

May 5th, 2026

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 13th May 2026 at 7:00 pm**
in **Church Street, Newtownards.**

Agenda

Agenda

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19.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman McRandal and Councillor McCollum

This Council acknowledges that the decision taken in January 2026 to adopt Queen's Community Centre as the preferred site of the proposed Hollywood screen industries innovation hub has the potential to remove an important community asset from Hollywood. Council therefore resolves to undertake an exercise to assess the need for community space in Hollywood, with a report assessing need to be brought back to the relevant Committee.

19.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor McClean and Councillor Cathcart

That Council acknowledges the significant reduction in fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling offences since the service was brought in-house; sets out the reasons for this performance and commits to an improvement plan; that this plan and performance be reviewed in six months following its presentation; and that, following this review, considers any further options for improvement including different service model delivery.

The improvement plan should seek as a minimum to achieve previous enforcement levels for FPNs issued, ensure cost control (including the option of penalty reductions for swift payment), drawing upon best practice elsewhere to include prevention and communication.

20. Any Other Notified Business

ITEMS 21 & 22 **IN CONFIDENCE**

Reports for Approval

21. Cycle to Work Scheme

 *21. Cycle to Work Scheme.pdf*

Not included

22. PEACEPLUS Minutes

 *22. PEACEPLUS Minutes.pdf*

Not included

 *22.1 Appendix 1 PEACEPLUS - Minutes 2 October 25.pdf*

Not included

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

5 May 2026

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via zoom) of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee of Ards and North Down Borough in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards and via Zoom on **Wednesday 13 May 2026 commencing at 7pm.**

Yours faithfully

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest

Deputations

3. Rathmore Primary School/Strangford College
4. Bryansburn Rangers FC

Reports for Approval

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6. Consultation – Product Safety Framework & Product Regulation: Market Surveillance and Enforcement Framework (Report attached)
7. Consultation – Product Regulation: The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture (Report attached)
8. Consultation – Race Relations (Report attached)
9. ANDBC Caravan Licence Conditions Update (Report attached)

Reports for Noting

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11. Response to Notice of Motion 671 – Responsible Dog Walking (May 2026) (Report attached)
12. Bathing Waters Amendment (Report attached)
13. Response to Notice of Motion 370 - Review of Council Byelaws (May 2026) (Report attached)
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- 20. Any Other Notified Business

ITEMS *IN CONFIDENCE*****

Reports for Approval

- 21. Cycle to Work Scheme (Report attached)
- 22. PEACEPLUS Minutes (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)

Alderman Brooks	Councillor S Irvine
Alderman Cummings	Councillor W Irvine (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ashe (Chair)	Councillor Kerr
Councillor Boyle	Councillor McBurney
Councillor Chambers	Councillor McClean
Councillor Cochrane	Councillor McKee
Councillor Douglas	Councillor Moore
Councillor Hollywood	Councillor Quinn

Unclassified

ITEM 5

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	Consultation - Significant Water Management Issues in Northern Ireland
Attachments	Appendix 1 - SWMI Report 2025 - Consultation Document Appendix 2 - Summary of Water Quality and Pressures in each Local Management Area Appendix 3 - Draft Consultation Response
File Reference (if applicable)	
Legislation	Other Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental

If multiple:

	<p>4. A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors</p> <p>If multiple:</p>
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Background

Northern Ireland’s water resources are managed and protected using a catchment-based approach which includes rivers, lakes and groundwater as well as coastal and transitional water bodies. Under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017, the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) must produce and implement a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) in six-year cycles. The third cycle RBMP covers the period 2022-2027. It was finalised and published on 13 June 2025. The fourth cycle RBMP period runs from 2028-2033.

As part of the development of the fourth cycle RBMP, DAERA was required to publish a report on ‘Significant Water Management Issues’ (SWMI) in Northern Ireland for public consultation by 22 December 2025. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) published the SWMI report which is open for public consultation for the statutory six-month period. The report is attached as Appendix 1, and its accompanying Annex as Appendix 2. The SWMI Report identifies the principal pressures impacting water quality across Northern Ireland and seeks feedback to ensure appropriate measures are developed in the next RBMP cycle.

Key Issues

The Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) Report 2025 has been produced by NIEA as part of the statutory process for preparing the fourth River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) covering 2028–2033. The report identifies the main pressures currently affecting rivers, lakes, groundwater and coastal waters, and explains why many water bodies are failing to meet required environmental standards. It is intended to guide the development of future actions and measures.

This report is subject to public consultation and councils are recognised as key stakeholders and delivery partners in addressing the identified issues.

Current position on water quality

Overall, the condition of Northern Ireland’s water environment is seen to be deteriorating rather than improving. Fewer than one third of surface water bodies (rivers and lakes) are currently classed as being in good ecological condition. Chemical pollution remains widespread, including from long lasting legacy chemicals that persist in the environment. Groundwater levels are generally stable, but chemical contamination of groundwater remains a concern.

High profile events such as blue green algae blooms, including at Lough Neagh, have highlighted the environmental, public health and economic consequences of declining water quality. Maintaining and improving water quality and access to coastal and inland waters is also vital to developing the outdoor water tourism product, helping to attract more visitors to Northern Ireland and supporting the wider economy. The report concludes that existing measures have not been sufficient to reverse negative trends.

Main pressures affecting water quality

The report groups pressures into a number of broad categories, many of which are interrelated.

a) Agricultural impacts - Agriculture remains the single most widespread pressure on water quality. Nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen enter watercourses through runoff and land drainage, particularly during periods of heavy rainfall.

Sediment from soil erosion and livestock access to streams further degrades habitats. These impacts are closely linked to eutrophication and algal growth in rivers and lakes. The report notes that addressing agricultural pollution is essential if water quality targets are to be met.

b) Wastewater and septic tanks - Wastewater is identified as a major contributor to pollution:

- Some wastewater treatment works are operating at or beyond capacity, increasing the risk of nutrient and bacterial discharges.
- Septic tanks, particularly where poorly maintained or located in unsuitable areas, are a significant source of ongoing pollution to rivers and groundwater.
- Substances such as pharmaceuticals, personal care products and microplastics are not always effectively removed under current treatment processes.
- This area has clear links to Council responsibilities through Environmental Health and Regulatory Services, and Planning (Development Management and Enforcement).

c) Physical changes to rivers (hydromorphology) - Many watercourses have been altered over time due to development, drainage, flood management and land use changes. Straightening, dredging, culverts and barriers reduce habitat quality and restrict fish movement.

Removal of vegetation along riverbanks increases water temperatures, erosion and sediment pollution. These changes reduce the natural ability of rivers to cope with pollution and climate pressures.

d) Urban and industrial pressures - Pollution also arises from towns, cities and industrial activity:

- Runoff from roads and hard surfaces transports pollutants into watercourses.
- Some industrial activities, although regulated, still present risks where controls are inadequate or non-compliance occurs.
- Councils play an important role through local regulation, permitting and inspection regimes.

e) Invasive non-native species - The spread of invasive species is a growing concern:

- Species such as zebra mussels and Japanese knotweed disrupt ecosystems and are costly to manage.
- Once established, eradication is often difficult or impossible.

- Climate change is expected to increase the spread and impact of invasive species.

f) Climate change as an overarching issue - Climate change is recognised as cutting across all other pressures. Wetter winters and more intense rainfall increase runoff from land, overloading drainage and sewer systems. Hotter, drier summers increase the likelihood of algal blooms and low river flows. Rising sea levels pose risks to coastal waters and groundwater supplies.

The report stresses that future actions must be climate resilient and make better use of natural solutions.

Implications for councils

The report states that improving water quality cannot be delivered by central government alone. It says that councils have a significant role through:

- Environmental Health and pollution control functions
- Planning and development management
- Regulation and enforcement of septic tanks and industrial activities
- Urban drainage, green infrastructure and climate adaptation
- Public engagement and education

Future measures will focus on a combination of:

- Education and awareness raising
- Incentives and innovation
- Regulation
- Enforcement

Next Steps

A draft consultation response has been prepared and is attached as Appendix 3. The Consultation closes on 18th June 2026.

Summary

The Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) Report highlights a continued decline in water quality across Northern Ireland, with many rivers, lakes and groundwater bodies failing to meet required environmental standards. Key pressures include nutrient pollution from agriculture, wastewater and septic tanks, physical modification of watercourses, urban and industrial pollution, invasive non-native species and the increasing impacts of climate change. The report concludes that current measures have not been sufficient to reverse these trends, and that a more coordinated, outcome-focused approach will be required in the next River Basin Management Plan cycle.

The report emphasises that improving water quality cannot be achieved by central government alone and identifies councils as important delivery partners. Through their statutory roles in environmental health, planning and local engagement, councils will have a critical role in shaping and implementing future measures. The findings of the SWMI Report will therefore directly inform the development of the Programme of Measures for the fourth RBMP (2028–2033) and subsequent actions at both regional and local level.

A draft response to the consultation is attached as Appendix 3. Officers broadly agree that the SWMI Report correctly identifies the principal pressures affecting water quality in Northern Ireland. However, a number of important issues are under-represented or insufficiently developed.

In particular, the draft response highlights gaps relating to drinking water supply resilience, wastewater infrastructure capacity and investment constraints, legacy nutrient loading, stormwater misconnections, private water supplies and the particular sensitivities of coastal and shellfish waters within the Strangford Lough Local Management Area. The response emphasises that clearer recognition of these issues is necessary to ensure that measures developed under the fourth River Basin Management Plan are proportionate, effective and deliverable, and sets out a range of suggested interventions under the four pillars of education, incentivisation and innovation, regulation and enforcement, reflecting the Council's role as a key delivery partner.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Approves** the draft consultation response, attached as Appendix 3.



Significant Water Management Issues 2025

Consultation document



An Agency within the Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
 and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Gníomhaireacht de chuid na Roinne
**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
 agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency w'in the Department o
**Fairmin, Environment
 an' Kintra Matters**

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Write to:

Integrated Catchment Planning
Northern Ireland Environment Agency
17 Antrim Road
Tonagh
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County Antrim
BT28 3AL

Ministerial Foreword

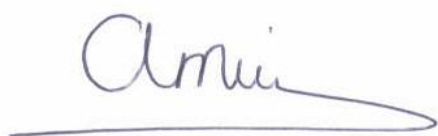
Water quality plays a critical role in both daily activities and the natural environment. Our human health, ecosystem health and sustainable economic growth depend on good water quality and achieving improvements in water quality across Northern Ireland is one of my key priorities. This directly contributes towards ‘Protecting Lough Neagh and the Environment’, one of the Executive’s nine priorities in the Programme for Government.

Concerted efforts are being made to establish robust foundations for the development of the fourth cycle River Basin Management Plan while considering the requirements of all sectors of society. I believe the fourth cycle plan must be ambitious and address the challenges that Northern Ireland faces in relation to declining water quality. Understanding the pressures and impacts of different sources of pollution on the water environment is paramount to being able to act effectively.

We must have open and frank discussions about how we are going to improve water quality. Public participation and stakeholder engagement is central to the River Basin Planning process and there are several consultation stages that we are committed to. Already this year, my Department has launched an eight week call for evidence and a consultation on the timeline for the fourth cycle River Basin Management Plan.

I am pleased to present this Significant Water Management Issues report for consultation, which identifies key issues and will assist in the development of appropriate actions and measures. This consultation is a statutory requirement in the River Basin Management Planning process.

I am committed to engaging stakeholders throughout each phase of this fourth cycle plan, ensuring the development of effective measures that enhance Northern Ireland’s water quality for the benefit of us all. I would therefore encourage everyone to respond to both the existing fourth cycle work programme consultation and to this newly launched Significant Water Management Issues consultation.



ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Executive summary

Northern Ireland's water resources are managed and protected using a catchment-based approach which includes rivers, lakes and groundwater as well as coastal and transitional water bodies. Under the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 (the 2017 Regulations), the Department must produce and implement a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) in six year cycles. The third cycle RBMP covers the period 2022-2027. It was finalised and published on 13 June 2025. The fourth cycle RBMP period runs from 2028-2033.

As part of the development of the fourth cycle RBMP, the Department is required to publish a report on 'Significant Water Management Issues' (SWMI) in Northern Ireland for public consultation by 22 December 2025. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has prepared this SWMI report which will be open for public consultation for the statutory six-month period.

The SWMI report aims to identify pollution sources and pressures affecting each of Northern Ireland's waterbodies within each Local Management Area (LMA). The consultation seeks feedback on whether the Department has accurately determined the underlying issues, as proper identification is essential for developing effective actions or measures to address these pressures in the fourth cycle RBMP.

This report includes a Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) analysis of each waterbody to help understand the pressures and impacts at waterbody level. The DPSIR framework is used widely to assess and manage environmental problems. A pre-consultation workshop with many key stakeholders was held on 24 October 2025 to help inform the pressures and impacts analysis.

Key findings

Evidence examined in this report shows that human activities continue to put considerable pressure on Northern Ireland's water environment. The 2024 classification update indicates an overall deterioration in surface waterbody status since 2021, with 29 % of all surface water bodies achieving good or better ecological status compared to 31 % in 2021.

Due to slower flow and transport processes in groundwater, groundwater body status is not updated mid-cycle and the 2021 groundwater body status remains current. In 2021, 51 (71 %) groundwater bodies achieved good chemical status.

The primary sources of these pressures include agriculture, wastewater impacts (originating from urban areas, septic tanks and combined sewer overflows), other pressures and the presence of invasive species. The category labelled as 'other' encompasses local issues such as waste disposal sites and storm overflows - whose impacts are yet to be fully assessed - as well as instances where the source of the impact remains unidentified.

The fourth cycle RBMP will comprise a programme of measures designed to address these pressures, reduce their impact, and inform behaviours throughout the cycle. The measures to improve and protect water quality will be underpinned by science and organised under the four pillars of: Education, Incentivisation and Innovation, Regulation, and Enforcement.

This consultation seeks to involve all stakeholders, including the public, by gathering information, opinions and advice to inform the decision-making process regarding the measures required. Everyone is encouraged to respond to this consultation and play a role in safeguarding Northern Ireland's water environment for future generations.

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Abbreviations

abbreviation	name
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
DPSIR	Driver-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses
FoI	Freedom of Information
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
LMA	Local Management Area
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
OEP	Office for Environmental Protection
PCBs	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
POMs	Programme of Measures
RBD	River Basin District
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
SWMI	Significant Water Management Issues
uPBT	ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WWTW	Waste Water Treatment Work

1 Introduction

‘Protecting Lough Neagh and the Environment’ is one of the Executive’s nine priorities in the Programme for Government 2024-2027 ‘Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most’¹. Actions to improve water quality are also included in the Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland². These actions will help address the challenges we face with regards to the decline in water quality across Northern Ireland, which has resulted in events like the blue green algae blooms in Lough Neagh.

Northern Ireland’s water resources are managed and protected using a catchment-based approach which includes rivers, lakes and groundwater as well as transitional and coastal waterbodies. The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017³ require the production and implementation of a River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) in six yearly cycles. The RBMP takes an integrated approach, identifying those waterbodies which can be classified as being at good or better status. It also sets the objectives and a programme of measures (POMs) for the next six-year cycle to help improve those waterbodies which are classified at less than good status.

Northern Ireland has three river basin districts: North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern. North Western and Neagh Bann are international river basin districts shared with Ireland. Each RBD is made up of several Local Management Areas (LMAs).

LMAs, depending on size and geographical location, are made up of a number of waterbodies: river waterbodies, lake waterbodies and groundwater bodies as well as transitional (i.e. tidal) and coastal waterbodies.

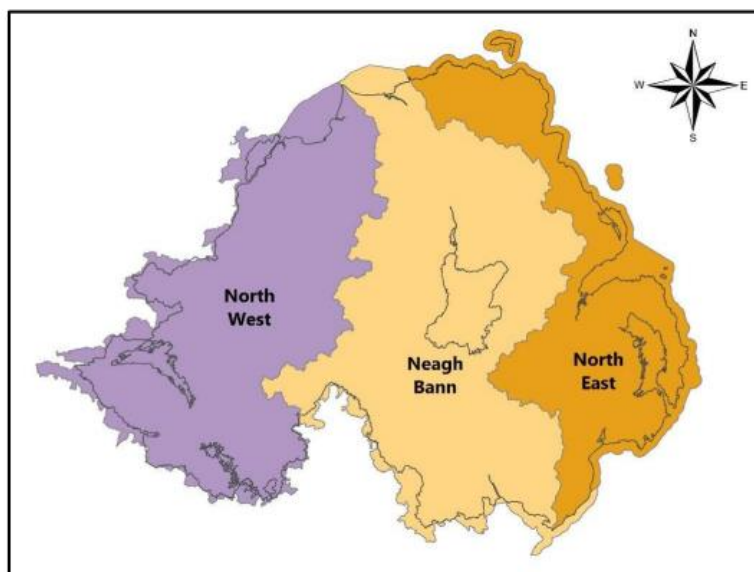
¹ https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2025-03/programme-for-government-2024-2027-our-plan-doing-what-matters-most_1.pdf

² <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/daera/Environmental%20Improvement%20Plan%20for%20Northern%20Ireland.PDF>

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2017/81/contents>

Significant Water Management Issues 2025

Map 1 River Basin Districts (RBDs) in Northern Ireland



We are entering the fourth River Basin Management Planning cycle and this Significant Water Management Issues (SWMI) report aims to improve our understanding of pressures and impacts on the water environment.

This report is the first statutory document in the fourth cycle RBMP process and is open for a six-month public consultation period until 18 June 2026. The draft RBMP will be published by 22 December 2026. The final fourth cycle RBMP (2028-2033) will be published by 22 December 2027.

Figure 1 Timeline of the fourth cycle River Basin Management Plan

Prep	1 st	2 nd cycle						3 rd cycle						4 th cycle															
2000 - 2009	2010 - 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033										
3 rd cycle																													
2022					2023					2024					2025					2026					2027				
										Preparation for the fourth cycle RBMP																			
										Significant Water Management Issues Consultation					draft River Basin Management Plan (2028-2033) consultation					final River Basin Management Plan (2028-2033)									

2 Methodology for identifying significant water management issues

Where a waterbody fails or is at risk of failing to meet the relevant environmental objective, i.e. achievement of good status, then the cause of this failure (i.e. the pressure or combination of pressures) must be investigated/ identified.

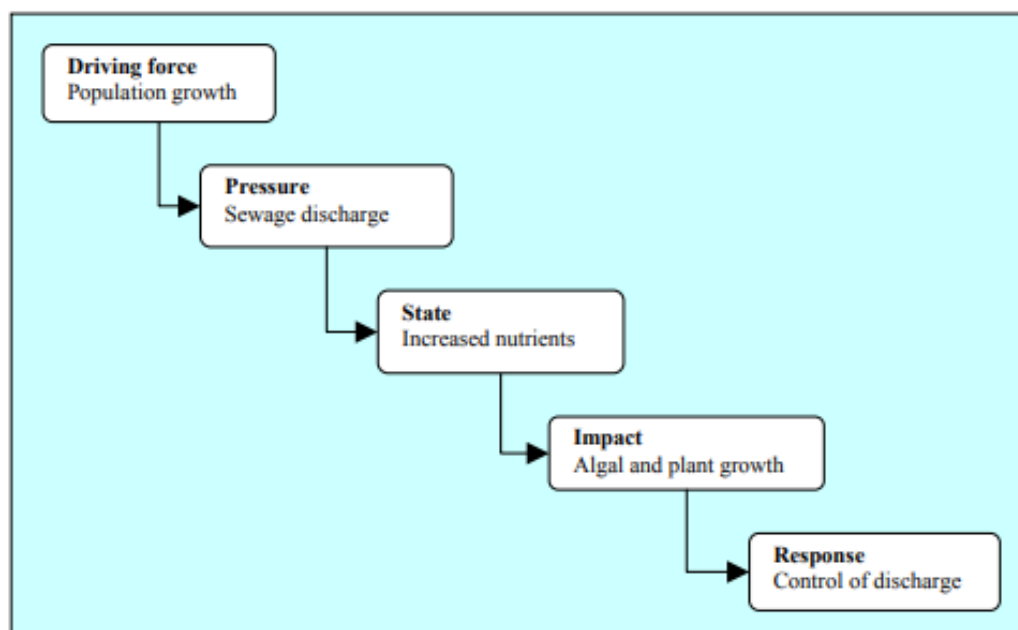
The Driver-Pressures-State-Impacts-Responses Framework (DPSIR) offers a structured way to understand and communicate the complex relationships between human activities and environmental change. DPSIR helps to identify key causal pathways, assess impacts, and design effective responses (Figure 2 and Figure 3). The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) has recommended that future RBMPs should provide the DPSIR information for the RBD as a whole and for each water body⁴.

Figure 2 Definition of terminology used in DPSIR assessment

Term	Definition
Driver	Any human activity that may have an environmental effect (e.g. agriculture, industry)
Pressure	The direct effect of the driver (for example, an effect that causes a change in flow or a change in water chemistry)
State	The condition of the water body resulting from both natural and anthropogenic factors (i.e. physical, chemical and biological characteristics)
Impact	The environmental effect of the pressure (e.g. fish killed, ecosystem modified)
Response	The measures taken to improve the state of the water body (e.g. restricting abstraction, limiting point source discharges, developing best practice guidance for agriculture)

⁴ <https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/implementation-water-framework-directive-northern-ireland>

Figure 3 An illustration of the DPSIR analytical framework



This initial stage in the development of the fourth cycle RBMP considers the status of water bodies and identifies the range of pressures and drivers that are impacting on water quality. Status is based on the surface water classification statistics that were published in 2025⁵. The status is presented as ecological status and chemical status. In 2018, new priority substances, so-called ‘forever’ chemicals, were introduced for the first time in the assessment of chemical status, so a comparison with the 2015 classification could be confusing without a full understanding of the differences. Although a number of these ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic (uPBT) substances are now banned or have restricted use, their widespread use in the past has resulted in their accumulation in the aquatic environment with subsequent breaching of assigned Environmental Quality Standard (EQS) values.

To assist in the understanding of the changes in how chemical status are now determined, tables show a comparison between 2021 and 2024 of the chemical status sub-group B (which includes cypermethrin but excludes uPBT substances) and the chemical sub-group C (which includes cypermethrin and uPBT substances).

The pressures within each LMA have been identified using monitoring and regulatory datasets, including data on land use and human activities in catchments.

⁵ [NIEA - WMU - ICP - NI Water Classification Statistics Report 2024.pdf](#)

Significant Water Management Issues 2025

21

The DPSIR assessment involved holding several internal workshops to identify pressures impacting on waterbodies on an LMA basis. This was followed by a stakeholder workshop on 24 October 2025.

This assessment process has enabled the identification of significant water management issues for which appropriate responses will need to be developed.

3 Water quality status in Northern Ireland

3.1 Surface Water

Currently, 29 % of our surface waterbodies are achieving good ecological status (see Information for each LMA can be found in the Annex 'Summary of water quality and pressures in each Local Management Area'.

Map 2). This is a decline from 2021, when 31 % were achieving good ecological status and 2015 when 32 % were achieving good or high ecological status (see Table 1).

When incorporating uPBT substances, (chemical status sub-group C), currently none of our surface waterbodies are achieving good chemical status; this is unchanged from 2021.

When uPBT substances are not included (chemical status sub-group B), currently 80 % of our surface waterbodies are achieving good chemical status, which is a decline from 2021 when 81 % were achieving good chemical status (see

Table 2).

Information for each LMA can be found in the Annex 'Summary of water quality and pressures in each Local Management Area'.

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Map 2 Ecology Status of Surface Water in Northern Ireland

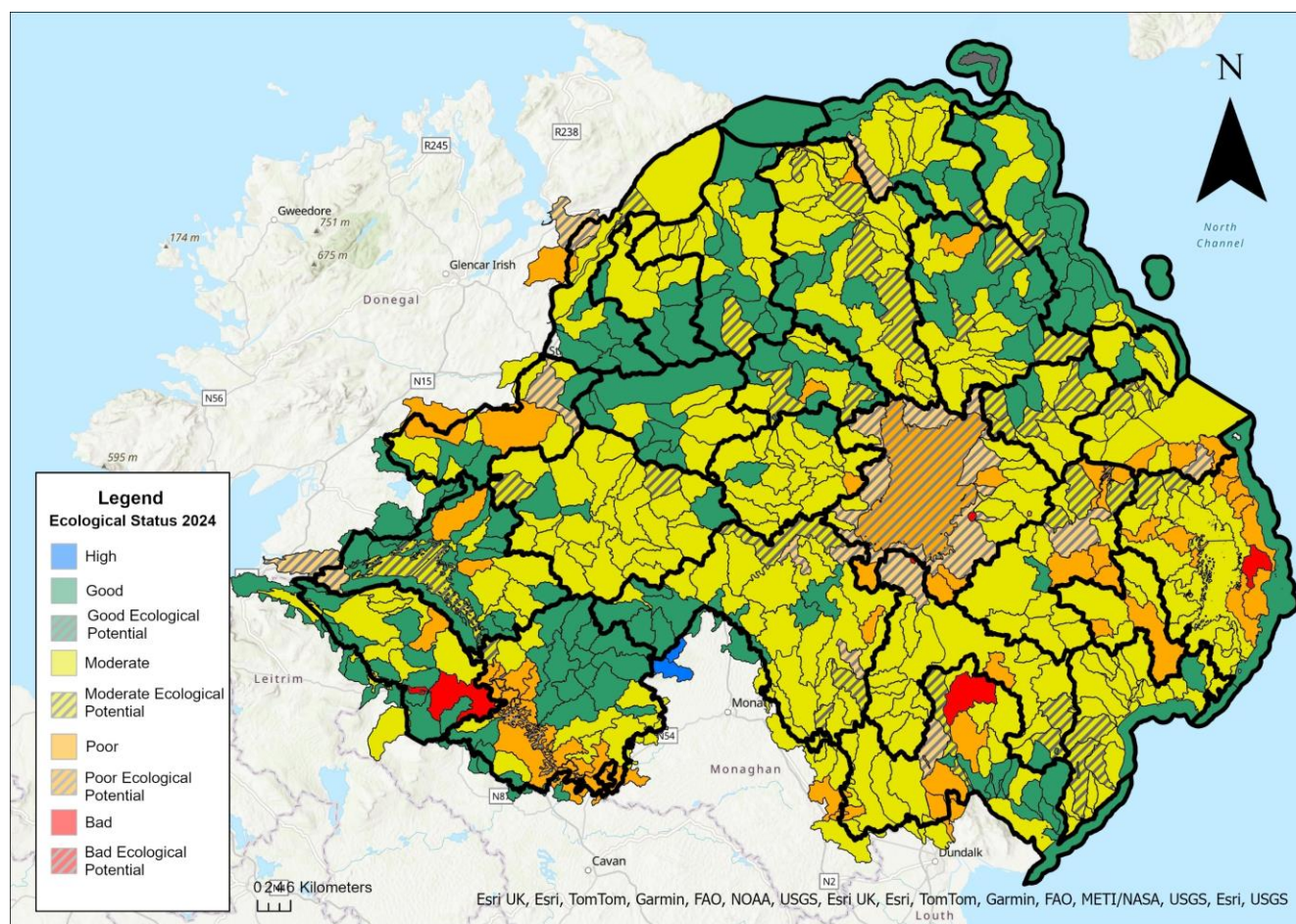


Table 1 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Northern Ireland

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	9	2	2	0	2	0
Good/GEP	152	31	151	30	144	29
Moderate/ME	268	54	276	56	290	58
Poor/PEP	50	10	56	11	53	11
Bad/BEP	12	2	7	1	6	1
No Data	5	1	4	1	1	0

Table 2 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Northern Ireland

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	404	81	396	80	0	0	0	0
Bad	73	15	80	16	496	100	496	100
No Data	19	4	20	4	0	0	0	0

3.1.1 Blue-green algae

The impact of pollution on the water environment was highlighted by the very significant algal blooms we witnessed at Lough Neagh in 2023 and in subsequent years, with negative implications for human, animal and environmental health.

Blue-green algae blooms are not unique to Lough Neagh; in 2024 they were observed in 90 locations across Northern Ireland. The waterbodies where blue-green algae have been observed are noted in each of the LMA sections in the Annex to this document. Further information can be found on the [blue-green algae viewer](#).

3.2 Groundwater

For groundwater, the number of groundwater bodies at good chemical status improved slightly from 2015 (68 %) to 2021 (71 %), see **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference..** However, this is mostly related to changes in monitoring.

The quantitative status is good for 95 % of our groundwater bodies. This is an improvement from 89 % in 2015 (see Table 3).

Information for each LMA can be found in the Annex 'Summary of water quality and pressures in each Local Management Area'.

If you would like to find out the status of an individual waterbody, or find further information, you can access this by clicking on the [NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer](#)

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Map 3 Chemical Status of Groundwater across Northern Ireland

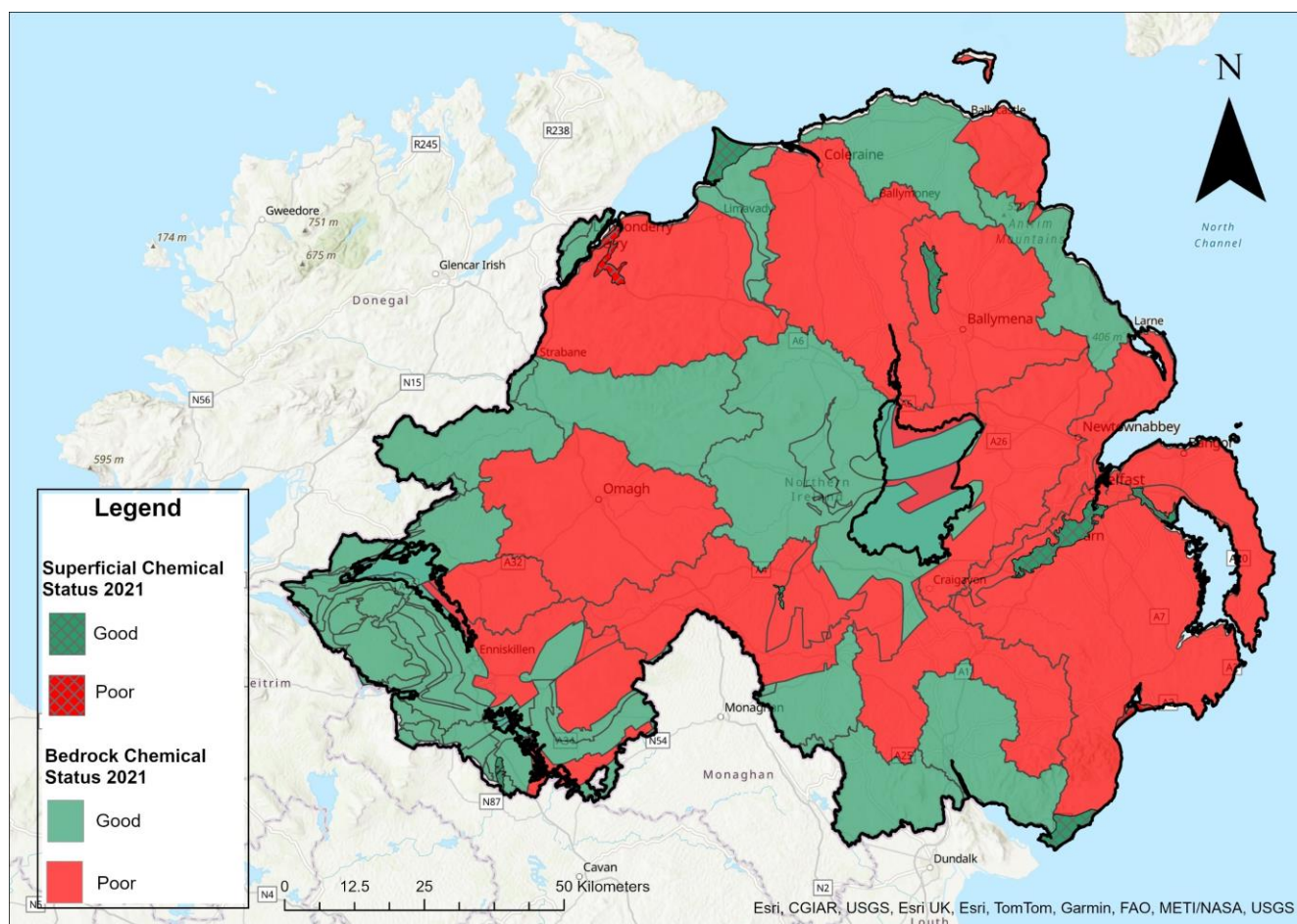


Table 3 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Northern Ireland

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	46	61	46	61	57	76	63	84
	Poor	20	27	20	27	9	12	3	4
Superficial	Good	5	7	7	9	6	8	8	11
	Poor	4	5	2	3	3	4	1	1

4 Summary of significant water management issues in Northern Ireland

4.1 Pressures affecting all waterbodies

4.1.1 Climate change

All of Northern Ireland's water bodies and intercoastal basins will be affected by climate change. We are already seeing the effects of climate and this is expected to continue and intensify.

