 was supplied by the EPA.

Section 6: Planning

Because of the importance of the planning function, the service indicators measure several aspects of the service provided by local authorities. These are, broadly:

- The volume of applications dealt with by local authorities; this is broken down by individual dwelling, new housing developments, other applications not requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and finally other applications requiring an EIA.
- The time taken by local authorities to deal with these categories of applications;
- Analysis of the outcome of each category of applications by the local authority in the first instance and by An Bord Pleanála in the case of appeals;
- Activity of local authorities on enforcement;
- Accessibility to advice and consultation on planning.

These headings are used throughout this section to summarise the main features of the data, with the relevant tables following immediately for ease of reference.

Following the publication of the 2004 Service Indicators report, the DoEHLG in consultation with local authorities made minor revisions to the methodology underpinning P1, the core planning indicator. The original methodology for the indicator asked local authorities to provide data on the number of planning applications decided within 8 weeks, and the number where further information was requested. *However, it did not allow for cases where a time extension is agreed.* It was decided to seek additional information in relation to these cases to ensure that a fuller picture of the planning activity could be captured under this indicator. For clarification, therefore, the “number of applications decided” in 2006 refers to all applications where a decision was reached within 8 weeks; in addition, local authorities were asked to supply statistics on cases where further information was requested, and/or cases where an extension of time was agreed with an applicant. For this reason, the comparison is between 2005 and 2006 only. The first planning indicator deals with the processing of applications for individual houses.

Table 17: Individual Houses - Decisions by Time

	P 1.1 Individual Houses - Number of applications decided	P 1.2 Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	P 1.3 No. of decisions which required the submission of further information	P 1.4 No. of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant	P 1.5 Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought
Carlow County Council	455	289	164	1	79
Cavan County Council	1,218	782	436	0	74
Clare County Council	854	339	447	62	80
Cork City Council	40	28	12	0	79
Cork County Council	3,562	1,854	1,520	188	79
Donegal County Council	4,124	2,544	1,447	139	63
Dublin City Council	464	392	65	7	80
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	356	227	129	0	83
Fingal County Council	435	310	125	0	74
Galway City Council	59	31	27	1	80
Galway County Council	2,561	1,046	828	643	80
Kerry County Council	1,900	1,034	783	83	79
Kildare County Council	951	342	606	3	67
Kilkenny County Council	753	378	375	0	79
Laois County Council	628 ^a	348	279	0	78
Leitrim County Council	492	262 ^c	228	4 ^d	70
Limerick City Council	11	3	8	0	67
Limerick County Council	755	212	502	40	81
Longford County Council	440	304	132	4	77
Louth County Council	708	336	362	10	70
Mayo County Council	1,812	637	1,053	120	76
Meath County Council	1,066	673	376	17	60
Monaghan County Council	865	406	447	12	80
North Tipperary County Council	534	220	219	92	86
Offaly County Council	682	315	364	3	76
Roscommon County Council	951 ^b	313	623	0	80
Sligo County Council	535	453	53	30	71
South Dublin County Council	388	298	89	0	77
South Tipperary County Council	536	327	209	0	83
Waterford City Council	34	22	12	0	71
Waterford County Council	861	485	370	6	73
Westmeath County Council	818	401	417	0	79
Wexford County Council	1,563	939	603	21	135
Wicklow County Council	646	275	265	106	80
Total	32,057	16,825	13,575	1,592	

^a The IT system currently in place does not cater for planning applications received pursuant to the old planning regulations or applications which are the subject of material contravention. This matter is currently being investigated by the LGCSB in association with the DOEHLG.

^b 951 includes 12 Approvals under the 94 regs and 3 by judicial review which are therefore outside the time limits.

^c Individual houses. 2 'complete' applications involved time extensions and were thus determined outside of 8 weeks.

^d 2 of the cases where a Time Extension was involved were also cases where Further Information was requested and these 2 cases are included in both the Further Information and Time Extension figures.

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.2		Changed	2006
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	352.5	337.5
	Mean	509.3	494.9
Percentiles	25%	264.0	271.8
	75%	577.3	523.0

P 1.3		New	2006
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	356.5	363.0
	Mean	423.2	399.3
Percentiles	25%	123.3	128.0
	75%	610.0	527.3

P 1.4		New	2006
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	8.5	4.0
	Mean	43.5	46.8
Percentiles	25%	1.8	0.0
	75%	70.3	45.5

P 1.5		2004	2005	2006
Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	77.3	77.5	79.0
	Mean	76.8	78.8	77.8
Percentiles	25%	73.5	73.0	72.5
	75%	80.3	80.0	80.0

Table 18 : Housing Developments - Decisions by Time

	P 1.10 Developments Number of applications decided	P 1.11 Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	P 1.12 Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	P 1.13 Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant	P 1.14 Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought
Carlow County Council	70	33	37	0	81
Cavan County Council	127	53	74	0	76
Clare County Council	140	48	89	2	80
Cork City Council	62	28	31	3	81
Cork County Council	439	226	196	17	80
Donegal County Council	725	402	266	61	67
Dublin City Council	312	215	92	5	82
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	133	73	59	1	94
Fingal County Council	158	93	65	0	78
Galway City Council	40	12	28	0	80
Galway County Council	238	52	107	80	82
Kerry County Council	543	260	238	45	87
Kildare County Council	147	42	101	4	92
Kilkenny County Council	141	69	71	1	104
Laois County Council	78	41	37	1	83
Leitrim County Council	39	16	23	1	76
Limerick City Council	11	4	7	0	72
Limerick County Council	123	31	89	6	81
Longford County Council	73	49	23	1	86
Louth County Council	143	60	82	1	78
Mayo County Council	221	59	146	14	85
Meath County Council	363	261	98	4	71
Monaghan County Council	96	24	69	3	81
North Tipperary County Council	57	22	29	4	80
Offaly County Council	105	41	64	0	82
Roscommon County Council	128	28	99	1	81
Sligo County Council	40	22	17	1	74
South Dublin County Council	97	45	52	0	79
South Tipperary County Council	92	41	51	0	82
Waterford City Council	38	17	21	0	79
Waterford County Council	93	41	49	3	77
Westmeath County Council	92	39	52	1	80
Wexford County Council	917	611	298	8	90
Wicklow County Council	195	120	64	11	83
Total	6,276	3,178	2,824	279	-

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.11		Changed	2006
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	53.0	43.5
	Mean	77.1	93.5
Percentiles	25%	35.8	28.0
	75%	76.3	78.0

P 1.12		New	2006
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	67.5	64.5
	Mean	93.4	83.1
Percentiles	25%	47.5	35.5
	75%	105.8	98.3

P 1.13		New	2006
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	2.5	1.0
	Mean	8.2	8.2
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0
	75%	15.3	5.3

P 1.14		2004	2005	2006
Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	81.0	79.5	81.0
	Mean	84.8	84.9	81.3
Percentiles	25%	78.4	76.8	78.0
	75%	86.1	83.3	83.0

Table 19 : Applications Not Requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment - Decisions by Time

	P 1.19 Not requiring EIA - Number of applications decided	P 1.20 Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	P 1.21 Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	P 1.22 Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant	P 1.23 Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought
Carlow County Council	531	393	135	1	80
Cavan County Council	1,054	911	143	0	74
Clare County Council	1,264	883	370	8	77
Cork City Council	830	641	176	13	79
Cork County Council	4,646	3,248	1,330	68	79
Donegal County Council	1,952	1,591	336	25	65
Dublin City Council	3,233	2,822	396	15	79
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	1,885	1,536	349	0	86
Fingal County Council	1,531	1,281	250	0	77
Galway City Council	538	362	173	3	78
Galway County Council	2,158	1,550	448	161	78
Kerry County Council	1,989	1,506	454	29	77
Kildare County Council	1,384	724	657	3	66
Kilkenny County Council	1,260	897	363	0	78
Laois County Council	776	602	172	3	78
Leitrim County Council	446	272	174	0	69
Limerick City Council	295	192	103	0	70
Limerick County Council	1,424	934	469	11	79
Longford County Council	412	314	97	1	77
Louth County Council	1,112	789	316	7	73
Mayo County Council	1,238	780	419	13	73
Meath County Council	1,352	1,004	336	10	10
Monaghan County Council	914	741	171	2	76
North Tipperary County Council	776	553	205	17	74
Offaly County Council	699	494	204	1	76
Roscommon County Council	627	374	252	0	81
Sligo County Council	564	478	84	2	77
South Dublin County Council	1,316	1,117	199	0	77
South Tipperary County Council	961	757	204	0	82
Waterford City Council	321	222	98	1	75
Waterford County Council	619	436	178	5	65
Westmeath County Council	676	442	233	1	78
Wexford County Council	1,683	1,153	520	10	84
Wicklow County Council	1,236	901	317	18	80
Total	41,702	30,900	10,331	428	

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.20		Changed	2006
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	588.0	768.5
	Mean	726.0	908.8
Percentiles	25%	329.5	440.5
	75%	863.8	1,126.0

P 1.21		New	2006
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	209.5	241.5
	Mean	271.4	303.9
Percentiles	25%	142.8	172.8
	75%	331.8	376.5

P 1.22		New	2006
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	7.0	3.0
	Mean	15.2	12.6
Percentiles	25%	2.0	0.0
	75%	18.0	13.0

P 1.23		2004	2005	2006
Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	77.3	78.0	77.0
	Mean	78.0	79.5	74.3
Percentiles	25%	73.7	72.8	73.8
	75%	81.2	81.0	79.0

Table 20: Applications Requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment - Decisions by Time

	P 1.28 Requiring EIA - Number of applications decided	P 1.29 Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks	P 1.30 Number of decisions which required the submission of further information	P 1.31 Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant	P 1.32 Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought
Carlow County Council	10	5	5	0	79
Cavan County Council	8	6	2	0	81
Clare County Council	8	4	4	0	93
Cork City Council	6	2	4	0	84
Cork County Council	12	4	7	1	100
Donegal County Council	11	4	5	3	136 ^a
Dublin City Council	6	5	1	0	99
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	4	0	2	2	72
Fingal County Council	5	0	5	0	95
Galway City Council	6	6	0	0	0
Galway County Council	12	7	2	3	81
Kerry County Council	10	3	6	1	90
Kildare County Council	12	1	11	0	121
Kilkenny County Council	18	8	9	1	98
Laois County Council	6	2	4	0	93
Leitrim County Council	1	0	1	0	61
Limerick City Council	1	0	1	0	102
Limerick County Council	3	2	1	0	103
Longford County Council	2	2	0	0	0
Louth County Council	4	1	1	2	111
Mayo County Council	5	1	4	0	108
Meath County Council	3	0	3	0	0
Monaghan County Council	6	2	4	0	235
North Tipperary County Council	5	2	3	0	89
Offaly County Council	13	4	9	0	84
Roscommon County Council	3	0	3	0	97
Sligo County Council	6	3	3	0	78
South Dublin County Council	3	2	1	0	81
South Tipperary County Council	6	0	6	0	103
Waterford City Council	2	1	1	0	79
Waterford County Council	6	2	4	0	79
Westmeath County Council	6	2	4	0	44
Wexford County Council	2	0	1	1	0
Wicklow County Council	9	2	4	3	61

^a Three of the planning applications determined in 2006 were transboundary applications, hence the delay

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.29		Changed	2006
Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	2.0	2.0
	Mean	3.1	2.4
Percentiles	25%	1.0	0.8
	75%	3.3	4.0

P 1.30		New	2006
Number of decisions which required the submission of further information		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	4.0	3.5
	Mean	4.6	3.6
Percentiles	25%	2.8	1.0
	75%	7.0	5.0

P 1.31		New	2006
Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	0.0	0.0
	Mean	0.9	0.5
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0
	75%	2.0	1.0

P 1.32		2004	2005	2006
Average length of time (days) taken to decide an application where further information was sought				
N	Valid	29	34	34
	Missing	5	0	0
Average	Median	92.7	87.5	86.5
	Mean	89.2	89.2	83.4
Percentiles	25%	77.3	76.8	76.5
	75%	104.2	98.0	100.5

Tables following provide a comprehensive analysis by application type of the outcome of the full planning process – from decision by the local authority to, where applicable, outcome of decision of An Bord Pleanála. It is important to note in examining this data that “the percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála” refers to decisions of the local authority that were upheld *with or without variation* by An Bord. In many cases, An Bord, in confirming the decision of the local authority, may make some minor variation or addition to conditions.

Table 21: Individual Applications - Analysis of Decisions

	P 1.6 Individual Houses - Percentage of Grants	P 1.7 Individual Houses - Percentage of Refusals	P 1.8 Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	P 1.9 Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala
Carlow County Council	82.0	18.0	60.0	40.0
Cavan County Council	79.2	20.8	25.0	75.0
Clare County Council	75.8	24.2	63.9	36.1
Cork City Council	75.6	24.4	71.4	28.6
Cork County Council	66.0	34.0	49.0	51.0
Donegal County Council	68.1 ^a	31.9 ^b	50.0 ^d	50.0 ^f
Dublin City Council	72.7	27.3	69.6	30.4
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	60.4	39.6	66.7	33.3
Fingal County Council	56.0	44.0	66.0	34.0
Galway City Council	64.4	35.6	80.0	20.0
Galway County Council	81.0	19.0	70.0	30.0
Kerry County Council	74.7	25.3	54.8	45.2
Kildare County Council	57.2	42.8	66.0	34.0
Kilkenny County Council	70.3	29.8	77.3	22.7
Laois County Council	73.0	27.0	61.0	39.0
Leitrim County Council	71.3	28.7 ^c	63.2	36.8
Limerick City Council	81.8	18.2	100.0	0.0
Limerick County Council	79.1	20.9	84.2	15.8
Longford County Council	79.6	20.5	22.2	77.8
Louth County Council	82.8	17.2	63.0 ^e	37.0
Mayo County Council	86.7	13.3	78.9	21.1
Meath County Council	54.0	46.0	75.0	25.0
Monaghan County Council	74.0	26.0	12.0	88.0
North Tipperary County Council	83.0	17.0	83.3	16.7
Offaly County Council	78.6	21.4	82.4	17.6
Roscommon County Council	79.1	20.9	71.4	28.6
Sligo County Council	88.0	12.0	69.0	31.0
South Dublin County Council	51.0	49.0	60.8	39.2
South Tipperary County Council	72.0	28.0	86.3	13.7
Waterford City Council	61.8	38.2	80.0	20.0
Waterford County Council	70.5	29.5	75.0	25.0
Westmeath County Council	68.0	32.0	78.0	22.0
Wexford County Council	65.0	35.0	48.0	52.0
Wicklow County Council	68.9	31.1	69.6	30.4

^a Introduction of new policies in the new county development plan which came into force on the 8/8/06 had a major impact on applications which were submitted under the old plan and decided under the new plan.

^b See above

^c Of the 4124 applications decided 70 applications or 1.7% of decisions made were appealed and of those 35 were upheld and 35 overturned.

^d Of the 4124 applications decided 70 applications or 1.7% of decisions made were appealed and of those 35 were upheld and 35 overturned

^e There has been unprecedented levels of development activity in the county in recent years. The increase in the level of refusals reflects the quality of sites being presented and a significant level of repeat applications on sites previously refused planning permission.

^f Only 27 (or 3.81%) of the 708 applications decided were appealed. Of these, 17 (or 2.4% of the 708) decisions were confirmed while 10 (or 1.41% of the 708) were reversed by An Bord Pleanala.

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.6 Individual Houses - Percentage of Grants		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	77.9	75.5	72.9
	Mean	77.1	73.8	72.1
Percentiles	25%	72.0	69.4	65.8
	75%	84.9	80.4	79.3

P 1.7 Individual Houses - Percentage of Refusals		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	22.2	24.6	27.2
	Mean	22.9	26.2	27.9
Percentiles	25%	15.1	19.6	20.7
	75%	28.0	30.6	34.3

P 1.8 Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala		Changed indicator in 2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	73.3	69.3
	Mean	71.8	65.7
Percentiles	25%	63.8	60.6
	75%	81.1	78.2

P 1.9 Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	32.1	26.7	30.7
	Mean	32.7	28.2	34.3
Percentiles	25%	23.0	18.9	21.8
	75%	43.2	36.3	39.4

Table 22: Housing Developments - Analysis of Decisions

	P 1.15 Developments - Percentage of Grants	P 1.16 Developments - Percentage of Refusals	P 1.17 Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	P 1.18 Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala
Carlow County Council	83.0	17.0	50.0	50.0
Cavan County Council	68.5	31.5	54.2	45.8
Clare County Council	61.4	38.6	70.0	30.0
Cork City Council	70.5	29.5	78.3	21.7
Cork County Council	67.0	33.0	52.0	48.0
Donegal County Council	64.8	35.2	47.8	52.2
Dublin City Council	64.1	35.9	69.7	30.3
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	54.9	45.1	46.4	53.6
Fingal County Council	65.0	35.0	67.0	33.0
Galway City Council	84.6	15.4	77.1	22.9
Galway County Council	67.0	33.0	61.0	39.0
Kerry County Council	57.5	42.5	57.4	42.6
Kildare County Council	76.2	23.8	81.8	18.2
Kilkenny County Council	55.3	44.7	89.7	10.3
Laois County Council	54.0	46.0	70.0	30.0
Leitrim County Council	56.4	43.6 ^a	57.1	42.9
Limerick City Council	63.6	36.4	100.0	0.0
Limerick County Council	82.1	17.9	66.7	33.3
Longford County Council	80.8	19.2	80.0	20.0
Louth County Council	73.4	26.6	63.6	36.4
Mayo County Council	76.0	24.0	52.4	42.9
Meath County Council	72.7	27.3	67.7	32.3
Monaghan County Council	68.0	32.0	75.0	25.0
North Tipperary County Council	80.7	19.3	100.0	0.0
Offaly County Council	63.8	36.2	81.8	18.2
Roscommon County Council	76.6	23.4	50.0	50.0
Sligo County Council	88.0	12.0	73.0	27.0
South Dublin County Council	66.0	34.0	91.3	8.7
South Tipperary County Council	66.0	34.0	83.0	17.0
Waterford City Council	68.4	31.6	66.7	33.3
Waterford County Council	66.7	33.3	22.2	77.8
Westmeath County Council	53.0	47.0	77.0	23.0
Wexford County Council	46.0	54.0	54.0	46.0
Wicklow County Council	56.4	43.6	78.0	22.0

^a There has been unprecedented levels of development activity in the county in recent years. The increase in the level of refusals reflects the quality of sites being presented and a significant level of repeat applications on sites previously refused planning permission.

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.15 Developments - Percentage of Grants		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	74.7	70.5	66.8
	Mean	73.8	71.5	67.6
Percentiles	25%	69.3	64.6	60.4
	75%	80.4	77.8	76.0

P 1.16 Development - Percentage of Refusals		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	25.3	29.5	33.2
	Mean	26.3	28.5	32.4
Percentiles	25%	19.6	22.2	24.0
	75%	30.7	35.4	39.6

P 1.17 Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala		Changed indicator in 2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	74.5	68.7
	Mean	76.6	68.0
Percentiles	25%	67.5	54.1
	75%	86.8	78.7

P 1.18 Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	31.5	25.5	31.3
	Mean	31.8	23.4	31.9
Percentiles	25%	17.7	13.2	21.3
	75%	43.6	32.5	43.6

Table 23: Applications Not Requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment - Analysis of Decisions

	P 1.24 Not requiring EIA - Percentage of Grants	P 1.25 Not requiring EIA - Percentage of Refusals	P 1.26 Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	P 1.27 Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala
Carlow County Council	95.0	5.0	65.0	35.0
Cavan County Council	96.4	3.6	61.5	38.5
Clare County Council	93.2	6.8	71.2	28.8
Cork City Council	85.3	14.7	67.2	32.8
Cork County Council	89.0	11.0	47.0	53.0
Donegal County Council	93.8	6.3	50.0	50.0
Dublin City Council	90.0	10.0	79.9	20.1
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	87.9	12.1	77.7	22.3
Fingal County Council	86.0	14.0	81.0	19.0
Galway City Council	84.6	15.4	77.1	22.9
Galway County Council	94.0	6.0	57.0	43.0
Kerry County Council	90.8	9.3	70.1	29.9
Kildare County Council	94.5	5.6	76.7	23.3
Kilkenny County Council	91.7	8.3	80.5	19.5
Laois County Council	93.0	7.0	33.0	67.0
Leitrim County Council	96.4	3.6	88.9	11.1
Limerick City Council	91.9	8.1	77.8	22.2
Limerick County Council	95.1	4.9	76.0	24.0
Longford County Council	95.2	4.9	63.6	36.4
Louth County Council	93.0	7.0	76.7	23.3
Mayo County Council	95.0	5.2	74.4	26.0
Meath County Council	90.7	9.3	62.3	37.7
Monaghan County Council	95.0	5.0	100.0	0.0
North Tipperary County Council	96.7	3.4	90.5	9.5
Offaly County Council	93.1	6.9	84.6	15.4
Roscommon County Council	95.7	4.3	82.8	17.2
Sligo County Council	95.0	5.0	71.0	29.0
South Dublin County Council	89.2	10.8	78.2	21.8
South Tipperary County Council	94.0	6.0	78.2	21.8
Waterford City Council	88.5	11.5	64.7	35.3
Waterford County Council	91.8	8.2	66.7	33.3
Westmeath County Council	88.0	12.0	84.0	16.0
Wexford County Council	89.0	11.0	65.0	35.0
Wicklow County Council	85.7	14.3	67.5	32.5

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.24		2004	2005	2006
Not requiring EIA - Percentage of Grants				
N	Valid	0	34	34
	Missing	34	0	0
Average	Median	92.8	91.3	93.0
	Mean	92.0	91.0	91.9
Percentiles	25%	89.9	89.3	89.0
	75%	95.0	93.6	95.0

P 1.25		2004	2005	2006
Not requiring EIA - Percentage of Refusals				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	7.2	8.7	7.0
	Mean	8.0	9.0	8.1
Percentiles	25%	5.1	6.4	5.0
	75%	10.1	10.7	11.0

P 1.26		Changed indicator in 2005	2006
Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala			
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	73.5	75.2
	Mean	73.7	72.0
Percentiles	25%	66.3	64.9
	75%	81.3	80.0

P 1.27		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	24.0	26.6	25.0
	Mean	26.0	26.4	28.0
Percentiles	25%	18.2	18.7	20.0
	75%	31.4	33.8	35.1

**Table 24: Applications Requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment -
Analysis of Decisions**

	P 1.33 Requiring EIA - Percentage of Grants	P 1.34 Requiring EIA - Percentage of Refusals	P 1.35 Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala	P 1.36 Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala
Carlow County Council	90.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Cavan County Council	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Clare County Council	100.0	0.0	66.7	33.3
Cork City Council	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Cork County Council	83.0	17.0	67.0	33.0
Donegal County Council	45.5	54.6	0.0	100.0
Dublin City Council	89.0	11.0	100.0	0.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	25.0	75.0	100.0	0.0
Fingal County Council	100.0	0.0	50.0	50.0
Galway City Council	83.3	16.7	50.0	50.0
Galway County Council	67.0	33.0	67.0	33.0
Kerry County Council	90.0	10.0	100.0	0.0
Kildare County Council	83.3	16.7	83.3	16.7
Kilkenny County Council	77.8	22.2	100.0	0.0
Laois County Council	83.0	17.0	0.0	0.0
Leitrim County Council	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Limerick City Council	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Limerick County Council	33.3	66.7	100.0	0.0
Longford County Council	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Louth County Council	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
Mayo County Council	80.0	20.0	66.7	33.3
Meath County Council	100.0	0.0	66.7	33.3
Monaghan County Council	83.0	17.0	0.0	0.0
North Tipperary County Council	80.0	20.0	100.0	0.0
Offaly County Council	84.6	15.4	66.7	33.3
Roscommon County Council	0.0	100.0	33.3	66.7
Sligo County Council	100.0	0.0	100.0	0.0
South Dublin County Council	100.0	0.0	50.0	50.0
South Tipperary County Council	83.3	16.7	66.7	33.3
Waterford City Council	50.0	50.0	100.0	0.0
Waterford County Council	83.3	16.7	50.0	50.0
Westmeath County Council	83.0	17.0	100.0	0.0
Wexford County Council	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Wicklow County Council	88.9	11.1	100.0	0.0

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.33 Requiring EIA - Percentage of Grants		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	34	34
	Missing	5	0	0
Average	Median	86.7	89.5	84.0
	Mean	83.0	85.8	81.4
Percentiles	25%	68.8	75.0	80.0
	75%	100.0	100.0	100.0

P 1.34 Requiring EIA - Percentage of Refusals		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	34	34
	Missing	5	0	0
Average	Median	12.5	10.5	16.0
	Mean	14.4	14.2	18.6
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	75%	28.8	25.0	20.0

P 1.35 Percentage of cases where the decision was confirmed by An Bord Pleanala		Changed indicator in 2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	100.0	67.0
	Mean	73.4	67.2
Percentiles	25%	50.0	0.0
	75%	100.0	50.0

P 1.36 Percentage of cases where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	28	34	34
	Missing	6	0	0
Average	Median	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Mean	11.6	17.8	18.1
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	75%	23.8	25.0	0.0

Table 25: Planning Applications by Category

	P 1.1 Individual Houses - Number of applications decided	P 1.10 Developments - Number of applications decided	P 1.19 Not requiring EIA - Number of applications decided	P 1.28 Requiring EIA - Number of applications decided
Carlow County Council	455	70	531	10
Cavan County Council	1,218	127	1,054	8
Clare County Council	854	140	1,264	8
Cork City Council	40	62	830	6
Cork County Council	3,562	439	4,646	12
Donegal County Council	4,124	725	1,952	11
Dublin City Council	464	312	3,233	6
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	356	133	1,885	4
Fingal County Council	435	158	1,531	5
Galway City Council	59	40	538	6
Galway County Council	2,561	238	2,158	12
Kerry County Council	1,900	543	1,989	10
Kildare County Council	951	147	1,384	12
Kilkenny County Council	753	141	1,260	18
Laois County Council	628	78	776	6
Leitrim County Council	492	39	446	1
Limerick City Council	11	11	295	1
Limerick County Council	755	123	1,424	3
Longford County Council	440	73	412	2
Louth County Council	708	143	1,112	4
Mayo County Council	1,812	221	1,238	5
Meath County Council	1,066	363	1,352	3
Monaghan County Council	865	96	914	6
North Tipperary County Council	534	57	776	5
Offaly County Council	682	105	699	13
Roscommon County Council	951	128	627	3
Sligo County Council	535	40	564	6
South Dublin County Council	388	97	1,316	3
South Tipperary CC	536	92	961	6
Waterford City Council	34	38	321	2
Waterford County Council	861	93	619	6
Westmeath County Council	818	92	676	6
Wexford County Council	1,563	917	1,683	2
Wicklow County Council	646	195	1,236	9
Total	32,057	6,276	41,702	220

Comparison 2004-2006

P 1.1 Individual Houses - Number of applications decided		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	797.5	717.0	695.0
	Mean	1167.9	985.0	942.9
Percentiles	25%	486.5	478.0	451.3
	75%	1528.3	1096.8	979.8

P 1.10 Developments - Number of applications decided		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	107.5	125.5	125.0
	Mean	145.4	178.6	184.6
Percentiles	25%	80.5	86.0	72.3
	75%	168.5	206.8	201.5

P 1.19 Not requiring EIA - Number of applications decided		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	617.0	834.0	1,083.0
	Mean	896.6	1014.1	1,226.5
Percentiles	25%	440.8	482.3	625.0
	75%	1211.0	1315.8	1,450.8

P 1.28 Requiring EIA - Number of applications decided		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	6.0	7.5	6.0
	Mean	6.2	8.6	6.5
Percentiles	25%	2.0	4	3.0
	75%	8.0	12	9.3

Table 26: Planning Enforcement

	P 2.1 Planning Enforcement: Total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated	P 2.2 Total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed	P 2.3 Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations
Carlow County Council	97	0	6
Cavan County Council	72	6	17
Clare County Council	274	8	10
Cork City Council	405	55	230
Cork County Council	604	5	303
Donegal County Council	593	150	141
Dublin City Council	1,291	425	1,646
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	429	126	249
Fingal County Council	605	130	N/A
Galway City Council	560	94	0
Galway County Council	469	0	0
Kerry County Council	620	104	339
Kildare County Council	493	47	59
Kilkenny County Council	243	5	210
Laois County Council	174	40	16
Leitrim County Council	184	34	89
Limerick City Council	25	0	0
Limerick County Council	412	136	97
Longford County Council	122	3	15
Louth County Council	979	115	466
Mayo County Council	246	32	47
Meath County Council	392	35	27
Monaghan County Council	152	20	64
North Tipperary County Council	246	49	51
Offaly County Council	142	18	44
Roscommon County Council	101	3	4
Sligo County Council	134	51	130
South Dublin County Council	473	131	57
South Tipperary County Council	229	1	60
Waterford City Council	107	2	0
Waterford County Council	122	6	0
Westmeath County Council	116	0	0
Wexford County Council	348	0	103
Wicklow County Council	389	1	132
Total	11,848	1,832	4,612

Comparison 2004-2006

P 2.1 Planning Enforcement - total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	247.0	215.0	260.0
	Mean	299.3	295.5	348.5
Percentiles	25%	109.0	126.8	131.0
	75%	457.3	412.0	478.0

P 2.2 Total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	5.0	11.5	26.0
	Mean	47.4	42.9	53.9
Percentiles	25%	0.0	3.8	2.8
	75%	47.8	59.3	96.5

P 2.3 Total number of cases subject to complaints that were resolved through negotiations		New indicator in 2005	2006
N	Valid	33	33
	Missing	1	1
Average	Median	45.0	57.0
	Mean	116.9	139.8
Percentiles	25%	7.5	8.0
	75%	106.0	136.5

This indicator measures action on planning enforcement on the part of local authorities. Complaints dismissed refers to cases registered as enforcement complaints in the first place, but subsequently found to be either vexatious, a minor breach, or no breach of the planning regulations. The third category – number of cases resolved through negotiation – was introduced in 2005 and reflects engagement on the part of local authorities to ensure that those involved will have taken steps to ensure compliance with a planning permission.

Table 27: Planning Enforcement: Actions Taken

	P 2.4 Total Number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters	P 2.5 Total Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices	P 2.6 Total number of prosecutions
Carlow County Council	27	33	2
Cavan County Council	36	13	2
Clare County Council	197	129	11
Cork City Council	335	33	5
Cork County Council	767	57	28
Donegal County Council	242	36	5 ^b
Dublin City Council	872	358	127
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	424	146	54 ^c
Fingal County Council	352	96	37
Galway City Council	466	272	69
Galway County Council	301	69	17
Kerry County Council	289	198	10
Kildare County Council	216	138	38
Kilkenny County Council	124	146	13
Laois County Council	106	30	0 ^d
Leitrim County Council	138	3	2
Limerick City Council	25	12	0
Limerick County Council	148	123	30
Longford County Council	105	37	3
Louth County Council	171	75	27
Mayo County Council	140	8	18 ^e
Meath County Council	252	80	6
Monaghan County Council	125	44	7
North Tipperary County Council	161	76	19
Offaly County Council	153	40	2
Roscommon County Council	135	53	8
Sligo County Council	157	100	37
South Dublin County Council	549	205	34
South Tipperary County Council	149	38	5
Waterford City Council	54	18	4
Waterford County Council	102	135	11
Westmeath County Council	41	41	2
Wexford County Council	325	251	70
Wicklow County Council	462 ^a	131	25
Total	7,684	3,224	651

^a Number of Warning Letters issued is 410, compared to 318 complaints investigated. It is often necessary to issue more than one Warning Letter where there may potentially be more than one owner.
^b Refers to concluded outcome and doesn't include the intervening court appearances, nor cases not yet finalized
^c 54 refers to number of Managers Orders made recommending prosecution.
^d 8 cases currently with the Council's solicitor and additional resources assigned to ensure conclusion.
^e Files currently with the solicitor.

Comparison 2004-2006

P 2.4		2004	2005	2006
Total number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	145.0	182.5	159.0
	Mean	199.2	205.2	239.6
Percentiles	25%	61.8	81.5	119.5
	75%	357.5	269.5	327.5

P 2.5		2004	2005	2006
Total Number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	73.0	55.0	72.0
	Mean	88.5	77.7	94.8
Percentiles	25%	33.8	28.3	35.3
	75%	122.8	132.5	135.8

P 2.6		2004	2005	2006
Total number of prosecutions				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	13.5	8.5	11.0
	Mean	22.2	16.9	21.4
Percentiles	25%	2.8	1.0	3.8
	75%	29.3	28.3	31.0

Table 28: Planning - Public Opening Hours

	P 3 Planning Offices: Average number of opening hours per week
Carlow County Council	35.0
Cavan County Council	36.2
Clare County Council	34.3
Cork City Council	35.0
Cork County Council	35.0
Donegal County Council	35.6
Dublin City Council	37.5
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	30.0
Fingal County Council	30.0
Galway City Council	35.0
Galway County Council	34.0
Kerry County Council	40.0
Kildare County Council	33.6
Kilkenny County Council	37.5
Laois County Council	32.5
Leitrim County Council	33.1
Limerick City Council	35.0
Limerick County Council	33.3
Longford County Council	34.4
Louth County Council	39.2
Mayo County Council	35.0
Meath County Council	30.4
Monaghan County Council	37.0
North Tipperary County Council	35.0
Offaly County Council	31.6
Roscommon County Council	27.5
Sligo County Council	38.0
South Dublin County Council	43.0
South Tipperary County Council	35.0
Waterford City Council	35.0
Waterford County Council	35.0
Westmeath County Council	35.0
Wexford County Council	30.0
Wicklow County Council	33.0

Comparison 2004-2006

P 3 Planning Offices: Average number of opening hours per week		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	35.0	35.0	35.0
	Mean	33.7	34.5	34.6
Percentiles	25%	32.0	33.1	33.1
	75%	35.0	35.0	35.7

This indicator shows the opening hours of each local authority's planning offices. There has been no change in the average number of opening hours since 2004. There is no major variation across the country, with the top quarter open 35.7 hours per week or more and the lowest quarter open up to 33.1 hours per week.

Table 29: Pre-planning Consultation

	P 4.1 Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held	P 4.2 Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation (days)
Carlow County Council	256	24.0
Cavan County Council	709	14.0
Clare County Council	177	20.8
Cork City Council	485 ^a	10.0
Cork County Council	1,107 ^b	12.0
Donegal County Council	271 ^c	31.6
Dublin City Council	237	10.3
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	272	7.0
Fingal County Council	936	7.0
Galway City Council	491	7.0
Galway County Council	1,899	24.0
Kerry County Council	2,719	9.6
Kildare County Council	639	7.1
Kilkenny County Council	2,070	17.3
Laois County Council	1,236	10.0
Leitrim County Council	27	19 ^d
Limerick City Council	216	7.0
Limerick County Council	912	43.0
Longford County Council	320	9.9
Louth County Council	1,041	8.8
Mayo County Council	367	0.0
Meath County Council	1,646	16.0
Monaghan County Council	1,648	5.0
North Tipperary County Council	63 ^e	24.0
Offaly County Council	1,163	29.5
Roscommon County Council	0	0.0
Sligo County Council	1,668	14.0 ^f
South Dublin County Council	373	9.8
South Tipperary County Council	1,205	18.0
Waterford City Council	129	32.0
Waterford County Council	1,029	15.0
Westmeath County Council	63 ^g	31.0 ^h
Wexford County Council	1,767	48.0
Wicklow County Council	416	9.0
Totals	28,113	

^a Only formal minuted pre-planning consultations are now recorded

^b The figures relate to meetings held with Senior Executive Planners. Planning advice by Area Planners is generally given by telephone contact. In 2006 Area Planners dealt with 10401 such calls.

^c These refer to the official meetings which we hold on a monthly basis. A number of other meetings/discussions in relation to pre planning matters took place through other fora but are not documented here.

^d Indicator, which relates to formal meetings, reflects only one aspect of pre-planning activity. All Pre-planning enquiries are assessed to determine whether a meeting is required. A total of 522 formal pre-planning enquiries were received in 2006. A total of 509 of these had been dealt with by 31/12/2006 - 152 by letter, 261 by phone, 69 by e-mail and 27 formal meetings. Time taken reflects overall level of pre-planning activity and the huge level of ongoing planning application activity being dealt with.

^e Due to substantial increase in planning applications for 2006 and resulting increased workload it was not possible to hold as many pre-planning consultations as in 2005; however a substantial number of unrecorded meetings were held.

^f Previous year methodology based on working days. This year based on calendar days

^g Based on incomplete information. Database now in place for 2007.

^h Based on incomplete information. Database now in place for 2007

Comparison 2004-2006

P 4.1		New	2006
Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	747.0	639.0
	Mean	820.3	827.4
Percentiles	25%	344.5	267.3
	75%	1313.3	1,212.8

P 4.2		2004	2005	2006
Average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation (days)				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	12.1	12.1	13.0
	Mean	16.3	14.5	16.2
Percentiles	25%	9.5	9.5	8.3
	75%	20.0	17.9	24.0

This indicator shows the extent to which local authorities are holding pre-planning consultation meetings. They are required to provide for such meetings under Section 247 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000. According to the figures, a total of 28,133 such meetings were held in 2006, a slight increase on 2005.

The variation in the figures for this indicator, and the footnotes, suggest strongly that there have been differences in the interpretation of the methodology. In this regard the comments of the Independent Assessment Panel who examined this indicator may be relevant. (See Appendix 1).

Table 30: Building Regulations Inspections by Local Authorities

	P 5 Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority
Carlow County Council	15.2
Cavan County Council	19.0
Clare County Council	15.5
Cork City Council	69.0
Cork County Council	17.0
Donegal County Council	17.5
Dublin City Council	17.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	30.0
Fingal County Council	28.0
Galway City Council	38.0 ^a
Galway County Council	19.0
Kerry County Council	46.4
Kildare County Council	27.4
Kilkenny County Council	12.7
Laois County Council	12.4
Leitrim County Council	18.8 ^b
Limerick City Council	90.0
Limerick County Council	15.3
Longford County Council	13.2
Louth County Council	13.3
Mayo County Council	13.0
Meath County Council	65.0
Monaghan County Council	19.0
North Tipperary County Council	13.5
Offaly County Council	22.8
Roscommon County Council	23.8
Sligo County Council	39.0
South Dublin County Council	16.7
South Tipperary County Council	15.0
Waterford City Council	41.0
Waterford County Council	30.5
Westmeath County Council	15.0
Wexford County Council	19.5
Wicklow County Council	12.9 ^c
^a Vacancy in building control post for part of year ^b Inspection activity levels in Qtr 4 were impacted by staff shortages. ^c Wicklow CC: The inspections carried out by the Fire Officers under Part B of the Building Regulations (Fire) are not included in these figures.	