Temperatures are projected to increase in both summer and winter. Summer rainfall is projected to decrease, although extreme downpours will be heavier despite the overall drying trend. Winters are projected to become wetter, in terms of both the total amount of rainfall and the number of wet days. Sea levels are also projected to rise. Changing climatic conditions and extreme weather event impacts may also be exacerbated in future due to the degraded state of the natural environment⁶.

Aquatic ecosystems are particularly vulnerable to changes in temperature and rainfall. These risks could lead to aquatic species exceeding their thermal tolerance or bringing about detrimental habitat changes including algal blooms, loss of sensitive species, increases in bacterial pollution at sensitive areas, changes in hydrology, and changes in timing of life cycle stages and species composition.

Coastal aquifers and agricultural land are at risk to saline intrusion as sea level rises. Coastal species and habitats areas are at risk to sea level rise and storms.

There is a need to prioritise research on potential responses of aquatic habitats and species to climate change and highlight implications for measures to improve water quality. There needs to be an increased focus on measures designed to improve water quality that are resilient to climate change, anticipate future stresses and consider climate change adaptation, including the impacts of carbon emissions. This will include the use of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

⁶ [CCRA-Evidence-Report-Northern-Ireland-Summary-Final.pdf](#)

4.1.2 Chemicals

All of Northern Ireland's water bodies and intercoastal basins are affected by chemicals. Chemicals enter the water environment primarily through agricultural runoff, industrial discharges, wastewater, and improper disposal of household products. These substances can include pesticides, fertilizers, heavy metals, and synthetic compounds, which often persist in ecosystems. The impact of chemicals is significant and can degrade water quality, harm aquatic life by disrupting reproductive and growth cycles, and accumulate in the food chain, posing risks to human health. Additionally, chemical contamination can alter the natural balance of ecosystems, reduce biodiversity, and increase the cost and complexity of water treatment for safe consumption.

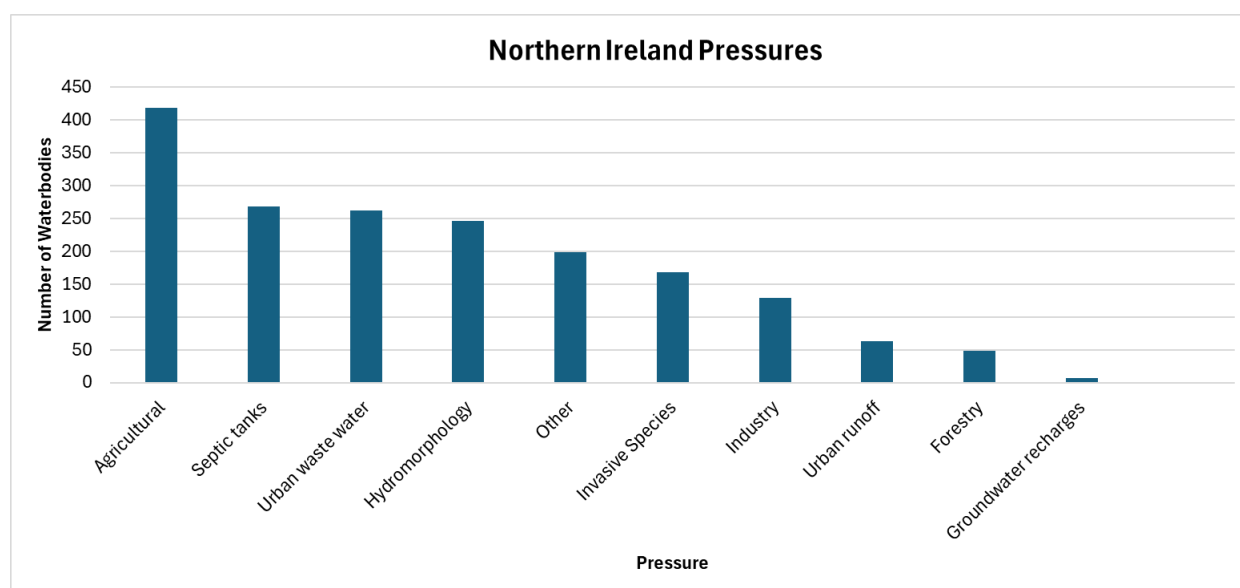
uPBTs are a group of chemicals characterized by their persistence in the environment, ability to bioaccumulate in living organisms, and high toxicity. Common examples include certain industrial chemicals, flame retardants, and legacy pollutants like Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In aquatic systems, uPBTs pose a severe risk because they do not readily degrade, allowing them to remain in water and sediments for decades.

4.2 Pressures affecting individual Local Management Areas

The pressures within each LMA have been identified using monitoring and regulatory datasets, including data on land use and human activities in catchments. The most frequently identified pressures affecting water quality are agricultural, septic tanks, urban wastewater and hydromorphology. This is followed by a group referred to as 'Other' pressures which includes a range of unquantified and/ or yet to be determined pressures (Figure 4).

Collectively, each pressure is impacting on water quality and appropriate measures will need to be developed to ensure that the environmental objective of good status can be achieved. Further analysis will be undertaken to quantify the impact each of these significant water management issues is having on water quality.

Figure 4 The most frequently identified pressures in Northern Ireland



4.2.1 Agriculture

Pressures from agriculture affect 67% of our waterbodies and intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 65 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 70 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 64 % in the North Eastern RBD. These mainly take the form of nitrates and phosphates which can reach waterways in nutrient rich sediment run-off or leached through the soil and field drains in solution following heavy rainfall. This can be exacerbated in areas of bare soil or where livestock have access to rivers. Risks are highest where ground is steeply sloped and where livestock has access to waterways.

Management of excess phosphorus is typically the main issue for rivers and lakes.

Management of excess nitrogen is typically a major issue for groundwaters, estuaries and coastal waters. In addition, the ratios of nitrogen to phosphorus in waterways determines what types of algal blooms are prevalent. This can also impact gravel habitats for fish and other dependent species.

4.2.2 Septic tanks

Septic tanks affect 43 % of our waterbodies and intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 46 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 42 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 39 % in the North Eastern RBD. Septic tanks are used to treat sewage where a house/ premises is not connected to the main sewer. These can negatively impact water quality when located in

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unsuitable areas and/ or are not adequately maintained resulting in failure to operate satisfactorily. These issues can lead to chronic nutrient and organic pollution of surface water and groundwater. Microbial pollution can affect drinking water quality resulting in illness, as well as impacting bathing and shellfish water quality.

4.2.3 Urban Wastewater

Urban wastewater pressures affect 42 % of our waterbodies and intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 38 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 45 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 42 % in the North Eastern RBD. The discharge of nutrients from Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW) can have a negative impact on water quality. Excess nutrients from phosphorus and ammonia can cause eutrophication in rivers and lakes, while nitrogen and phosphorus are the key nutrients causing impacts for transitional and coastal waters. Any elevation in bacteria such as *E. coli* can impact public health and aquatic habitats. Pharmaceuticals, personal care products and microplastics etc. may not be removed by WWTW resulting in chemical impacts on a waterbody. Some WWTW are known to be operating beyond their designed capacity/ population equivalent (PE).

4.2.4 Hydromorphology

Hydromorphology pressures are affecting 39 % of waterbodies and intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 32 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 47 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 38 % in the North Eastern RBD. Human activities can alter the natural functioning of a water body. Impacts from abstraction and in-channel works like dredging, drainage, straightening, widening and deepening rivers alter the natural flow, sediment transport regime and diversity of habitat. Bank erosion can add excess fine sediment and other pollutants to watercourses, while removal of riparian vegetation can reduce shade, increase water temperatures and reduce sources of food for aquatic species. Barriers can not only impede the transport of water and sediment but also impact the movement of fish.

4.2.5 Other pressures

This pressure category affects 32 % of waterbodies and intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 28 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 31 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 37 % in the

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North Eastern RBD. This pressure category is used where an unknown source is impacting on a waterbody. Impacts may include chemical pollution or nutrient pollution. There are several known pressures where not enough information, quantitative data or specific locations are currently available at a Northern Ireland scale to assign them to specific waterbodies. However, where data points are available, these have been recorded in the pressure analysis for the LMAs (see Annex).

4.2.6 Invasive species

Invasive non-native species (INNS) affects 27 % of waterbodies and intercoastal basins. INNS can have significant ecological and economic impacts. At RBD scale 25 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 26 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 31 % in the North Eastern RBD. Once these are established, control is often prohibitively expensive or technically infeasible and often unsuccessful. Climate change may affect the variety, abundance, frequency and distribution of these species. Many of our protected areas and protected species are vulnerable to the introduction and spread of invasive species. Some examples of invasive species in Northern Ireland include Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and zebra mussels. Zebra mussels have played a significant role in contributing to blue-green algal blooms in Lough Neagh and other waterbodies across Northern Ireland.

4.2.7 Industry

Industry pressures affect 21 % of Northern Ireland's waterbodies and intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 17 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 28 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 15 % in the North Eastern RBD. Industries or activities that can cause harm to the environment are regulated under the Industrial Emissions Directive (IED) which has been brought into effect by the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 (the PPC Regulations) as amended. These activities must operate under a permit issued by NIEA or local councils and may include industries such as quarries, intensive farming and anaerobic digestion plants. Some industries/ activities may also require an industrial consent for surface water discharge. Water quality issues at licensed facilities can occur when a facility is not managed in line with permit conditions and good practice. Water quality impacts can include nutrient pollution and/ or organic pollution (from phosphorus and

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nitrogen inputs causing eutrophication), sediment release, chemical pollution and microbiological pollution.

4.2.8 Urban runoff

Urban runoff affects 10 % of waterbodies or intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 9 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 8 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 14 % in the North Eastern RBD. The pressure refers to pollution from towns and cities and run off from the road network. In addition, combustion of fuels from vehicles and domestic wood fires can contribute to atmospheric nitrogen deposition and acidification of upland areas. Contaminants can settle in soils and the beds of rivers and lakes. These can be released back into the environment (remobilised) once they have been disturbed following high rainfall events or by human activities (dredging).

4.2.9 Forestry

Forestry pressures affect 8 % of waterbodies or intercoastal basins. At RBD scale 16 % are affected in the North Western RBD, 3 % in the Neagh Bann RBD and 4 % in the North Eastern RBD. Typical water quality issues arising from forestry and associated activities relate to the release of sediment and nutrients to the aquatic environment, hydromorphological impacts (physical alteration to aquatic habitats) and acidification. These impacts are often a result of forestry operations such as afforestation, deforestation and/or thinning. During the intermittent periods, when the forests are stable, water quality can recover. Stable, well-designed forests, with appropriate setback distances from watercourses can therefore also be a measure to protect water quality.

5 Stakeholder engagement

This consultation on the identified significant water management issues is a key stage in the development of the fourth cycle RBMP. The Plan will cover the six-year period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2033.

Early in 2026 we will commence the development of appropriate measures to address the identified issues. We will continue to use the DPSIR framework to develop the measures that will be necessary to achieve the objective of good status.

There are basic measures that must be included in the Programme of Measures and, where necessary, other supplementary measures may be designed and implemented. The mandatory measures are listed in regulation 20 of the 2017 Regulations

Consideration will be given to the development of measures at water body level, LMA level and RBD level. Where applicable, special consideration will be given to measures that are necessary to meet the more stringent objectives that apply in Protected Areas. This will include Drinking Water Protected Areas, Bathing Water Protected Areas, Shellfish Water Protected Areas, Nutrient Sensitive Areas and Protected Areas for habitats and species.

The Department will be engaging with stakeholders during the consultation period to develop the necessary measures. This stakeholder engagement will provide an opportunity to participate in the development of the draft RBMP that will be published for consultation in December 2026.

We propose that draft measures will be developed through co-design in five sectoral working groups:

Table 4: Co-design of draft Programme of Measures through sectoral working groups

Overarching Considerations: Climate Change, Education, Incentivisation & Innovation, Regulation and Enforcement				
Agriculture & Forestry	Urban pressures	Drinking Water & Chemicals	Morphology, abstractions, fisheries	Invasive non-native species

6 Consultation questions

1. Do you think we have correctly identified the significant issues impacting on water resources in Northern Ireland?
Yes/ No
Please provide details.
2. Are there other significant issues we have not captured?
Yes/ No
Please provide details and identify the Local Management Area(s) if possible.
3. What interventions would you suggest to tackle these issues under the following four pillars?
 - a) education
 - b) incentivisation and innovation
 - c) regulation
 - d) enforcement
4. We will carry out screening or impact assessments when developing the draft Programme of Measures. Is there anything that you think needs to be considered when carrying out the Equality screening, Rural Needs Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats screening?
Please provide details.

Freedom of Information (Fol), Confidentiality of Responses and Sharing of Information

NIEA will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. We are unable to reply individually to the points you may raise as part of your reply.

Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and this will provide you with guidance on the legal position about any information submitted by you in response to this consultation.

Section 8 (e) of the Data Protection Act 2018 permits processing of personal data when necessary for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement.

Information provided by respondents to this stakeholder engagement exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation. For more information and to view the DAERA Privacy Statement please go to: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/daera-privacy-statement-document>

The FOI Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or be treated as confidential. If you do not wish information about your identity to be made public, please include an explanation in your response including any harm you believe such a disclosure might cause.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the FOI Act provides that:

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- The Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
- The Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature, acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

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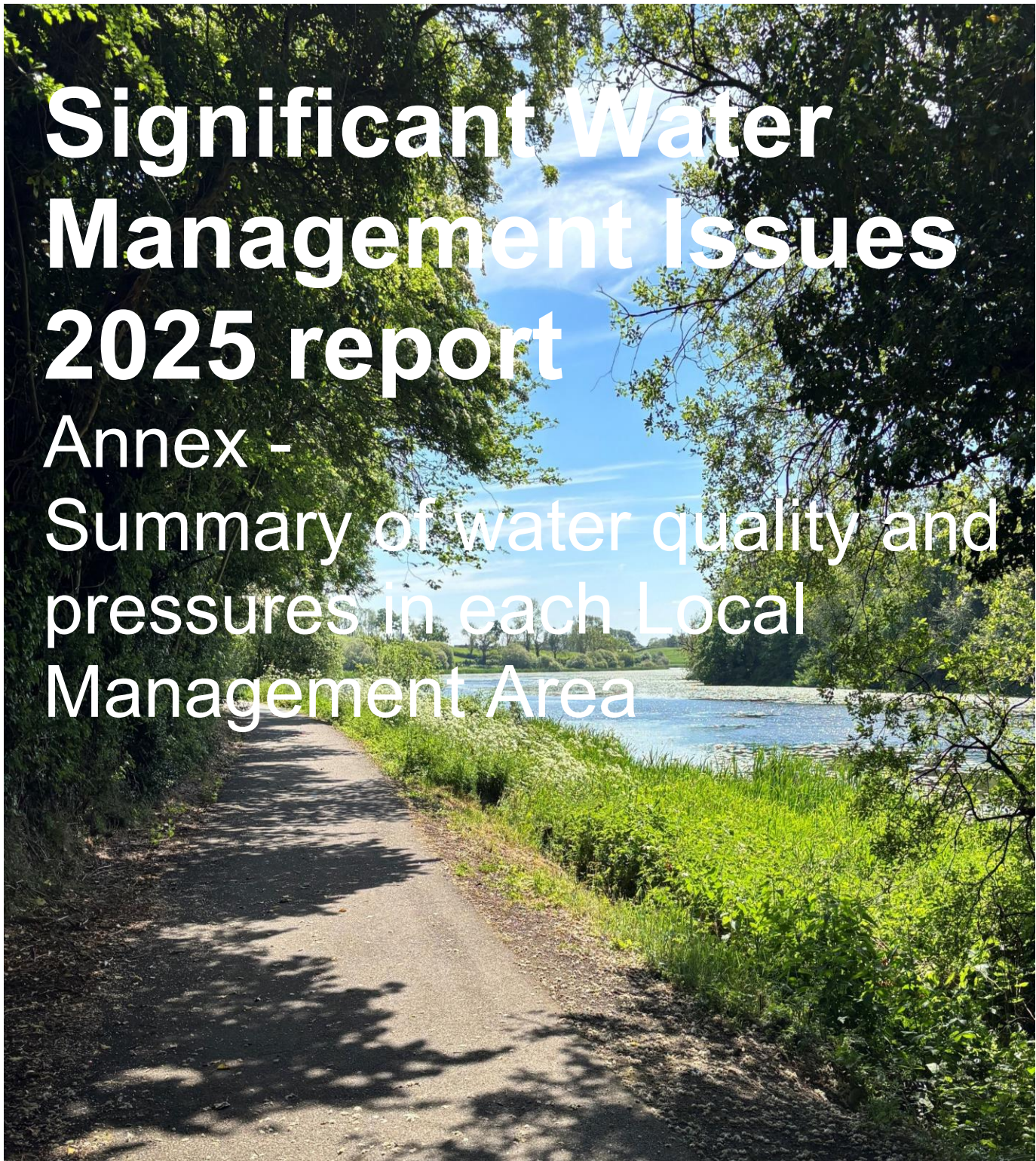
2025-12-08



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**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**



Significant Water Management Issues 2025 report

Annex -
Summary of water quality and pressures in each Local Management Area

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Abbreviations

abbreviation	name
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ASSI	Area of Special Scientific Interest
EQS	Environmental Quality Standard
GWB	Groundwater Body
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive
LMA	Local Management Area
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
POMs	Programme of Measures
RBD	River Basin District
SAC	Special Areas of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SWMI	Significant Water Management Issues
uPBT	ubiquitous, persistent, bioaccumulative, toxic

1. Structure of document

The report is structured by river basin district, with a summary for each Local Management Area (LMA). The LMA section starts with a map showing the 2024 ecological status of each surface waterbody within the LMA followed by tables comparing its ecological status since 2015 and its chemical status since 2021. For groundwater, a map shows the current chemical status for both bedrock and superficial groundwater bodies, followed by a comparison table which shows chemical and quantitative status from 2015 & 2021.

Surface water bodies (rivers and lakes) lie completely within one LMA boundary. However, groundwater bodies do not align with the LMA boundaries. Depending on the scale of the ground waterbody, it may encompass one or more LMAs. Where this is the case, pressure assessment will be assigned to one LMA only. This will be identified in the groundwater section for the relevant LMA.

In the summary of each LMA the text refers to waterbodies which for the purpose of this report are lakes, rivers, coastal and transitional waters and groundwater. It also includes coastal interbasins. Coastal interbasins are small catchments (< 10 km²) that have not been identified as separate waterbodies and therefore do not have a classification status.

The surface water maps display lakes, rivers, transitional & coastal waters and coastal interbasins. The groundwater map shows groundwater bodies. The graphs showing pressures for each LMA include all the above water types. However, the tables shown in this report do not include coastal interbasins as they do not have a classification status. The maps have included them to avoid gaps and have taken classification status from the neighbouring waterbody.

2. North Western River Basin District

2.1 Overview of the Roe Local Management Area

The Roe LMA spans approximately 580 km² and forms part of the North Western River Basin District. The River Roe originates at an elevation of around 400 metres in the Sperrin Mountains, County Tyrone, and flows northward through the landscape. Along its course, it is joined by tributaries such as the Owenrigh, Owenbeg, and Curly River, as well as numerous smaller streams, before ultimately discharging into Lough Foyle.

In addition to the River Roe, several smaller rivers within the LMA, namely the Bessbrook, Ballykelly, Faughanvale, and Muff, flow directly into Lough Foyle. The Roe River is classified as a transitional waterbody from Roe Bridge on the B69 to its mouth at Lough Foyle. Notably, Lough Foyle itself falls under the jurisdiction of the Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA.

The key towns within the Roe LMA include Limavady, Eglinton, and Dungiven, complemented by smaller villages such as Greysteel, Ballykelly, Feeny, and Castlerock.

Land Use and Ecology The dominant land use across the region is improved grassland, interspersed with areas of acid and neutral grassland. The Roe LMA is home to vital habitats and diverse wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

2.1.1 Water quality in the Roe LMA

The Roe LMA comprises 17 rivers. Currently, 47 % of its surface waterbodies are classified as having good ecological status (see Map 1). Additionally, there are 6 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status. The Owenrigh River is officially designated as a heavily modified waterbody due to drinking water supply and wider environment issues. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Magilligan (N Coast/ E Foyle), Mussenden (N Coast) and Owenrigh River.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, 71 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this declined to 35 %, then slightly improved to 47 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

The 2 bedrock groundwater bodies in the Roe LMA are achieving good quantitative and chemical status. The superficial groundwater body is achieving good chemical status but poor quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.1.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Roe LMA

Map 1 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Roe LMA

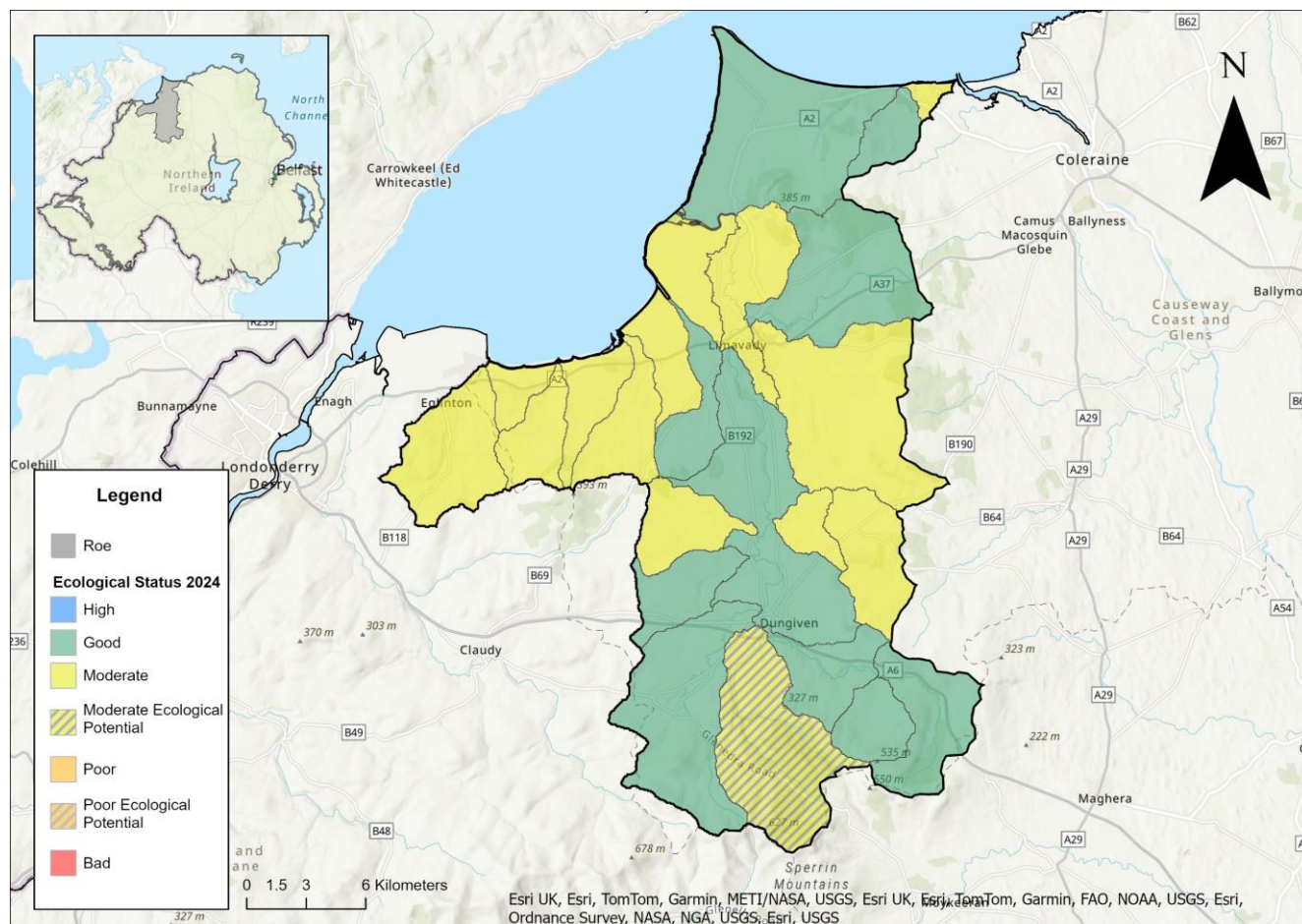


Table 1 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Roe LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	12	71	6	35	8	47
Moderate/MEP	5	29	9	53	9	53
Poor/PEP	0	0	2	12	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 2 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Roe LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	16	94	16	94	0	0	0	0
Bad	1	6	1	6	17	100	17	100

North Western River Basin District

2.1.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Roe LMA

Map 2 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Roe LMA

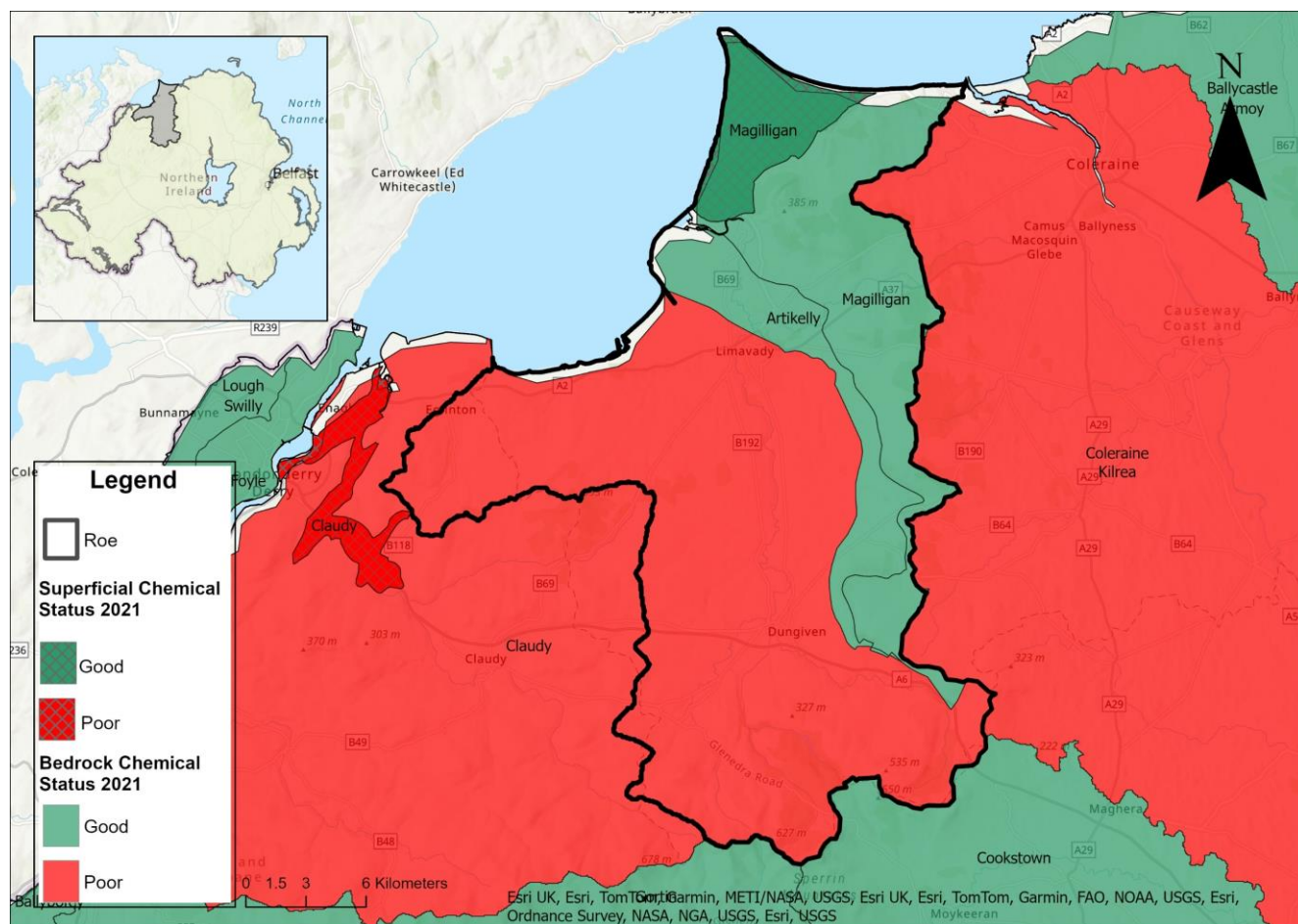


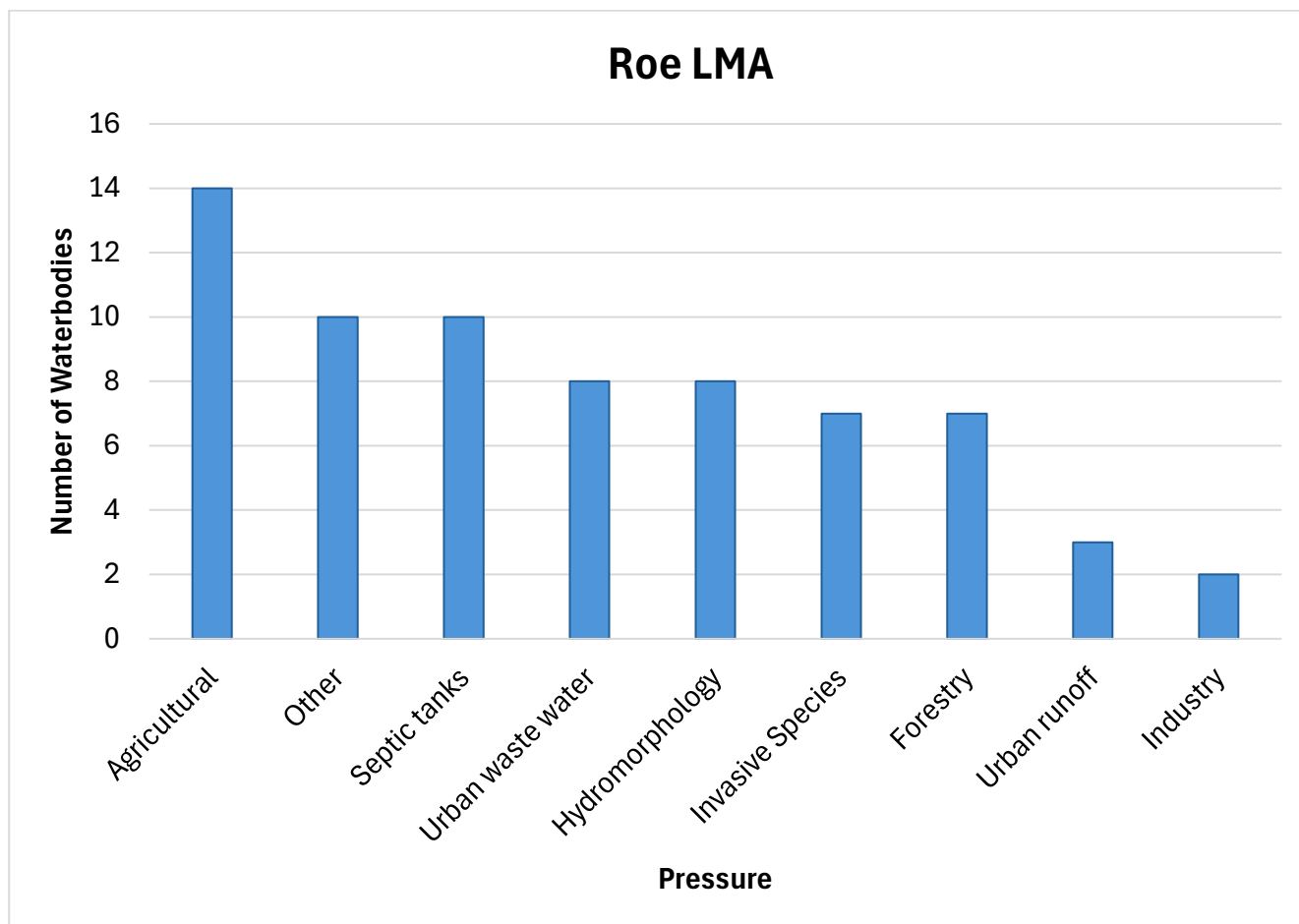
Table 3 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Roe LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	1	50	2	100	1	50	2	100
	Poor	1	50	0	0	1	50	0	0
Superficial	Good	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0
	Poor	1	100	0	0	1	100	1	100

Claudy groundwater body is shown in the map above but not counted in the table as it is counted within the Faughan LMA.

2.1.4 Roe LMA Pressures

Figure 1 Pressures in Roe LMA



The most frequently identified pressures the Roe LMA (Figure 1) are agricultural, other, septic tanks, urban wastewater and hydromorphology.