Comparison 2004-2006

P 5		2004	2005	2006
Buildings inspected as a percentage of new buildings notified to the local authority				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	18.5	20.8	18.9
	Mean	22.9	23.6	25.9
Percentiles	25%	12.9	14.8	15.0
	75%	24.3	28.3	30.1

There is a discernible improvement in both the lowest and highest quartiles over the period 2004 to 2006. The current target, agreed between local authorities and the DoEHLG is for 12% to 15% of developments to be inspected,

Section 7: Fire Service

Table 31: Mobilisation of Fire Brigades

	E 3.1 Average time to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations (minutes)	E 3.2 Average time to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations (minutes)
Carlow County Council	N/A	5.2
Cavan County Council	N/A	5.8
Clare County Council	N/A	4.5
Cork City Council	1.51	N/A
Cork County Council	N/A	5.4
Donegal County Council	N/A	5.1
Dublin City Council	1.5	5.5
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	N/A	N/A
Fingal County Council	N/A	N/A
Galway City Council	N/A	N/A
Galway County Council	3.2	4.5
Kerry County Council	N/A	5.7
Kildare County Council	N/A	5.8
Kilkenny County Council	N/A	5.6
Laois County Council	N/A	4.9
Leitrim County Council	N/A	4.9
Limerick City Council	1.4	N/A
Limerick County Council	N/A	4.3
Longford County Council	N/A	4.1
Louth County Council	1.6	3.9
Mayo County Council	N/A	5.1
Meath County Council	N/A	4.1
Monaghan County Council	N/A	4.6
North Tipperary County Council	N/A	5.7
Offaly County Council	N/A	5.3
Roscommon County Council	N/A	5.4
Sligo County Council	N/A	4.5
South Dublin County Council	N/A	N/A
South Tipperary County Council	N/A	5.7
Waterford City Council	2.0	N/A
Waterford County Council	N/A	4.4
Westmeath County Council	N/A	5.7
Wexford County Council	N/A	6.0 ^a
Wicklow County Council	N/A	6.1

^a This is due to traffic congestion in Gorey Town. It is expected that this figure will decrease in 2008 on completion of the Gorey By Pass

Comparison 2004-2006

E 3.1				
Average time (minutes) to mobilise fire brigades in full-time stations		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	6	6	6
	Missing	28	28	28
Average	Median	2.1	2.0	1.6
	Mean	2.2	2.2	1.9
Percentiles	25%	1.5	1.4	1.4
	75%	2.8	2.7	2.3

E 3.2				
Average time (minutes) to mobilise fire brigades in part-time stations		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	27	27	27
	Missing	7	7	7
Average	Median	5.3	5.3	5.2
	Mean	5.3	5.3	5.1
Percentiles	25%	4.7	4.8	4.5
	75%	5.9	5.7	5.7

The fire service is provided through a network of full and part time stations. In a number of cases neighbouring authorities share arrangements to provide fire cover. So, for example, Dublin City Council provides cover for Fingal, South Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Councils; in the same manner, Galway County Council provides cover for the Galway City area under a shared services agreement.

Table 32: First Attendance at Fire Scene

	E 4.1 First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes (percentage)	E 4.2 First attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes (percentage)	E 4.3 First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes (percentage)
Carlow County Council	57.0	32.0	11.0
Cavan County Council	53.0	30.3	16.7
Clare County Council	48.4	35.5	16.1
Cork City Council	90.5	8.7	0.8
Cork County Council	48.0	36.4	15.6
Donegal County Council	47.0	39.0	14.0
Dublin City Council	76.7	20.7	2.7
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Fingal County Council	N/A	N/A	N/A
Galway City Council	N/A	N/A	N/A
Galway County Council	52.4	30.7	16.9
Kerry County Council	44.5	38.7	16.9
Kildare County Council	26.5	60.0	13.5
Kilkenny County Council	45.6	41.4	13.1
Laois County Council	37.1	47.4	15.5
Leitrim County Council	39.7 ^a	47.5	12.8
Limerick City Council	90.8	8.1	1.1
Limerick County Council	38.7	44.1	17.2
Longford County Council	34.0	52.5	13.5
Louth County Council	83.6	14.0	2.4
Mayo County Council	42.2	43.0	14.9
Meath County Council	36.2	45.8	18.0
Monaghan County Council	72.4	27.6	0.0
North Tipperary County Council	41.5	47.6	11.0
Offaly County Council	53.9	35.9	10.2
Roscommon County Council	37.1	49.6	13.3
Sligo County Council	59.9	28.0	12.1
South Dublin County Council	N/A	N/A	N/A
South Tipperary County Council	45.3	38.1	16.6
Waterford City Council	88.3	10.5	1.2
Waterford County Council	63.9	29.1	7.0
Westmeath County Council	38.2	47.9	13.9
Wexford County Council	40.0	43.0	17.0
Wicklow County Council	37.0	53.0	10.0

^a Reflects rural nature of county and distances travelled.

Comparison 2004-2006

E 4.1 First attendance at scene within 10 minutes (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	30	30
	Missing	5	4	4
Average	Median	45.8	47.9	46.3
	Mean	51.3	52.0	52.3
Percentiles	25%	39.0	39.9	26.5
	75%	62.7	64.7	38.6

E 4.2 First attendance at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	30	30
	Missing	5	4	4
Average	Median	42.1	39.0	38.4
	Mean	37.4	37.5	36.2
Percentiles	25%	28.5	29.6	8.1
	75%	47.0	46.8	28.8

E 4.3 First attendance at scene after 20 minutes (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	30	30
	Missing	5	4	4
Average	Median	11.7	11.2	13.4
	Mean	11.3	10.5	11.5
Percentiles	25%	7.1	6.6	0.0
	75%	15.8	14.5	9.3

Table 33: Applications for Fire Certificates Received and Processed

	E 5.1 Number of Applications for Fire Safety Certificates Received	E 5.2 Number of Applications for Fire Safety Certificates Processed
Carlow County Council	116	111
Cavan County Council	154	154
Clare County Council	286	249 ^a
Cork City Council	284	263
Cork County Council	892	910
Donegal County Council	235	197
Dublin City Council	852	877
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	301	287
Fingal County Council	575	1,109
Galway City Council	193	174
Galway County Council	472	412
Kerry County Council	292	319
Kildare County Council	517	497
Kilkenny County Council	231	221
Laois County Council	184	180
Leitrim County Council	100	85
Limerick City Council	126	110
Limerick County Council	236	225
Longford County Council	135	102
Louth County Council	299	292
Mayo County Council	317	289
Meath County Council	N/A	N/A
Monaghan County Council	145	131
North Tipperary County Council	138	115
Offaly County Council	153	156
Roscommon County Council	118	133
Sligo County Council	150	156
South Dublin County Council	388	354
South Tipperary County Council	124	168
Waterford City Council	94	93
Waterford County Council	122	115
Westmeath County Council	226	207
Wexford County Council	287	245
Wicklow County Council	254	238
Total	8,996	8,925

^a The difference between the 2 figures is due to (a) extensions of time of some applications bringing them forward to 2007 and (b) the withdrawal of applications.

Comparison 2004-2006

E 5.1		2004	2005	2006
Number of Applications for Fire Safety Certificates Received				
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	223.0	206.0	231.0
	Mean	244.8	259.1	272.6
Percentiles	25%	115.8	126.3	94.0
	75%	286.3	325.8	136.5

E 5.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of Applications for Fire Safety Certificates Processed				
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	218.0	197.0	207.0
	Mean	235.8	250.3	278.0
Percentiles	25%	116.8	125.3	85.0
	75%	279.5	313.3	132.0

Section 8: Environment

Table 34: Percentage of Households Provided With Segregated Waste Collection

	E 6 Households provided with segregated waste collection (percentage)
Carlow County Council	N/A
Cavan County Council	N/A
Clare County Council	N/A
Cork City Council	100.0
Cork County Council	87.2
Donegal County Council	N/A
Dublin City Council	98.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	98.7
Fingal County Council	98.0
Galway City Council	100.0
Galway County Council	N/A
Kerry County Council	100.0
Kildare County Council	97.5
Kilkenny County Council	100.0
Laois County Council	N/A
Leitrim County Council	N/A
Limerick City Council	N/A
Limerick County Council	N/A
Longford County Council	N/A
Louth County Council	N/A
Mayo County Council	N/A
Meath County Council	85.0
Monaghan County Council	N/A
North Tipperary County Council	N/A
Offaly County Council	N/A
Roscommon County Council	N/A
Sligo County Council	N/A
South Dublin County Council	97.0
South Tipperary County Council	82.1
Waterford City Council	98.0
Waterford County Council	100.0
Westmeath County Council	100.0
Wexford County Council	100.0
Wicklow County Council	N/A

Comparison 2004-2006

E 6		2004	2005	2006
Households provided with segregated waste collection (percentage)				
N	Valid	18	17	16
	Missing	16	17	18
Average	Median	82.1	95.1	98.3
	Mean	75.4	87.5	96.3
Percentiles	25%	71.8	86.0	82.1
	75%	97.0	100.0	97.1

This indicator measures the extent to which segregated collection of waste (otherwise known as 'kerbside collection') has been rolled out to householders on a nationwide basis. **This indicator applies only where refuse collection is carried out directly by local authorities.** As a result, there were 18 valid cases for 2004 and this reduces to 16 valid cases for 2006 with 'N/A' applying in all other cases. A number of local authorities that have a privatised service provided some information in relation to the level of segregated collection by private collectors. The results for 2006 show a significant increase in the proportion of households provided with a segregated service.

Table 35: Household Waste Collected and Sent for Recycling

	E 7.2 Percentage of household waste recycled	E 8.2 Percentage of household waste landfilled
Carlow County Council	6.5	93.5
Cavan County Council	12.5	87.5
Clare County Council	26.6	73.4
Cork City Council	23.0	77.0
Cork County Council	25.0	75.0
Donegal County Council	11.0	89.0
Dublin City Council	13.0	87.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	26.8	73.2
Fingal County Council	21.6	78.5
Galway City Council	46.2	53.8
Galway County Council	32.0	68.0
Kerry County Council	22.3	77.2
Kildare County Council	26.8	73.2
Kilkenny County Council	24.6	75.4
Laois County Council	24.0	76.0
Leitrim County Council	17.2	82.8
Limerick City Council	20.0	80.0
Limerick County Council	14.8	70.1
Longford County Council	57.9	42.1
Louth County Council	19.0	81.0
Mayo County Council	6.7	93.3
Meath County Council	25.3	74.7
Monaghan County Council	18.3	81.7
North Tipperary County Council	18.9	81.1
Offaly County Council	20.2	79.8
Roscommon County Council	21.3	78.8
Sligo County Council	28.9	71.1
South Dublin County Council	20.3	79.7
South Tipperary County Council	21.8	72.6
Waterford City Council	48.0	52.0
Waterford County Council	46.1	53.9
Westmeath County Council	24.0	76.0
Wexford County Council	21.0	79.0
Wicklow County Council	11.2	88.8

Comparison 2004-2006

E 7.2		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of household waste recycled				
N	Valid	34	33	34
	Missing	0	1	0
Average	Median	16.75	20.20	21.69
	Mean	19.23	21.87	23.61
Percentiles	25%	14	13.75	18.03
	75%	22	25.10	26.63

E 8.2		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of household waste going to landfill				
N	Valid	34	33	34
	Missing	0	1	0
Average	Median	82.15	77.50	77.10
	Mean	79.96	75.95	75.77
Percentiles	25%	77.93	70.50	73.04
	75%	86.00	84.18	81.22

The average percentage of household waste recycled rose by 29% between 2004 and 2006, with a decrease of 6% in the percentage going to landfill. In terms of national variation in recycling, the bottom quarter of authority areas have 18% or less being recycled, while the top quarter have 26.6% or more being recycled. *It is important to note that these figures do not include additional materials recycled through local authority bring banks and civic amenity sites.*

Table 36: Household Waste Collected and Sent for Landfilling

	E 7.1 Tonnes of household waste recycled	E 8.1 Tonnage of household waste going to landfill
Carlow County Council	973	14,082
Cavan County Council	1,695	13,656
Clare County Council	7,879	21,769
Cork City Council	7,606	25,698
Cork County Council	14,703	44,171
Donegal County Council ^a	2,662	21,500
Dublin City Council	22,841	148,317
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	12,735	34,754
Fingal County Council ^b	16,304	59,361
Galway City Council	10,601	12,367
Galway County Council ^c	9,903	20,882
Kerry County Council	6,564	23,308
Kildare County Council	14,408	39,339
Kilkenny County Council	3,708	11,390
Laois County Council	4,535	14,390
Leitrim County Council	1,000	4,812
Limerick City Council	3,209	13,224
Limerick County Council	4,330	20,458
Longford County Council	4,172	3,034
Louth County Council ^d	6,161	26,920
Mayo County Council ^e	2,211	32,809
Meath County Council	13,853	40,260
Monaghan County Council	2,176	9,640
North Tipperary County Council ^f	3,561	15,239
Offaly County Council	2,685	10,591
Roscommon County Council	2,937	10,872
Sligo County Council	4,003	9,839
South Dublin County Council	15,120	59,438
South Tipperary County Council	5,783	19,234
Waterford City Council	6,234	6,778
Waterford County Council	6,665	7,804
Westmeath County Council	4,394	13,941
Wexford County Council	6,535	24,030
Wicklow County Council	3,387	26,975
Total	235,533	860,882

^a Estimated as all AERs have not yet been received and verified. The estimates are based on 2005 figures, preliminary figures on mixed dry recyclables collected through kerbside in 2006 and landfill tonnages 2006.

^b No data available for collections from apartments by private contractors.

^c Source: EPA Returns for 2006 based on information relating to 2005.

^d Service Provider is no longer tromelling the waste collected. Therefore recycling figure is down.

^e Figures based on Annual Environmental Reports (AER) submitted and estimates. Preliminary figures submitted by 3 Household Waste Collectors were used as no or an inadequate AER was submitted. An estimate was used for one Household Waste Collector who did not send in an AER in 2005 or 2006. This estimate is based on 3000 customers.

^f It would appear that the figures provided on tonnage by collectors on the Annual Environmental Returns which were used for the 2005 indicators may have included non-household waste. The returns for 2006 are a more accurate reflection of the true position.

Comparison 2004-2006

E 7.1 Tonnes of household waste recycled		New indicator in 2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	5,253	5,159
	Mean	6,030	6,927
Percentiles	25%	2,749	3,141
	75%	8,218	10,078

E 8.1 Tonnes of household waste going to landfill		New indicator in 2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34
	Missing	0	0
Average	Median	16,890	19,846
	Mean	25,208	25,320
Percentiles	25%	11,353	11,261
	75%	33,162	28,434

According to the indicators, the total national amount of household waste being sent to landfill showed a small increase - from 857,076 tonnes in 2005 to 860,882 tonnes in 2006, while the total tonnage of household waste recycled has increased from 199,009 tonnes to 235,533 tonnes (an increase of 18%). The mean average tonnage recycled by local authorities increased 15% since last year.

Table 37: Recycling Facilities - Glass

	E 9.1.1 Number of Bring Banks – Glass	E 9.1.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites – Glass	E 9.1.3 Total Number of Facilities – Glass	E 9.1.4 Number of locations per 5000 population – Glass	E 9.1.5 Tonnes collected for recycling per 5000 population – Glass
Carlow County Council	37	3	40	4.35	73.91
Cavan County Council	29	2	31	2.74	93.22
Clare County Council	54	4	58	2.81	81.65
Cork City Council	43	1	44	1.79	83.18
Cork County Council	169	9	178	2.74	150.93
Donegal County Council	57	2	59	2.14	70.69
Dublin City Council	117	2	119	1.20	87.70
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	51	1	52	1.36	145.67
Fingal County Council	68	4	72	1.83	115.46
Galway City Council	13	1	14	1.06	151.25
Galway County Council	91	3	94	3.28	77.94
Kerry County Council	85	5	90	3.39	77.71
Kildare County Council	38	2	40	1.22	85.27
Kilkenny County Council	42	3	45	2.80	95.71
Laois County Council	38	1	39	3.32	64.38
Leitrim County Council	38	0	38	7.36	106.87
Limerick City Council	16	1	17	1.57	75.77
Limerick County Council	49	4	53	2.18	54.95
Longford County Council	26	1	27	4.35	72.22
Louth County Council	37	2	39	1.92	114.03
Mayo County Council	90	2	92	3.92	73.85
Meath County Council	30	2	32	1.19	83.96
Monaghan County Council	23	1	24	2.28	88.40
North Tipperary CC	39	2	41	3.36	91.42
Offaly County Council	46	3	49	3.85	64.94
Roscommon County Council	39	3	42	3.91	87.86
Sligo County Council	47	2	49	4.21	94.96
South Dublin County Council	43	1	44	0.92	87.86
South Tipperary CC	73	3	76	4.80	156.02
Waterford City Council	21	1	22	2.47	120.03
Waterford County Council	41	3	44	3.86	96.93
Westmeath County Council	47	2	49	3.41	87.65
Wexford County Council	117	2	119	5.10	113.81
Wicklow County Council	53	5	58	2.53	96.20

Comparison 2004-2006

E 9.1.1		2004	2005	2006
Number of Bring Banks - Glass				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	41.5	41.0	43.0
	Mean	52.0	52.6	53.1
Percentiles	25%	35.0	37.0	37.0
	75%	60.3	62.5	59.8

E 9.1.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Glass				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Mean	2.0	2.3	2.4
Percentiles	25%	1.0	1.0	1.0
	75%	3.0	3.0	3.0

E 9.1.3		2004	2005	2006
Total Number of Facilities - Glass				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	44.5	44.0	44.5
	Mean	54.0	54.9	55.6
Percentiles	25%	36.3	38.8	38.8
	75%	63.0	65.5	62.3

E 9.1.4		2004	2005	2006
Number of locations per 5000 of population - Glass				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	2.9	2.8	2.8
	Mean	2.9	2.9	2.9
Percentiles	25%	1.8	1.8	1.8
	75%	3.7	3.8	3.9

E 9.1.5 Tonnes collected for recycling per 5000 of population - Glass		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	66.1	78.2	87.9
	Mean	69.1	85.5	94.8
Percentiles	25%	55.5	71.2	77.2
	75%	80.8	102.2	108.6

The figures above and those in the following tables are a set of indicators designed to monitor waste management infrastructure and capacity – in other words, the number of bring banks and civic amenity sites provided by local authorities and the amount and range of materials recycled throughout the recycling network. The tables capture the environmental infrastructure indicators in further detail for individual local authorities and basic descriptive statistics are provided to compare the years to 2006. This indicator (E 9.1.) measures the amount of glass being collected for recycling at local authority bring centres. The average number of bring banks increased by 4% since 2004 while the average number of civic amenity sites is unchanged since 2004.