2.2 Overview of the Faughan Local Management Area

The Faughan LMA forms part of the North Western River Basin District, covering an area approximately 311 km². Originating in the Northern Sperrins, the River Faughan flows in a north-westerly direction through scenic rural countryside, passing the villages of Park and Claudy. Downstream, it is joined by the Foreglen and Glenrandal Rivers, gradually slowing as it approaches Drumahoe and enters a more urban environment. The river meanders past Campsie and eventually empties into Lough Foyle, roughly three miles north of Derry City.

While Londonderry is the largest urban centre within the LMA, the region also includes numerous smaller towns and villages, such as Claudy.

Land Use and Ecology The land is predominantly improved grassland, with a noticeable increase in arable horticulture moving northward. This catchment area supports a wide array of natural habitats, many of which are designated for protection due to their ecological significance. The River Faughan and its tributaries—including the Burntollet River, Bonds Glen, Glenrandal River, and the Inver River—are nationally and internationally protected, primarily due to the presence of Atlantic Salmon. Otters are also commonly found throughout the area, reflecting the health and biodiversity of the aquatic ecosystem. The southern portion of the LMA lies within the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

2.2.1 Water quality in the Faughan LMA

The Faughan LMA comprises of 8 rivers. Currently, 50 % of its surface waterbodies are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 3). Additionally, there is 1 coastal interbasin that has no official classification status.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, 63 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this declined to 50 %, a level that remained unchanged in 2024.

Groundwater Status

Both groundwater bodies within the Faughan LMA have poor chemical status but good quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.2.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Faughan LMA

Map 3 Ecological status/potential of surface waterbodies in Faughan LMA

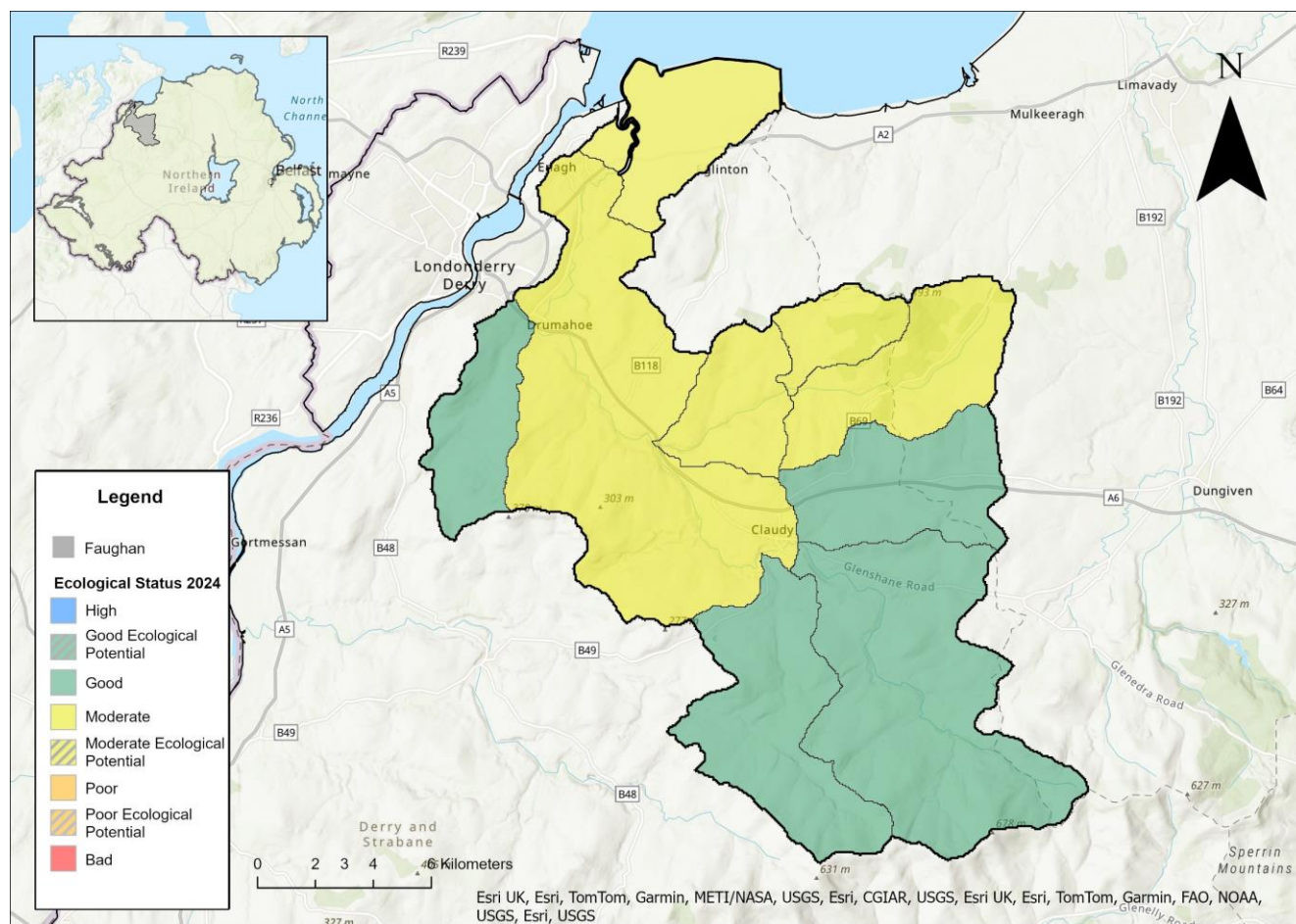


Table 4 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Faughan LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	5	63	4	50	4	50
Moderate/MEP	2	25	4	50	4	50
Poor/PEP	1	13	0	0	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 5 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Faughan LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	7	88	7	88	0	0	0	0
Bad	1	13	1	13	8	100	8	100

North Western River Basin District

2.2.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Faughan LMA

Map 4 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Faughan LMA

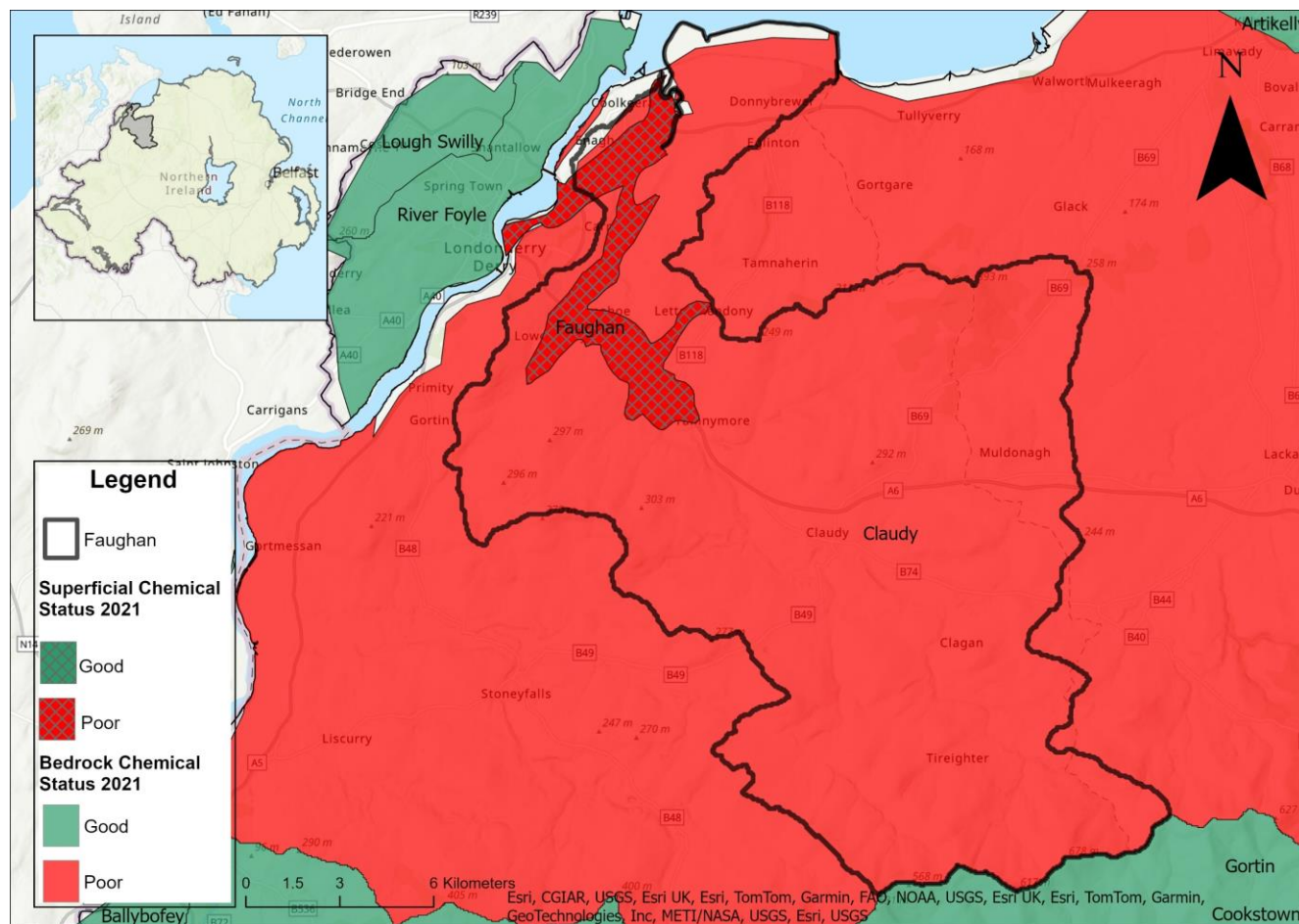
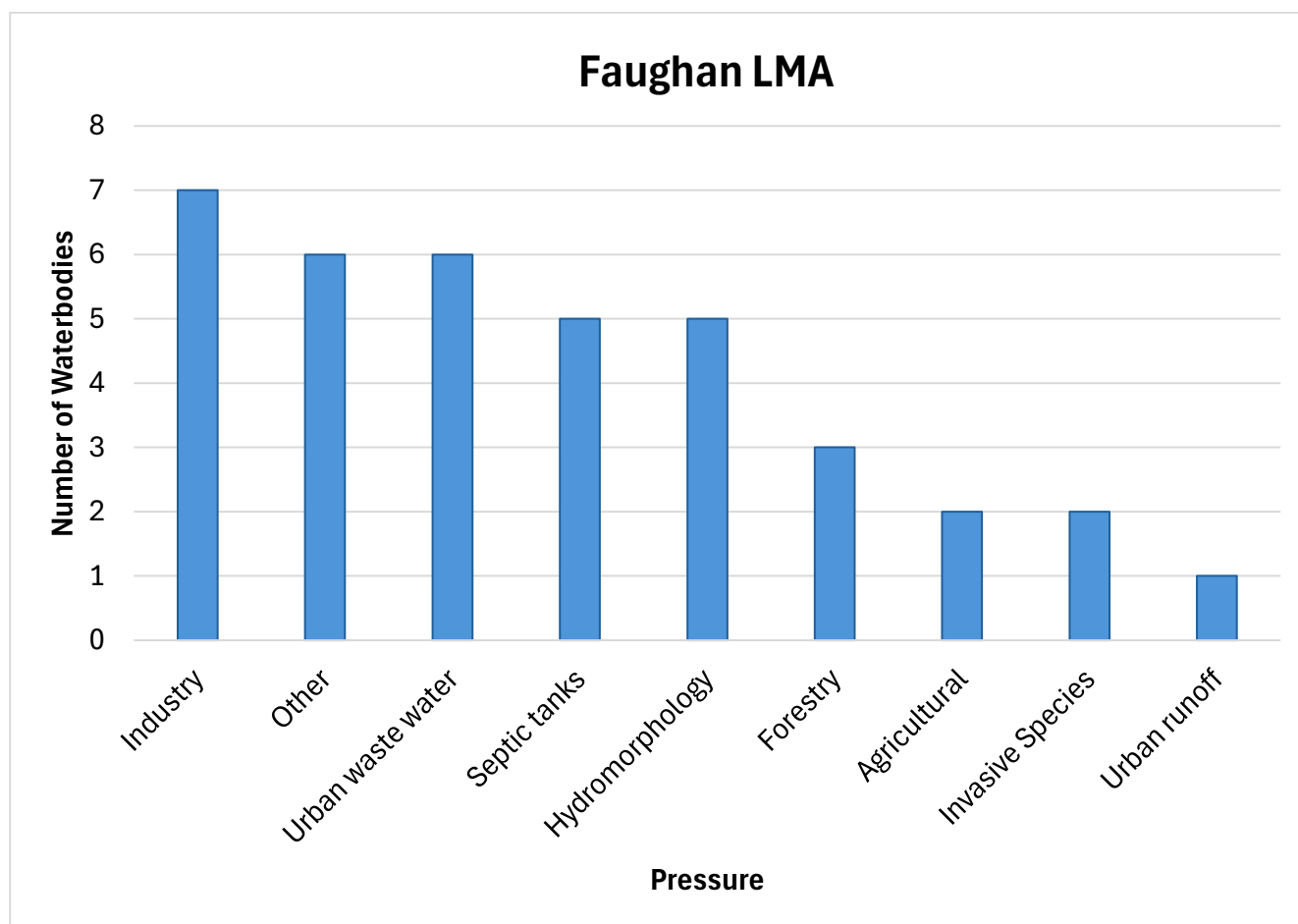


Table 6 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Faughan LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	1	100	0	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	0	100	1	100	0	100	0	100
Superficial	Good	1	100	0	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	0	100	1	100	0	100	0	100

2.2.4 Faughan LMA Pressures

Figure 2 Pressures in Faughan LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Faughan LMA (Figure 2) are industry, other, urban wastewater, septic tanks and hydromorphology.

2.3 Overview of the Burn Dennet & Foyle Local Management Area

Located within the North Western River Basin District, the Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA spans approximately 491 km². The main river here is the Foyle, along with its network of tributaries. Below Strabane, the River Foyle transitions into a slower-flowing system, influenced by the tidal reach of Lough Foyle, also encompassed within the LMA. Burn Dennet and Foyle comprises of 3 coastal waterbodies: Upper Foyle, Foyle Harbour and Faughan and Lough Foyle.

Londonderry serves as the principal city in the region, while Strabane stands as its largest town. The area is predominantly composed of improved grassland, supporting both agriculture and biodiversity.

Land Use and Ecology The LMA is home to a rich variety of fish species, including, Atlantic Salmon, Sea Trout, Resident Brown Trout, Sea Lamprey, River/ Brook Lamprey and European Eel. In the tidal stretches of the River Foyle, species such as Grey Mullet and European Smelt are also present, adding to the ecological diversity of the region.

2.3.1 Water quality in the Burn Dennett and Foyle LMA

The Burn Dennett and Foyle LMA comprises of 9 rivers and 3 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 50 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 5). Additionally, there are 4 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status. The Skeoge River is officially designated as a heavily modified waterbody due to flood risk management interventions. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Altinaghrea Burn and Dunnyboe Burn.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 42 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this improved to 50 %, a level that remained unchanged in 2024.
- The number of waterbodies classified as high status declined from one in 2015 to zero in both 2021 and 2024.

Groundwater Status

Both groundwater bodies within the Burn Dennett and Foyle LMA are currently achieving good quantitative and chemical status.

North Western River Basin District

2.3.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA

Map 5 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA

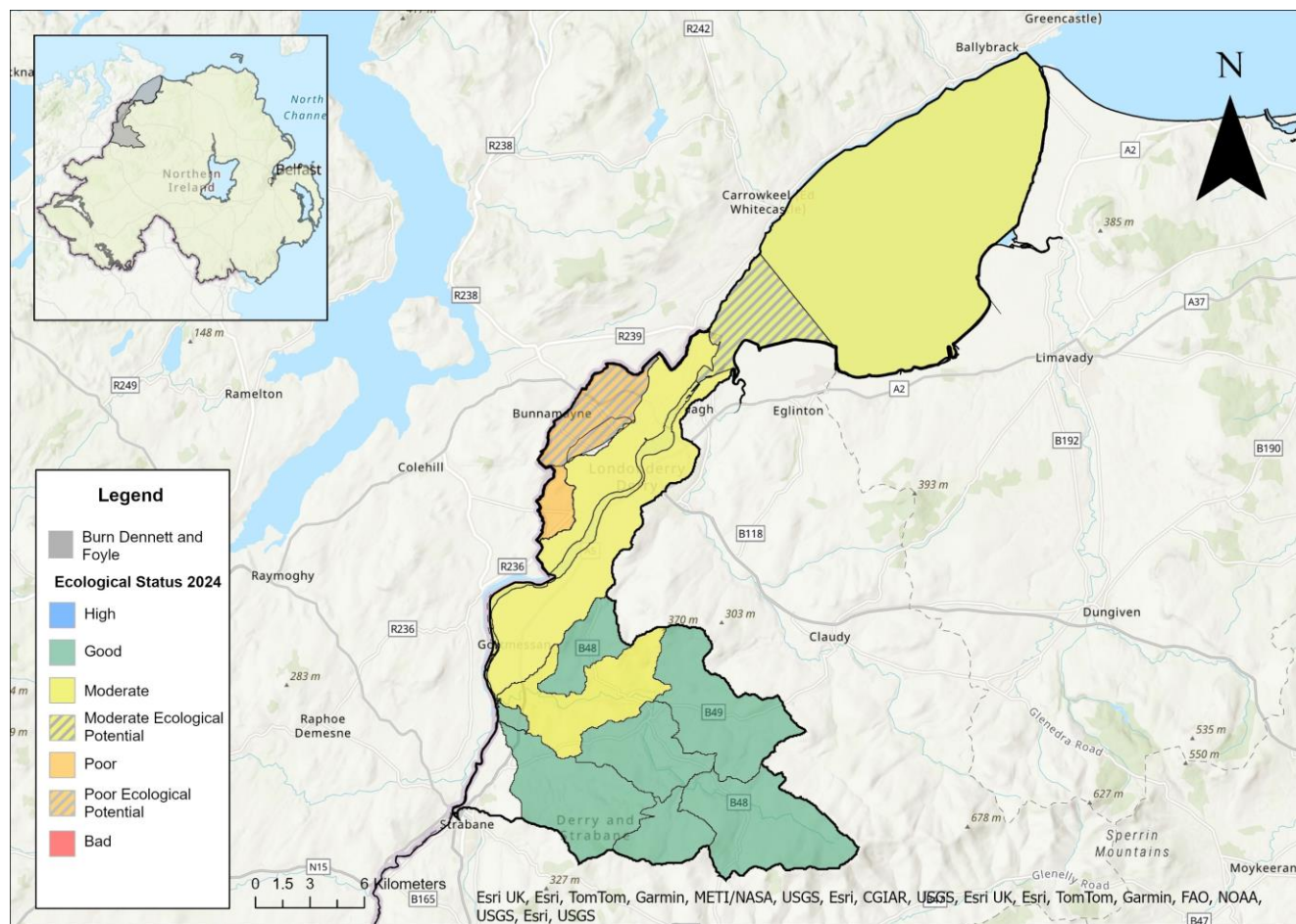


Table 7 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Burn Dennett and Foyle LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High/HEP	1	8	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	5	42	6	50	6	50
Moderate/MEP	4	33	4	33	4	33
Poor/PEP	2	17	2	17	2	17
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 8 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Burn Dennett and Foyle LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	6	55	6	55	0	0	0	0
Bad	5	45	5	45	12	100	12	100
No Data	1	9	1	9	0	0	0	0

North Western River Basin District

2.3.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA

Map 6 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Burn Dennet and Foyle LMA

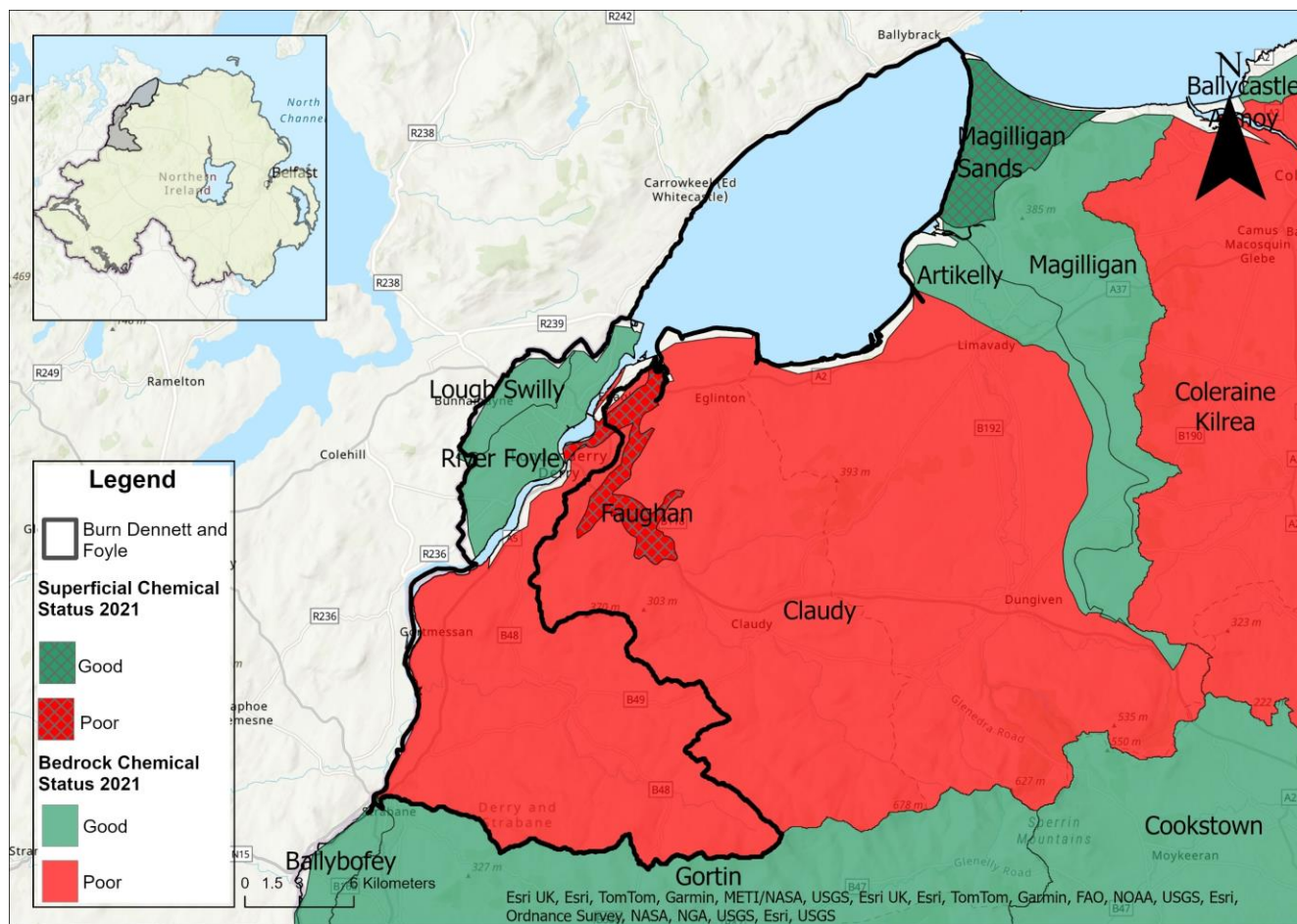


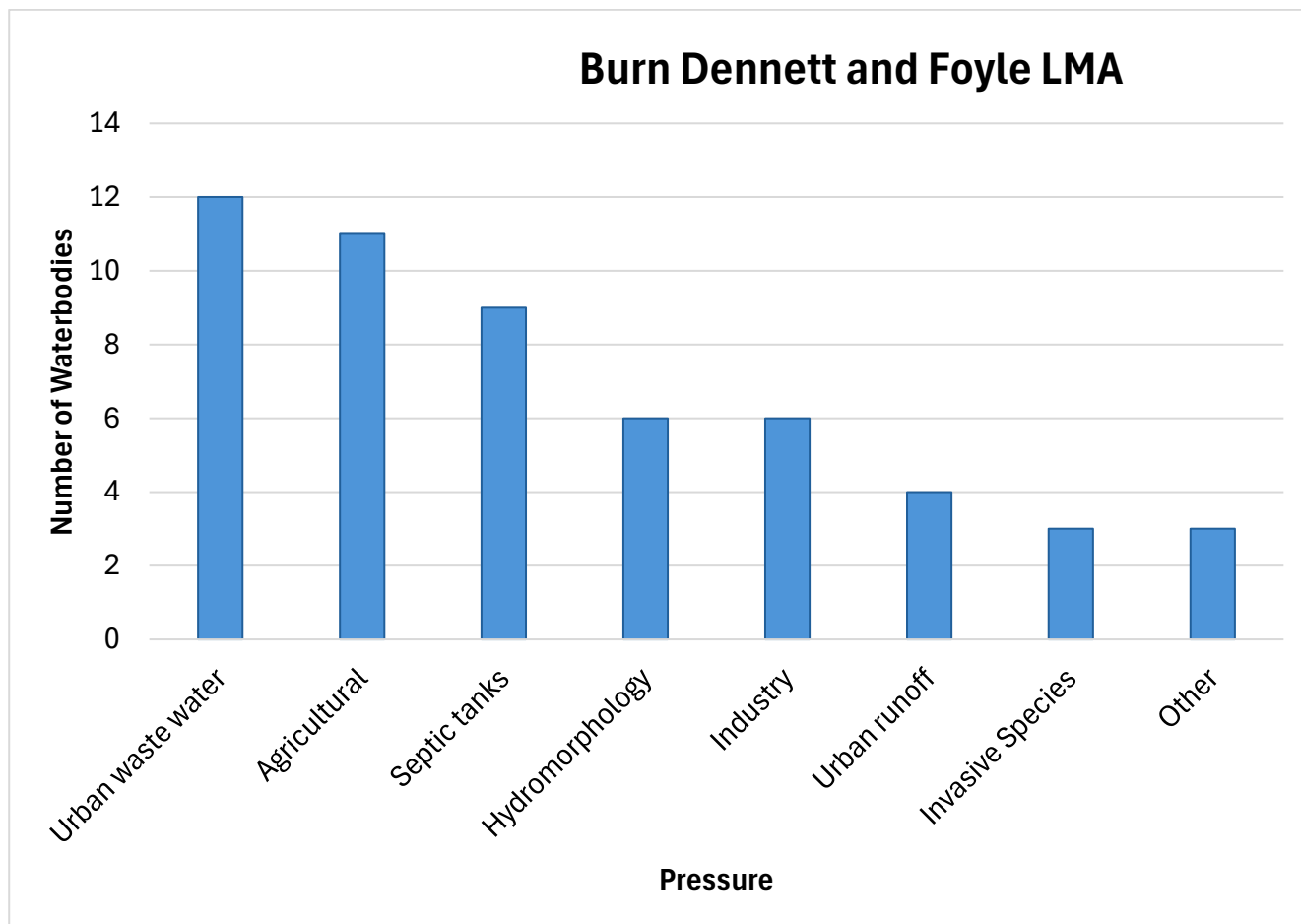
Table 9 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Burn Dennet and Foyle LMA

Classification	Chemical Status				Quantitative status				
	2015		2021		2015		2021		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Bedrock	Good	2	100	2	100	2	100	2	100
	Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Claudy groundwater body is shown in the map above but not counted in the table as it is counted within the Faughan LMA.

2.3.4 Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA Pressures

Figure 3 Pressures in Burn Dennet & Foyle LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Burn Dennet and Foyle LMA (Figure 3) are urban wastewater, agricultural, septic tanks, hydromorphology and industry.

2.4 Overview of the Strule Local Management Area

Nestled within the North Western River Basin District, the Strule Local Management Area spans approximately 869 km². This region is defined by a network of major rivers—including the Strule, Camowen, Owenreagh, Quiggery, and Fairy Water—which hold international significance as vital habitats for Atlantic Salmon. Other important fish species present within the LMA include trout (Sea trout and resident Brown Trout), Sea Lamprey, River/ Brook Lamprey, European Eel, Pike and Perch.

Omagh stands as the largest town in the area, alongside smaller communities including Fintona, Dromore, Carrickmore, and Beragh.

Land Use and Ecology The predominant land use is improved grassland, supporting both agriculture and wildlife. The Strule LMA boasts a variety of natural habitats, many of which are protected for their ecological value. Notably in the northwest, the Fairy Water Bogs represent one of Northern Ireland's most extensive areas of intact lowland raised bog, a rare and valuable ecosystem. The northeastern portion of the LMA lies within the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, celebrated for its scenic landscapes and environmental significance.

2.4.1 Water quality in the Strule LMA

The Strule LMA comprises of 27 rivers. Currently, 89 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 7). Drumnakilly Burn, and The Black Water (Drumquin) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies due to drinking water supply reasons. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Camowen River (Omagh), Drumnakilly Burn and The Black Water (Drumquin).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 19 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this declined to 7 %, then slightly improved to 11 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

The bedrock groundwater body in the Strule LMA has poor chemical status but good quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.4.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Strule LMA

Map 7 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Strule LMA

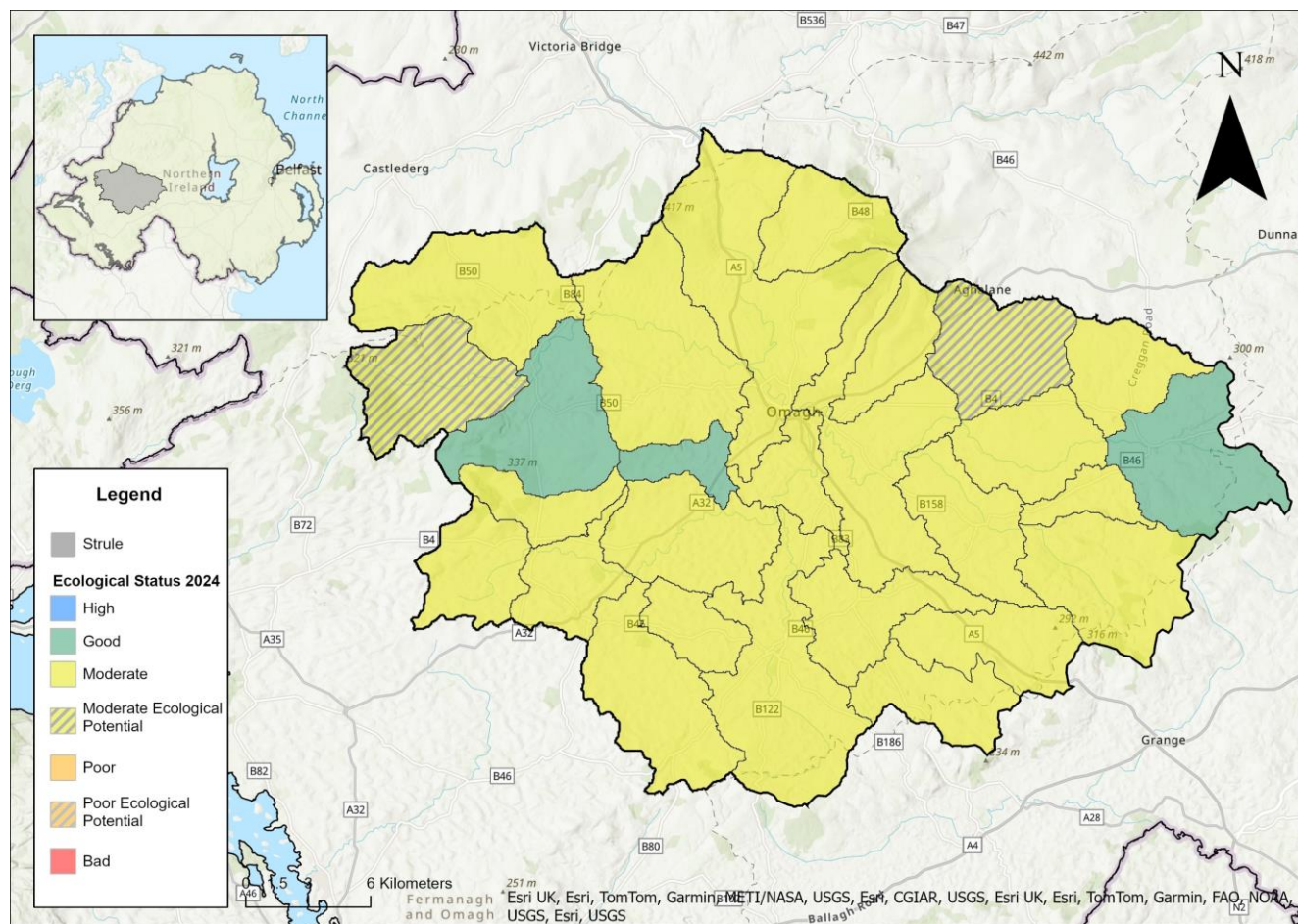


Table 10 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Strule LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	5	19	2	7	3	11
Moderate/MEP	22	81	25	93	24	89
Poor/PEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 11 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Strule LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	24	89	23	85	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	11	4	15	27	100	27	100

North Western River Basin District

2.4.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Strule LMA

Map 8 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Strule LMA

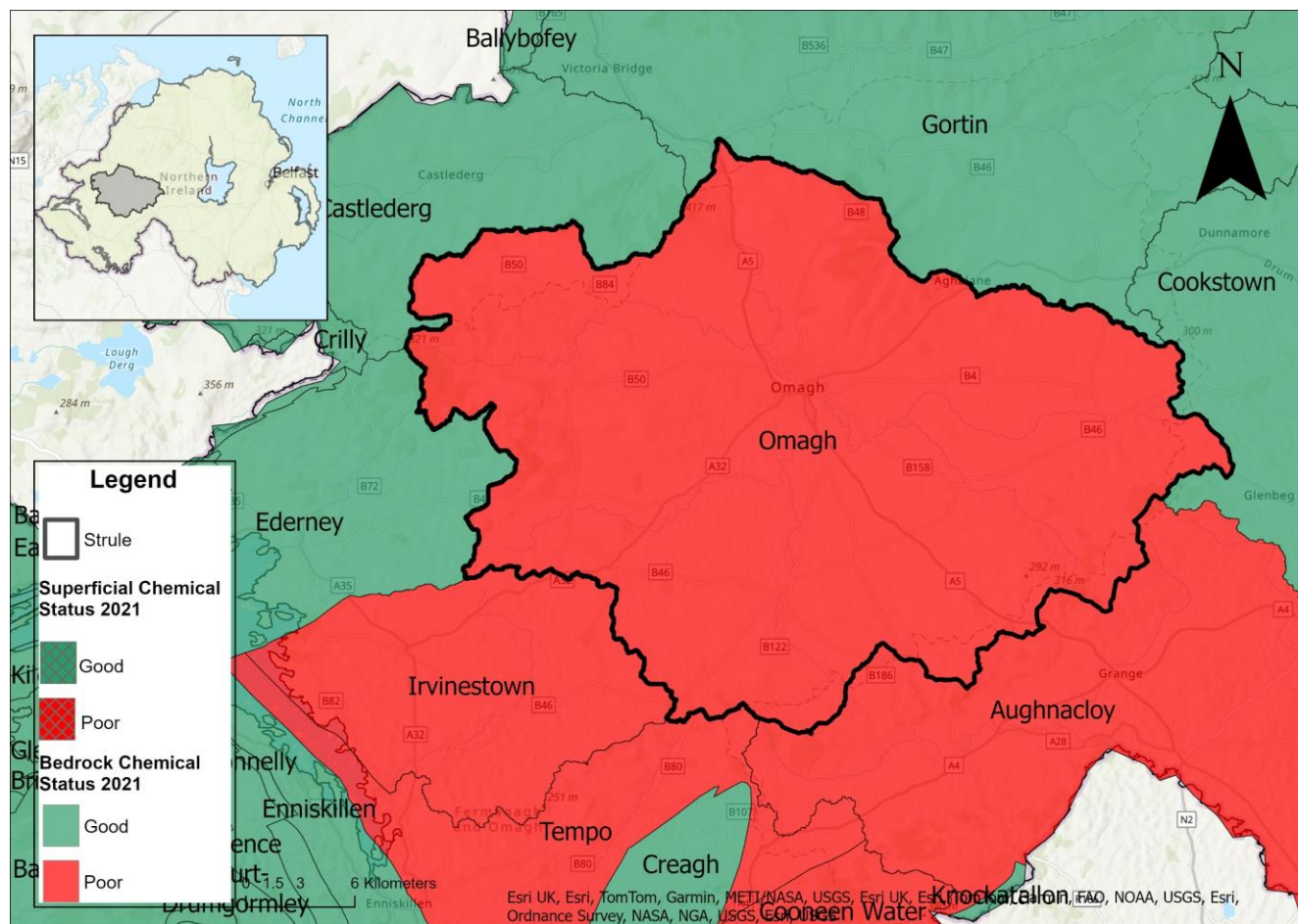
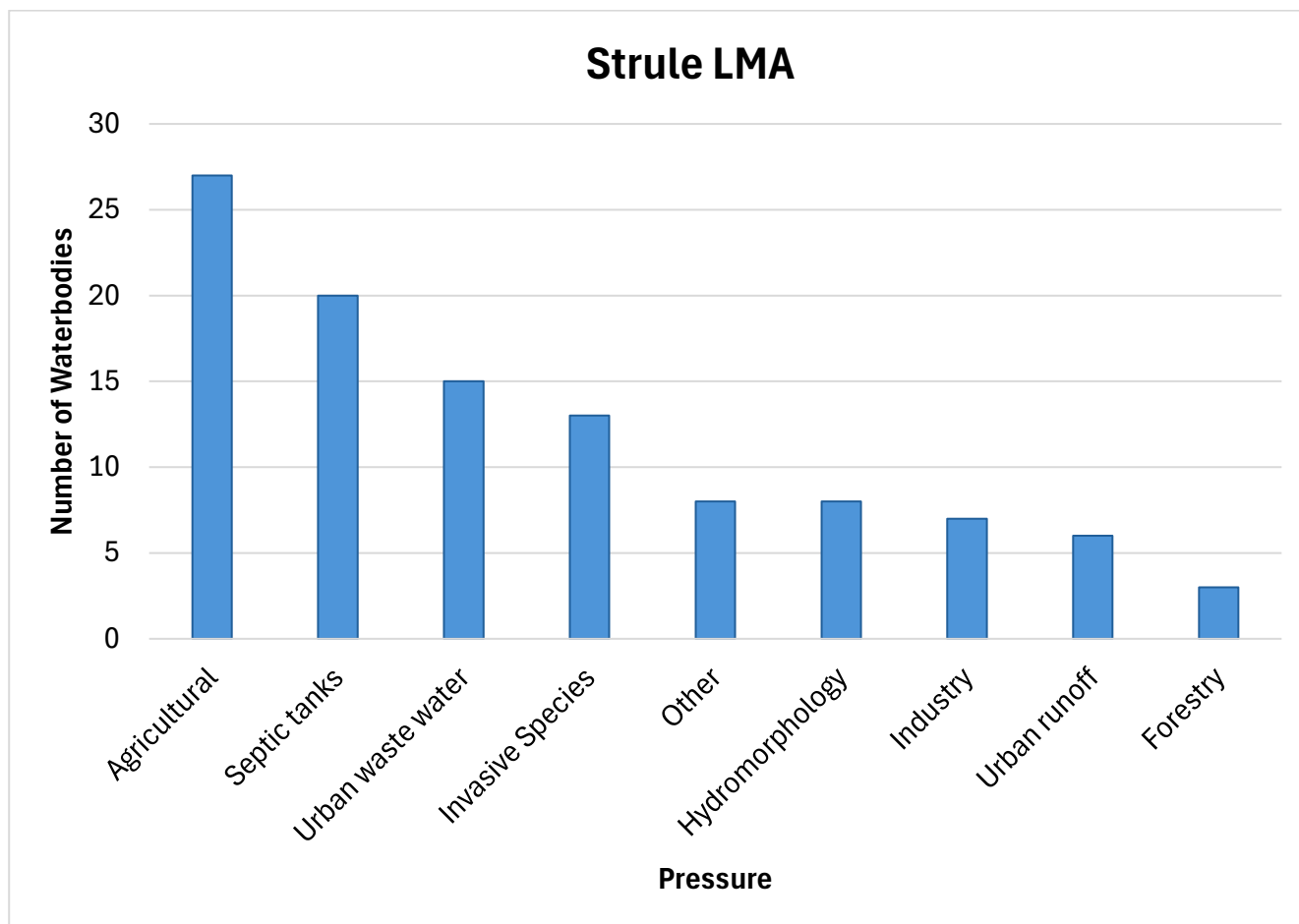


Table 12 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Strule LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	0	0	0	0	1	100	1	100
	Poor	1	100	1	100	0	0	0	0

2.4.4 Strule LMA Pressures

Figure 4 Pressures in Strule LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Strule LMA (Figure 4) are agricultural, septic tanks, urban waste water, invasive species and other.

2.5 Overview of the Owenkillev Local Management Area

Located within the North Western River Basin District, the Owenkillev LMA spans approximately 454 km² and is defined by its rich network of rivers and striking upland landscapes. Key watercourses in the area include the Owenkillev, Glenelly, Owenreagh, and Broughderg Burn rivers. The Owenkillev River itself originates in the serene woodlands of Davagh Forest and meanders westward, ultimately contributing to the Lough Foyle system. While the region lacks major urban centres, it is dotted with charming villages such as Plumbridge, Gortin, and Greencastle.

Land Use and Ecology Land use across the Owenkillev LMA reflects its natural diversity with improved grassland dominating the western lowlands and the valleys of the Glenelly and Owenkillev rivers. Upland terrain, particularly within the Sperrin Mountains, features a mosaic of acid grassland, heath, and peat habitats. Importantly, the Owenkillev LMA lies almost entirely within the Sperrin Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), underscoring its ecological significance and scenic value.

2.5.1 Water quality in the Owenkillev LMA

The Owenkillev LMA comprises of 14 rivers. Currently, 43 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 9).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, 64 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this declined to 50 %, then slightly improved to 57 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

The groundwater body in Owenkillev LMA is achieving good chemical and quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.5.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Owenkillew LMA

Map 9 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Owenkillew LMA

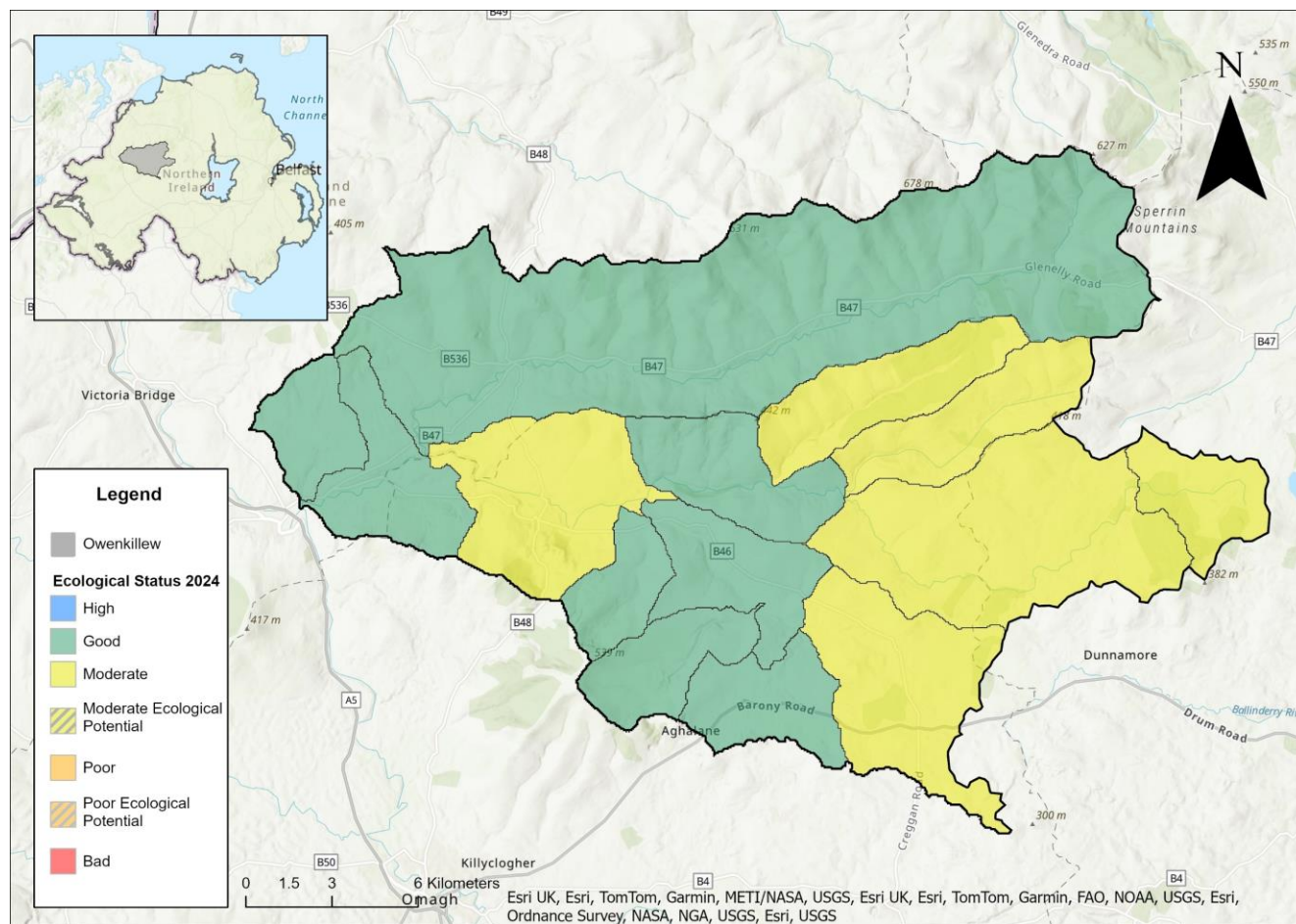


Table 13 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Owenkillew LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	9	64	7	50	8	57
Moderate/MEP	5	36	6	43	6	43
Poor/PEP	0	0	1	7	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 14 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Owenkillew LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	11	79	11	79	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	21	3	21	14	100	14	100

North Western River Basin District

2.5.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Owenkillew LMA

Map 10 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Owenkillew LMA

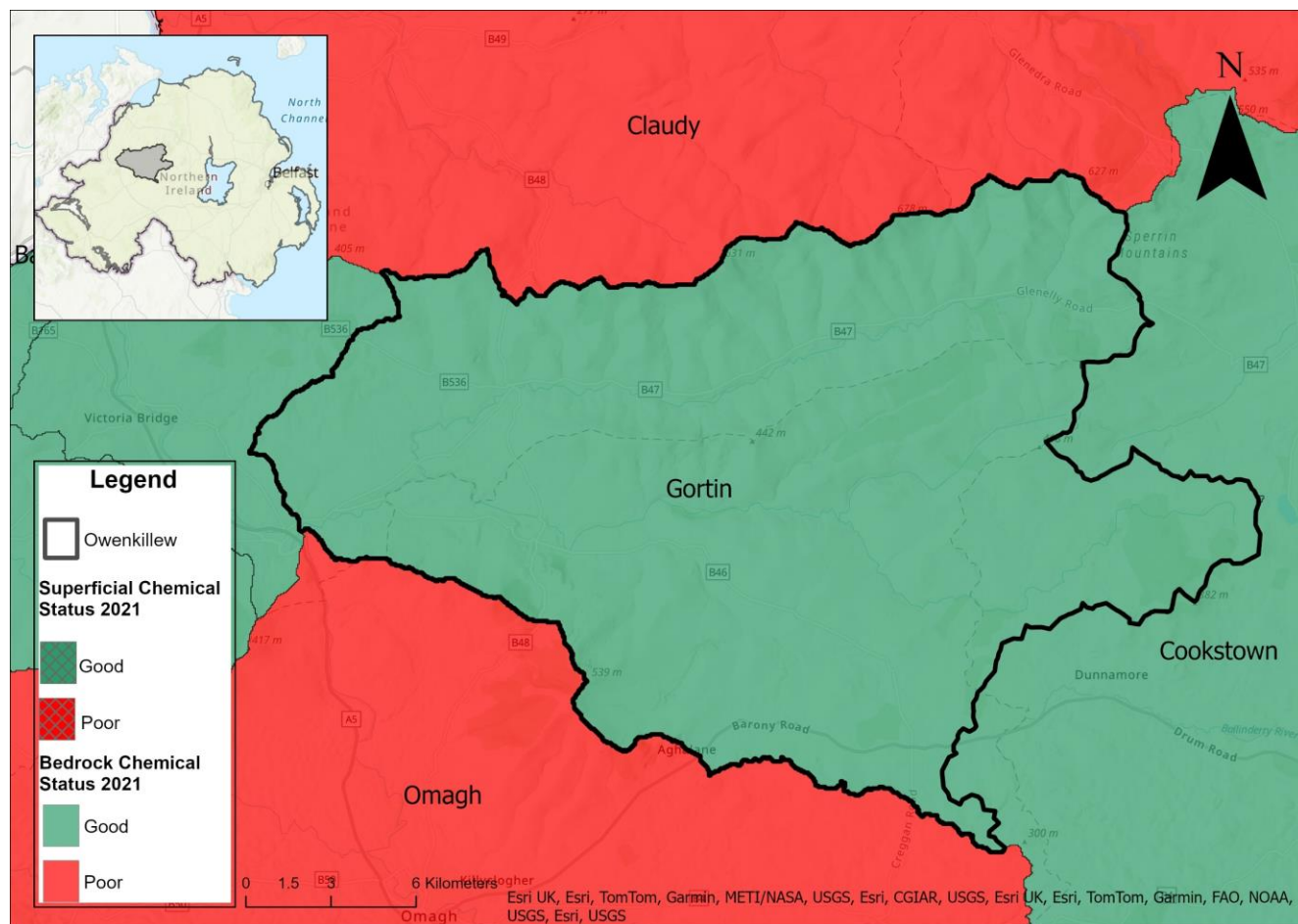
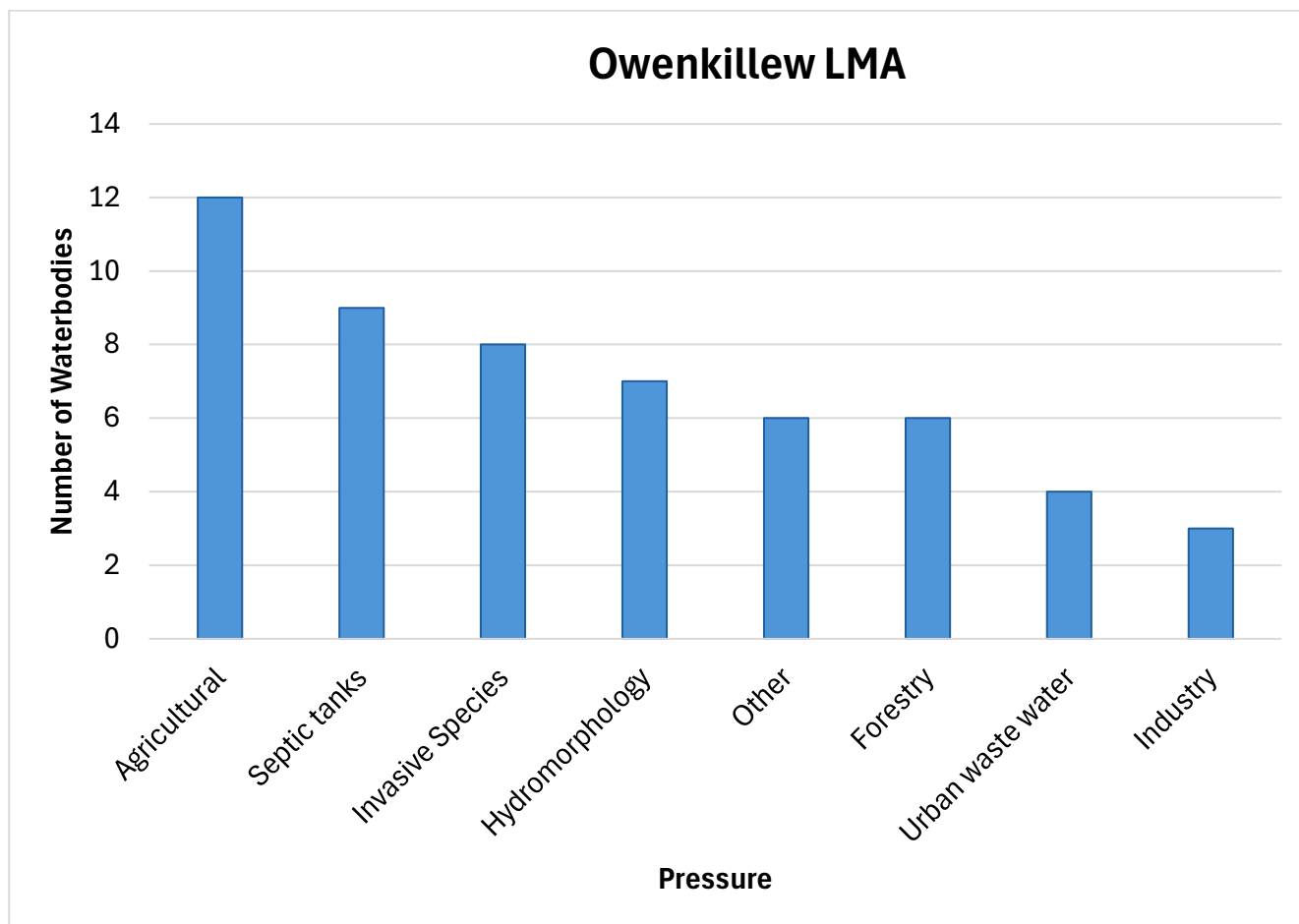


Table 15 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Owenkillew LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	1	100	1	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2.5.4 Owenkillew LMA Pressures

Figure 5 Pressures in Owenkillew LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Owenkillew LMA (Figure 5) are agricultural, septic tanks, invasive species, hydromorphology and other.

2.6 Overview of the Derg & Mourne Local Management Area

The Derg and Mourne LMA forms part of the North Western River Basin District, spanning approximately 410 km² of ecologically rich terrain. This area is defined by several major rivers, including the Mourne/ Strule, River Derg, River Finn, and Mourne Beg River, each of which holds international significance for the conservation of Atlantic Salmon. Other important fish species are also present within this LMA, including Sea Trout and resident Brown Trout, Sea Lamprey and River/ Brook Lamprey, European Eel, Pike and Perch.

The largest towns within the LMA are Strabane, Sion Mills, and Castlederg.

Land Use and Ecology The landscape is predominantly improved grassland, transitioning west of Killeter into acid grassland, fen, mixed woodland, and coniferous forest. Notably, the region contains extensive areas of cut-over blanket bog and intact bogs of both national and international importance. The Derg and Mourne LMA is a haven for vital habitats and wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

2.6.1 Water quality in the Derg and Mourne LMA

The Derg & Mourne LMA comprises of 15 rivers. Currently, 73 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 11). Mourne River has been officially designated as a heavily modified waterbody due to flood risk management reasons.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 33 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- This remained unchanged in 2021 and slightly declined to 27 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

Both groundwater bodies in the Derg & Mourne LMA are achieving good chemical and quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.6.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Derg & Mourne LMA

Map 11 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Derg and Mourne LMA

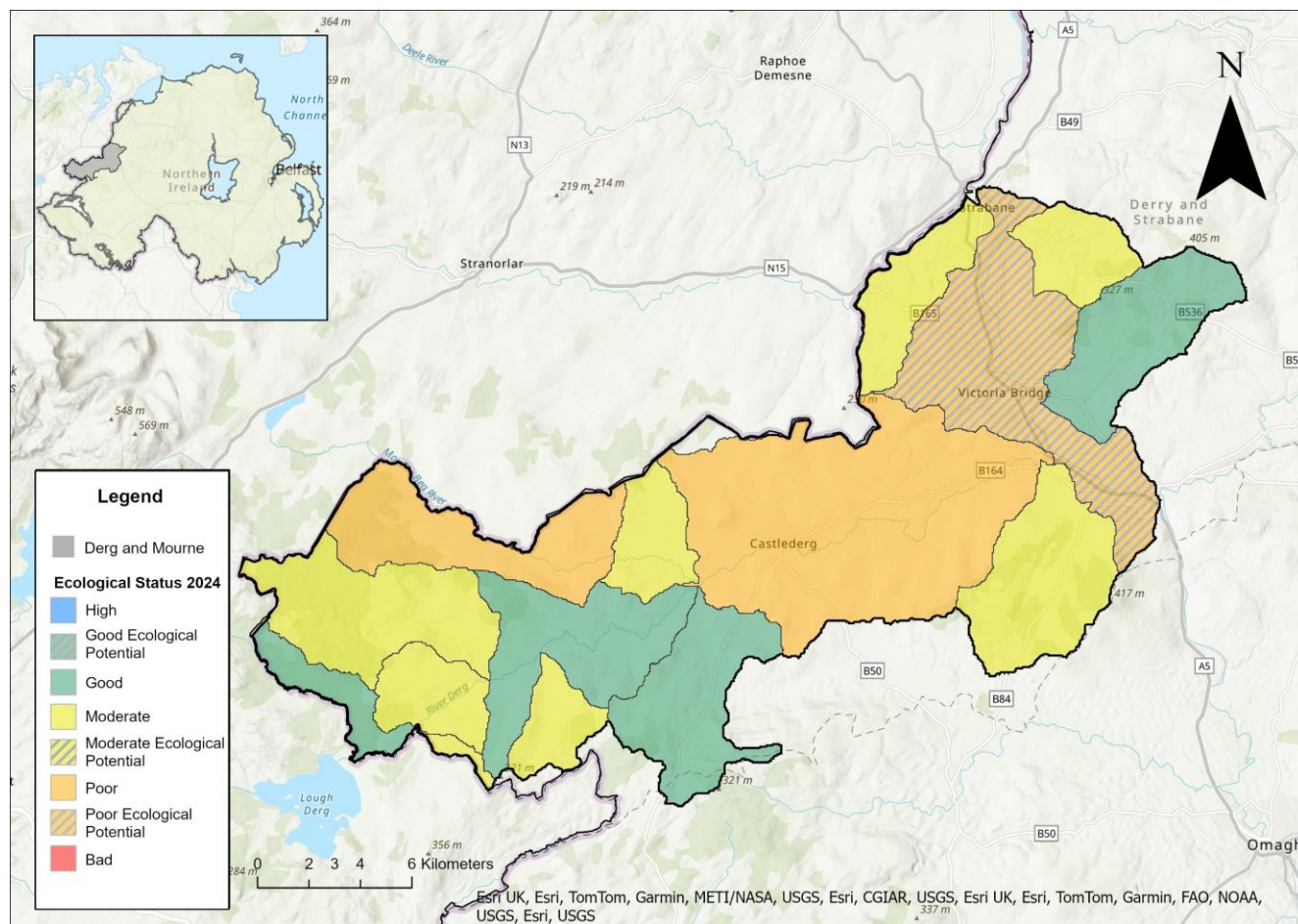


Table 16 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Derg and Mourne LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	5	33	5	33	4	27
Moderate/MEP	10	67	8	53	8	53
Poor/PEP	0	0	2	13	3	20
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 17 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Derg and Mourne LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	11	73	11	73	0	0	0	0
Bad	4	27	4	27	15	100	15	100

North Western River Basin District

2.6.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Derg & Mourne LMA

Map 12 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Derg and Mourne LMA

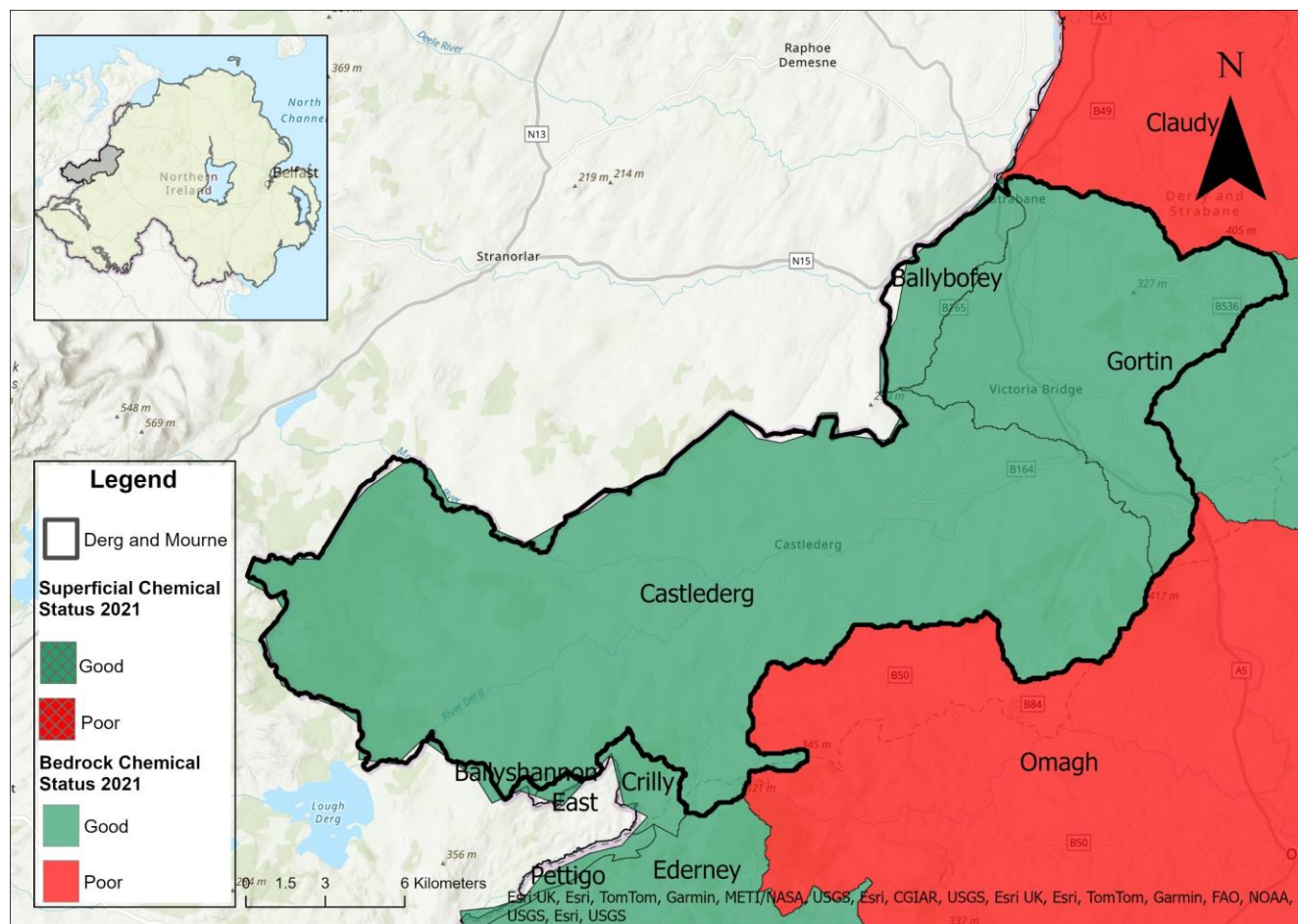


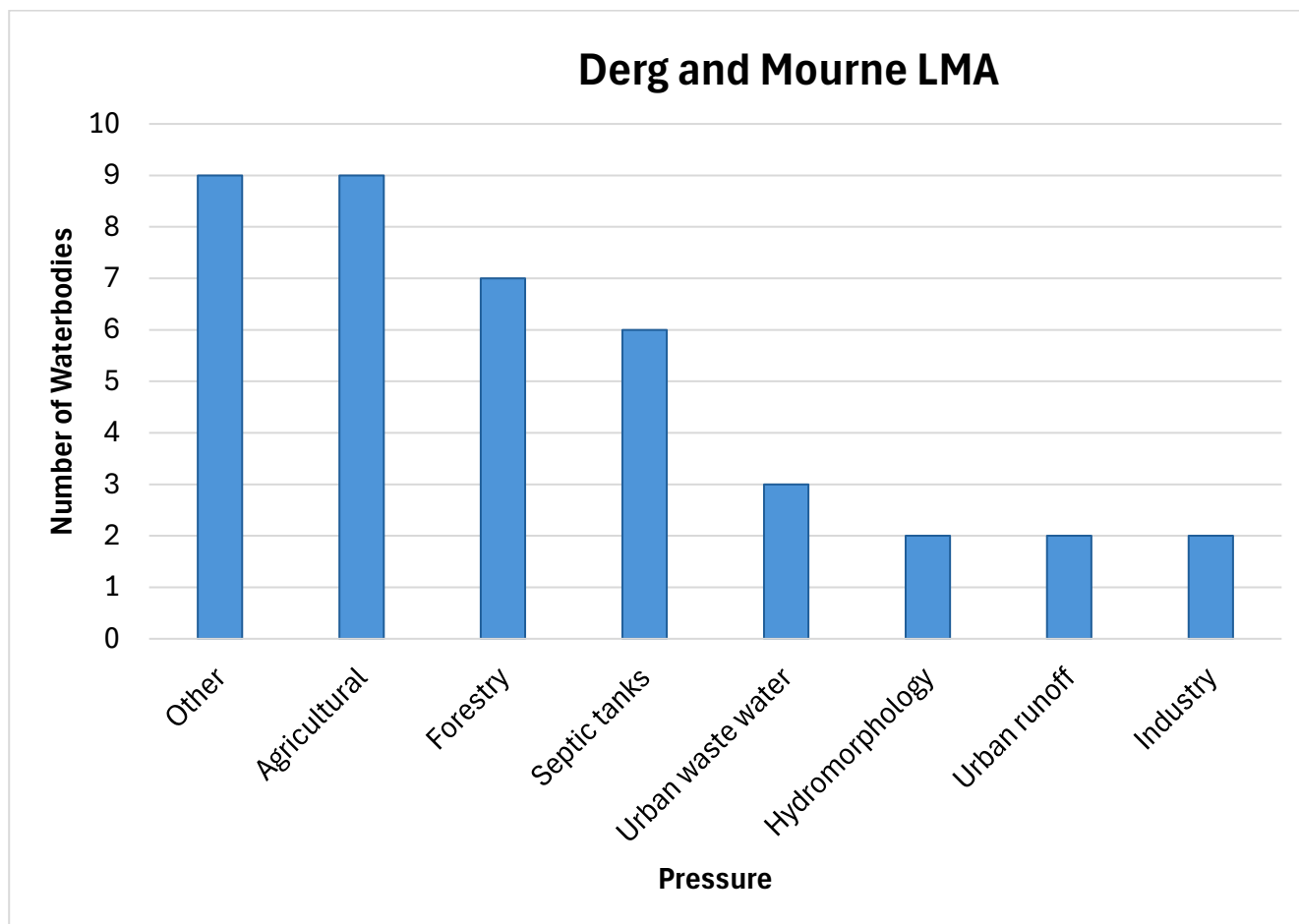
Table 18 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Derg and Mourne LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	2	100	2	100	2	100	2	100
	Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Gortin groundwater body is shown in the map above but not counted in the table, it is counted within the Owenkillew LMA.