Table 38: Recycling Facilities - Cans

	E 9.2.1 Number of Bring Banks – Cans	E 9.2.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites – Cans	E 9.2.3 Total Number of Facilities – Cans	E 9.2.4 Number of locations per 5000 population – Cans	E 9.2.5 Tonnes collected for recycling per 5000 population – Cans
Carlow County Council	37	3	40	4.35	6.54
Cavan County Council	29	2	31	2.74	8.46
Clare County Council	54	4	58	2.81	4.93
Cork City Council	7	1	8	0.33	0.45
Cork County Council	156	9	165	2.54	11.16
Donegal County Council	57	2	59	2.14	7.68
Dublin City Council	75	2	77	0.78	2.18
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	36	1	37	0.96	3.25
Fingal County Council	59	4	63	1.6	1.76
Galway City Council	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Galway County Council	91	3	94	3.28	2.41
Kerry County Council	85	5	90	3.39	7.54
Kildare County Council	38	2	40	1.22	1.85
Kilkenny County Council	41	3	44	2.74	7.73
Laois County Council	38	1	39	3.32	0.97
Leitrim County Council	38	2	40	7.75	4.54
Limerick City Council	19	1	20	1.85	3.81
Limerick County Council	49	4	53	2.18	6.10
Longford County Council	26	1	27	4.35	5.54
Louth County Council	43	2	45	2.21	3.94
Mayo County Council	90	2	92	3.92	3.97
Meath County Council	40	2	42	0.04	2.01
Monaghan County Council	23	1	24	2.28	2.47
North Tipperary CC	39	2	41	3.36	3.42
Offaly County Council	46	3	49	3.85	2.60
Roscommon County Council	39	3	42	3.91	5.92
Sligo County Council	47	2	49	4.21	5.33
South Dublin County Council	23	1	24	0.50	1.11
South Tipperary CC	73	3	76	4.80	2.24
Waterford City Council	21	1	22	2.47	5.49
Waterford County Council	0	3	3	N/A	N/A
Westmeath County Council	47	2	49	3.41	2.82
Wexford County Council	118	2	120	5.15	5.19
Wicklow County Council	53	5	58	2.53	6.23

Comparison 2004-2006

E 9.2.1		2004	2005	2006
Number of Bring Banks - Cans				
N	Valid	33	33	34
	Missing	1	1	0
Average	Median	39.0	39.0	40.5
	Mean	48.0	49.9	48.1
Percentiles	25%	30.0	27.5	28.3
	75%	55.5	61.5	57.5

E 9.2.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Cans				
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Mean	2.0	2.4	2.5
Percentiles	25%	1.0	1.0	1.0
	75%	3.0	3.0	3.0

E 9.2.3		2004	2005	2006
Total Number of Facilities - Cans				
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	41.0	41.0	43.0
	Mean	50.0	52.2	50.6
Percentiles	25%	32.0	29.5	30.0
	75%	58.0	64.5	60.0

E 9.2.4		2004	2005	2006
Number of locations per 5000 of population - Cans				
N	Valid	33	34	30
	Missing	1	0	4
Average	Median	2.7	2.8	2.7
	Mean	2.7	2.8	2.8
Percentiles	25%	1.7	1.7	0.0
	75%	3.4	3.8	2.1

E 9.2.5		2004	2005	2006
Tonnages collected for recycling per 5000 of population - Cans				
N	Valid	33	34	32
	Missing	1	0	2
Average	Median	3.0	4.0	4.0
	Mean	3.6	4.3	4.4
Percentiles	25%	2.0	2.3	0.5
	75%	4.4	5.5	2.3

This indicator measures the amount of cans being brought for recycling to local authority bring centres. The average number of bring banks for cans increased by 4% since 2004, while the average number of civic amenity sites is unchanged since 2004.

Table 39: Recycling Facilities - Textiles

	E 9.3.1 Number of Bring Banks – Textiles	E 9.3.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites – Textiles	E 9.3.3 Total Number of Facilities – Textiles	E 9.3.4 Number of Locations per 5000 population – Textiles	E 9.3.5 Tonnes collected for recycling per 5000 population - Textiles
Carlow County Council	0	3	3	.33	6.46
Cavan County Council	29	2	31	2.74	23.35
Clare County Council	8	4	12	0.58	12.04
Cork City Council	0	0	0	N/A	N/A
Cork County Council	33	9	42	0.65	27.00
Donegal County Council	31	2	33	1.20	9.90
Dublin City Council	27	2	29	0.29	4.22
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	12	1	13	0.34	18.59
Fingal County Council	8	4	12	0.31	10.24
Galway City Council	4	1	5	0.38	N/A
Galway County Council	0	3	3	0.10	0.24
Kerry County Council	0	1	1	0.04	0.04
Kildare County Council	20	2	22	0.67	7.55
Kilkenny County Council	1	1	2	0.12	0.35
Laois County Council	8	1	9	0.77	15.71
Leitrim County Council	16	2	18	3.49	20.58
Limerick City Council	6	1	7	0.65	13.89
Limerick County Council	12	4	16	0.66	11.29
Longford County Council	0	1	1	0.16	2.57
Louth County Council	0	2	2	0.10	5.26
Mayo County Council	25	2	27	1.15	10.70
Meath County Council	24	2	26	0.07	9.00
Monaghan County Council	0	1	1	0.10	8.94
North Tipperary CC	1	2	3	0.25	1.17
Offaly County Council	6	2	8	0.63	7.67
Roscommon County Council	0	3	3	0.28	6.57
Sligo County Council	3	2	5	0.43	4.84
South Dublin County Council	8	1	9	0.19	5.00
South Tipperary CC	0	3	3	0.19	0.12
Waterford City Council	6	1	7	0.78	3.68
Waterford County Council	0	3	3	N/A	0.27
Westmeath County Council	26	2	28	1.95	15.76
Wexford County Council	10	2	12	0.51	4.07
Wicklow County Council	3	5	8	0.35	15.12

Comparison 2004-2006

E 9.3.1 Number of Bring Banks - Textiles		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	4.0	6.5	6.0
	Mean	7.2	8.6	9.6
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	75%	9.5	11.3	17.0

E 9.3.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Textiles		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	1.0	2.0	2.0
	Mean	1.3	1.8	2.3
Percentiles	25%	0.0	1.0	1.0
	75%	2.0	3.0	3.0

E 9.3.3 Total Number of Facilities - Textiles		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	5.5	8.0	8.0
	Mean	8.5	10.4	11.9
Percentiles	25%	1.0	3.0	3.0
	75%	12.3	13.3	19.0

E 9.3.4 Number of Locations per 5000 population - Textiles		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	30
	Missing	0	0	4
Average	Median	0.3	0.4	0.4
	Mean	0.4	0.6	0.7
Percentiles	25%	0.1	0.2	0.0
	75%	0.6	0.8	0.2

E 9.3.5 Tonnes per 5000 population - Textiles		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	33	33	32
	Missing	1	1	2
Average	Median	2.6	4.3	7.6
	Mean	3.4	5.1	8.8
Percentiles	25%	0.9	1.7	0.0
	75%	5.5	7.3	3.8

This indicator measures the amount of textiles brought for recycling to local authority bring centres. The average number of bring banks for textiles increased by 50% since 2004, while the average number of civic amenity sites for textiles doubled since 2004.

Table 40: Recycling Facilities - Batteries

	E 9.4.1 Number of Bring Banks - Batteries	E 9.4.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Batteries	E 9.4.3 Total Number of Facilities- Batteries	E 9.4.4 Number of Locations per 5000 population - Batteries	E 9.4.5 Tonnes collected for recycling per 5000 population - Batteries
Carlow County Council	20	3	23	2.5	5.35
Cavan County Council	0	2	7	0.62	3.20
Clare County Council	0	4	4	0.19	2.90
Cork City Council	0	1	1	0.04	0.63
Cork County Council	0	9	9	0.14	2.59
Donegal County Council	5	2	7	0.25	1.06
Dublin City Council	9	2	11	0.11	0.96
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	23	1	24	0.63	1.18
Fingal County Council	56	4	60	1.53	1.30
Galway City Council	0	1	1	0.08	0.75
Galway County Council	0	3	3	0.10	1.57
Kerry County Council	0	5	5	0.19	1.68
Kildare County Council	124	2	126	3.84	0.95
Kilkenny County Council	67	1	68	4.23	15.79
Laois County Council	0	1	1	0.09	5.57
Leitrim County Council	0	2	8	1.55	4.65
Limerick City Council	2	1	3	0.28	0.68
Limerick County Council	0	4	4	0.16	2.53
Longford County Council	0	0	0	N/A	0.00
Louth County Council	0	2	2	0.10	2.31
Mayo County Council	1	2	3	0.13	2.82
Meath County Council	0	2	2	N/A	0.13
Monaghan County Council	0	1	1	0.10	1.14
North Tipperary CC	0	2	2	0.16	2.41
Offaly County Council	0	2	2	0.16	1.04
Roscommon County Council	0	3	3	0.28	5.39
Sligo County Council	12	2	14	1.20	1.49
South Dublin County Council	30	1	31	0.65	1.42
South Tipperary CC	0	3	3	0.19	3.08
Waterford City Council	0	1	1	0.11	2.15
Waterford County Council	55	3	58	N/A	1.19
Westmeath County Council	0	2	2	0.14	2.02
Wexford County Council	113	2	115	4.93	0.30
Wicklow County Council	12	5	17	0.74	2.89

Comparison 2004-2006

E 9.4.1		2004	2005	2006
Number of Bring Banks - Batteries				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Mean	12.9	15.3	15.6
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	75%	8.8	15.0	14.0

E 9.4.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Batteries				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Mean	1.8	2.2	2.4
Percentiles	25%	1.0	1.0	1.0
	75%	2.3	3.0	3.0

E 9.4.3		2004	2005	2006
Total Number of Facilities - Batteries				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	3.0	3.0	4.0
	Mean	14.7	17.5	18.3
Percentiles	25%	1.0	2.0	2.0
	75%	11.3	16.5	18.5

E 9.4.4		2004	2005	2006
Number of Locations per 5000 population - Batteries				
N	Valid	33	34	29
	Missing	1	0	5
Average	Median	0.1	0.2	0.2
	Mean	0.6	0.9	0.7
Percentiles	25%	0.1	0.1	0.0
	75%	0.4	0.7	0.1

E 9.4.5		2004	2005	2006
Tonnages per 5000 population - Batteries				
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	0.80	1.01	1.63
	Mean	1.03	1.54	2.44
Percentiles	25%	0.36	0.67	0.00
	75%	1.64	2.08	1.02

This indicator measures the amount of batteries brought for recycling to local authority bring centres.

The average number of bring banks and civic amenity sites for batteries is unchanged since 2004.

Table 41: Recycling Facilities - Oil

	E 9.5.1 Number of Bring Banks - Oil	E 9.5.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Oil	E 9.5.3 Total Number of Facilities - Oil	E 9.5.4 Number of Locations per 5000 population - Oil	E 9.5.5 Tonnes collected for recycling per 5000 population - Oil
Carlow County Council	0	3	3	0.33	1.28
Cavan County Council	0	2	2	0.18	0.22
Clare County Council	0	4	4	0.19	0.19
Cork City Council	0	1	1	0.04	0.59
Cork County Council	0	9	9	0.14	0.82
Donegal County Council	0	2	2	0.07	0.65
Dublin City Council	4	2	6	0.06	0.10
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	0	1	1	0.03	0.24
Fingal County Council	N/A	3	3	0.08	0.48
Galway City Council	0	1	1	0.08	0.38
Galway County Council	0	3	3	0.10	0.52
Kerry County Council	0	5	5	0.19	0.38
Kildare County Council	0	2	2	0.06	0.86
Kilkenny County Council	0	1	1	0.06	0.10
Laois County Council	0	1	1	0.09	2.12
Leitrim County Council	10	2	12	2.33	1.85
Limerick City Council	0	1	1	0.09	0.30
Limerick County Council	0	4	4	0.16	0.43
Longford County Council	0	0	0	N/A	0.00
Louth County Council	0	2	2	0.10	0.54
Mayo County Council	1	2	3	0.13	0.47
Meath County Council	0	2	2	N/A	0.34
Monaghan County Council	0	1	1	0.10	0.05
North Tipperary CC	0	1	1	0.08	0.62
Offaly County Council	0	2	2	0.16	0.51
Roscommon County Council	0	3	3	0.28	0.24
Sligo County Council	0	1	1	0.09	0.21
South Dublin County Council	0	1	1	0.02	0.75
South Tipperary CC	0	3	3	0.19	0.90
Waterford City Council	0	1	1	0.11	0.15
Waterford County Council	0	3	3	N/A	0.33
Westmeath County Council	0	2	2	0.14	0.47
Wexford County Council	4	1	5	0.21	0.30
Wicklow County Council	4	5	9	0.39	0.68

Comparison 2004-2006

E 9.5.1 Number of Bring Banks - Oil		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	0.0	0.0	0.0
	Mean	0.6	0.5	0.7
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	75%	0.0	0.0	0.0

E 9.5.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Oil		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	1.0	2.0	2.0
	Mean	1.6	2.0	2.3
Percentiles	25%	1.0	1.0	1.0
	75%	2.0	2.0	3.0

E 9.5.3 Total Number of Facilities - Oil		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	1.0	2.0	2.0
	Mean	2.1	2.5	2.9
Percentiles	25%	1.0	1.0	1.0
	75%	3.0	3.0	3.5

E 9.5.4 Number of Locations per 5000 population - Oil		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	29
	Missing	0	0	5
Average	Median	0.1	0.1	0.1
	Mean	0.1	0.2	0.2
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.1	0.0
	75%	0.1	0.2	0.1

E 9.5.5		2004	2005	2006
Tonnages per 5000 population - Oil				
N	Valid	33	33	34
	Missing	1	1	0
Average	Median	0.16	0.3	0.55
	Mean	0.36	0.45	0.53
Percentiles	25%	0.04	0.10	0.00
	75%	0.67	0.71	0.24

This indicator measures the amount of oil brought for recycling to local authority bring centres. The average number of bring banks for oil is unchanged since 2004, while the average number of civic amenity sites and the average total number of facilities for oil doubled since 2004.

Table 42: Recycling Facilities - Other

	E 9.6.1 Number of Bring Banks - Other	E 9.6.2 Number of Civic Amenity Sites – Other	E 9.6.3 Total Number of Facilities - Other	E 9.6.4 Number of Locations per 5000 population - Other	E 9.6.5 Tonnes collected for recycling per 5000 location - Other
Carlow County Council	5	3	8	2.5	90.50
Cavan County Council	29	2	31	2.74	74.15
Clare County Council	5	4	9	0.44	133.68
Cork City Council	0	6	6	0.24	16.99
Cork County Council	42	9	51	0.79	387.19
Donegal County Council	2	2	4	0.15	76.27
Dublin City Council	11	2	13	0.13	31.02
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	10	1	11	0.29	305.32
Fingal County Council	8	4	12	0.31	89.23
Galway City Council	0	1	1	0.08	39.64
Galway County Council	0	3	3	0.10	37.28
Kerry County Council	7	5	12	0.45	81.89
Kildare County Council	0	2	2	0.06	55.77
Kilkenny County Council	1	1	2	0.12	80.75
Laois County Council	0	1	1	0.09	475.73
Leitrim County Council	0	2	2	0.39	56.49
Limerick City Council	0	1	1	0.09	11.34
Limerick County Council	48	5	53	2.18	166.05
Longford County Council	0	1	1	0.16	125.53
Louth County Council	0	2	2	0.10	504.96
Mayo County Council	0	2	2	0.09	120.46
Meath County Council	0	2	2	N/A	138.51
Monaghan County Council	0	1	1	0.10	426.05
North Tipperary CC	0	2	2	0.16	125.55
Offaly County Council	0	3	3	0.24	87.94
Roscommon County Council	0	3	3	0.28	294.72
Sligo County Council	0	2	2	0.17	91.22
South Dublin County Council	9	2	11	0.23	157.84
South Tipperary CC	0	3	3	0.19	61.50
Waterford City Council	0	1	1	0.11	87.81
Waterford County Council	0	3	3	N/A	69.65
Westmeath County Council	0	2	2	0.14	124.95
Wexford County Council	35	2	37	1.59	80.10
Wicklow County Council	20	5	25	1.09	186.53

Comparison 2004-2006

E 9.6.1		2004	2005	2006
Number of Bring Banks – Other				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	1.5	0.0	0.0
	Mean	9.2	9.4	6.8
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	0.0
	75%	8.3	8.0	8.3

E 9.6.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of Civic Amenity Sites - Other				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	2.0	2.0	2.0
	Mean	1.9	2.5	2.6
Percentiles	25%	1.0	1.0	1.8
	75%	2.3	3.0	3.0

E 9.6.3		2004	2005	2006
Total Number of Facilities - Other				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	4.0	3.0	3.0
	Mean	11.1	11.9	9.5
Percentiles	25%	2.0	2.0	2.0
	75%	10.0	11.3	11.3

E 9.6.4		2004	2005	2006
Number of Locations per 5000 population - Other				
N	Valid	34	34	30
	Missing	0	0	4
Average	Median	0.20	0.24	0.17
	Mean	0.69	0.48	0.43
Percentiles	25%	0.10	0.12	0.06
	75%	0.52	0.44	0.10

E 9.6.5 Tonnes per 5000 location - Other		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	33	34
	Missing	0	1	0
Average	Median	54.95	74.30	89.87
	Mean	80.16	110.36	143.90
Percentiles	25%	15.71	45.94	11.34
	75%	77.62	113.04	67.61

This indicator measures the number of local authority recycling facilities for other materials. The average number of bring banks for other materials increased by 4% since 200, while the average number of civic amenity sites is unchanged since 2004.

Table 43: Litter Pollution

	E 10.7.1 Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are litter free	E 10.7.2 Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are slightly polluted	E 10.7.3 Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are moderately polluted	E 10.7.4 Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are significantly polluted	E 10.7.5 Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are grossly polluted
Carlow County Council	1%	83%	13%	3%	0%
Cavan County Council	4%	68%	23%	4%	0%
Clare County Council	15%	36%	23%	21%	4%
Cork City Council	1%	45%	41%	13%	0%
Cork County Council ^a	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Donegal County Council	7%	46%	43%	4%	0%
Dublin City Council	12%	46%	35%	6%	0%
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	4%	70%	23%	3%	0%
Fingal County Council	0%	52%	42%	6%	0%
Galway City Council	2%	51%	33%	13%	1%
Galway County Council	11%	41%	35%	12%	1%
Kerry County Council	3%	62%	30%	5%	0%
Kildare County Council ^b	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kilkenny County Council	11%	51%	32%	6%	0%
Laois County Council	5%	41%	46%	8%	0%
Leitrim County Council	9%	64%	23%	5%	0%
Limerick City Council	7%	49%	35%	8%	1%
Limerick County Council	21%	52%	22%	4%	0%
Longford County Council	6%	63%	28%	4%	0%
Louth County Council	10%	83%	7%	0%	0%
Mayo County Council	1%	48%	42%	9%	0%
Meath County Council	10%	43%	38%	9%	0%
Monaghan County Council	0%	86%	14%	0%	0%
North Tipperary CC	4%	61%	26%	8%	1%
Offaly County Council	1%	36%	53%	9%	1%
Roscommon CC	10%	38%	35%	12%	4%
Sligo County Council	9%	39%	43%	9%	0%
South Dublin CC	1%	33%	43%	19%	4%
South Tipperary CC	6%	69%	21%	4%	1%
Waterford City Council	1%	54%	39%	6%	0%
Waterford County Council	18%	77%	5%	0%	0%
Westmeath County Council	0%	35%	41%	24%	0%
Wexford County Council	0%	50%	28%	20%	2%
Wicklow County Council	6%	44%	39%	11%	0%

^a Litter monitoring surveys are carried out on a local level but these are not fully comparable with the national surveys.
^b Litter monitoring surveys are carried out on a local level but these are not fully comparable with national surveys.

E 10.7.1		Changed	2006
Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are litter free 2005		Indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	33	32
	Missing	1	2
Average	Median	3.0	5.5
	Mean	11.8	6.1
Percentiles	25%	0.7	1.0
	75%	15.6	10.0

E 10.7.2		Changed	2006
Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are slightly polluted 2005		Indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	33	32
	Missing	1	2
Average	Median	43.0	50.5
	Mean	41.6	53.6
Percentiles	25%	31.9	41.5
	75%	52.9	63.8

E 10.7.3		Changed	2006
Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are moderately polluted 2005		Indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	33	32
	Missing	1	2
Average	Median	32.5	34.0
	Mean	34.9	31.3
Percentiles	25%	19.7	23.0
	75%	47.6	41.0

E 10.7.4		Changed	2006
Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are significantly polluted 2005		Indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	33	32
	Missing	1	2
Average	Median	7.9	7.0
	Mean	9.8	8.3
Percentiles	25%	5.0	4.0
	75%	11.9	11.8

E 10.7.5 Percentage of areas within the local authority area that are grossly polluted 2005		Changed Indicator in 2005	2006
N	Valid	33	32
	Missing	1	2
Average	Median	0.8	0.0
	Mean	2.0	0.6
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0
	75%	3.0	1.0

The service indicator measuring litter pollution is based on data from the National Litter Pollution Monitoring System supplied by TES Consulting Engineers, who are responsible for the collation and capture of the litter statistics. The System has been fully established since 2001 and initially requires local authorities to identify potential litter generators in their local authority functional area. The LGCSB has developed a Litter Geographical Information System (GIS) software package to assist local authorities to map potential sources of litter and identify survey locations. Therefore the first year's "Set-Up" Phase is time consuming, however in subsequent years a set number of Litter Pollution and Quantification Surveys are completed and the Potential Litter Generators are updated to take account of the development of new buildings etc.

This indicator measures the litter pollution across each local authority area. A comparison of the *total results* between 2005 and 2006 shows that:

- the total percentage of litter free areas has increased from 6.1 to 6.8 per cent;
- the total percentage of slightly polluted areas has increased from 49.5 to 53.6 per cent;
- the total percentage of areas significantly polluted has decreased from 8.5 to 7.4 per cent;
- the percentage of areas grossly polluted has also fallen from 1.5 to 0.6 per cent.

The descriptive tables above present details for the *average values* over the same period, and show that the typical results for a local authority are also positive.

Table 44: Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

	E 11.1 Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution	E 11.2 Number of cases investigated	E 11.3 Number of enforcement procedures taken
Carlow County Council	1,773	1,773	81
Cavan County Council	718	691	487
Clare County Council	2,064	2,064	261
Cork City Council	1,753	1,307	1,050
Cork County Council	1,312	1,312	198
Donegal County Council	1,820	1,799	54
Dublin City Council	9,591	9,591	508
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	2,534	2,377	151
Fingal County Council	3,890	3,683	89
Galway City Council	1,221	1,120	9
Galway County Council	713	713	82
Kerry County Council	1,517	1,266	137
Kildare County Council	2,112	1,634	169
Kilkenny County Council	1,371	1,371	117
Laois County Council	560	541	69
Leitrim County Council	839	839	433
Limerick City Council	2,325	2,117	470
Limerick County Council	2,383	2,210	276
Longford County Council	1,075	1,075	1,075
Louth County Council	2,053	1,910	244
Mayo County Council	1,118	1,071	100
Meath County Council	2,304	2,304	183
Monaghan County Council	531	531	70
North Tipperary County Council	1,033	1,033	72
Offaly County Council	506	506	140
Roscommon County Council	1,224	1,221	47
Sligo County Council	2,170	2,204	512
South Dublin County Council	7,811	7,811	87
South Tipperary County Council	730	730	80
Waterford City Council	1,609	1,609	370
Waterford County Council	803	791	230
Westmeath County Council	1,363	1,363	735
Wexford County Council	2,870	2,668	195
Wicklow County Council	1,970	1,970	1,097
Total	67,666	65,205	9,878

Comparison 2004-2006

E 11.1		2004	2005	2006
Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	956	1,249	1,563
	Mean	1,373	1,858	1,990
Percentiles	25%	475	837	984
	75%	1,804	2,219	2,203

E 11.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of cases investigated				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	938	1,139.5	1,367
	Mean	1,322	1,779.7	1,917.8
Percentiles	25%	474	767.8	984.5
	75%	1,594	2,194.8	2,138.8

E 11.3		2004	2005	2006
Number of enforcement procedures taken				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	139.5	144.5	176.0
	Mean	202.1	258.0	290.5
Percentiles	25%	54.3	72.5	81.8
	75%	262.3	346.5	442.3

The number of complaints in E11.1 include complaints about litter, waste, air, water, noise and other. It is apparent that in many cases, complaints were resolved verbally with advice and no necessity for investigation, others were dismissed as being vexatious, while some complaints were still under investigation at year end.

The average total number of complaints received has increased by 63% since 2004. The average total number of complaints investigated increased by 46%, while the average total number of enforcement procedures taken also increased by 26%.

Table 45: Participation by Schools in Environmental Campaigns

	E 12.1 Primary Schools participating in environmental campaigns (percentage)	E 12.2 Secondary Schools participating in environmental campaigns (percentage)
Carlow County Council	71.0	64.0
Cavan County Council	37.0	60.0
Clare County Council	66.5	72.5
Cork City Council	28.0	42.0
Cork County Council	41.3	55.9
Donegal County Council	54.0	73.0
Dublin City Council	64.0	26.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	88.0	78.0
Fingal County Council	76.0	83.0
Galway City Council	88.5	90.0
Galway County Council	75.0	79.0
Kerry County Council	56.0	89.0
Kildare County Council	64.4	55.5
Kilkenny County Council	51.0	53.0
Laois County Council	58.0	52.0
Leitrim County Council	80.0	77.8
Limerick City Council	65.5	78.6
Limerick County Council	56.0	85.0
Longford County Council	92.5	100.0
Louth County Council	63.0	69.0
Mayo County Council	56.0	55.0
Meath County Council	73.0	55.0
Monaghan County Council	27.7	66.7
North Tipperary County Council	66.0	47.0
Offaly County Council	64.0	78.0
Roscommon County Council	65.0	88.0
Sligo County Council	82.0	93.0
South Dublin County Council	64.9	54.8
South Tipperary County Council	36.7	37.5
Waterford City Council	71.0	73.0
Waterford County Council	59.0	88.0
Westmeath County Council	62.0	73.0
Wexford County Council	63.0	79.0
Wicklow County Council	87.0	95.0

Comparison 2004-2006

E 12.1				
Primary schools participating in environmental campaigns (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	46.0	53.0	64.2
	Mean	50.1	53.8	63.3
Percentiles	25%	38.7	42.9	56.0
	75%	60.8	65.3	73.5

E 12.2				
Secondary schools participating in environmental campaigns (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	54.6	64.0	73.0
	Mean	53.9	61.9	69.6
Percentiles	25%	43.0	49.5	55.0
	75%	66.3	74.3	83.5

The figures for 2006 confirm the increasing involvement by both primary and secondary schools in environmental campaigns over the period, a reflection of the emphasis placed by local authorities on this work.

Table 46: Litter Wardens Employed by Local Authorities

	E 10.1 Number of Full- Time Litter Wardens	E 10.2 Number of Part-Time Litter Wardens	E 10.3 Number of Litter Wardens (Full-Time and Part-Time) per 5000 Population
Carlow County Council	2	0	0.2
Cavan County Council	3	7	0.9
Clare County Council	5	1	0.3
Cork City Council	4	0	0.2
Cork County Council	7	17	0.4
Donegal County Council	7	5	0.4
Dublin City Council	20	0	0.2
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	4	0	0.1
Fingal County Council	6	0	0.2
Galway City Council	1	7	0.8
Galway County Council	1	15	0.6
Kerry County Council	4	8	0.5
Kildare County Council	2	7	0.3
Kilkenny County Council	3	13	1.0
Laois County Council	3	2	0.4
Leitrim County Council	0	5	1.0
Limerick City Council	3	2	0.5
Limerick County Council	3	2	0.2
Longford County Council	4	5	1.5
Louth County Council	7	0	0.3
Mayo County Council	1	7	0.3
Meath County Council	2	24	1.0
Monaghan County Council	0	14	1.3
North Tipperary County Council	2	5	0.6
Offaly County Council	4	6	0.8
Roscommon County Council	2	6	0.7
Sligo County Council	2	4	0.5
South Dublin County Council	6	0	0.1
South Tipperary County Council	3	10	0.8
Waterford City Council	2	2	0.5
Waterford County Council	3	2	0.4
Westmeath County Council	2	5	0.5
Wexford County Council	0	13	0.6
Wicklow County Council	6	7	0.6
Total	124	201	

Comparison 2004-2006

E 10.1		2004	2005	2006
Number of full-time litter wardens				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	3.0	3.0	3.0
	Mean	4.0	4.0	3.7
Percentiles	25%	2.0	2.0	2.0
	75%	5.3	5.3	4.3

E 10.2		2004	2005	2006
Number of part-time litter wardens				
N	Valid	3	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	3.0	4.0	5.0
	Mean	4.4	5.3	5.9
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	1.8
	75%	7.0	7.0	7.3

E 10.3		2004	2005	2006
Number of Litter wardens (full-time and part-time) per 5000 population				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	0.4	0.5	0.5
	Mean	0.5	0.6	0.5
Percentiles	25%	0.2	0.3	0.1
	75%	0.6	0.7	0.3

Table 47: Enforcement of Litter Laws

	E 10.4 Number of on- the-spot fines	E 10.5 Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines	E 10.6 Number of litter prosecutions secured
Carlow County Council	224	0	0
Cavan County Council	163	10	3
Clare County Council	400	15	2
Cork City Council	1,010	101	18
Cork County Council	998	37	8
Donegal County Council	486	17	2
Dublin City Council	8,903	453	31
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	519	24	8
Fingal County Council	1,240	51	44
Galway City Council	98	1	0
Galway County Council	465	59	10
Kerry County Council	322	60	18
Kildare County Council	1,461	68	12
Kilkenny County Council	274	0	8
Laois County Council	570	169	21
Leitrim County Council	139	39	6
Limerick City Council	788	358	73
Limerick County Council	362	7	0
Longford County Council	630	25	5
Louth County Council	1,886	248	101
Mayo County Council	254	32	11
Meath County Council	389	18	12
Monaghan County Council	232	59	20
North Tipperary County Council	167	28	9
Offaly County Council	408	39	7
Roscommon County Council	266	3	3
Sligo County Council	400	31	2
South Dublin County Council	680	89	38
South Tipperary County Council	386	0	0
Waterford City Council	457	19	12
Waterford County Council	127	18	3
Westmeath County Council	338	52	19
Wexford County Council	277	38	9
Wicklow County Council	719	71	16
Total	26,038	2,239	531

Comparison 2004-2006

E 10.4		2004	2005	2006
Number of on-the-spot fines				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	336.0	402.5	400.0
	Mean	613.0	763.8	765.8
Percentiles	25%	204.3	199.0	263.0
	75%	654.3	725.5	689.8

E 10.5		2004	2005	2006
Number of prosecution cases taken because of non-payment of on-the-spot fines				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	25.5	31.5	34.5
	Mean	57.1	56.5	65.9
Percentiles	25%	9.5	13.8	16.5
	75%	57.5	73.0	62.0

E 10.6		2004	2005	2006
Number of litter prosecutions secured				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	8.5	12.5	9.0
	Mean	22.5	17.1	15.6
Percentiles	25%	2.0	4.0	3.0
	75%	20.3	18.5	18.3

It is noteworthy that there have been increases during the period 2004 to 2006 in the numbers of fines issued, prosecutions taken and secured.

Section 9: Motor Tax

Table 48: Motor Taxation - Number of Transactions

	M 1.1 Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over counter	M 1.2 Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post	M 1.3 Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online)
Carlow County Council	56550	11228	11310
Cavan County Council	56174	15157	11452
Clare County Council	102591	20345	22186
<i>Cork Combined</i>	264481	187646	134381
Donegal County Council	150014	11985	15574
<i>Dublin Combined</i>	598493	231401	387233
<i>Galway Combined</i>	189314	36867	50682
Kerry County Council	98331	46784	28956
Kildare County Council	123492	40130	64816
Kilkenny County Council	72591	20675	19879
Laois County Council	59068	15831	12822
Leitrim County Council	22109	10586	4432
Limerick City Council	41985	5958	12390
Limerick County Council	97466	38422	31716
Longford County Council	35459	4607	4236
Louth County Council	93578	9295	18370
Mayo County Council	97616	30002	21282
Meath County Council	131568	34528	46105
Monaghan County Council	53454	9815	7358
North Tipperary County Council	55403	21533	15749
Offaly County Council	62300	15114	13534
Roscommon County Council	42837	23417	9563
Sligo County Council	58463	9668	10269
South Tipperary County Council	85703	17251	13936
Waterford City Council	41922	5830	12312
Waterford County Council	58486	10011	10254
Westmeath County Council	76750	14276	14073
Wexford County Council	100643	53610	32081
Wicklow County Council	99606	27448	36722
Totals	3026447	979420	1073673

Comparison 2004-2006

M 1.1		New	2006
Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with over the counter		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	29	29
	Missing	5	5
Average	Median	65,219	76,750
	Mean	95,126	104,360
Percentiles	25%	44,409	55,789
	75%	96,658	101,617

M 1.2		New	2006
Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with by post		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	29	29
	Missing	5	5
Average	Median	21,812	17,251
	Mean	38,514	33,773
Percentiles	25%	11,893	10,298
	75%	36,320	35,697

M 1.3		New	2006
Number of motor tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)		indicator in 2005	
N	Valid	28	29
	Missing	6	5
Average	Median	10,098	15,574
	Mean	25,497	37,023
Percentiles	25%	7,394	11,381
	75%	21,007	31,898

The indicators show that in 2006, the total number of postal, counter and online transactions dealt with has topped 5 million, an increase of 9.5% on comparable figures for 2005. The 2006 figures also confirm the continuing trend in the use of online services to carry out motor tax transactions which now represent 21% of activities compared to 16.5% in 2005. The average number of motor tax transactions dealt with at the counter increased by 18% between 2004 and 2006; the average number of postal transactions has decreased by 21% and the average number of online transactions increased by 54% in the same period.

Fig 7: Methods of Motor Tax Transactions

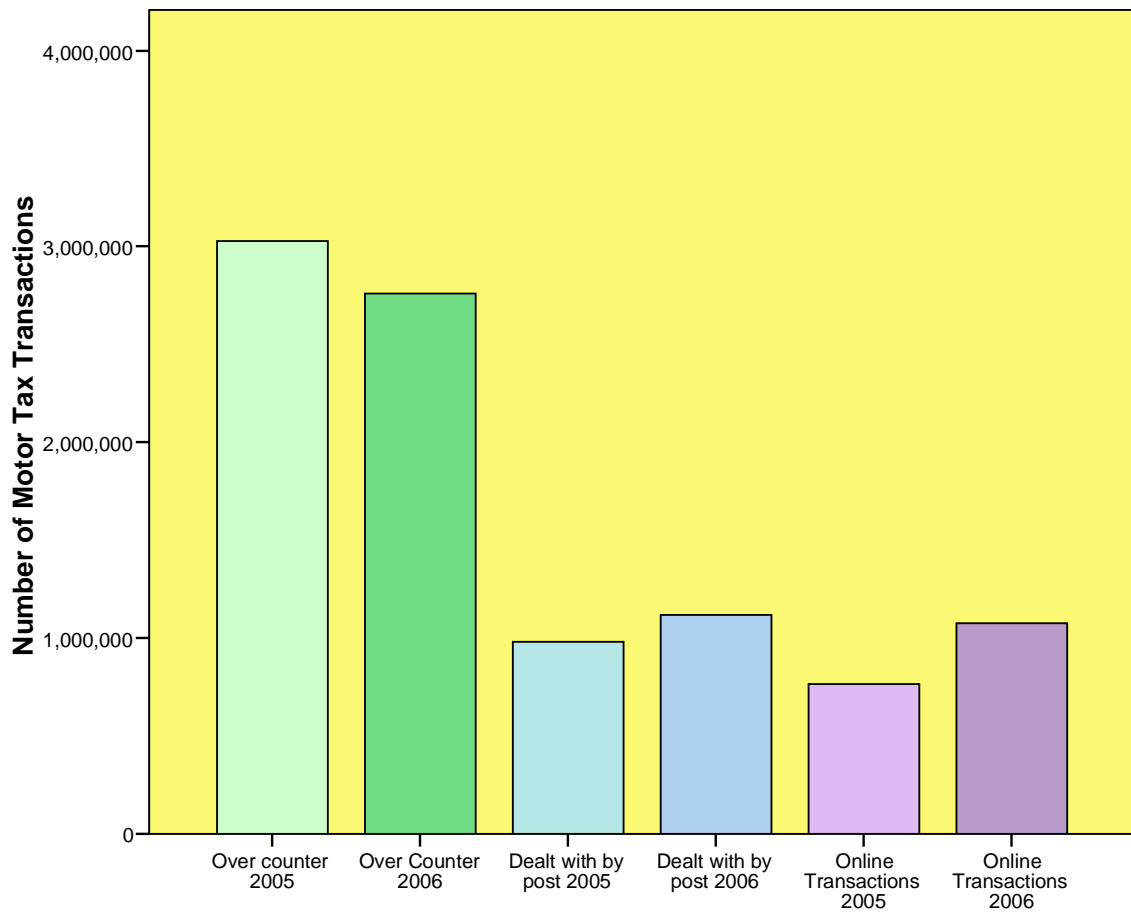


Table 49: Motor Taxation - Analysis of Transactions

	M 1.4 % Motor Tax transactions which are dealt with over counter	M 1.5 % Motor Tax transactions which are dealt with by post	M 1.6 % Motor Tax transactions which are dealt with in other ways (e.g. online, by telephone)
Carlow County Council	72.0	14.0	14.0
Cavan County Council	68.0	18.0	14.0
Clare County Council	71.0	14.0	15.0
<i>Cork Combined</i>	45.0	32.0	23.0
Donegal County Council	71.0	27.0	2.0
<i>Dublin Combined</i>	49.2	19.1	31.8
<i>Galway Combined</i>	68.0	13.0	18.0
Kerry County Council	57.0	27.0	17.0
Kildare County Council	54.0	18.0	28.0
Kilkenny County Council	64.0	18.0	18.0
Laois County Council	67.0	18.0	15.0
Leitrim County Council	60.0	29.0	12.0
Limerick City Council	70.0	10.0	21.0
Limerick County Council	58.0	23.0	19.0
Longford County Council	80.0	10.0	10.0
Louth County Council	77.0	8.0	15.0
Mayo County Council	66.0	20.0	14.0
Meath County Council	62.0	16.0	22.0
Monaghan County Council	76.0	14.0	10.0
North Tipperary County Council	60.0	23.0	17.0
Offaly County Council	69.0	17.0	15.0
Roscommon County Council	57.0	31.0	13.0
Sligo County Council	75.0	12.0	13.0
South Tipperary County Council	73.0	15.0	12.0
Waterford City Council	70.0	10.0	21.0
Waterford County Council	74.0	13.0	13.0
Westmeath County Council	73.0	14.0	13.0
Wexford County Council	54.0	29.0	17.0
Wicklow County Council	61.0	17.0	22.0

Comparison 2004-2006

M 1.4 Motor tax transactions at counter (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	67.6	66.0	67.9
	Mean	69.1	66.2	65.4
Percentiles	25%	62.0	58.0	58.7
	75%	77.2	74.0	72.2

M 1.5 Motor tax transactions by post (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	28.3	22.0	16.8
	Mean	28.2	21.9	18.2
Percentiles	25%	22.0	16.0	13.45
	75%	34.3	27	23.1

M 1.6 Motor tax transactions by other means (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	28	29	29
	Missing	6	5	5
Average	Median	0.0	12.0	15.2
	Mean	2.8	12.8	16.3
Percentiles	25%	0.0	10	13.05
	75%	5.9	14.5	23.1

Table 50: Motor Taxation - Time Taken to Process Postal Applications

	M 2.1 Number of motor tax applications dealt with on same day	M 2.2 Number of motor tax applications dealt with on the third day or less	M 2.3 Number of motor tax applications dealt with on fifth day or less	M 2.4 Number of motor tax applications dealt with in over five days
Carlow County Council	9786	535	95	812
Cavan County Council	4940	5031	2032	3154
Clare County Council	20036	143	16	150
<i>Cork Combined</i>	160497	22952	413	3784
Donegal County Council	5590	5721	395	279
<i>Dublin Combined</i>	43489	134108	29265	24539
<i>Galway Combined</i>	30860	4627	938	442
Kerry County Council	22743	9960	3637	10444
Kildare County Council	2544	10593	5769	21224
Kilkenny County Council	9553	8282	1564	1276
Laois County Council	10326	4701	121	683
Leitrim County Council	9050	1252	53	231
Limerick City Council	2070	2829	742	317
Limerick County Council	29431	7024	1036	931
Longford County Council	4471	85	0	51
Louth County Council	3169	3872	850	1404
Mayo County Council	7484	10089	3231	9198
Meath County Council	6918	6899	4997	15714
Monaghan County Council	8315	1343	6	151
North Tipperary CC	7925	8409	1903	3296
Offaly County Council	4529	6083	2128	2374
Roscommon County Council	18387	4869	99	62
Sligo County Council	8180	868	175	445
South Tipperary CC	16042	1107	15	87
Waterford City Council	4601	1092	54	83
Waterford County Council	6968	1737	356	950
Westmeath County Council	11927	1988	309	52
Wexford County Council	39584	13113	313	600
Wicklow County Council	3403	10698	5192	8155
Totals	51,218	290,010	65,704	111,0888

Comparison 2004-2006

M 2.1 Number of motor tax applications dealt with on same day		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	15,425	10,736	8,315
	Mean	24,277	20,992	17,683
Percentiles	25%	8,121	5,282	4,771
	75%	26,740	19,816	19,212

M 2.2 Number of motor tax applications dealt with on third day or less		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	3,749	3,778	4,869
	Mean	17,678	10,083	10,000
Percentiles	25%	1,190	1,471	1,298
	75%	8,749	9,100	9,185

M 2.3 Number of motor tax applications dealt with on fifth day or less		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	231	200	413
	Mean	11,576	3,326	2,266
Percentiles	25%	0	0	97
	75%	2,793	1,965	2,080

M 2.4 Number of motor tax applications dealt with in over five days		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	48	115	812
	Mean	3,790	3,772	3,824
Percentiles	25%	0	0	191
	75%	2,459	2,049	3,540

The average number of postal motor tax applications dealt with on the same day decreased by 46% between 2004 and 2006. However, the average number of motor tax applications dealt with on the third day or less increased by 30% and the average number of motor tax applications dealt with on the fifth day or less increased by 77%.