2.6.4 Derg & Mourne LMA Pressures

Figure 6 Pressures in Derg & Mourne LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Derg and Mourne LMA (Figure 6) are other, agricultural, forestry, septic tanks and urban waste water.

2.7 Overview of the Lough Melvin & Arney Local Management Area

The Lough Melvin & Arney LMA forms part of the North Western River Basin District and spans approximately 499 km². This region encompasses a network of distinct river systems, including the Arney, Sillees, Lurgan, Glen, and Roogagh rivers, each contributing to the area's rich hydrological character. Positioned in the northwest of the LMA, Lough Melvin is a vital ecological asset. It harbours the only known population of Arctic Charr in Northern Ireland and supports three genetically distinct populations of Brown Trout. The Lough also plays a crucial role in sustaining Atlantic Salmon, making it a key site for native fish conservation.

The principal towns within the LMA include Derrygonnelly, Garrison, Boho, and Bellanaleck, alongside a scattering of smaller settlements.

Land Use and Ecology The southern and western parts of the area are characterised by lakelands bordered by wetland habitats, while the southeastern landscape is dominated by improved grassland. Moving northwest, the terrain transitions into acid grasslands and forested zones. The Lough Melvin & Arney LMA is home to a range of important habitats and wildlife species. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

2.7.1 Water quality in the Lough Melvin and Arney LMA

The Lough Melvin & Arney LMA comprises of 20 rivers and three lakes. Currently, 57 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 13). Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Belcoo River, Drowes River, Lough Macnean Upper, Lough Melvin, Roogagh River and Sillees River (Lough Navar Forest).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 35 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this improved to 49 %, then slightly decreased to 43 % in 2024.
- The number of waterbodies classified as high status declined from two in 2015 to zero in both 2021 and 2024.

Groundwater Status

All thirteen groundwater bodies within the Lough Melvin and Arney LMA are achieving good chemical and quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.7.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Lough Melvin & Arney LMA

Map 13 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lough Melvin and Arney LMA

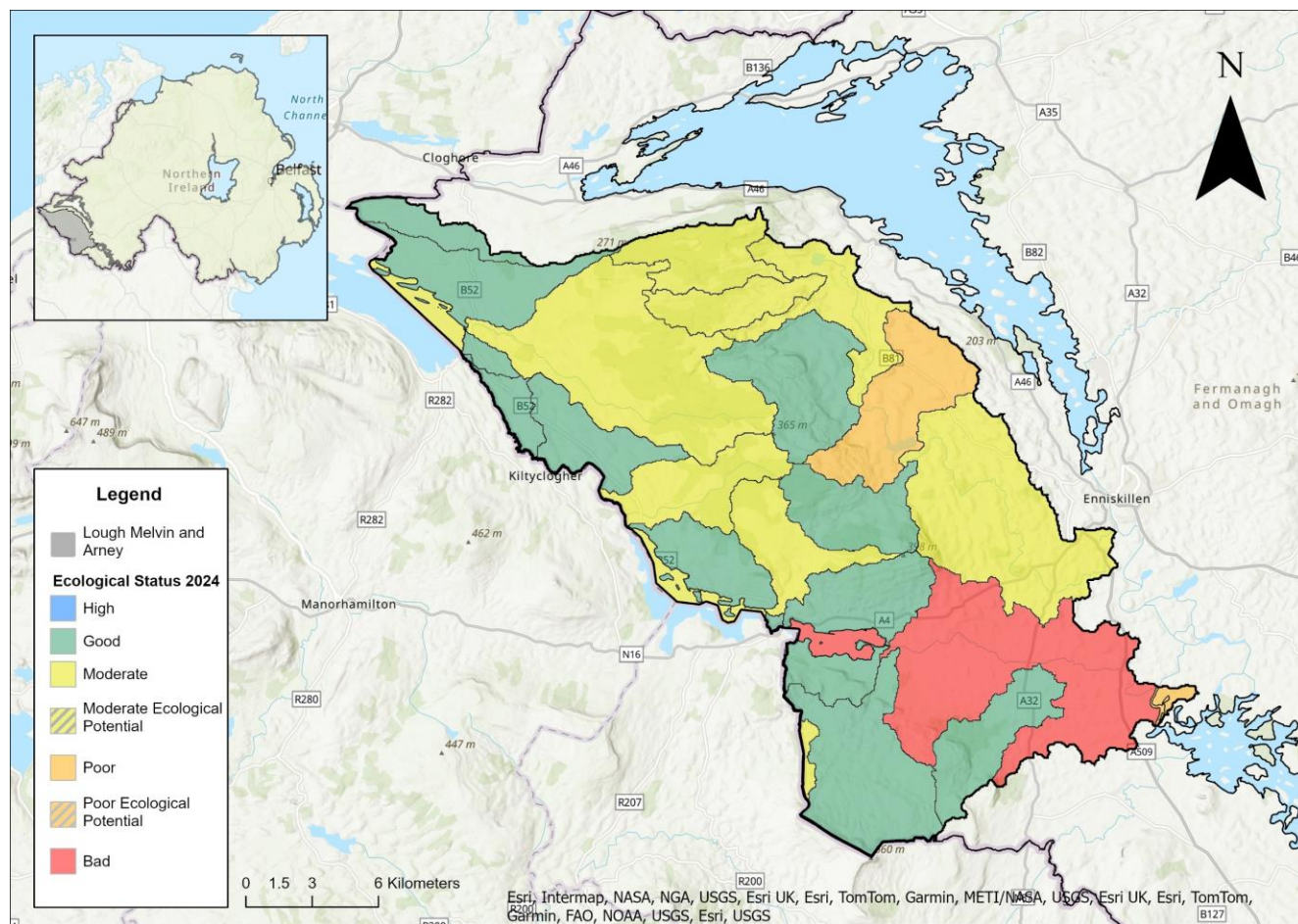


Table 19 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lough Melvin and Arney LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High/HEP	2	9	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	8	36	11	48	10	43
Moderate/MEP	9	41	7	30	10	43
Poor/PEP	2	9	3	13	1	4
Bad/BEP	1	5	2	9	2	9
No Data	1	5	0	0	0	0

Table 20 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Lough Melvin and Arney LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	20	100	20	100	0	0	0	0
Bad	0	0	0	0	23	100	23	100
No Data	3	15	3	15	0	0	0	0

North Western River Basin District

2.7.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Lough Melvin & Arney LMA

Map 14 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Lough Melvin and Arney

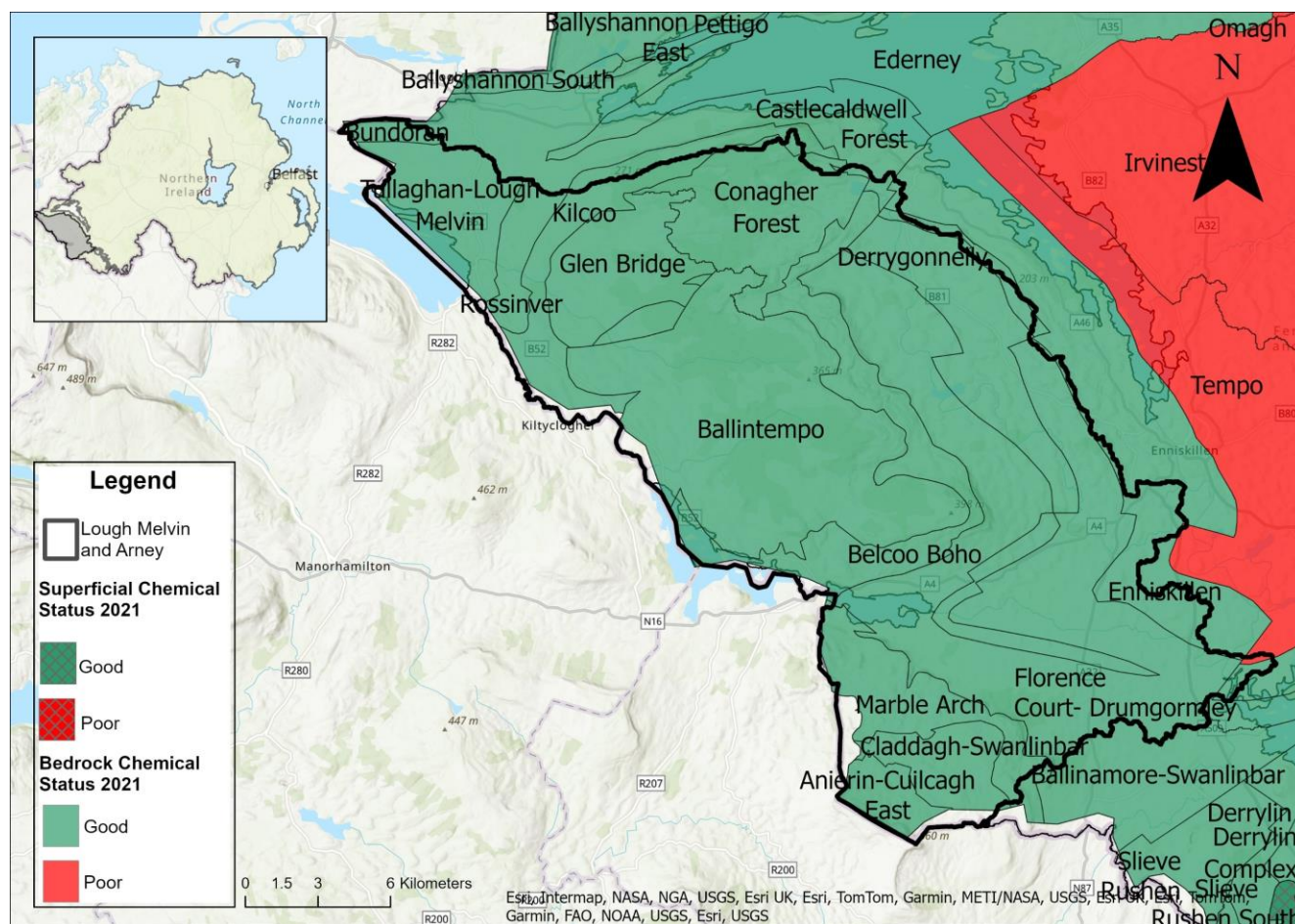


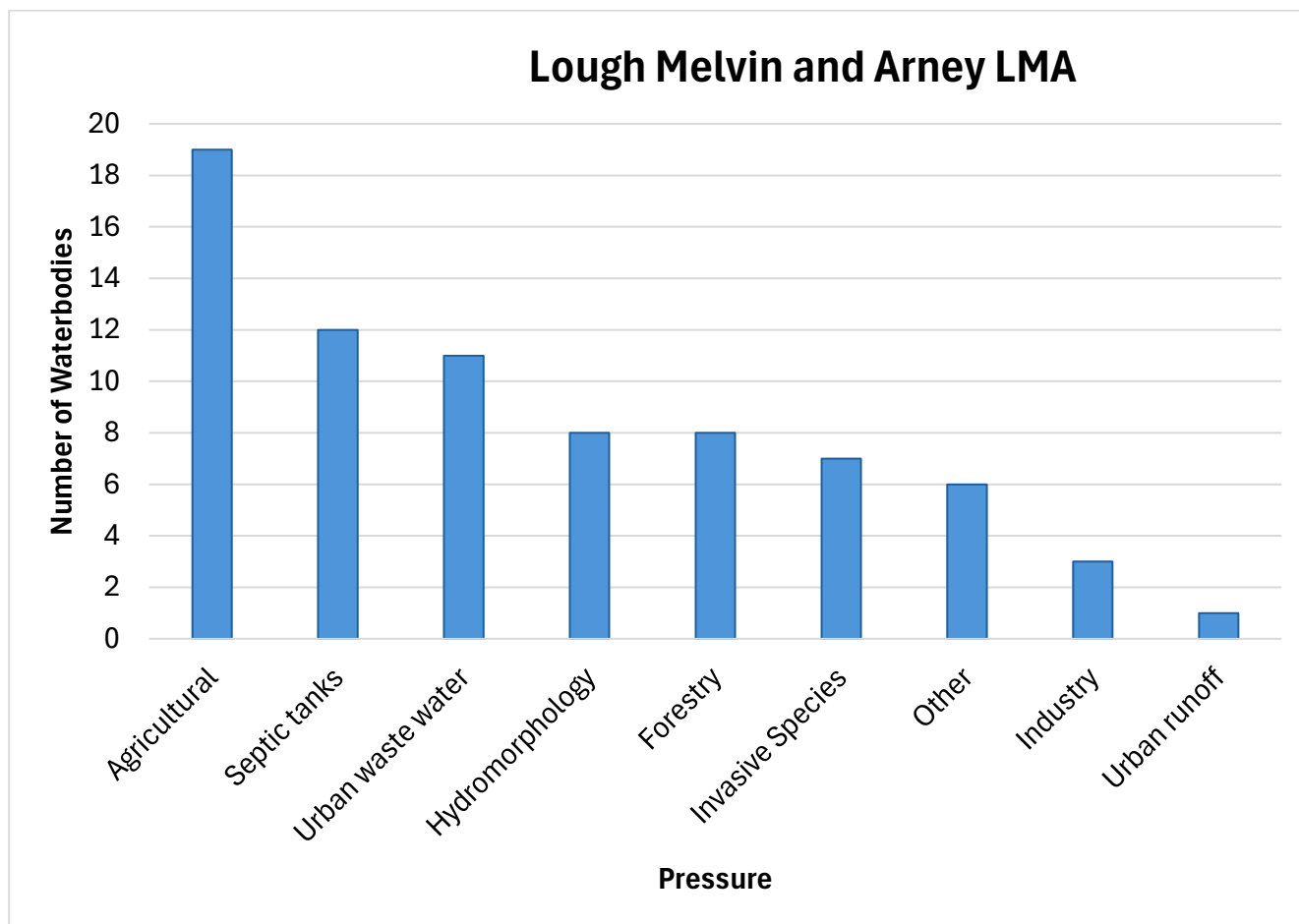
Table 21 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Lough Melvin and Arney LMA

Classification	Chemical Status				Quantitative status				
	2015		2021		2015		2021		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Bedrock	Good	11	85	13	100	13	100	13	100
	Poor	2	15	0	0	0	0	0	0

Enniskillen groundwater body is shown in the map above but not counted in the table; it is included in the Lower Lough Erne LMA.

2.7.4 Lough Melvin & Arney LMA Pressures

Figure 7 Pressures in Lough Melvin & Arney LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Lough Melvin and Arney LMA (Figure 7) are agricultural, septic tanks, urban waste water, hydromorphology and forestry.

2.8 Overview of the Lower Lough Erne Local Management Area

Located within the North Western River Basin District, the Lower Lough Erne LMA spans approximately 648 km². The River Erne originates in the Republic of Ireland and flows northwest through Upper and Lower Lough Erne, eventually flowing into Donegal Bay at Kildoney Point. This LMA encompasses several significant waterbodies, including Lower Lough Erne, Lough Scolban, Keenaghan Lough, and Castlehume Lough. It also includes a network of rivers and tributaries such as Ballinamallard, Trillick, Ballycassidy, Hollow, Mantlin, Kesh, and Bannagh, all contributing to the area's hydrological complexity.

Irvinestown serves as the principal town within the LMA, supported by a number of smaller towns and villages including Ballinamallard, Trillick, Lisnarrick, Kesh, and Belleek.

Land Use and Ecology The predominant land cover is improved grassland, interspersed with areas of acid grassland. This mix supports both agricultural activity and biodiversity.

2.8.1 Water quality in the Lower Lough Erne LMA

The Lower Lough Erne LMA comprises of 20 rivers and 4 lakes. Currently, 42 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 15). River Erne (Belleek) has been officially designated as a heavily modified waterbody due to navigation and flood risk management reasons. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Blackslee Burn, Garvary River, Lower Lough Erne Devenish, Lower Lough Erne Kesh, River Erne (Belleek) and St Angelo Stream.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 46 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this improved to 50 % and improved further to 58 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

Seven of the groundwater bodies in Lower Lough Erne LMA are achieving both good chemical and quantitative status. One groundwater body has poor chemical status and one has poor quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.8.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Lower Lough Erne LMA

Map 15 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lower Lough Erne LMA

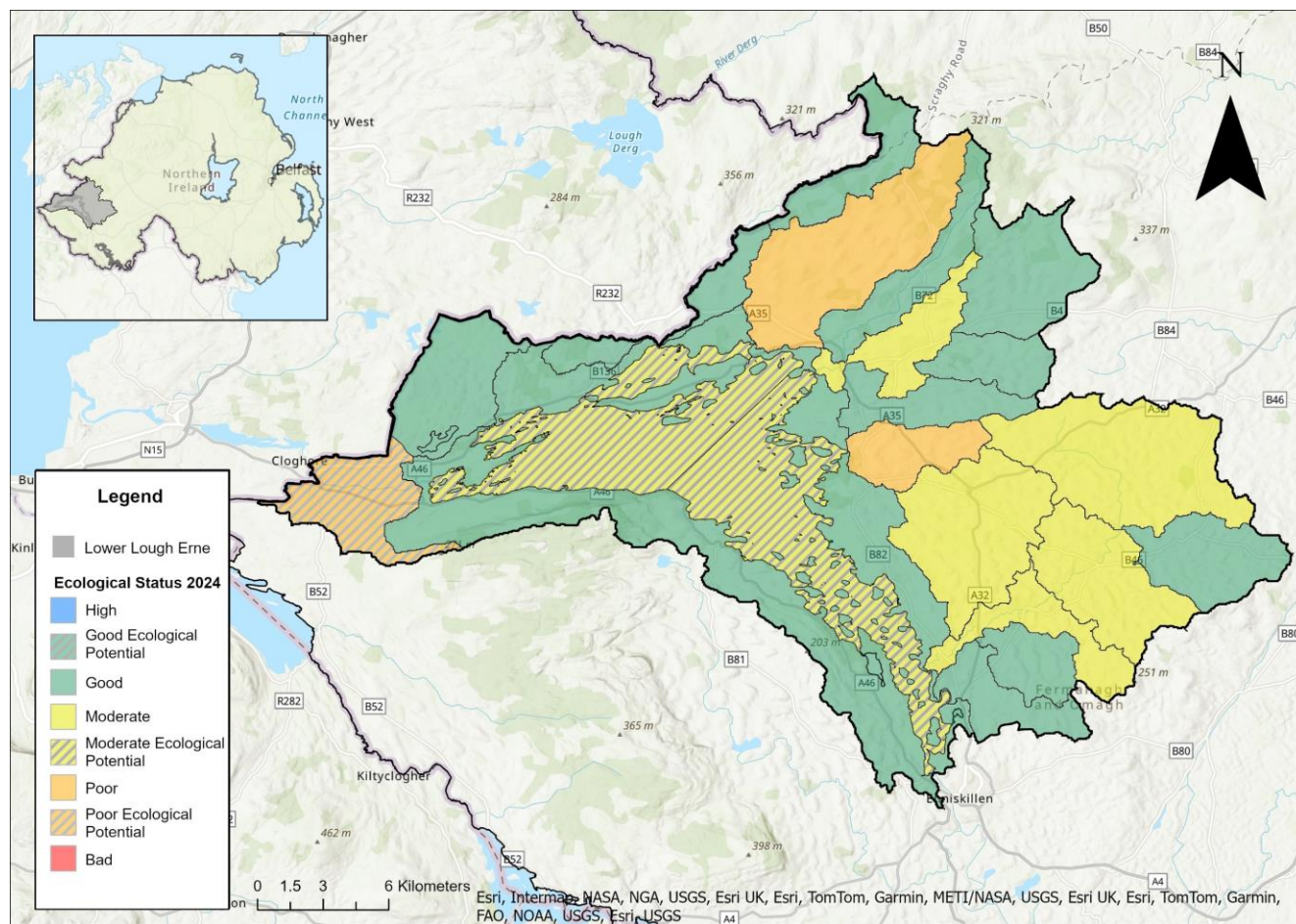


Table 22 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lower Lough Erne LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	11	46	12	50	14	58
Moderate/MEP	10	42	10	42	7	29
Poor/PEP	3	13	2	8	3	13
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 23 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Lower Lough Erne LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	20	83	20	83	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	13	3	13	24	100	24	100
No Data	1	4	1	4	0	0	0	0

North Western River Basin District

2.8.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Lower Lough Erne LMA

Map 16 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Lower Lough Erne LMA

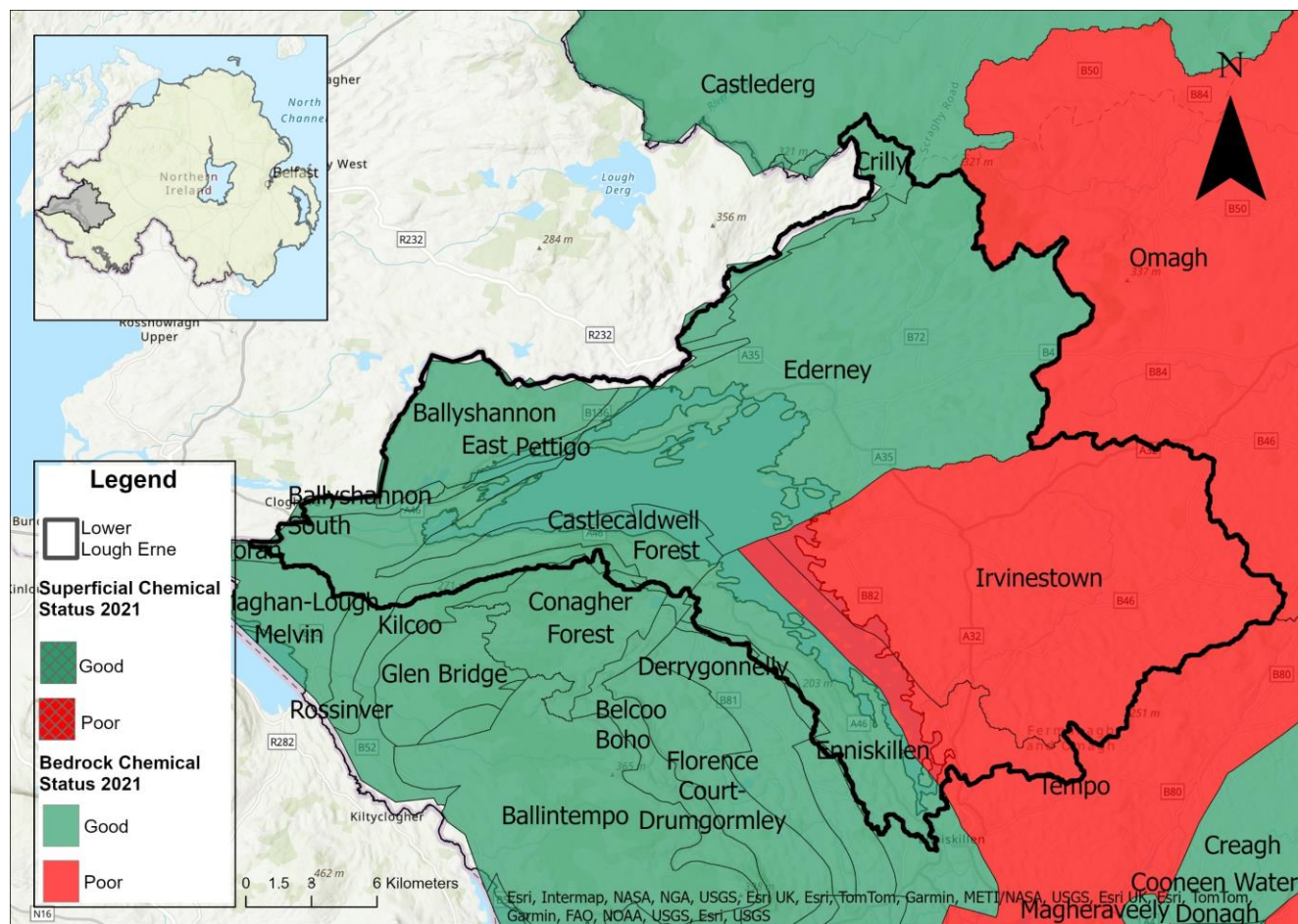


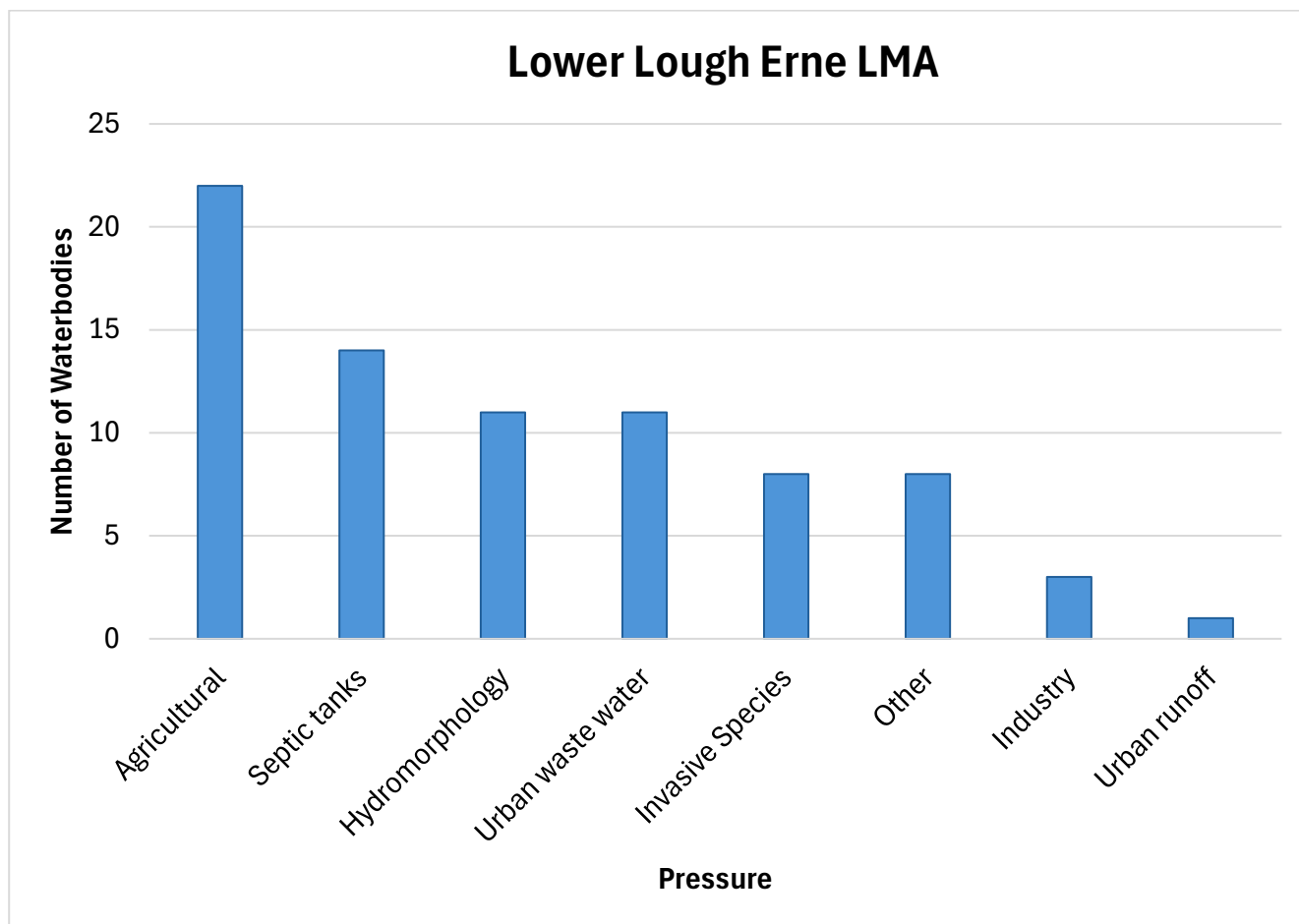
Table 24 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Lower Lough Erne LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	7	88	7	88	7	88	7	88
	Poor	1	12	1	13	1	13	1	13

Tullaghan-Lough Melvin groundwater body is shown in the map above but not counted in the table, as it is counted within the Lower Lough Erne LMA.

2.8.4 Lower Lough Erne LMA Pressures

Figure 8 Pressures in Lower Lough Erne LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Lower Lough Erne LMA (Figure 8) are agricultural, septic tanks, hydromorphology, urban waste water and invasive species.

2.9 Overview of the Upper Lough Erne Local Management Area

Located within the North Western River Basin District, the Upper Lough Erne LMA spans approximately 869 km². It encompasses the Upper Lough Erne and its extensive network of rivers and tributaries, including the Newtownbutler, Lough-A-Hache, Colebrook, Tempo, Swanlinbar, Finn, and Woodford rivers. The River Erne originates in the Republic of Ireland and flows northwest through both Upper and Lower Lough Erne, eventually flowing into Donegal Bay at Kildoney Point.

The region is home to several prominent towns such as Enniskillen, Lisnaskea, Fivemiletown, Lisbellaw, and Newtownbutler. Smaller towns and villages include Tempo, Brookeborough, Derrylin, Bellanaleck, and Kinawley.

Land Use and Ecology The landscape is predominantly composed of improved grassland interspersed with areas of acid grass. This LMA supports a diverse range of habitats and wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

2.9.1 Water quality in the Upper Lough Erne LMA

The Upper Lough Erne LMA comprises of 32 rivers and 1 lake. Currently, 48 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 17). River Erne (Enniskillen) has been officially designated as a heavily modified waterbody due to navigation reasons. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Colebrooke River (Cooneen), Erne River (Bellanaleck), Erne River (Enniskillen), Hollybrook River and Upper Lough Erne.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 36 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this improved to 39 % and improved further to 52 % in 2024.
- The number of waterbodies classified as high status declined from two in 2015 to zero in both 2021 and 2024.

Groundwater Status

Ten of the groundwater bodies in Upper Lough Erne LMA are achieving good chemical status, three have poor chemical status. All thirteen are achieving good quantitative status.