**Table 51: Motor Taxation - Time Taken to Process Postal Applications
(Percentage)**

	M 2.5 % of motor tax applications dealt with on same day	M 2.6 % of motor tax applications dealt with on third day or less	M 2.7 % of motor tax applications dealt with on fifth day or less	M 2.8 % of motor tax applications dealt with over five days
Carlow County Council	87.2	4.8	0.9	7.2
Cavan County Council	32.6	33.2	13.4	20.8
Clare County Council	98.5	0.7	0.1	0.7
<i>Cork Combined</i>	85.5	12.2	0.2	2.0
Donegal County Council	46.6	47.7	3.3	2.3
<i>Dublin Combined</i>	18.8	58	12.7	10.6
<i>Galway Combined</i>	83.7	12.6	2.5	1.2
Kerry County Council	48.6	21.3	7.8	22.3
Kildare County Council	6.3	26.4	14.4	52.9
Kilkenny County Council	46.2	40.1	7.6	6.2
Laois County Council	65.2	29.7	0.8	4.3
Leitrim County Council	85.5	11.8	0.5	2.2
Limerick City Council	34.7	47.5	12.5	5.3
Limerick County Council	76.6	18.3	2.7	0.0
Longford County Council	97.1	1.9	0.0	1.1
Louth County Council	34.1	41.7	9.1	15.1
Mayo County Council	25.0	33.6	10.8	30.7
Meath County Council	20.0	20.0	14.5	45.5
Monaghan County Council	84.7	13.7	0.1	1.5
North Tipperary CC	36.8	39.1	8.8	15.3
Offaly County Council	30.0	40.3	14.1	15.7
Roscommon County Council	78.5	20.8	0.4	0.3
Sligo County Council	84.6	9.0	1.8	4.6
South Tipperary CC	93.0	6.4	0.1	0.5
Waterford City Council	78.9	18.7	0.9	1.4
Waterford County Council	69.6	17.4	3.6	9.5
Westmeath County Council	83.6	13.9	2.2	0.4
Wexford County Council	73.8	24.5	0.6	1.1
Wicklow County Council	12.4	39.0	18.9	29.7

Comparison 2004-2006

M 2.5 Motor tax applications dealt with on same day (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	74.0	75.3	69.6
	Mean	66.5	64.6	59.4
Percentiles	25%	46.5	37.0	33.3
	75%	94.0	90.4	84.7

M 2.6 Motor tax applications dealt with on third day or less (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	19.0	22.4	20.8
	Mean	20.9	22.1	24.26
Percentiles	25%	3.9	6.7	12.27
	75%	32.5	37.8	39.0

M 2.7 Motor tax applications dealt with on fifth day or less (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	1.5	1.6	2.7
	Mean	6.1	5.6	5.69
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	0.54
	75%	10.8	9.7	11.61

M 2.8 Motor tax applications dealt with over five days (percentage)		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	0.5	1.0	4.6
	Mean	6.5	7.7	10.8
Percentiles	25%	0.0	0.0	1.31
	75%	11.0	14.0	15.5

Table 52: Motor Taxation Offices Opening Hours

	M 3 Average number of opening hours per week
Carlow County Council	31.3
Cavan County Council	30.0
Clare County Council	31.5
Cork City Council	N/A
Cork County Council	34.0
Donegal County Council	24.0 ^a
Dublin City Council	30.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	N/A
Fingal County Council	N/A
Galway City Council	N/A
Galway County Council	32.5
Kerry County Council	30.0
Kildare County Council	27.5
Kilkenny County Council	32.5
Laois County Council	32.5
Leitrim County Council	27.9 ^b
Limerick City Council	30.0
Limerick County Council	30.0
Longford County Council	35.0
Louth County Council	28.8
Mayo County Council	21.2 ^c
Meath County Council	28.0
Monaghan County Council	27.5
North Tipperary County Council	30.0
Offaly County Council	29.0
Roscommon County Council	22.5
Sligo County Council	32.5
South Dublin County Council	N/A
South Tipperary County Council	32.1
Waterford City Council	33.8
Waterford County Council	32.5
Westmeath County Council	35.0
Wexford County Council	35.0
Wicklow County Council	30.0

^a Motor Tax services provided at 6 separate locations around the County.
^b All Bank Holidays and closed days in 2006 have been factored into the weekly average. Standard weekly opening hours are 30hrs.
^c There are also 2 offices open for same hours in Ballina and Belmullet

Comparison 2004-2006

M 3 Average number of opening hours per week		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	29	29	29
	Missing	5	5	5
Average	Median	30.0	30.0	30.0
	Mean	29.9	30.0	30.2
Percentiles	25%	28.4	28.4	28.4
	75%	32.5	32.5	32.5

The average number of opening hours of motor taxation offices is unchanged since 2004, with little national variation in the amount of opening hours per week.

Section 10: Finance

Table 53: Local Authority Revenue - Summary of Collection

	Rev 1.1 Housing rent - Amount collected at year end as percentage of amount due	Rev 2.1 Housing loans - Amount collected at year end as percentage of amount due	Rev 3 Rates - Amount collected at year- end as percentage of amount due
Carlow County Council	97.0	90.0	92.0
Cavan County Council	86.4	93.0	92.9
Clare County Council	91.0	82.7	97.6
Cork City Council	93.0	89.2	93.6
Cork County Council	91.4	87.5	96.7
Donegal County Council	86.6	81.0	89.0
Dublin City Council	85.9	92.6	90.3
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	88.4	100.3	93.0
Fingal County Council	92.0	95.3	95.6
Galway City Council	81.0	92.0	86.0
Galway County Council	92.5	89.7	87.9
Kerry County Council	93.1	88.9	94.6
Kildare County Council	81.0	75.8	96.1
Kilkenny County Council	90.0	92.0	98.0
Laois County Council	86.0	92.0	91.0
Leitrim County Council	92.6	76.2	93.7
Limerick City Council	87.0	99.0	86.3
Limerick County Council	96.0	78.0	96.0
Longford County Council	92.0	83.4	91.5
Louth County Council	88.8	98.3	84.2
Mayo County Council	75.8	73.4	95.1
Meath County Council	90.0	96.0	96.0
Monaghan County Council	93.0	77.1	92.5
North Tipperary County Council	96.0	86.0	96.0
Offaly County Council	87.5	82.9	93.0
Roscommon County Council	85.0	79.1	92.6
Sligo County Council	90.0	91.0	91.0
South Dublin County Council	83.0	91.1	94.0
South Tipperary County Council	98.4	88.9	96.4
Waterford City Council	89.0	87.0	96.0
Waterford County Council	89.4	89.6	91.8
Westmeath County Council	83.6	77.0	94.4
Wexford County Council	93.6	102.0	94.7
Wicklow County Council	94.3	94.0	90.0

Comparison 2004-2006

Rev 1.1 Housing rent collected at year end as a percentage of amount due		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	89.0	89.0	90.0
	Mean	88.8	89.1	89.4
Percentiles	25%	85.0	86.3	86.3
	75%	93.2	92.6	93.0

Rev 2.1 Housing loans: Amount collected at year end as percentage amount due		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	89.4	89.0	89.4
	Mean	86.7	88.1	88.0
Percentiles	25%	81.0	80.9	82.2
	75%	91.7	94.3	92.7

Rev 3 Rates: Amount collected at year-end as a percentage of amount due		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	93.1	93.8	93.3
	Mean	92.6	93.0	92.9
Percentiles	25%	90.9	90.0	91.0
	75%	95.8	96.0	96.0

Table 53 that opens this section is a composite, presenting the performance of local authorities in collecting monies due under the following headings – Housing Rents, Housing Loans and Commercial Rates. The average percentage of housing rents collected increased 1% since 2004. The average percentage of housing loans and rates collected remains unchanged relative to 2004. In the tables that follow, there is greater analysis of arrears outstanding for each category.

Table 54: Housing Rent - Collection Statistics

	Rev 1.1 Housing rent - Amount collected at year end as percentage of amount due	Rev 1.2 Housing Rent Arrears: Amount 4-6 weeks old	Rev 1.3 Housing Rent Arrears: Amount 6-12 weeks old	Rev 1.4 Housing Rent Arrears: Amount more than 12 weeks old
Carlow County Council	97.0	13.0	11.0	48.0
Cavan County Council	86.4	35.8	10.4	53.8
Clare County Council	91.0	13.5	13.8	72.8
Cork City Council	93.0	8.9	20.7	51.7
Cork County Council	91.4	3.6	9.2	70.9
Donegal County Council	86.6	3.4	7.6	83.1
Dublin City Council	85.9	3.3	9.6	87.1
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	88.4	8.3	18.0	60.3
Fingal County Council	92.0	6.7	14.0	67.0
Galway City Council	81.0	4.0	6.0	86.0
Galway County Council	92.5	11.2	11.9	60.2
Kerry County Council	93.1	9.4	10.3	68.9
Kildare County Council	81.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kilkenny County Council	90.0	5.0	14.0	74.0
Laois County Council	86.0	5.9	10.3	76.6
Leitrim County Council	92.6	11.6	11.0	63.1
Limerick City Council	87.0	12.0	8.0	80.0
Limerick County Council	96.0	16.8	14.3	45.8
Longford County Council	92.0	10.0	12.0	66.0
Louth County Council	88.8	8.3	12.6	69.6
Mayo County Council	75.8	2.8	4.6	89.4
Meath County Council	90.0	10.3	16.4	60.8
Monaghan County Council	93.0	12.1	10.4	77.5
North Tipperary County Council	96.0	8.0	16.0	62.0
Offaly County Council	87.5	4.9	6.3	81.5
Roscommon County Council	85.0	10.0	16.6	56.9
Sligo County Council	90.0	8.0	11.0	72.0
South Dublin County Council	83.0	12.6	12.4	47.1
South Tipperary County Council	98.4	13.5	11.2	51.9
Waterford City Council	89.0	6.5	8.1	69.9
Waterford County Council	89.4	5.4	9.9	76.2
Westmeath County Council	83.6	4.4	9.2	80.7
Wexford County Council	93.6	0.2	0.5	7.8
Wicklow County Council	94.3	22.0	20.4	43.0

Comparison 2004-2006

Rev 1.2 Housing Rent Arrears: Amount 4-6 weeks old		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	7.8	8.1	8.3
	Mean	9.2	7.6	9.4
Percentiles	25%	5.9	3.3	5.0
	75%	9.7	11.3	12.1

Rev 1.3 Housing Rent Arrears: Amount 6-12 weeks old		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	13.6	10.8	11.0
	Mean	14.6	11.1	11.4
Percentiles	25%	9.9	7.6	9.2
	75%	18.6	13.3	14.0

Rev 1.4 Housing Rent Arrears: Amount more than 12 weeks old		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	65.0	66.1	68.9
	Mean	65.5	64.3	65.5
Percentiles	25%	55.3	55.2	55.4
	75%	74.1	79.0	77.0

Table 55: Housing Loans - Collection Statistics

	Rev 2.1 Housing loans: Amount collected at year end as percentage amount due	Rev 2.2 Housing loans: % arrears 1 month old	Rev 2.3 Housing loans 2-3 months old	Rev 2.4 Housing loans more than 3 months old
Carlow County Council	90.0	4.0	12.0	80.0
Cavan County Council	93.0	13.4	5.5	81.1
Clare County Council	82.7	8.5	8.1	83.4
Cork City Council	89.2	13.3	13.3	73.4
Cork County Council	87.5	10.6	8.6	80.8
Donegal County Council	81.0	4.0	4.0	92.0
Dublin City Council	92.6	3.9	6.8	89.3
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	100.3	5.6	9.3	80.5
Fingal County Council	95.3	13.4	2.6	84.0
Galway City Council	92.0	7.0	17.0	76.0
Galway County Council	89.7	13.1	7.6	65.7
Kerry County Council	88.9	8.3	4.4	87.3
Kildare County Council	75.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
Kilkenny County Council	92.0	7.0	6.0	87.0
Laois County Council	92.0	12.0	14.0	74.0
Leitrim County Council	76.2	1.8	7.1	91.2
Limerick City Council	99.0	7.0	17.0	76.0
Limerick County Council	78.0	3.0	1.0	93.0
Longford County Council	83.4	13.0	3.0	78.0
Louth County Council	98.3	4.3	5.1	87.4
Mayo County Council	73.4	3.3	1.4	89.9
Meath County Council	96.0	4.9	7.4	83.8
Monaghan County Council	77.1	5.1	2.7	92.2
North Tipperary County Council	86.0	3.0	2.0	92.0
Offaly County Council	82.9	6.5	4.8	83.5
Roscommon County Council	79.1	3.6	1.7	94.7
Sligo County Council	91.0	4.0	3.0	90.0
South Dublin County Council	91.1	48.9	11.6	39.4
South Tipperary County Council	88.9	5.5	18.9	75.6
Waterford City Council	87.0	31.2	12.9	55.9
Waterford County Council	89.6	8.0	6.0	73.0
Westmeath County Council	77.0	7.2	2.0	89.5
Wexford County Council	102.0	0.0	0.2	2.4
Wicklow County Council	94.0	13.0	15.0	72.0

Comparison 2004-2006

Rev 2.2 Housing loan arrears 1 month old		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	8.2	6.6	7.0
	Mean	12.3	10.7	9.0
Percentiles	25%	3.8	3.1	4.0
	75%	16.3	10.3	12.5

Rev 2.3 Housing loan arrears 2-3 months old		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	7.1	5.2	6.0
	Mean	11.0	7.3	7.3
Percentiles	25%	3.0	3.0	2.8
	75%	14.1	10.0	11.8

Rev 2.4 Housing loan arrears more than 3 months old		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	33
	Missing	0	0	1
Average	Median	70.8	82.8	83.4
	Mean	70.5	74.6	78.6
Percentiles	25%	58.5	71.4	74.8
	75%	86.7	90.0	89.7

Table 56: Refuse Charges - Collection Statistics

	Rev 4 Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end
Carlow County Council	N/A
Cavan County Council	N/A
Clare County Council	N/A
Cork City Council	94.3
Cork County Council	72.6
Donegal County Council	N/A
Dublin City Council	84.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	19.9
Fingal County Council	100.0
Galway City Council	80.0
Galway County Council	N/A
Kerry County Council	99.0
Kildare County Council	79.6
Kilkenny County Council	100.0
Laois County Council	N/A
Leitrim County Council	N/A
Limerick City Council	N/A
Limerick County Council	N/A
Longford County Council	N/A
Louth County Council	N/A
Mayo County Council	94.5
Meath County Council	N/A
Monaghan County Council	N/A
North Tipperary County Council	N/A
Offaly County Council	N/A
Roscommon County Council	N/A
Sligo County Council	N/A
South Dublin County Council	100.0
South Tipperary County Council	90.9
Waterford City Council	100.0
Waterford County Council	100.0
Westmeath County Council	N/A
Wexford County Council	70.5
Wicklow County Council	N/A

Comparison 2004-2006

Rev 4 Percentage of households paying refuse charges at year end		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	17	25	15
	Missing	17	9	19
Average	Median	84.0	92.0	94.3
	Mean	83.1	86.8	85.7
Percentiles	25%	69.6	80.0	19.9
	75%	100.0	100.0	79.6

This indicator gives a measure of the proportion of householders who are paying refuse charges for 2006. It is important to note that only those authorities which provide the service directly have a return in this table. Based on the average figures above, the proportion of householders paying for refuse collection has risen from 84% in 2004 to 94.3% in 2006.

Fig 8: Percentage of households paying for refuse collection

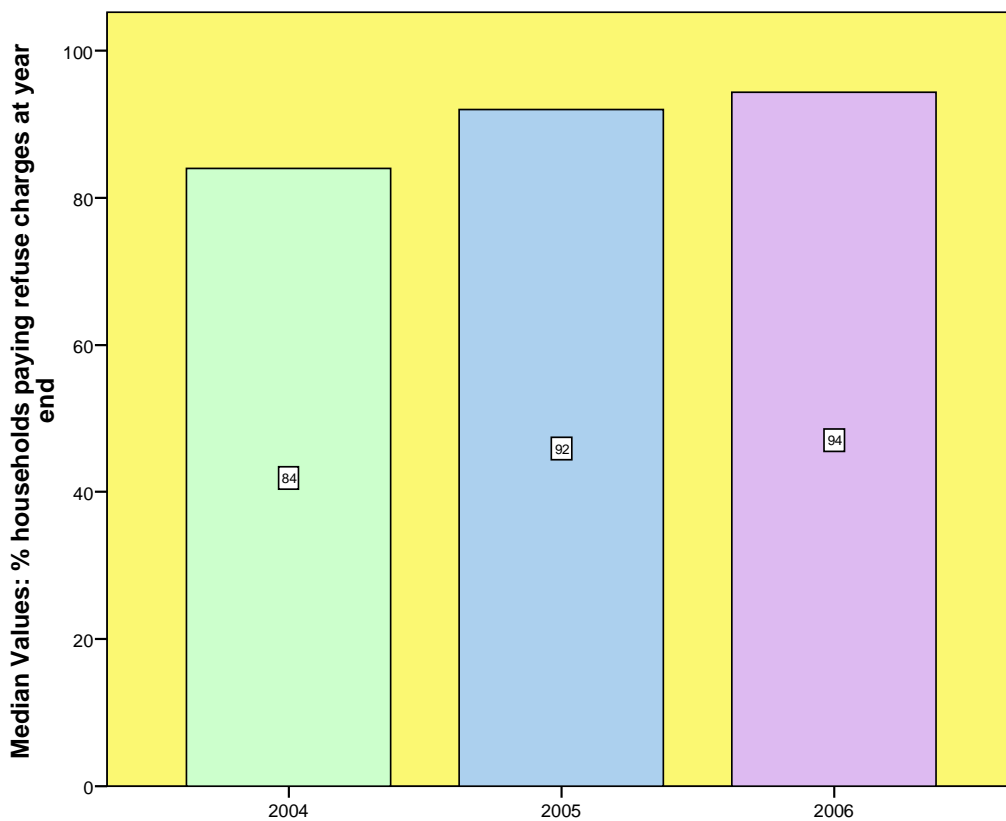


Table 57: Non-Domestic Water Charges - Collection Statistics

	Rev 5 Non-Domestic Water Charges % Collection
Carlow County Council	75.0
Cavan County Council	64.6
Clare County Council	75.2
Cork City Council	74.7
Cork County Council	60.7
Donegal County Council	66.0
Dublin City Council	52.7
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	51.5
Fingal County Council	86.2
Galway City Council	56.0
Galway County Council	32.4
Kerry County Council	77.5
Kildare County Council	67.0
Kilkenny County Council	78.0
Laois County Council	68.0
Leitrim County Council	44.2
Limerick City Council	69.0
Limerick County Council	90.0
Longford County Council	60.1
Louth County Council	59.2
Mayo County Council	68.0
Meath County Council	68.0
Monaghan County Council	62.4
North Tipperary County Council	81.0
Offaly County Council	50.4
Roscommon County Council	76.1
Sligo County Council	26.0
South Dublin County Council	64.0
South Tipperary County Council	93.9
Waterford City Council	61.0
Waterford County Council	90.8
Westmeath County Council	76.4
Wexford County Council	46.0
Wicklow County Council	44.0

Comparison 2004-2006

Rev 5 Non-Domestic Water Charges		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	67.8	67.7	66.5
	Mean	67.9	67.3	65.2
Percentiles	25%	57.9	57.3	55.2
	75%	81.4	76.0	76.2

This indicator deals with Non-Domestic Water Charges and measures the “amount collected at year end as a percentage of amount due”.

Section 11: Internal - Corporate Indicators

Table 58: Percentage of Working Days Lost to Sick Leave

	C 1.1 Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through certified leave	C 1.2 Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through uncertified leave
Carlow County Council	3.6	0.6
Cavan County Council	3.2	0.4
Clare County Council	3.8	0.4
Cork City Council	4.2	1.0
Cork County Council	4.3	1.2
Donegal County Council	4.5	0.5
Dublin City Council	3.6	1.3
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	5.5 ^a	N/A
Fingal County Council	3.2	0.7
Galway City Council	2.9	0.5
Galway County Council	5.1	0.5
Kerry County Council	4.1	0.9
Kildare County Council	3.6	0.7
Kilkenny County Council	4.3	0.5
Laois County Council	3.6	0.4
Leitrim County Council	4.2	0.5
Limerick City Council	3.1	0.9
Limerick County Council	2.7	0.4
Longford County Council	3.7	0.6
Louth County Council	4.2	0.8
Mayo County Council	2.6	0.6
Meath County Council	2.7	0.5
Monaghan County Council	4.0	0.3
North Tipperary County Council	3.9	0.5
Offaly County Council	5.2	0.5
Roscommon County Council	4.9	0.7
Sligo County Council	5.2	0.5
South Dublin County Council	3.4	0.8
South Tipperary County Council	2.9	0.4
Waterford City Council	5.0	1.1
Waterford County Council	2.9	0.4
Westmeath County Council	3.5	0.6
Wexford County Council	4.3	0.2
Wicklow County Council	3.3	0.6

This is the overall figure for sick leave absences. Dun Laoghaire Rathdown are unable to break down the absences into certified and uncertified days.

Comparison 2004-2006

C 1.1		2004	2005	2006
% Working Days Lost to sickness – absence through certified leave				
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	3.1	3.7	3.7
	Mean	3.1	3.7	3.8
Percentiles	25%	2.5	3.2	3.2
	75%	3.6	4.4	4.3

C 1.2		2004	2005	2006
% Working Days Lost to sickness – absence through uncertified leave				
N	Valid	32	33	33
	Missing	2	1	1
Average	Median	0.50	0.52	0.54
	Mean	0.55	0.61	0.62
Percentiles	25%	0.32	0.44	0.45
	75%	0.77	0.75	0.75

Table 59: Expenditure on Training and Development

	C 2 Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs 2005
Carlow County Council	3.3
Cavan County Council	4.5
Clare County Council	4.4
Cork City Council	4.0
Cork County Council	4.8
Donegal County Council	3.9
Dublin City Council	6.7
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	4.9
Fingal County Council	3.3
Galway City Council	4.7
Galway County Council	7.2
Kerry County Council	5.3
Kildare County Council	5.9
Kilkenny County Council	4.4
Laois County Council	4.6
Leitrim County Council	7.3
Limerick City Council	5.1
Limerick County Council	5.3
Longford County Council	8.0
Louth County Council	5.7
Mayo County Council	6.5
Meath County Council	4.7
Monaghan County Council	6.4
North Tipperary County Council	7.6
Offaly County Council	7.3
Roscommon County Council	7.2
Sligo County Council	6.5
South Dublin County Council	4.4
South Tipperary County Council	7.5
Waterford City Council	5.2
Waterford County Council	4.3
Westmeath County Council	4.0
Wexford County Council	3.6
Wicklow County Council	3.5

Comparison 2004-2006

C 2 Expenditure on Training and Development as a percentage of total payroll costs		2004	2005	2006
N	Valid	34	34	34
	Missing	0	0	0
Average	Median	3.8	4.7	5.0
	Mean	4.5	5.0	5.3
Percentiles	25%	3.3	3.9	4.4
	75%	6.0	6.3	6.6

The average percentage of payroll spend on training and development has shown an increase of 30% over the period 2004 to 2006 and this increase is not entirely accounted for by the change in methodology in 2005.

Fig 9: Percentage of payroll spent on training and development

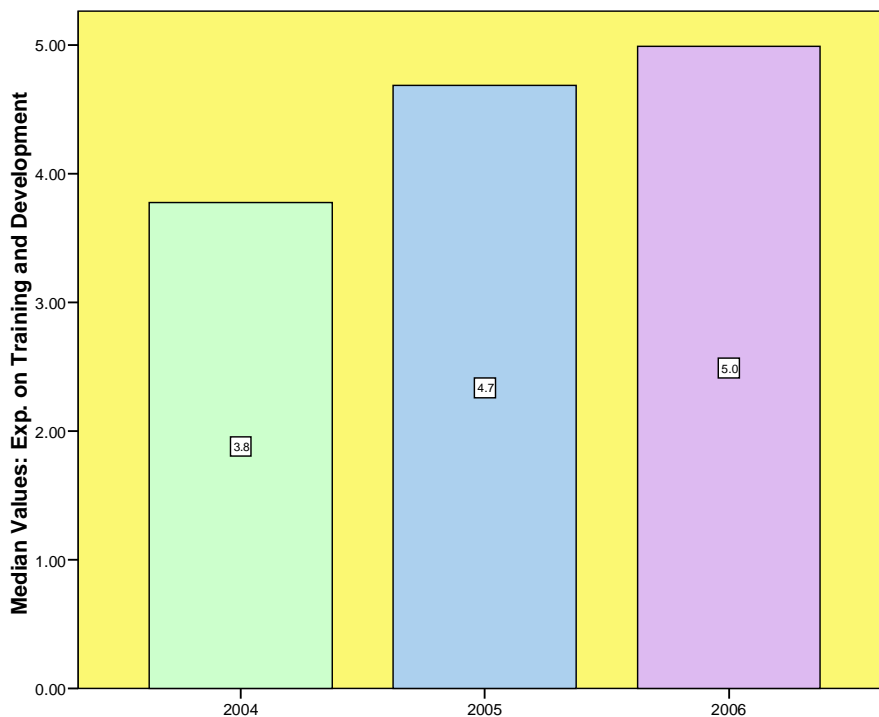


Table 60: Involvement by Schools in Youth Councils/Comhairle na n-Óg

	CP 1 Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nOg scheme
Carlow County Council	63.6
Cavan County Council	57.0
Clare County Council	26.0
Cork City Council	64.0
Cork County Council	31.1
Donegal County Council	100.0
Dublin City Council	40.0
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown CC	43.0
Fingal County Council	63.0
Galway City Council	90.0
Galway County Council	54.0
Kerry County Council	100.0
Kildare County Council	41.0
Kilkenny County Council	35.0
Laois County Council	83.0
Leitrim County Council	88.9
Limerick City Council	70.0
Limerick County Council	71.0
Longford County Council	89.0
Louth County Council	81.3
Mayo County Council	55.0
Meath County Council	22.5
Monaghan County Council	45.0
North Tipperary County Council	86.0
Offaly County Council	21.0
Roscommon County Council	100.0
Sligo County Council	52.9
South Dublin County Council	32.0
South Tipperary County Council	40.0
Waterford City Council	66.7
Waterford County Council	100.0
Westmeath County Council	30.8
Wexford County Council	84.0
Wicklow County Council	38.0

Comparison 2004-2006

CP 1		2004	2005	2006
Percentage of local schools involved in the local Youth Council/ Comhairle na nOg scheme				
N	Valid	33	34	34
	Missing	1	0	0
Average	Median	42.0	54.8	60.0
	Mean	47.4	57.2	60.7
Percentiles	25%	24.0	39.5	39.5
	75%	66.7	79.8	84.5

Section 12: Looking Back at the Experience to Date

Given that we have reached the end of a three year cycle, it is worthwhile at this point to look back at the experience to date with a view to identifying aspects that have worked well and, most importantly, to identify areas where further attention might be placed in the next phase so as to gain the maximum value from performance measurement in the local government sector.

There have been a number of features that have contributed to the effectiveness of the initiative. The fact that there was a high degree of collaboration among the key players from the outset means that the local authorities have had a strong influence on, and felt an ownership of, the process. The Local Government Customer Service Group was a partnership between the DoEH&LG and the system. In addition, a small group of practitioners was established to advise on the practicality and to test the feasibility in practice of the chosen indicators.

The challenge of developing systems to collect, aggregate and disseminate the data, i.e. the data management challenge, has been recognised in the literature. The challenges include assessing the quality and timeliness of data, managing a complex and dispersed network of providers, in this case 34 local authorities, and the fact that in some cases data is collected and held manually. The research has also identified the importance of central coordination in effective data management in terms of the collection, aggregation and dissemination of data so as to ensure that data is easily accessible, in good time and in a form that is appropriate and relevant to those who need it.

In the case of this initiative, two of the key organisations were involved from the outset: the Local Government Computer Services Board oversaw the development of a centralised IT process into which the data provided by each local authority was fed. This "data Warehouse" has become the cornerstone of the system. The Board was also in a position to ensure that IT systems necessary were in place to compile most of the data required.

As indicated earlier, the LGMSB was charged with the responsibility of monitoring the initiative and reporting the results annually. From a systems perspective, staff of the LGMSB have worked closely

with their colleagues in the LGCSB utilising the expertise of both organisations. Drawing on the material submitted by authorities, the LGMSB was concerned to present the data in the report in a way that would make it accessible to people who had little understanding or knowledge of local government, but who, for instance as consumers or citizens, would have an interest in some of the areas involved. Presenting what in many cases is dense and complex data in a meaningful way has meant making extensive use of graphs and illustrations and well designed tables – all focussing on making the data accessible to a variety of readers. Considerable attention has also been paid to the quality assurance process, making sure that the data submitted reflects the definition and methodology. In this connection it is worth noting that local authorities themselves have improved their processes for assembling and crosschecking the data and the fact that the data is independently verified also strengthens the process.

From the outset there has been a strong emphasis on communication. It was recognised that there needed to be clarity in the definitions and methodology employed and an understanding of the requirements under each heading. A number of seminars were organised at which blockages or issues of difficulty were identified and resolved. Opportunities were also taken during this initial period to tighten up on certain indicators and to provide more specific instructions. Nonetheless achievement of absolute interpretation and uniformity has proved very difficult to achieve and makes comparison of data across authorities somewhat problematic. This is an area on which continuing emphasis will be placed in the next phase and it is the intention of the LGMSB to work closely with the Customer Service Group in developing and implementing the outcome of the review that is currently underway.

At national level the County and City Managers have been crucial players in ensuring effective implementation of the system and ensuring “buy in” from staff at local levels. Monthly meetings of the County and City Manager’s Association have been used to further the communications process and ensure that difficulties emerging could be identified and dealt with at an early stage. At local level, within each authority an implementation team was established, by the Manager, headed by a senior member of staff, and including staff from each of the service areas. These mechanisms meant that there was a coordinated approach to the task of data collection and presentation. However, given the level of mobility of staff both within and between local authorities it is important to continue to ensure

that the necessary level of familiarity is maintained with the processes involved. Again this is an area where attention needs to be placed in the next phase.

What of the indicators themselves? The selection of indicators was intended to give a wide coverage of the work of local authorities, be capable of consistent interpretation and measurement, ensure that the benefit is commensurate with resources expended in gathering the data and would be useful as a tool to enable individual authorities to review their performance over time. However, it is fair to say that there are limitations with some of the current set of indicators. In general, there is a tendency to measure quantity while quality is far more difficult to measure. This has been widely recognised in the literature. Another limitation is that the wider role of local authorities, i.e. in facilitating development, leading the implementation of social and economic development in their area and building sustainable communities is extremely difficult to capture in work of this nature. Finally it has been recognised that some of the indicators used in this phase are already being reported elsewhere and therefore their inclusion is not adding any value.

It is important to note that such limitations as have been recognised are being dealt with in the review of the process currently underway under the aegis of the Customer Service Group.

Section 13: Making the Most of Service indicators: Adding Value

It is fair to say that the emphasis so far in this initiative has been on ensuring that the process of measuring performance has been fully implemented and bedded down in the local government system. The efforts of all of the key stakeholders over the last three years was focussed on developing a set of meaningful indicators, communicating them effectively so that there was a uniform understanding and ensuring that accurate, comprehensive and timely data was produced in reports annually to the Minister.

However, performance measurement is not an end in itself. We need to be certain that it does not become an annual routine which demands compliance on the part of local authorities. It has much greater potential than that. At this point it is important to examine what needs to be done to ensure that the value to the system as a whole and to individual authorities can be maximised. Otherwise there is a risk that the process of collecting data could become the focus. More seriously, the resources required to compile the data will be disproportionate to the results.

Research shows that there is a need for balance between the collection of data on performance and the use of that data by Managers, staff and service users. Often, information is channelled up the line, with little effort put into the wider distribution of the results. Ensuring feedback to and analysis of the results by key staff will encourage the creation of a climate where the reasons behind the results are interrogated with a view to identifying reasons for either good or poor performance. Out of such action will come the value to authorities.

Essentially we need to develop practices and a culture within the sector and within individual authorities that sees the performance data as a management tool to support good decision making: the focus needs to shift to getting people to actively use performance data in their day to day jobs. The indicators themselves do not provide instant answers. What they do is identify areas that need further investigation. According to the Local Government Audit Service, indicators are “intended to raise questions and provoke a response rather than to provide answers”, while the UK Audit Commission

states that the experience there shows that “ all users of indicators should remember that the indicators do not provide answers to why differences exist but raise questions and suggest where problems may exist (acting as a “can opener”)....it is essential that users and producers of performance indicators share the same expectations of what a performance indicator can be employed for to avoid misuse of an indicator”. Encouraging improvement in performance is natural; however, it needs to start with a questioning of why things are as they are and what can be done to address problems that are identified.

The report “Delivering Value for People” that informed this initiative summarised the potential benefits to be gained as follows:

- Service improvements: indicators can point the way towards both problems and good practice, and thus can assist in the process of continuous improvement in services;
- Monitor progress in achieving corporate objectives – through linking corporate objectives to local indicators;
- Cost Savings: In some countries, indicators have also assisted local authorities to identify where efficiency savings can be made;
- Enhanced Accountability: Local authorities can be held to account by both elected members and the public for the manner in which services are provided, through examining issues such as the outcome achieved for the resources used. Results can be communicated to the public leading to enhanced accountability and public trust.
- Sending a strong signal: Reporting on indicators sends out a message that local government is committed to building on progress already made in the modernisation process to date.

In fact, there is evidence already to show that a number of authorities are using the data in a very systematic way to examine their performance over time, to identify reasons for disimproved performance and to take steps necessary to change or strengthen processes. Many local authorities now require the data to be collated on an ongoing basis and have quarterly data submitted to the Management Team so that there is monitoring and early warning of disimprovement and the

opportunity to take remedial action. It is the intention of the LGMSB to assemble evidence of such good practice and make it available to the system as a whole through workshops .

One of the most controversial aspects of performance measurement is the tendency to compare results across authorities. This has been identified in the literature as a key problem – especially in the UK where the practice of compiling league tables of authorities proved very contentious. This difficulty was recognised in the original report when it stated that “Crude league tables should be avoided wherever possible. In most cases they do not provide for relevant background information, and can therefore be misleading and incorrectly interpreted”.

However, there is benefit to be gained in appropriate and realistic comparison. For that reason, the LGMSB has applied some resources during the compilation of this report into examining the prospects for devising a system of clustering of authorities that would make meaningful comparison more appropriate between them.

This approach, together with some worked examples, is illustrated in the section that follows.

Section 14: Towards a Model for Comparing Performance: Developing the Clustering Concept.

Introduction

The *Delivering for People* report advises that local authorities should compare their own performance across the service indicators on a year-on-year basis so that a 'like with like' comparison might be made. The report also stresses that crude comparisons between local authorities in the absence of contextual information can lead to the development of misleading league tables (*Delivering for People*, 2004: 30).

The *2005 Service Indicators*¹ report also noted some of the obvious pitfalls involved in making comparisons between local authorities. The main point here is that we should proceed with caution and that **inappropriate comparisons** between local authorities need to be avoided.

Individual local authority areas differ based on local factors, such as demography, socio-economic characteristics and levels of deprivation. They also differ on the basis of geography, levels of commercial development, urban/rural balance, and so on. In turn some of these characteristics affect a variety of demands being placed on services.

International best practice suggests that local authorities should compare their own performance over a period of time, and that there are merits in making valid comparison with similar local authorities. In discussions with the LGMSB, as part of their 2006 review, the Independent Assessment Panel (IAP) raised the issue of inter-authority comparison as an issue worthy of consideration. A recent study on service indicators, carried out as part of the Leadership in Local Government Programme, concluded that "a key question is: '*what is a similar authority?*'" (Fair Comparison paper, 2004: 4).

¹ www.lgmsb.ie

This section addresses this question and considers how to approach valid comparison of local authorities.

A basic statistical model is developed with the aim of classifying and categorising Irish local authorities into possible clusters of peer groups or 'corresponding authorities' based on similar characteristics. At this stage the analysis is for illustrative and discussion purposes. It is likely to need further refinement, ideally informed by reaction to the approach outlined. However, we believe that it has the potential to be very useful in exploiting the results of the service indicators in coming years.

Classification

Using statistical tools to group together data based on similarities (what are commonly referred to as *clustering techniques*), economists now study patterns of growth or competition between regions; in geo-demographics researchers use classification methods to generate maps of poverty profiles and track demographic change; planners in other countries have used clustering techniques to understand patterns of suburban-urban development, or as part of environmental impact assessments.