North Western River Basin District

2.9.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Upper Lough Erne LMA

Map 17 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Upper Lough Erne LMA

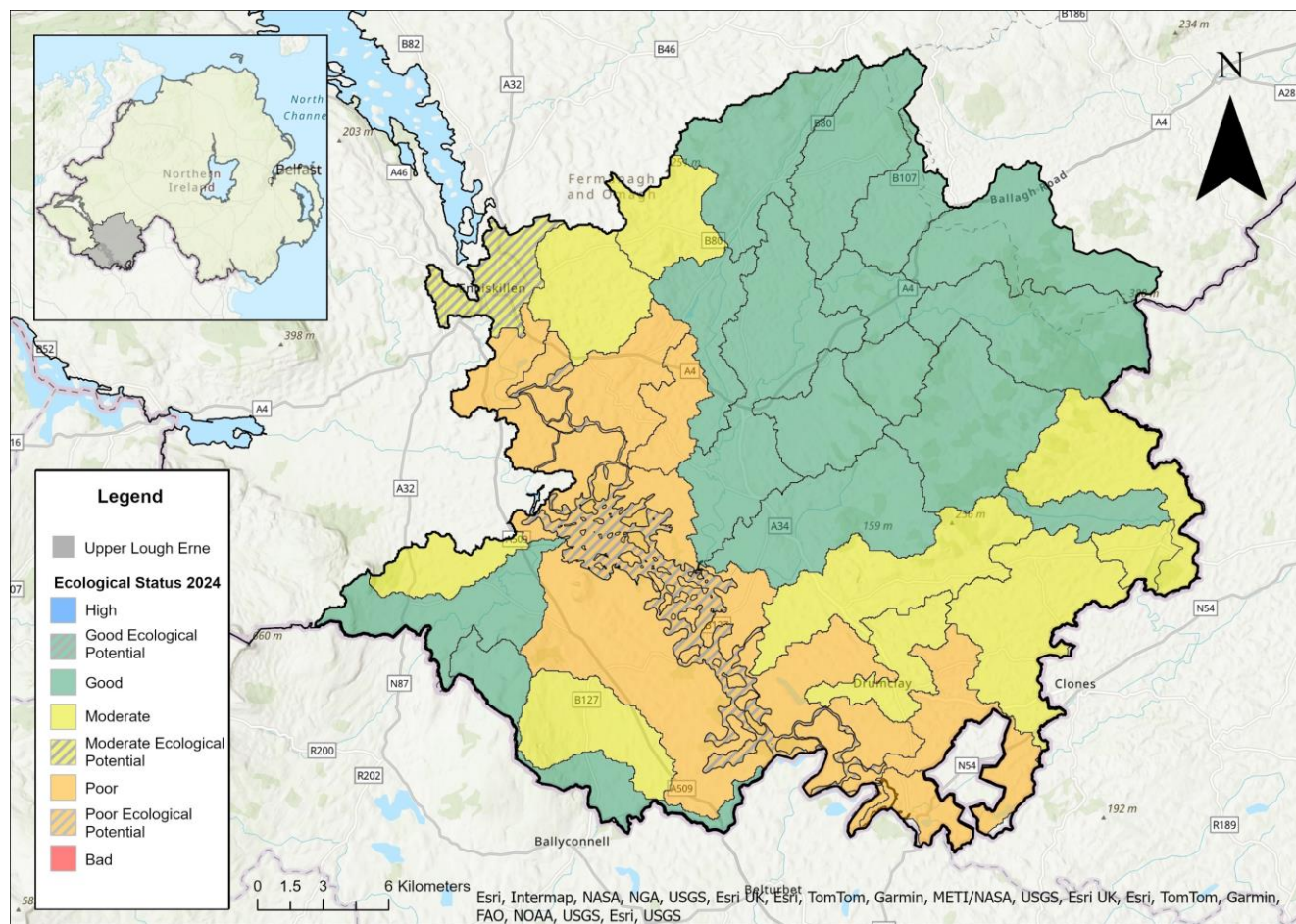


Table 25 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Upper Lough Erne LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	2	6	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	12	36	13	39	17	52
Moderate/MEP	15	45	11	33	10	30
Poor/PEP	4	12	8	24	6	18
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Data	0	0	1	3	0	0

Table 26 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Upper Lough Erne LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	30	91	30	91	0	0	0	0
Bad	2	6	2	6	33	100	33	100
No Data	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0

North Western River Basin District

2.9.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Upper Lough Erne LMA

Map 18 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Upper Lough Erne LMA

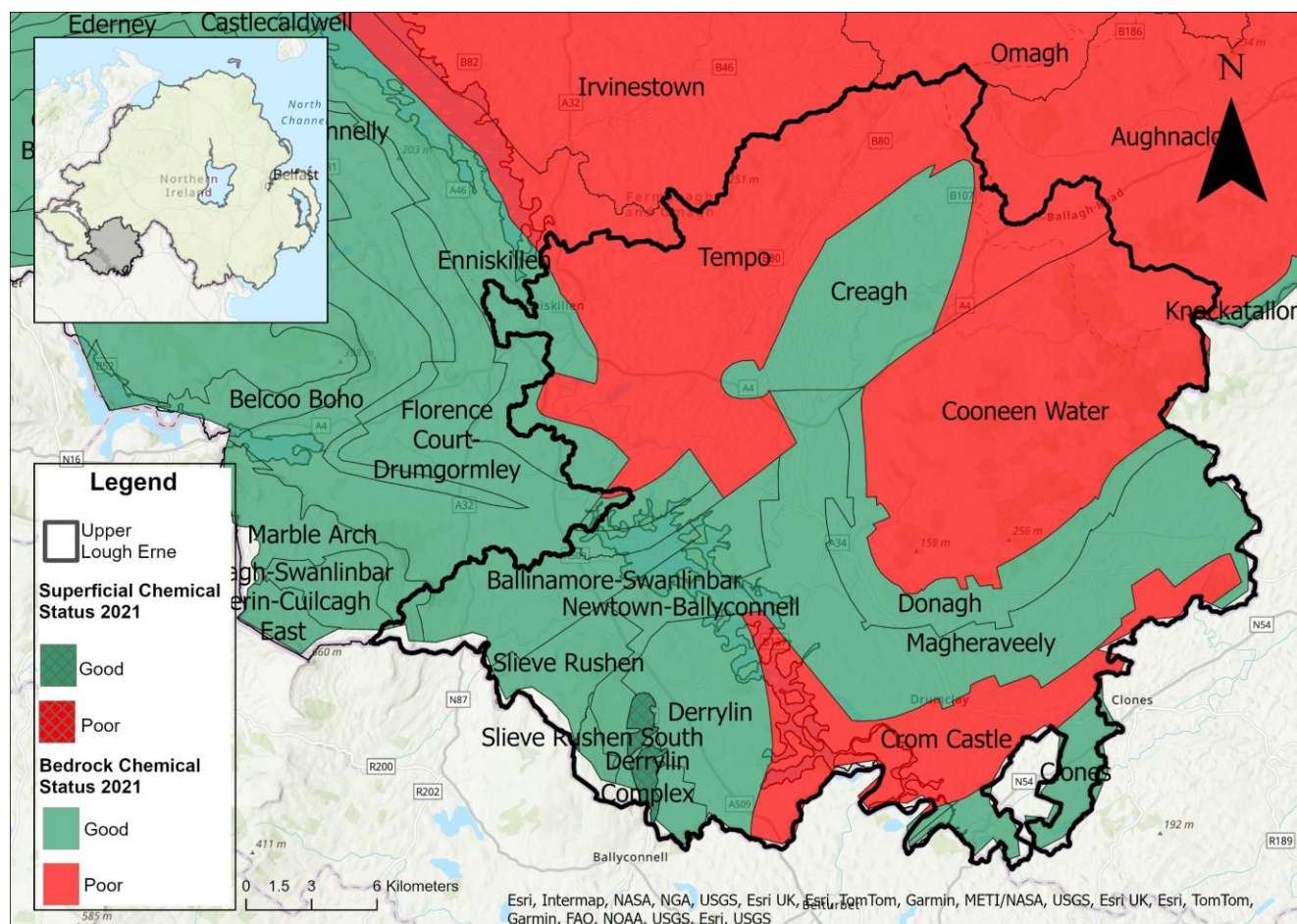
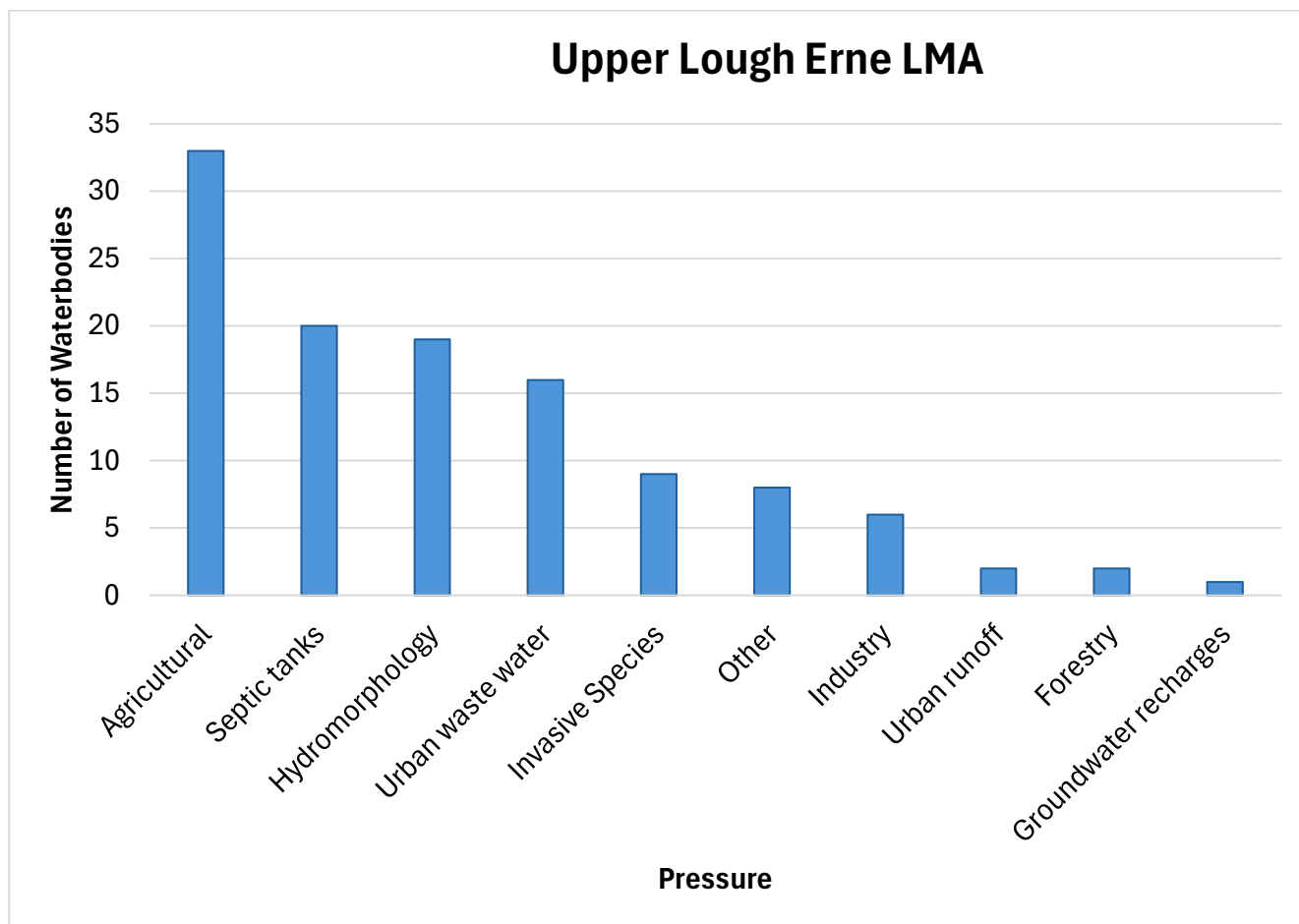


Table 27 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Upper Lough Erne LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	11	92	9	75	12	100	12	100
	Poor	1	8	3	25	0	0	0	0
Superficial	Good	1	100	1	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

2.9.4 Upper Lough Erne LMA Pressures

Figure 9 Pressures in Upper Lough Erne LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Upper Lough Erne LMA (Figure 9) are agricultural, septic tanks, hydromorphology, urban waste water, and invasive species.

3. Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.1 Overview of the Lower Bann Local Management Area

The Lower Bann LMA forms part of the Neagh Bann River Basin District, extending from Lough Neagh at Toome all the way to Northern Ireland's north coast. Spanning approximately 1,044 km², this region is defined by the Lower Bann River, which flows northward from Lough Neagh, through Lough Beg, and continues toward Coleraine. The river is joined by notable tributaries including the Aghadowey, Agivey, and Macosquin Rivers. Lower Bann comprises of 2 coastal waterbodies: Portstewart Bay and Bann Estuary.

The principal towns within the Lower Bann LMA are Coleraine and Ballymoney, with smaller yet significant communities such as Garvagh and Portglenone.

Land Use and Ecology The area boasts two designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: Binevenagh and the Sperrin Mountains. In addition, there are 30 Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs), including the Bann Estuary and Errigal Glen, which support diverse habitats and species. The Lower Bann LMA is home to ecologically rich landscapes that provide essential habitats for wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

3.1.1 Water quality in the Lower Bann LMA

The Lower Bann LMA comprises of 31 rivers, 1 lake and 2 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 76 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 19). Additionally, there is 1 coastal interbasin that has no official classification status. Bann Brook (due to drinking water supply), Lower Bann (Coleraine (due to flood risk management and navigation reasons)) and Lower Bann (Kilrea (due to flood risk management and navigation reasons)) have been designated as heavily modified waterbodies. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Bann Brook, Barmouth (Lower Bann), Knockoneill River, Lough Beg, Lower Bann (Kilrea), Lower Bann (Toome), Lower River Bann (Coleraine), Macosquin River (Macosquin) and Portsewart Bay.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 26 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this declined to 21 % and slightly improved to 24 % in 2024.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

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- The number of waterbodies classified as high status declined from one in 2015 to zero in both 2021 and 2024.

Groundwater Status

There is 1 bedrock groundwater body in the Lower Bann LMA which has poor chemical status but good quantitative status.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.1.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Lower Bann LMA

Map 19 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lower Bann LMA

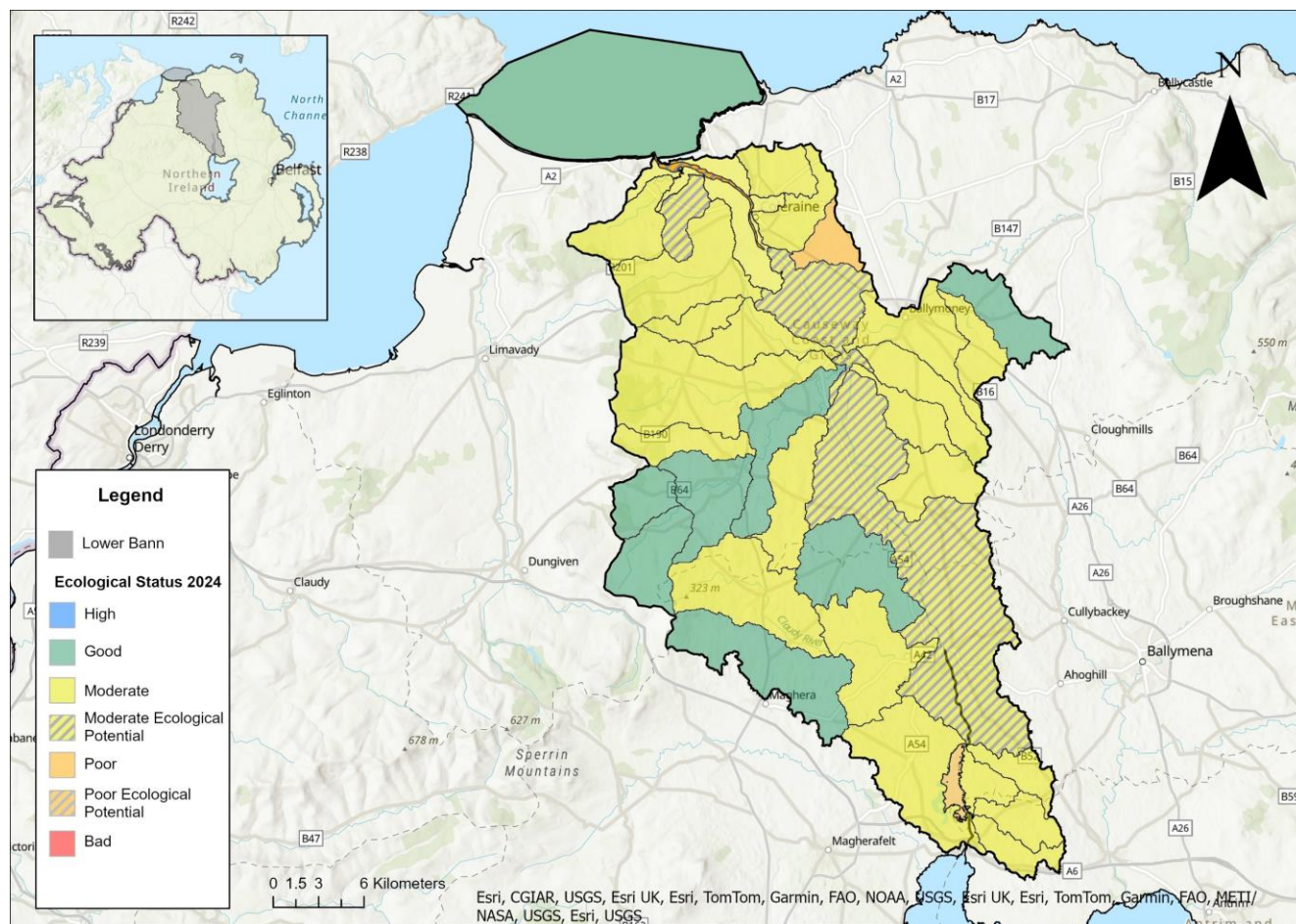


Table 28 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lower Bann LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	1	3	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	9	26	7	21	8	24
Moderate/MEP	19	56	23	68	23	68
Poor/PEP	5	15	4	12	3	9
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 29 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Lower Bann LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	31	91	29	85	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	9	4	12	34	100	34	100
No Data	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.1.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Lower Bann LMA

Map 20 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Lower Bann LMA

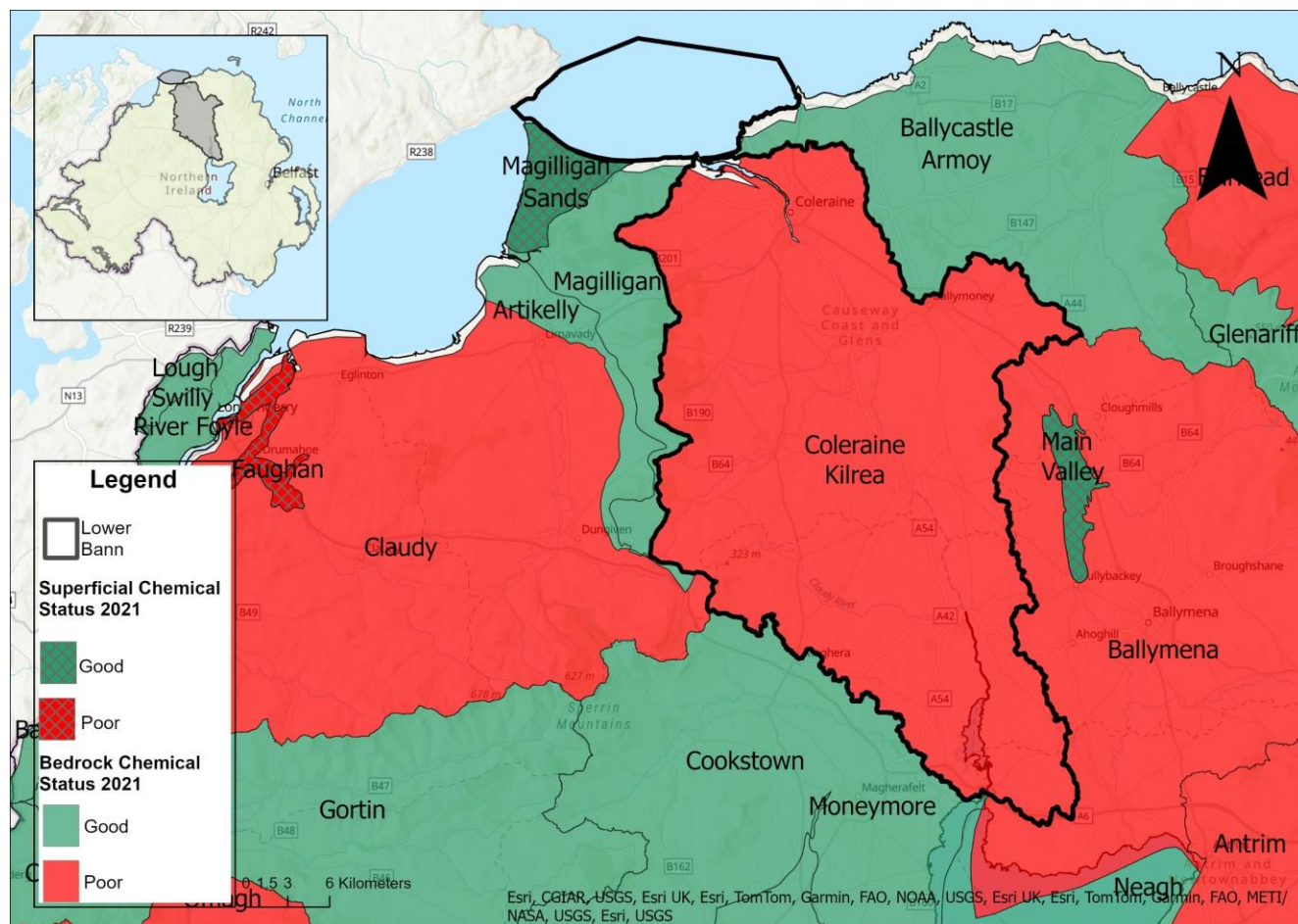
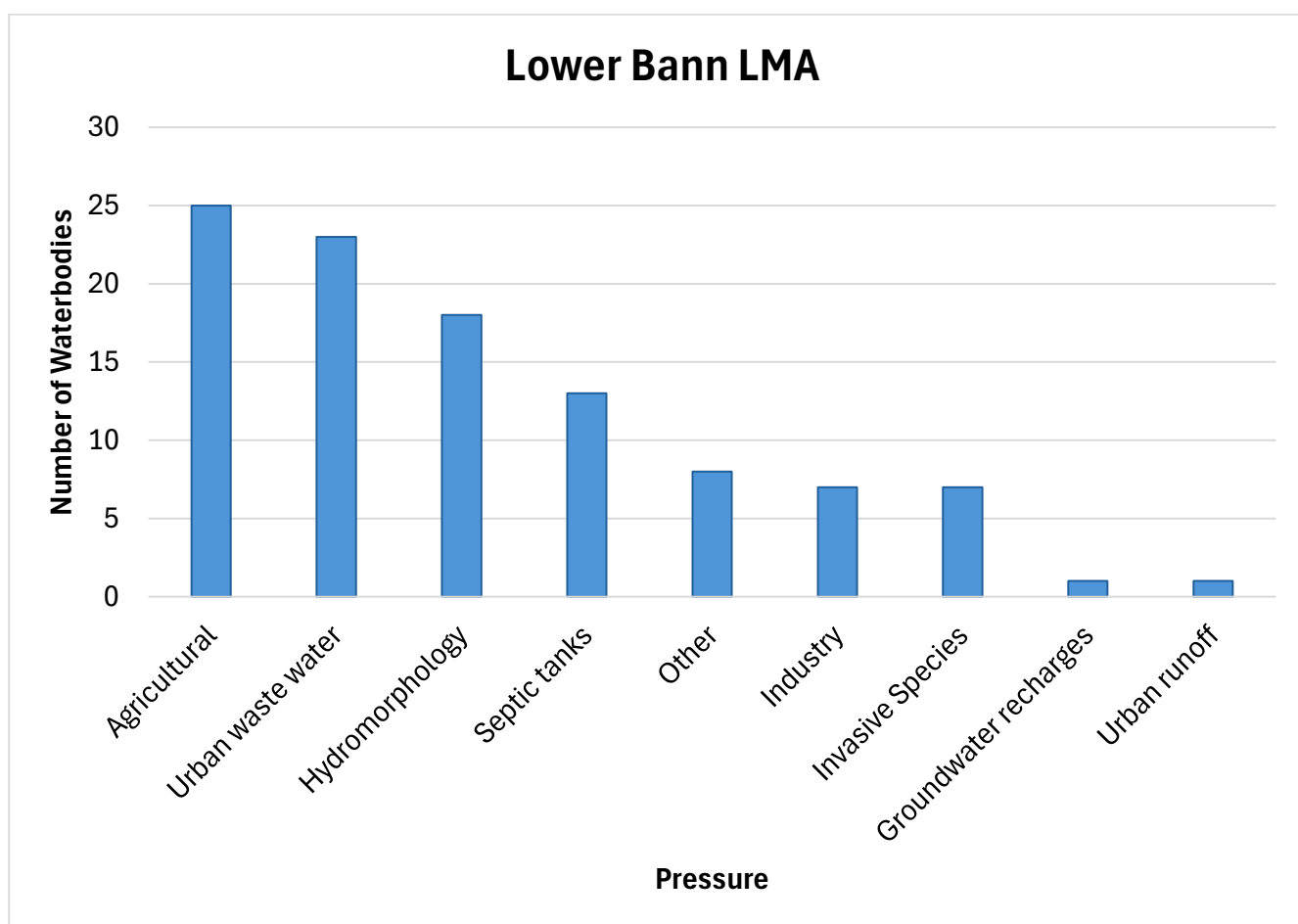


Table 30 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Lower Bann LMA

Classification	Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
	2015		2021		2015		2021	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	0	0	0	0	0	1	100
	Poor	1	100	1	100	1	100	0

3.1.4 Lower Bann LMA Pressures

Figure 10 Pressures in Lower Bann LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Lower Bann LMA (Figure 10) are agricultural, urban waste water, hydromorphology, septic tanks and other.

3.2 Overview of the Moyola Local Management Area

The Moyola LMA, situated within the Neagh Bann River Basin District, encompasses approximately 313 km² and drains into Lough Neagh at Moyola Water Foot. Its principal watercourse, the Moyola River, originates in the Sperrin Mountains to the west and meanders eastward, eventually reaching Lough Neagh between Ballyronan and Toome. The Moyola River is fed by several notable tributaries—including the White Water, Glengomna River, Altalacky Burn, and Altagoan Burn.

The catchment area includes the towns of Magherafelt, Castledawson, Draperstown, and Tobermore.

Land Use and Ecology Land use within the Moyola LMA is predominantly improved grassland, complemented by pockets of forestry. The region also contains ecologically significant bogs, particularly in the western portion near the Sperrin Mountains. This area falls within an officially designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Moyola LMA supports a diverse range of habitats and wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

3.2.1 Water quality in the Moyola LMA

The Moyola LMA comprises of 14 rivers and 1 lake. Currently, 53 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 21).

Magherafelt Burn and Moyola River (Straw) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies due to flood risk management and drinking water supply/ wider environment issues respectively. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Lough Fea and Moyola River (Straw).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 47 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this improved to 73 % and declined to 47 % in 2024.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.2.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Moyola LMA

Map 21 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Moyola LMA

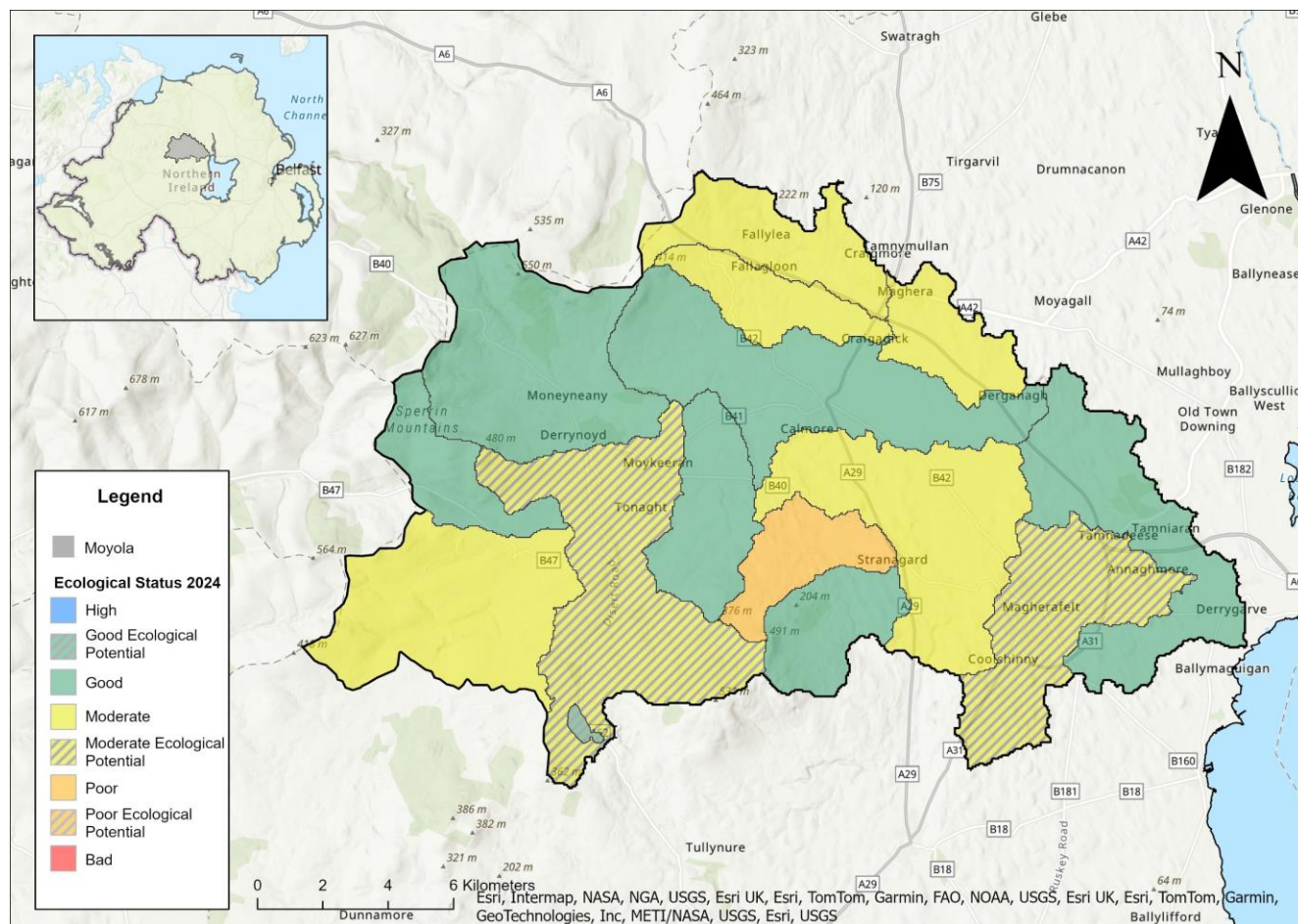


Table 31 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Moyola LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	7	47	11	73	7	47
Moderate/MEP	7	47	4	27	7	47
Poor/PEP	1	7	0	0	1	7
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

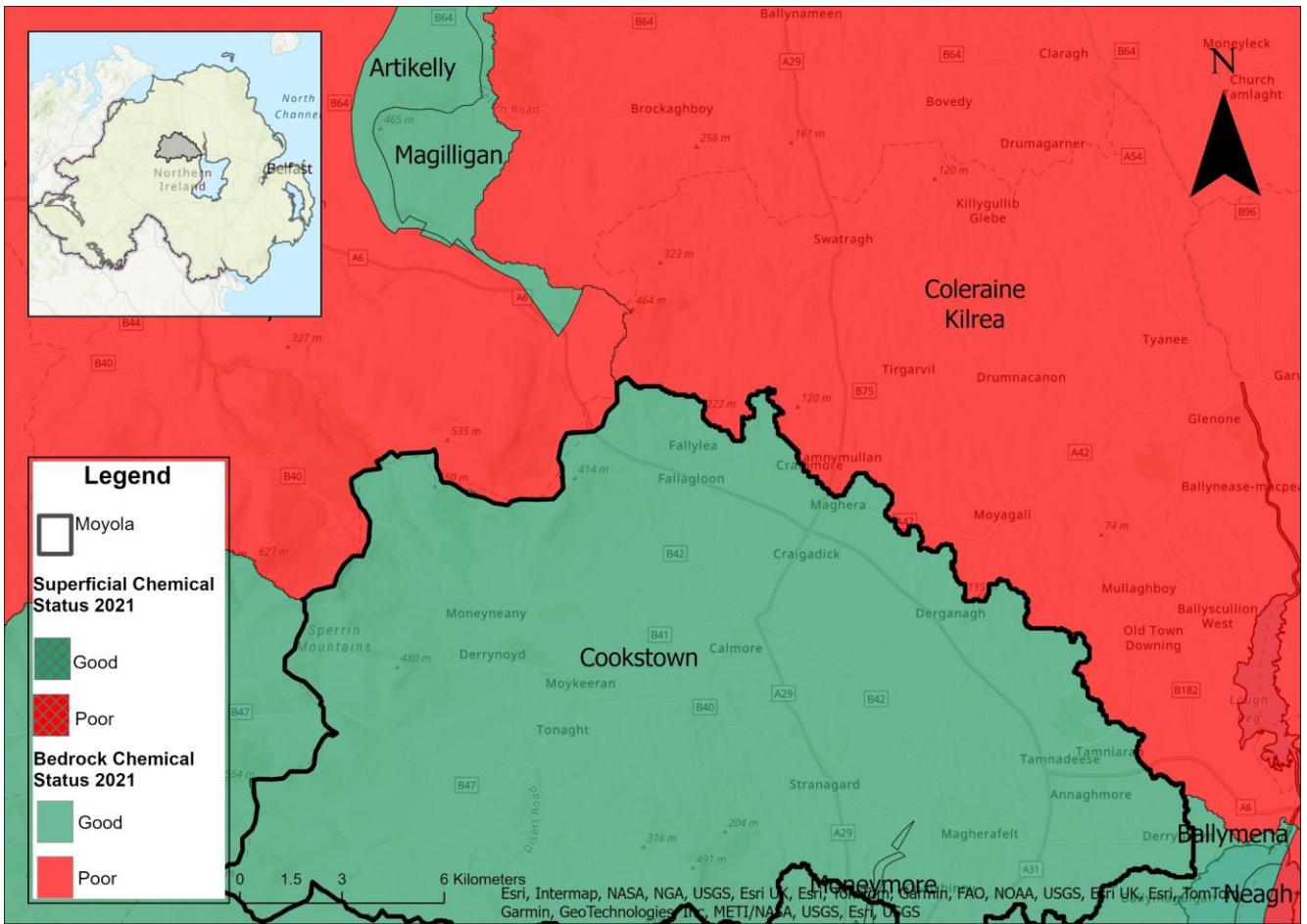
Table 32 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Moyola LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	13	87	13	87	0	0	0	0
Bad	2	13	2	13	15	100	15	100

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.2.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Moyola LMA

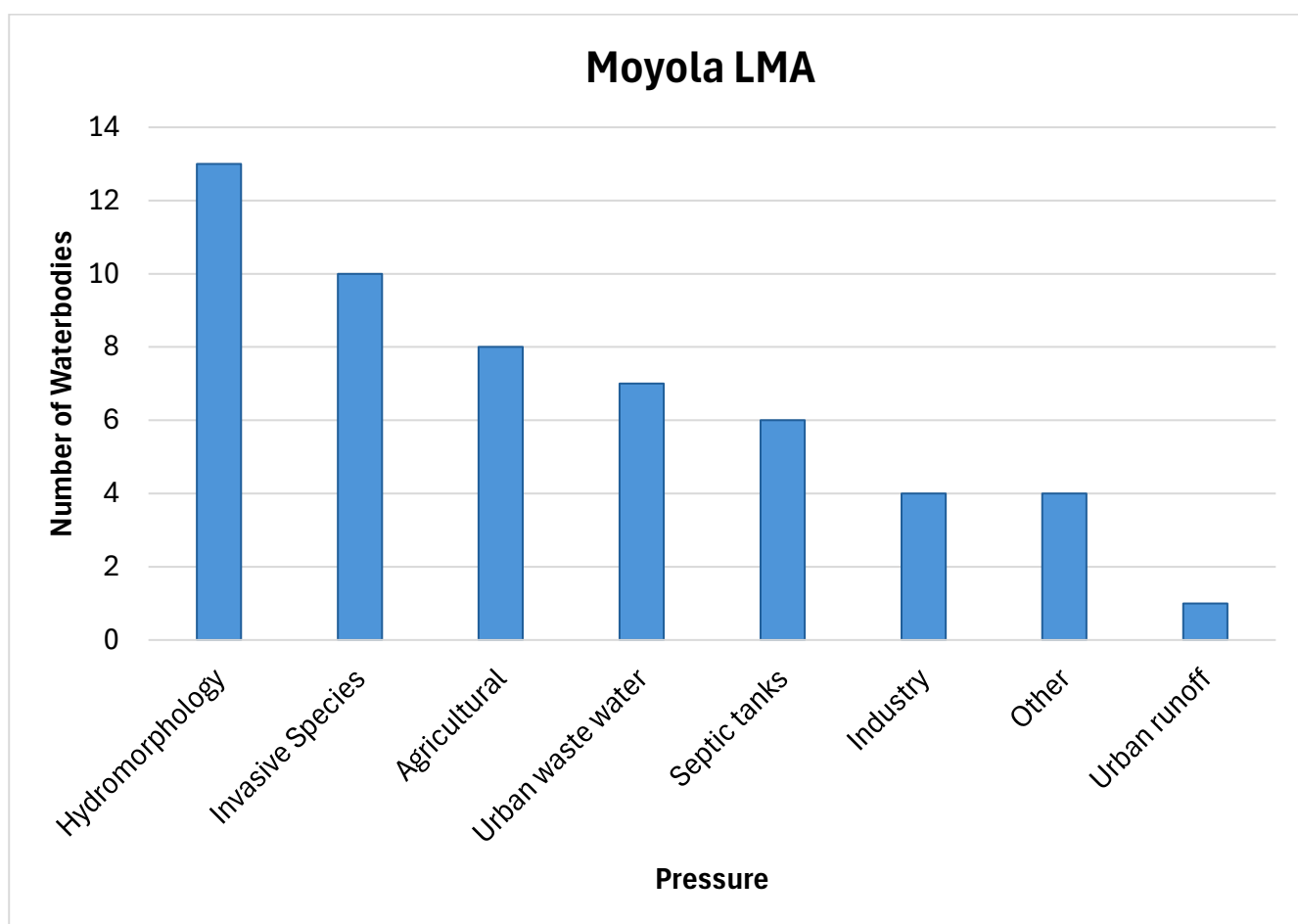
Map 22 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Moyola LMA



Cookstown and Moneymore groundwater bodies are shown in the map above, although they are both counted in the Ballinderry LMA, therefore there is no comparison groundwater table for the Moyola LMA.

3.2.4 Moyola LMA Pressures

Figure 11 Pressures in Moyola LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Moyola LMA (Figure 11) are hydromorphology, invasive species, agricultural, urban waste water and septic tanks.

3.3 Overview of the Ballinderry Local Management Area

The Ballinderry LMA spans approximately 487 km², encompassing a rich network of rivers, with the Ballinderry River and its tributaries forming the primary watercourses throughout the region. Principal town within the LMA is Cookstown, accompanied by the towns of Pomeroy and Stewartstown. Notable villages include Moneymore and Coagh.

Land Use and Ecology The predominant land use is improved grassland pasture, supporting the area's agricultural character. A key ecological feature of the Ballinderry LMA is its population of freshwater pearl mussels, estimated at fewer than 1,000 individuals. This population is restricted to a 7.5 km stretch of undrained and largely undisturbed channel in the Upper Ballinderry River, making it one of the largest remaining populations in Northern Ireland. Many aquatic habitats within the LMA have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance. The area drains into Lough Neagh. The northern boundary of the catchment borders the Sperrin Mountains and includes part of the region designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

3.3.1 Water quality in the Ballinderry LMA

The Ballinderry LMA comprises of 19 rivers. Currently, 89 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 23). Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbody: Kildress stream.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 16 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- This remained unchanged in 2021 and slightly declined to 11 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

There are 2 groundwater bodies within the Ballinderry LMA which are achieving good chemical status and good quantitative status.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.3.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Ballinderry LMA

Map 23 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Ballinderry LMA

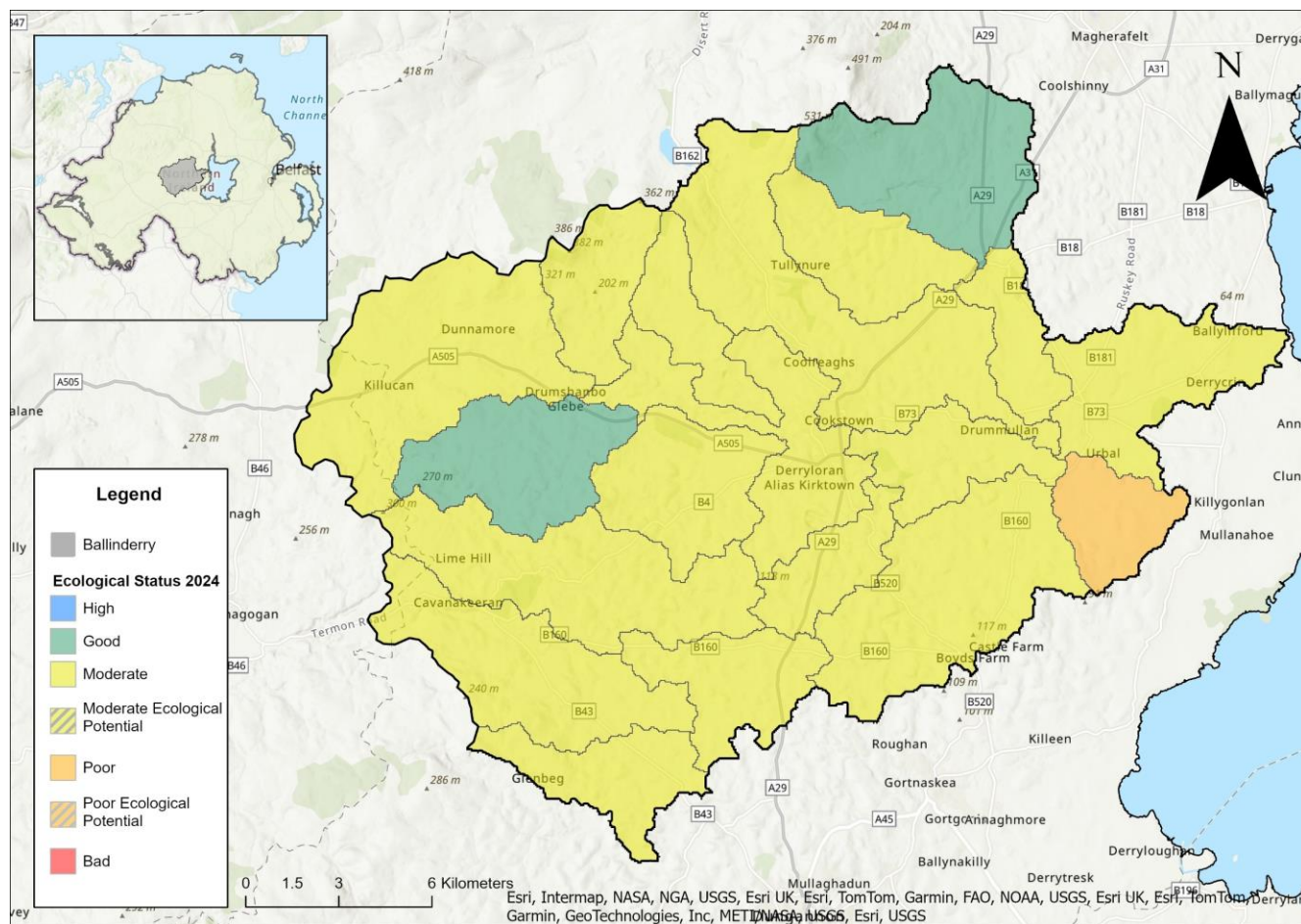


Table 33 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Ballinderry LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	3	16	3	16	2	11
Moderate/MEP	15	79	15	79	16	84
Poor/PEP	1	5	1	5	1	5
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 34 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Ballinderry LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	19	100	19	100	0	0	0	0
Bad	0	0	0	0	19	100	19	100

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.3.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Ballinderry LMA

Map 24 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Ballinderry LMA

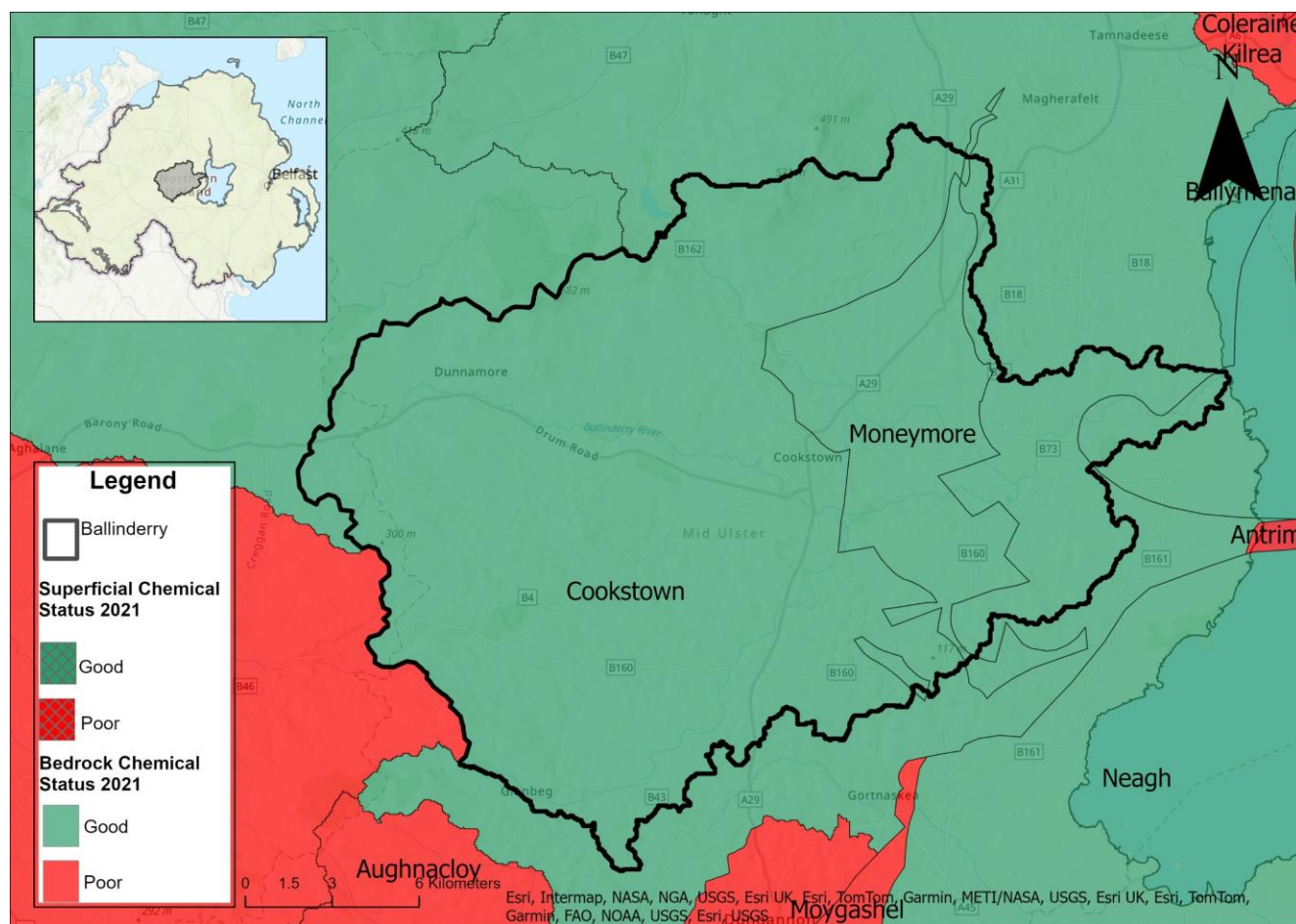
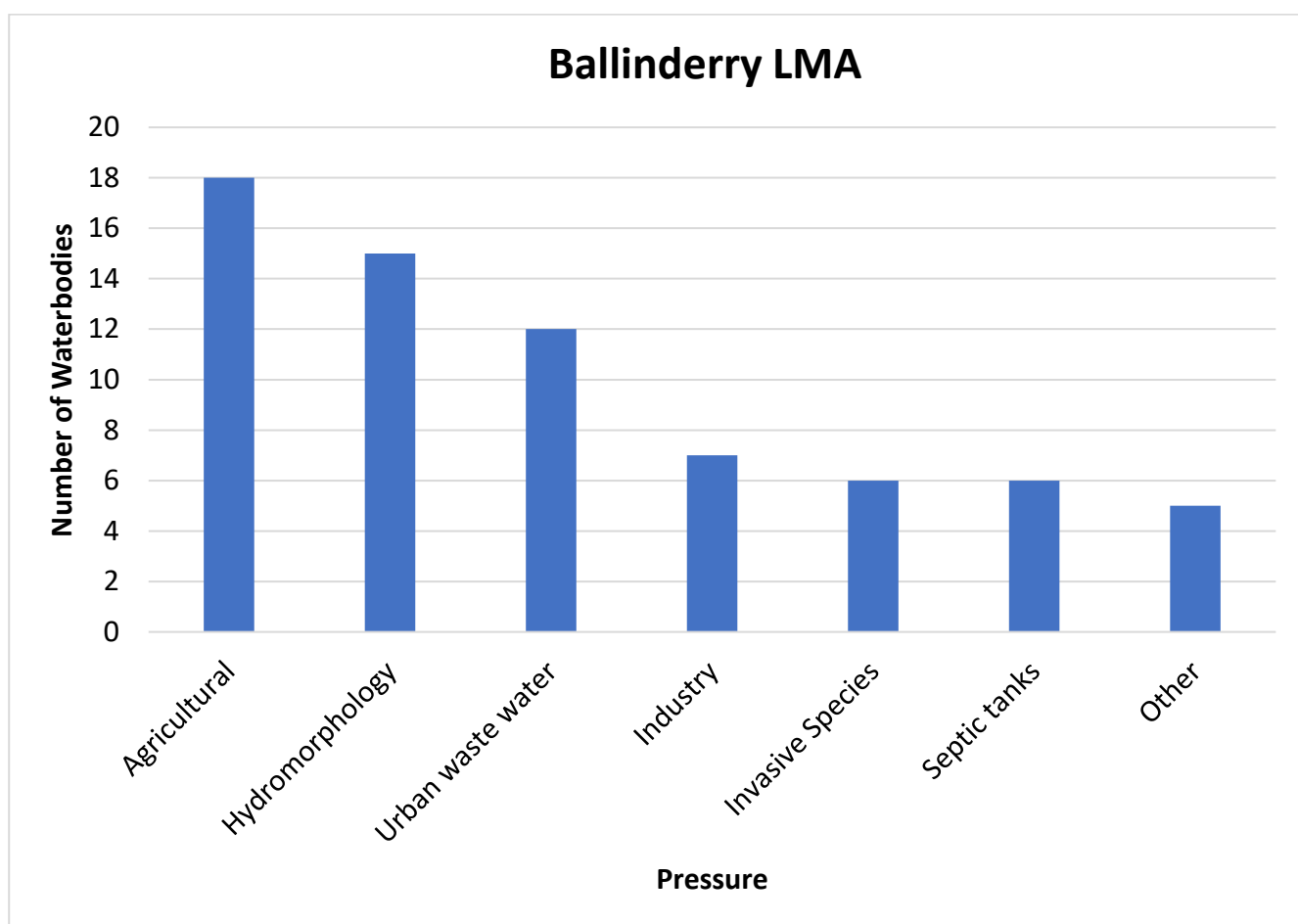


Table 35 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Ballinderry LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	0	0	2	100	2	100	2	100
	Poor	2	10	0	100	0	100	0	100

3.3.4 Ballinderry LMA Pressures

Figure 12 Pressures in Ballinderry LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Ballinderry LMA (Figure 12) are agricultural, hydromorphology, urban waste water, industry and invasive species.

3.4 Overview of the River Blackwater Local Management Area

The River Blackwater LMA forms part of the Neagh Bann River Basin District and spans approximately 1,103 km². It drains into Lough Neagh at Maghery, with its principal watercourse—the River Blackwater—originating near the towns of Clogher and Fivemiletown in the western catchment. From there, it flows eastward into Lough Neagh, gathering waters from several notable tributaries including the Oona Water, Callan, Tall, Torrent, and Tynan Rivers. The LMA encompasses the major towns of Armagh and Dungannon, alongside smaller but significant communities such as Augher, Clogher, Aughnacloy and Richhill.

Land Use and Ecology The western boundary of the catchment adjoins County Monaghan and includes Slieve Beagh - a region recognized both as an Area of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) and a Special Protection Area (SPA). The predominant land uses across the LMA are improved grassland, arable horticulture, and acid grassland. The River Blackwater LMA supports a rich array of habitats and wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

3.4.1 Water quality in the River Blackwater LMA

The River Blackwater LMA comprises of 37 rivers. Currently, 73 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 27). Butter Water (due to drinking water supply), Clay River (due to drinking water supply), Killeen Water (due to flood risk management), River Rhone (Moygashel (due to flood risk management)) and Torrent River (due to flood risk management and drinking water supply) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Ballygawley Water, Butter Water, Clay River, Oona Water (Eglish), River Blackwater (Argory), River Blackwater (Caledon), River Rhone (Moygashel) and Torrent River.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 22 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this improved to 30 % and then decreased to 22 % in 2024.

There was no change in the number of waterbodies classified as high status (5 %) between 2015 to 2024.

Groundwater Status

There are six groundwater bodies in the River Blackwater LMA, four are achieving good chemical status and two have poor chemical status. All 6 are achieving good quantitative status.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.4.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the River Blackwater LMA

Map 25 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in River Blackwater LMA

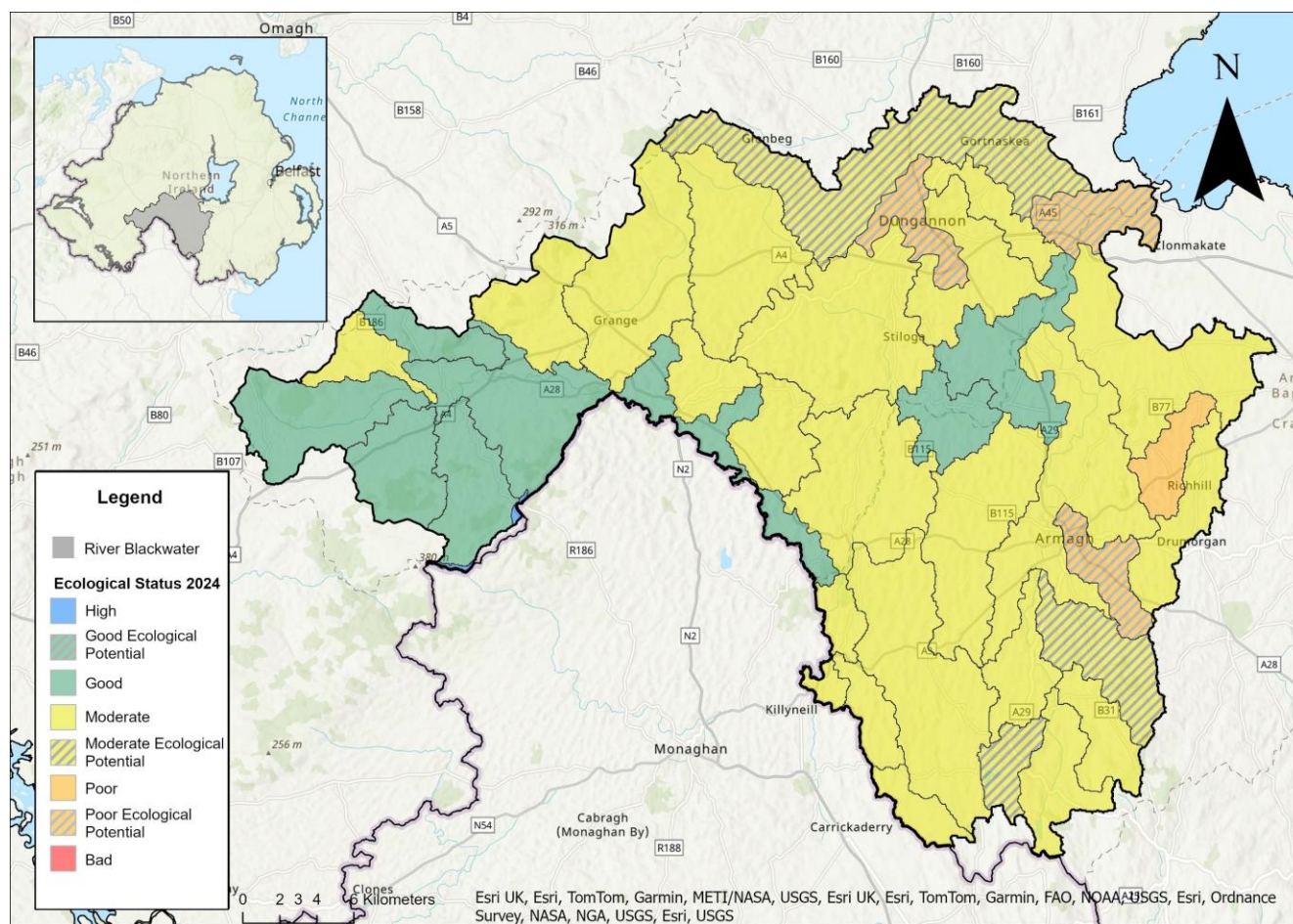


Table 36 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in River Blackwater LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	2	5	2	5	2	5
Good/GEP	8	22	11	30	8	22
Moderate/MEP	16	43	19	51	24	65
Poor/PEP	7	19	5	14	3	8
Bad/BEP	3	8	0	0	0	0
No Data	1	3	0	0	0	0

Table 37 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in River Blackwater LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	32	86	32	86	0	0	0	0
Bad	2	5	2	5	37	100	37	100
No Data	3	8	3	8	0	0	0	0

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.4.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the River Blackwater LMA

Map 26 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in River Blackwater LMA

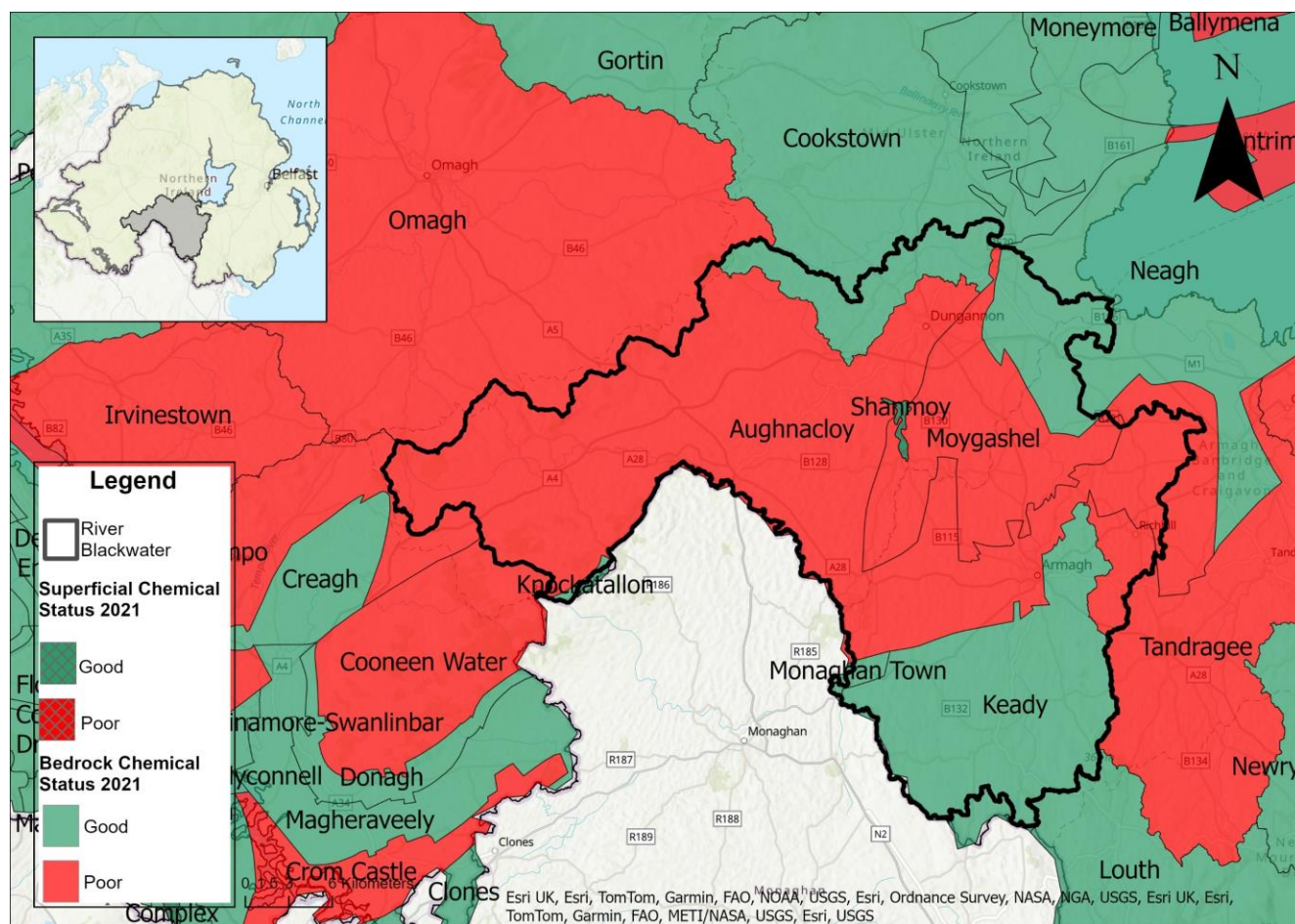
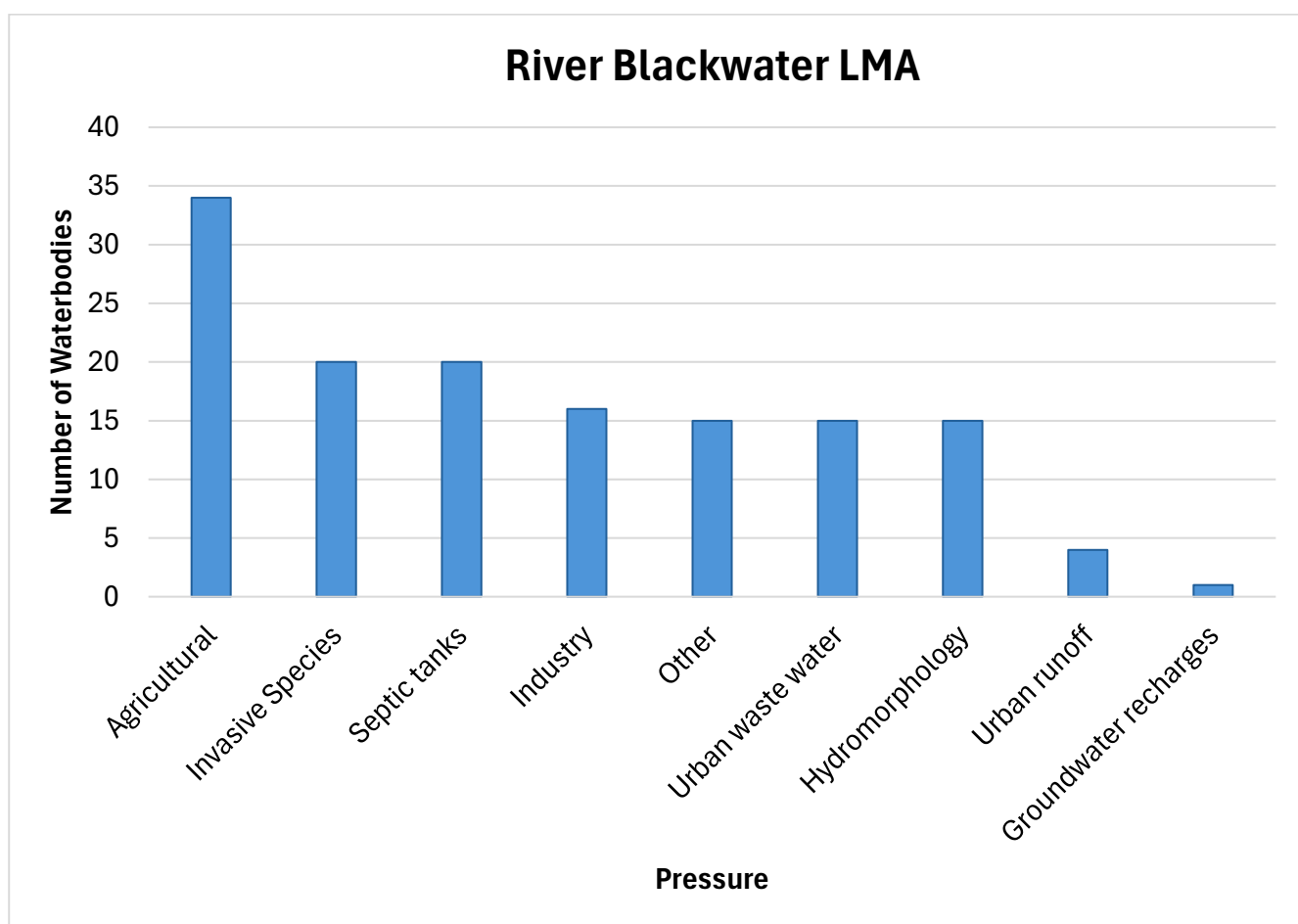


Table 38 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in River Blackwater LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	2	40	3	60	4	80	5	100
	Poor	3	60	2	40	1	20	0	0
Superficial	Good	1	100	1	100	0	0	1	100
	Poor	0	0	0	0	1	100	0	0

3.4.4 River Blackwater LMA Pressures

Figure 13 Pressures in River Blackwater LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the River Blackwater LMA (Figure 13) are agricultural, invasive species, septic tanks, industry and other.