What is Clustering Analysis?

Clustering analysis is a generic name given to a set of statistical techniques that are used to group together objects based on similarities. In place of sorting real objects, cluster analysis uses mathematical algorithms to sort objects or data into similar clusters.² The development of a general clustering model can be seen either as a goal in itself, or it can then be applied for a specific research goal or other purpose – in this case to identify those local authorities that should compare themselves to one another.

To put it in simple terms, imagine that you wanted to sort a wheelbarrow full of fruit into similar types. It would make little sense to compare apples and oranges as they have little in common. However, it should be possible to begin to sort the apples and oranges into separate piles. The oranges and apples could then be separated further based on size (i.e. large apples; smaller apples; large oranges; smaller oranges). In the end, we would be left with four different piles of fruit based on type and size of fruit. This is what we are doing when we use cluster techniques.

Clustering Analysis and Local Government

The ability to classify or group objects based on similar properties is particularly useful in local government. Managing a system of local government necessarily involves recognising the diversity between units of government. When it comes to implementing national policies or strategies, a 'one size fits all' approach is generally ill-suited to local units of government.

In this context, clustering analysis is employed as a tool to help policy makers to evaluate potential policy implications through a better understanding of system trends. Some examples of cluster analysis elsewhere are:

- A study carried out by the Utah Association of Local Government used clustering analysis to develop clusters of Utah's cities and towns based on demographic, financial and economic characteristics to determine public policy.
- San Diego Association of Government (SANDAG) used cluster analysis to describe clear regional economic relationships for use in economic development analysis and planning.
- The UK's Office for National Statistics (ONS) has a well-established system for classifying local and health authorities. Local authorities are grouped into area classifications based on similar characteristics and following on from this are allocated to families based on a hierarchical classification system. A major aim is to facilitate comparison between similar or corresponding local authorities:

² For a more detailed explanation of commonly-used methods, see Mark S. Aldenderfer and Roger K. Blashfield, Cluster Analysis (Sage Publications, 1984), and H C. Romesburg, Cluster Analysis for Researchers, (Lulu Press, 2004)

“...This type of classification is particularly useful when it is the individual authority that is of interest and comparison with one or more other authorities is needed for performance monitoring purposes...”

(ONS, 1999: 2)

In practice, Irish local authorities already tend to group themselves together for comparison purposes based on general assumptions – e.g. size, geography, traditional urban-rural divisions or historical notions of similarity. However, these assumptions tend to be quite static and may fail to use empirical data taking account of demographic, economic or other changes.

In the paragraphs that follow, available data sources are used to develop a simplified classification model of Irish local authorities. The analysis itself is exploratory and used at this point to illustrate the method and potential application to the Irish case. The objective essentially is to come up with a classification structure that embodies a number of key elements, and that makes intuitive as well as rational sense.

The LGMSB is looking forward to engagement on the understanding of clustering, on the rationale behind it and in seeking clarity in relation to how clustering methods might work. We look forward to working with local authorities in applying the techniques so that the richness of the data-set might be exploited in coming years.

A Model For Clustering Irish Local Authorities

Methodology

As a first step towards the production of clusters, a database was compiled from publicly available figures using the following variables:

1. *Local Government Fund (LGF) Income 1997 – 2007*
2. *Local Government Funding % Increase 1997 – 2007.*
3. *Income from Rates 1994 – 2005.*
4. *Rates, % Inc 1994 – 2005.*
5. *Population, County/City, 2002*
6. *Population, County/City, 2006*
7. *Population, % Change, 2002 – 2006*
8. *Area in Square Kilometres.*
9. *Population Density.*
10. *Estimate of Expenditure (Gross Revenue Expenditure, 2005)*
11. *Total Revenue out-turn 2005.*
12. *Total LGF as % Revenue out-turn.*
13. *Measure of Staff Numbers.*

It should be noted that a range of other variables³ were also considered. However, for the specific purpose of the exercise – i.e. to illustrate the potential use of cluster analysis as a method – these were excluded from the initial analysis.

In line with best practice the data was then standardized so that the scale of each variable was comparable. A number of test exercises were carried out to quality assure the data, to ensure familiarity with the data and to choose appropriate variables for final models.⁴ Following that, some

³ Additional variables excluded from initial analysis included: Non-National Roads Grants and local improvement grants; data derived from the Census 2006 on measures of deprivation/wealth; data on number of households; number of water/wastewater connections; time taken to travel to work etc. were also considered but excluded from initial analysis for the purpose of simplicity.

⁴ The clustering exercise used the squared Euclidean Distance to measure the distance between the different clusters generated. Two local authorities, X and Y, are said to be similar if the 'distance' between them based on the variable characteristics, are small. Ward's hierarchical clustering method was used to develop the clusters.

simplistic cluster exercises were run to test whether this approach had the potential to be a useful tool to select groups of authorities for comparative purposes. Initial results were encouraging and confirmed the usefulness of applying this technique in a local government setting. Further work was undertaken and is briefly described in the following paragraphs.

Towards a Financial Model for Local Authorities

Following the exploratory phases, the next step was to develop a model to classify local authorities, taking account of some of basic financial and other relevant variables, including the following:⁵

- Revenue Out-turn, County/City Councils, 2005⁶
- LGF as % Revenue Out-turn
- Area (Square Kilometres)
- Population 2006
- Population Increase 2002 – 2006
- Staffing Levels

The following table illustrates the results when the variables were input and local authorities grouped in 4, 7 and 10 clusters.

In Ward's method, at the outset, each object is regarded as a separate cluster in its own right, giving us 34 separate clusters, one for each local authority. The procedure then merges each cluster step by step, merging the two most similar clusters that exist so as to minimise the increase in dissimilarity with clusters at each step. For further details on methodology, see Aldenderfer and Blashfield.

⁵ The choice of variables to include in any model is central to clustering analysis. Aldenderfer and Blashfield caution against *'naïve empiricism'* in approaching this task, or in other words, the random inclusion of large numbers of variables in a model in the hope that an attractive cluster of objects will somehow emerge (Aldenderfer and Blashfield, 1984: 20).

⁶ One problem encountered in compiling our dataset is that two of the main variables for possible inclusion in an expanded model – Local Government Fund income (2007) and Rates Income – were found to be highly correlated. Upon consideration it was decided to exclude these variables and substitute them with two other variables, designed to measure combined revenue income (Revenue out-turn, 2005), and the proportion of total income sourced centrally (LGF as % total Revenue out-turn 2005).

4 Clusters	7 Clusters	10 Clusters
1. Carlow Cavan Kilkenny Laois Leitrim Longford Louth CC Monaghan North Tipperary Offaly Roscommon Sligo CC South Tipperary CC Waterford CC Westmeath CC Wicklow CC	1. Carlow Cavan Kilkenny Laois Leitrim Longford Louth CC Monaghan North Tipperary Offaly Roscommon Sligo CC South Tipperary CC Waterford CC Westmeath CC Wicklow CC	1. Carlow Cavan Kilkenny Laois Leitrim Longford Monaghan North Tipperary Offaly Roscommon Waterford CC Westmeath CC
2. Clare CC Cork CC Donegal CC Fingal CC Galway CC Kerry CC Kildare CC Limerick CC Mayo CC Meath CC Wexford CC	2. Clare CC Kildare CC Limerick CC Wexford CC	2. Clare CC Kildare CC Limerick CC Wexford CC
	3. Cork City Council Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Galway City Limerick City South Dublin CC Waterford City	3. Cork City Council Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Galway City Limerick City South Dublin CC Waterford City
3. Cork City Council Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Galway City Limerick City South Dublin CC Waterford City	4. Cork CC	4. Cork CC
	5. Donegal CC Galway CC Kerry CC Mayo CC	5. Donegal CC Galway CC Kerry CC Mayo CC
4. Dublin City Council	6. Dublin City Council	6. Dublin City Council
	7. Fingal CC	7. Fingal CC
	8. Galway City Limerick City Waterford City	8. Galway City Limerick City Waterford City
	9. Louth CC Sligo CC South Tipperary CC Wicklow CC	9. Louth CC Sligo CC South Tipperary CC Wicklow CC
	10. Meath CC	10. Meath CC

Reaction and Interpretation:

Based on expert knowledge and *a priori* assumptions, the grouping arrived at in the 7 cluster solution makes intuitive sense. For instance, the model groups smaller rural local authorities (Carlow and Kilkenny) together, whilst also grouping most of the City Councils together, as might be expected.. Two other interesting findings are worth noting here. Firstly, both Cork County Council and Dublin City Council serve as distinct outliers. This might be expected given that both organizations are the pre-eminent urban and rural authorities in the state. Secondly, the 7-cluster solution groups Fingal County Council and Meath County Council together: these outliers are reflective of rapid population growth patterns which in both cases have recently outstripped their adjoining authorities.

However, the 10 cluster solution offers an opportunity to further refine the exercise and to examine whether more fine-grained groupings of '*corresponding authorities*' can be observed. According to this alternative solution, Fingal and Meath cases, which had previously been grouped together, are now placed into separate groupings. Closer examination suggests that this may be because of the contrast between their respective funding components: whereas Fingal County Council is an expanding community experiencing strong commercial growth, Meath County Council is more heavily dependent on central funding for its income.

The 10-cluster solution also usefully distinguishes between a group of authorities in Cluster 8 (which might be classed as '*small cities*', with *Galway City* as an exemplar) and those grouped in Cluster 3 (which might be classed as '*large urbans*' with *South Dublin* as an exemplar). Once again, this classification makes logical sense. After all, the large urban authorities are much bigger organisations (with an average⁷ of 4 times as many staff) service an average of 3.7 times as many people) and take in an average of 2.6 times the income of smaller City Councils.

⁷ Median values referred to here.

The statistics suggest a classification profile, or a thumbnail sketch of some of the key characteristics and commonalities shared by each cluster. These profiles are useful in terms of identifying possible peer groups based on similarities with other local authorities.

The clustering method is not definitive, nor does it preclude any local authority from comparing itself with local authorities outside of these groupings. For instance, it could be argued that Dublin City might wish to consider benchmarking itself with international cities of similar stature, while also comparing itself against the large urbans (i.e. South Dublin), a rapidly growing urban (Fingal), and, depending on the context, with Cork County Council. Fingal County Council, on the other hand, may wish to consider comparisons with its large urban neighbours, and in certain circumstances, could also consider valid comparisons with Meath County Council, which has a similar experience of dealing with a rapidly expanding population on the outer fringe of Dublin's commuter belt.

In summary, the approach outlined proposes that there is a logical, rational method to selecting local authorities with which performance might be compared, and that such an approach, using clustering techniques, has considerable potential. Essentially, the approach is put forward for discussion purposes with the local authority sector over the coming years to see whether it will be possible, in practice, to develop an approach to inter-authority comparison of the service indicator results.

Applying Cluster Analysis to the Service Indicators:

Litter Pollution Indicators

In these paragraphs, we provide a very brief example of how this approach could be applied to local authority litter pollution statistics. The issue of comparison between local authorities in measuring litter pollution is very topical. Groups such as IBAL (Irish Business Against Litter) regularly receive considerable media attention when they publish litter survey statistics. These surveys are explicitly presented as *'league tables'*, although the scientific basis for such comparison is open to challenge.

To put it in its simplest terms, it makes little sense to compare a large rural county like Donegal (dispersed population) with a county that is on the fringes of the Dublin commuter zone like Meath (rapidly expanding commuter community); likewise, a comparison between levels of litter pollution in inner city Dublin and County Cavan are probably not very meaningful. This is because the comparison makes no attempt to deal with local factors (population density, population growth, level of funding for anti-litter activities, etc.)

In order to explore this issue of comparison a little further, a basic model was developed using the service indicators litter data. The model uses the same methodology to previous clustering exercises, employing the following variables that are designed to take account of the level of staffing, local factors such as population density and funding, all of which may influence anti-litter activities:

- % of local authority areas that are 'litter free' or 'slightly polluted' (derived from service indicator data for 2006);
- Number of litter wardens per head of population;
- Number of staff;
- Population 2006;
- Population Increase 2002 – 2006;
- Area in Square Kilometres
- Local Government Fund 2007.

Using hierarchical clustering methods, a seven-cluster solution was obtained in this case, with the groupings summarised in the table below.

Cluster	7 Cluster Solution ⁸
1	Carlow CC, Clare CC, Laois CC, Limerick CC, Louth CC, North Tipp, Sligo, Waterford CC, Westmeath CC, Wexford CC, Wicklow CC
2	Cavan CC, Kilkenny CC, Leitrim CC, Meath CC, Offaly CC, Roscommon CC, South Tipp CC
3	Cork City, Dun Laoghaire, Fingal CC, South Dublin CC
4	Donegal, Galway CC, Kerry CC, Mayo CC
5	Dublin City
6	Galway City, Limerick City, Waterford City
7	Longford CC, Monaghan CC

The model suggests once again that Dublin City Council is an outlier and that comparing it with smaller local authorities would not be very meaningful. The clusters also highlight the variance in the level of staff resources available to different local authorities. For instance, although Cluster 7 has the highest overall rating in terms of the % of areas that are litter free/slightly polluted, it consists of two smaller rural counties, each of which has a low population density and the highest level of litter wardens in the country. In contrast, the large urbans (Cluster 3) are characterized by extremely high population density, but by a relatively low number of litter wardens per head of population.

This initial analysis of the litter indicator data confirm that crude comparisons between, say, Dublin City and Cavan County, are wholly inappropriate. In many cases, the clustering exercise is useful in confirming our assumptions about what an appropriate peer group might look like, for example: Waterford City, Limerick City and Galway City.

⁸ Table refers to 32 local authorities where Service Indicator data is available.

Conclusion:

This section presented an initial discussion of general approaches to clustering. Using two examples, the exercise highlights how local authorities might identify similar or corresponding authorities as a further step to meaningful comparison.

A lot of the focus in the study of Irish local authorities to date has been on the differences between them as a set of 34. Identifying a small number of “peer groups” of similar local authorities has the potential to show which authorities are similar to one another. In turn, by making a comparison within a peer group, differences that are highlighted are more likely to be meaningful and point to different approaches in policy on a local level. In this way, analysis of difference can be a way of bringing similar local authorities together to share their experiences and approaches in key policy areas.

Clearly, the ideas outlined in this section will benefit from further and more detailed engagement with managers and practitioners in local authorities. We believe that this would be worthwhile, and would lead to a more balanced and productive approach to comparing performance between authorities over time.

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Appendix 1: Report of the Independent Assessment Panel 2007

1. Background

The Independent Assessment Panel (IAP) was appointed in 2005 by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to undertake a quality assurance activity in relation to the publication of Local Authority Service Indicators; this is its third Report.

The fundamental role of the IAP is to independently verify returns made by Local Authorities and it carries out this task through a series of annual visits to randomly selected Authorities during which the returns made by the relevant Authorities under selected Indicator headings are examined. The IAP also works closely with the LGMSB and with the Department.

The IAP wishes to record their appreciation of the assistance and guidance received from Ms Anne O'Keeffe and her team at the LGMSB and also wish to acknowledge the co-operation of the Authorities visited in 2007.

2. Independent Assessment Panel

The members of the IAP, appointed for a three year period from 2005 are as follows:

Chair:

Philip Bourke, Professor of Banking and Finance, University College Dublin

Members:

Mary O' Dea, Consumer Director, Financial Regulator's Office (*accepted appointment to IAP on 3 May 2006*)*

Arthur Coldrick, Consultant and Chair of PVG (Local Government)

*Appointed to replaced Carmel Foley, former Director of Consumer Affairs (*who resigned her position as Director of Consumer Affairs with effect from 10 February 2006 to take up a position as a member of the new Garda Ombudsman Commission*)

3. Quality Assurance Programme 2007

Following initial consultation among the Panel members, and with the LGMSB, three particular Service Indicators were selected for the 2007 visits and a total of twelve assessment visits were undertaken. The identical three Indicators were reviewed on each visit. In some cases, the visit was conducted by the full panel, others by one or two members. The Service Indicators examined in 2007 related to the activities of local authorities on 2006 and were as follows:-

- Planning
 - Time elapsed between request for pre-planning consultation and subsequent meeting
- Finance
 - Housing rents collected as proportion of rents due
- Corporate
 - Uncertified sick leave as proportion of total days worked

4. Methodology of the Assessment Visit

Each visit lasted approximately one and a half hours. On each visit the Independent Assessment panel member(s)

- **Reviewed the systems underlying the data** presented for the areas selected for review
- **Validated selected data against documents of first entry** for the areas selected for review

In most cases, the detailed data and documentary requirements of the panel were discussed with local authority staff members prior to the visit. The co-operation of staff members in this regard greatly added to the efficiency of the visits.

5. Outcomes of Visits in 2007

Overall, while the visits served to confirm the accuracy of the data presented, the IAP would, however, wish to make certain **general** and **specific** observations:-

General :

- The IAP was again pleased to observe a high level of commitment to the assessment process among the staff of each local authority visited.
- Some reservations were again expressed by several local authorities regarding the nature and relevance of certain service level indicators. In the opinion of the IAP this matter should be the subject of ongoing dialogue between the Authorities, the Department and the LGMSB and the opportunity exists for such ongoing dialogue with the overall Service Indicator process
- In relation to the Planning Indicator reviewed this year - *Time elapsed between request for pre-planning consultation and meeting* – some lack of clarity was noted by the IAP - for example:
 - Some local authorities used business days to calculate the indicator while others used calendar days
 - No account (nor credit given in the indicator) is taken of planning issues resolved over the phone, thereby obviating the need for a meeting
 - Separate methods of data collection were evident; in some cases these appeared to over rely on Planners diaries.
 - Where planning ‘clinics’ are in operation with fixed time slots the ‘*time elapsed*’ period is to a degree pre-determined
- In relation to the Finance Indicator reviewed - *Housing rents collected as proportion of rents due* – some attention needs to be paid to the treatment of overpayments on individual accounts. The netting of these overpayments against underpayments on different accounts masks the amount of money due to be collected. The amounts involved are probably not material but clarification would be helpful.

- While it was clear that a meticulous system operated in respect of 'write-offs' of housing rents at individual authority level and that such 'write-offs' are reviewed during annual audit, an agreed set of criteria did not appear to exist nationally
- While perhaps presenting some operational difficulties the IAP would commend that all Financial figures returned for Indicator purposes would already have been subject to conventional Audit arrangements
- In relation to the Uncertified Sick Leave measure it was noted that this whole area is under review in the light of the new 'Attendance Management' system now being introduced. The IAP commends this development particularly as the complex paper trail that can be a feature of current data collection in some instances is both cumbersome and open to error

Specific

- In the case of several local authorities, material errors in the returns in relation to the planning service indicator (*Time elapsed between request for pre-planning consultation and meeting*) were either discovered during the audit visit or volunteered by the local authority after the audit visit was announced.
 - Fingal County Council recorded their target figure as the Service Indicator rather than the actual figure.
 - Clare County Council failed to include returns from Ennis and Kilrush Town Councils in the computation of this indicator for the entire county as required.
 - Sligo County Council was unable to provide complete data to support the Service Indicator returned.
 - Donegal County Council was unable to provide complete data to support the Service Indicator returned.
 - Meath County Council indicated that their return was at best an estimate in part due to a significant level of Planner turnover during the year in question

- It is a matter of regret that one of the twelve authorities visited had chosen to return a Service Level Indicator in the knowledge that the Indicator was incorrect while two others returned indicators which were not capable of verification.

Conclusion of Quality Assurance Review

On the basis of the audit and quality assurance work undertaken in 2007, the Panel are satisfied that the Service Level Indicators presented in the Report are substantially correct.

June 2007