3.5 Overview of the Carlingford & Newry Local Management Area

The Carlingford & Newry LMA forms part of the Neagh Bann River Basin District and primarily drains into Carlingford Lough and Dundalk Bay and spans approximately 823 km². The Newry River, the largest in the region, originates near Rathfriland and flows through Newry City before flowing into Carlingford Lough. Smaller river systems such as the Creggan, Fane, Kilcurry, and Flurry Rivers flow southward into the Republic of Ireland. Additional rivers like the White Water, Kilbroney, and Cassey Water discharge directly into Carlingford Lough or nearby coastal waters. Carlingford & Newry comprises of 3 coastal waterbodies: Newry Estuary, Carlingford Lough and Mourne Coast.

Major towns include Newry and Warrenpoint and smaller communities include Rathfriland, Rostrevor, and Crossmaglen.

Land Use and Ecology The LMA encompasses two designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the Mourne Mountains and the Ring of Gullion. These regions support a wide array of habitats and wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

3.5.1 Water quality in the Carlingford and Newry LMA

The Carlingford & Newry LMA comprises of 27 rivers, 2 lakes and 3 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 84 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 27). Additionally, there are 5 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status. Bessbrook (Newry) River (due to drinking water supply) and Newry Canal (due to flood risk management) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Bessbrook (Newry) River, Cam Lough, County Water, Fane River (Ballynacarry), Lough Ross Monaghan, Loughbrickland Stream and Newry Canal.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 13 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this slightly improved to 22 % then decreased to 16 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

Both groundwater bodies (Newry GWB and Louth GWB) are achieving good quantitative and chemical status in 2021.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.5.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Carlingford & Newry LMA

Map 27 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Carlingford and Newry LMA

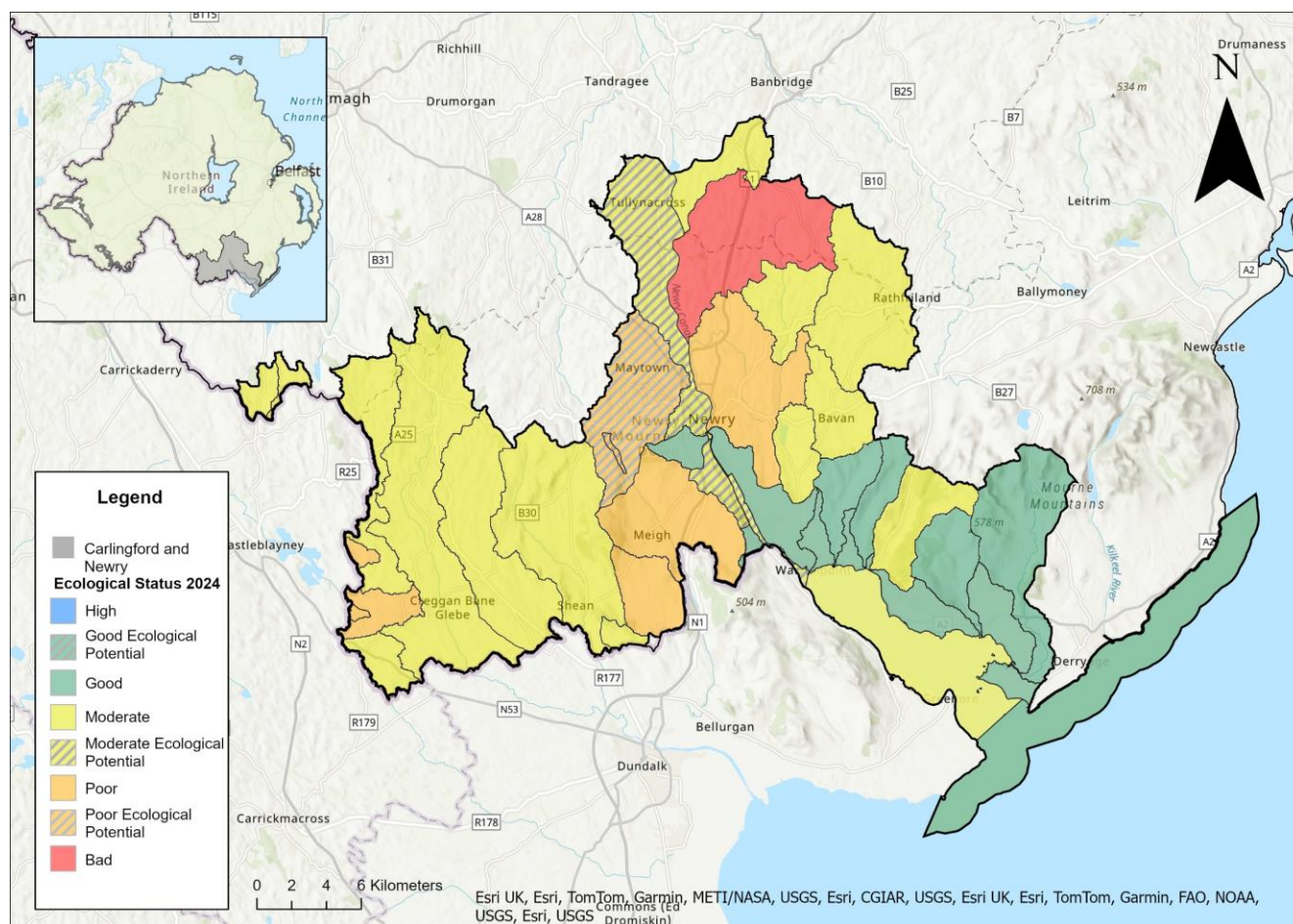


Table 39 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Carlingford and Newry LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	4	13	7	22	5	16
Moderate/MEP	21	66	17	53	17	53
Poor/PEP	4	13	6	19	9	28
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	1	3
No Data	3	9	2	6	0	0

Table 40 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Carlingford and Newry LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	18	56	17	53	0	0	0	0
Bad	8	25	9	28	32	100	32	100
No Data	6	19	6	19	0	0	0	0

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.5.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Carlingford & Newry LMA

Map 28 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Carlingford and Newry

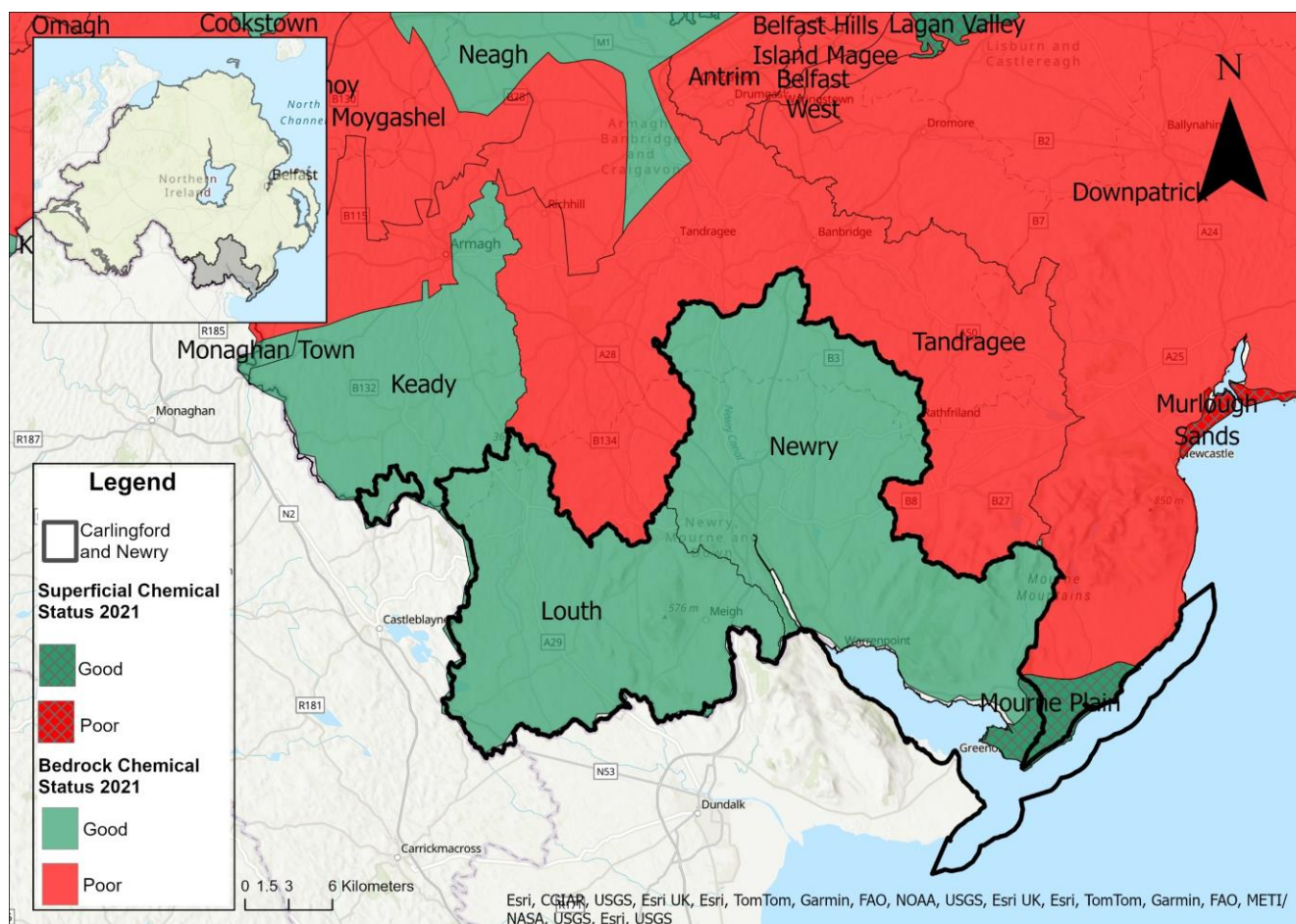


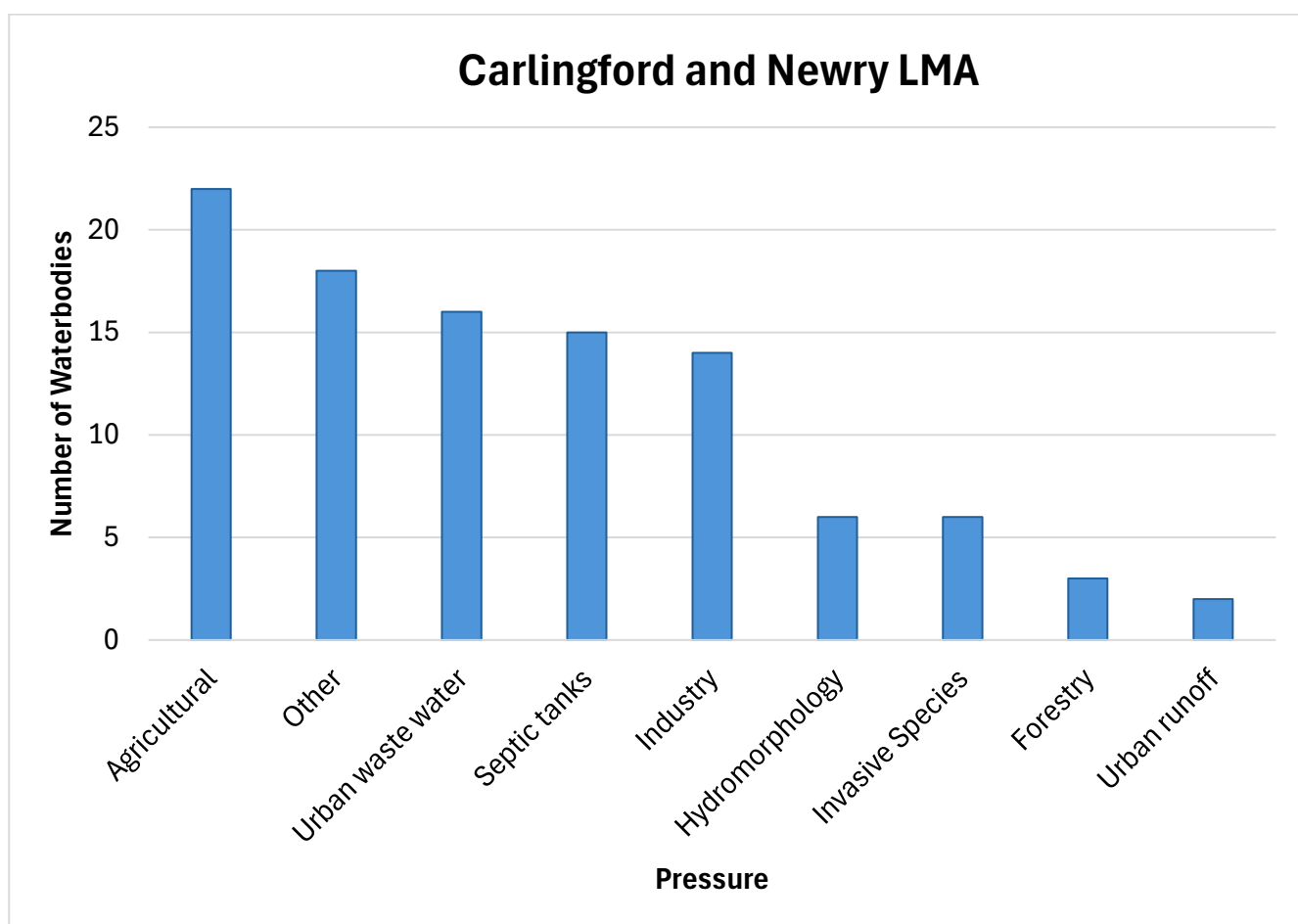
Table 41 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Carlingford and Newry LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	1	50	2	100	2	100	2	100
	Poor	1	50	0	0	0	0	0	0

Mourne Plain superficial groundwater body is shown in the map above but not counted in the table, it is counted within the South Down LMA.

3.5.4 Carlingford & Newry LMA Pressures

Figure 14 Pressures in Carlingford & Newry LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Carlingford and Newry LMA (Figure 14) are agricultural, other, urban waste water, septic tanks and industry.

3.6 Overview of the Braid & Main Local Management Area

The Braid & Main LMA lies within the Neagh Bann River Basin District and ultimately drains into Lough Neagh via Randalstown Forest. Covering approximately 714 km², the area is defined by two principal rivers: the River Main and its major tributary, the River Braid, which joins near Ballymena. These rivers have several smaller tributaries, including Kells Water, Ahoghill Burn, Artoges River, and the Clogh River.

The LMA encompasses the towns of Ballymena and Randalstown, along with smaller communities such as Ahoghill, Cullybackey, Broughshane, Dunloy, Cloughmills, and Kells.

Land Use and Ecology Dominated by improved grassland, the landscape also includes patches of forestry and ecologically significant bogs. To the north and west, the LMA borders the scenic Antrim Hills, which form part of the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The region supports a rich array of habitats and wildlife. Several of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

3.6.1 Water quality in the Braid and Main LMA

The Braid & Main LMA comprises of 28 rivers. Currently, 61 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 29). Braid River (Ballymena (due to flood risk management)), Glenravel Water (due to drinking water supply) and Glenwhirry River (due to drinking water supply) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbody: Glenwhirry River.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 54 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this declined to 43 % and further decreased to 39 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

There are two groundwater bodies within Braid and Main LMA, one is achieving good chemical status, and one has poor chemical status. Both are achieving good quantitative status.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.6.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Braid & Main LMA

Map 29 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Braid and Main LMA

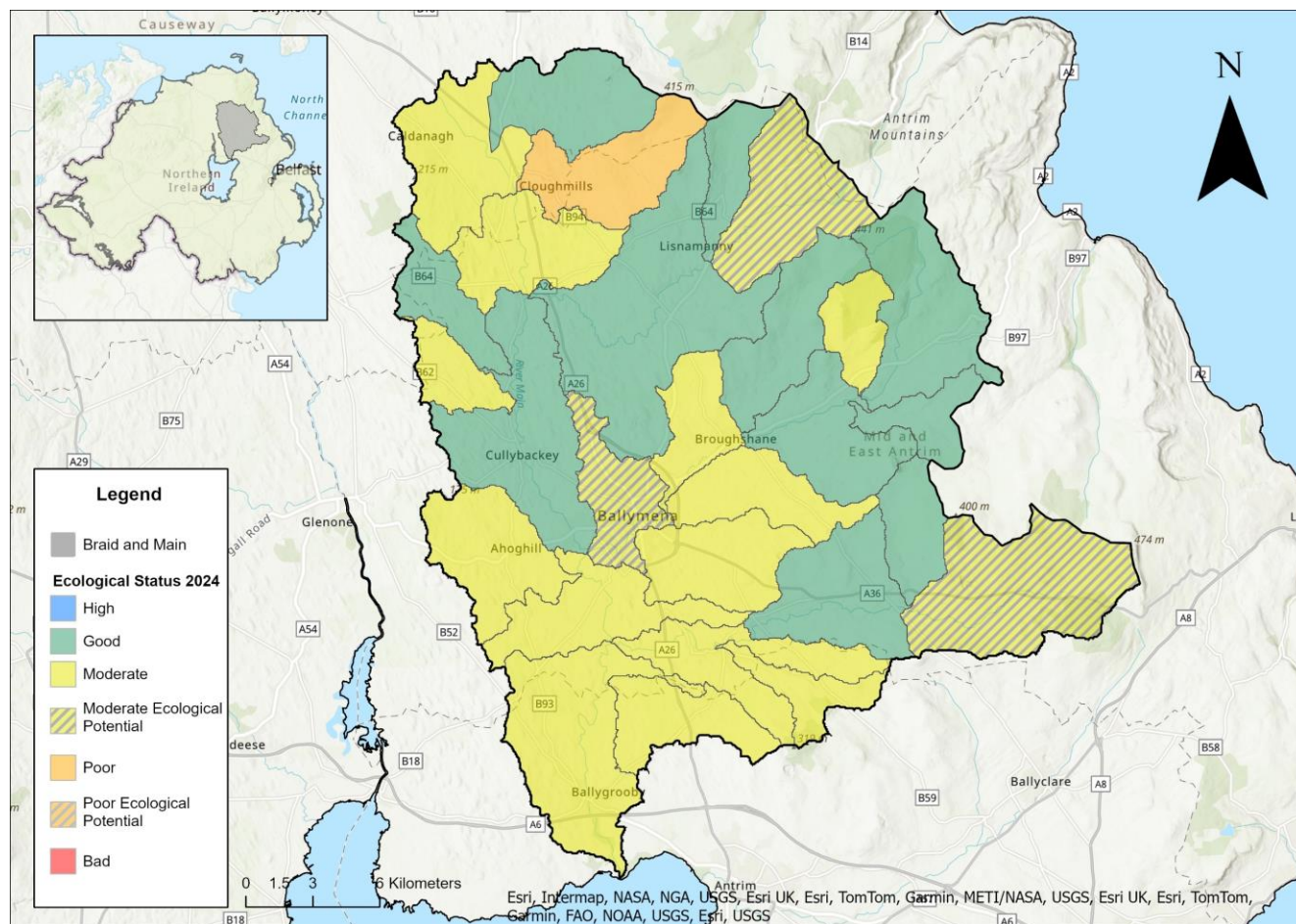


Table 42 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Braid and Main LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	15	54	12	43	11	39
Moderate/MEP	13	46	15	54	16	57
Poor/PEP	0	0	1	4	1	4
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 43 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Braid and Main LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	24	86	24	86	0	0	0	0
Bad	4	14	4	14	28	100	28	100

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.6.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Braid & Main LMA

Map 30 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Braid and Main

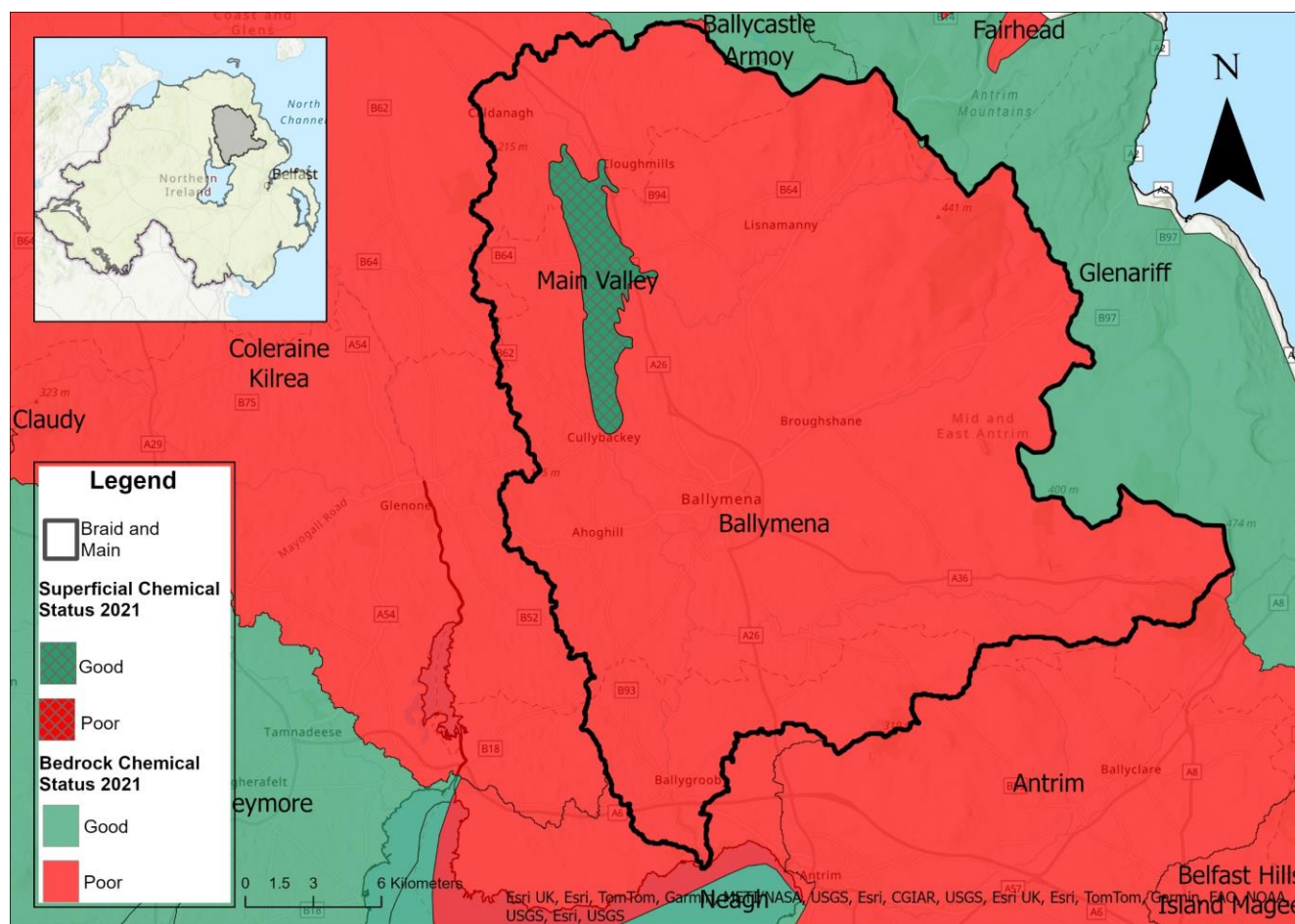


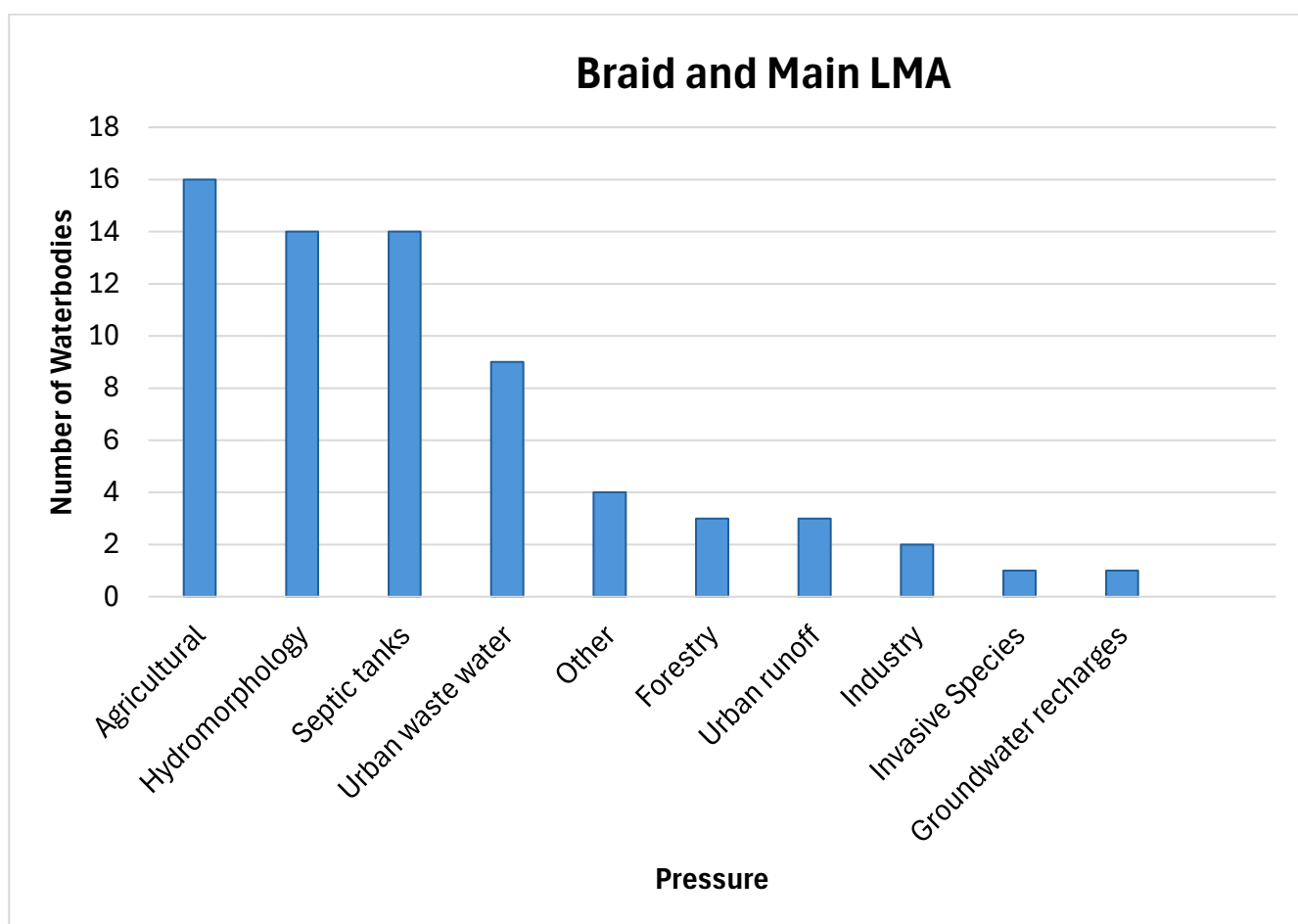
Table 44 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Braid and Main LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	0	0	0	0	1	100	1	100
	Poor	1	100	1	100	0	0	0	0
Superficial	Good	1	100	1	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.6.4 Braid & Main LMA Pressures

Figure 15 Pressures in Braid & Main LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Braid and Main LMA (Figure 15) are agricultural, hydromorphology, septic tanks, urban waste wate and other.

3.7 Overview of the Six Mile Water Local Management Area

The Six Mile Water LMA, situated within the Neagh Bann River Basin District, spans approximately 302 km². It drains into Lough Neagh at Antrim Boat Club, just south of the historic Shane's Castle. At the heart of the LMA lies the Six Mile Water river, which originates in the western uplands near the Antrim Hills and Ballynure. Flowing westward, it eventually reaches Lough Neagh at Antrim. Along its course, the river is fed by several key tributaries, including Ballymartin Water, Clady Water, Doagh River and Rathmore Burn. Renowned for its angling opportunities, the Six Mile Water supports healthy populations of salmon and trout, including the native Dollaghan trout—an iconic species linked to Lough Neagh.

The principal towns within the LMA are Ballyclare and Antrim, alongside communities such as Templepatrick, Ballynure, Parkgate, Mallusk, and Doagh.

Land Use and Ecology Land use is predominantly improved grassland, with patches of forestry in the upland areas—most notably Ballyboley Forest. A significant industrial estate is located in Mallusk, positioned along the Ballymartin Water, which contributes to the Six Mile Water's flow. The Antrim Hills, forming the southernmost tip of the Antrim Plateau, are part of the Antrim Coast and Glens Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This region is ecologically rich, hosting vital habitats and species that have protected area status.

3.7.1 Water quality in the Six Mile Water LMA

The Six Mile Water LMA comprises of 11 rivers. Currently, 73 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 31). Holywell Burn, Six Mile Water (Antrim) and Six Mile Water (Ballyclare) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies all due to flood risk management reasons. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Castle Water, Holywell Burn and Six mile Water (Antrim).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, 55 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this declined to 36 % and declined further to 27 % in 2024.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.7.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Six Mile Water LMA

Map 31 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Six Mile Water LMA

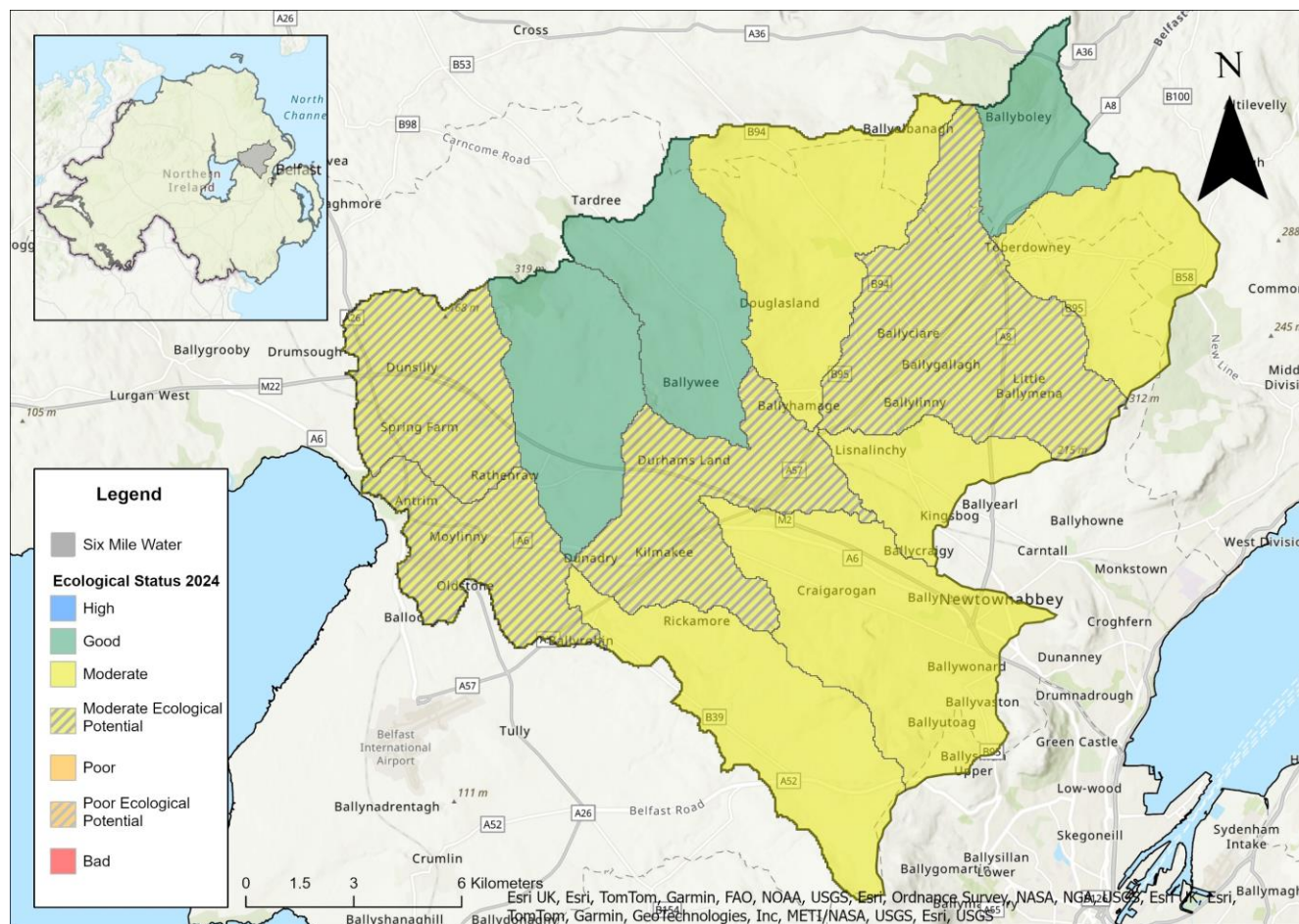


Table 45 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Six Mile Water LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	6	55	4	36	3	27
Moderate/MEP	4	36	7	64	8	73
Poor/PEP	1	9	0	0	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

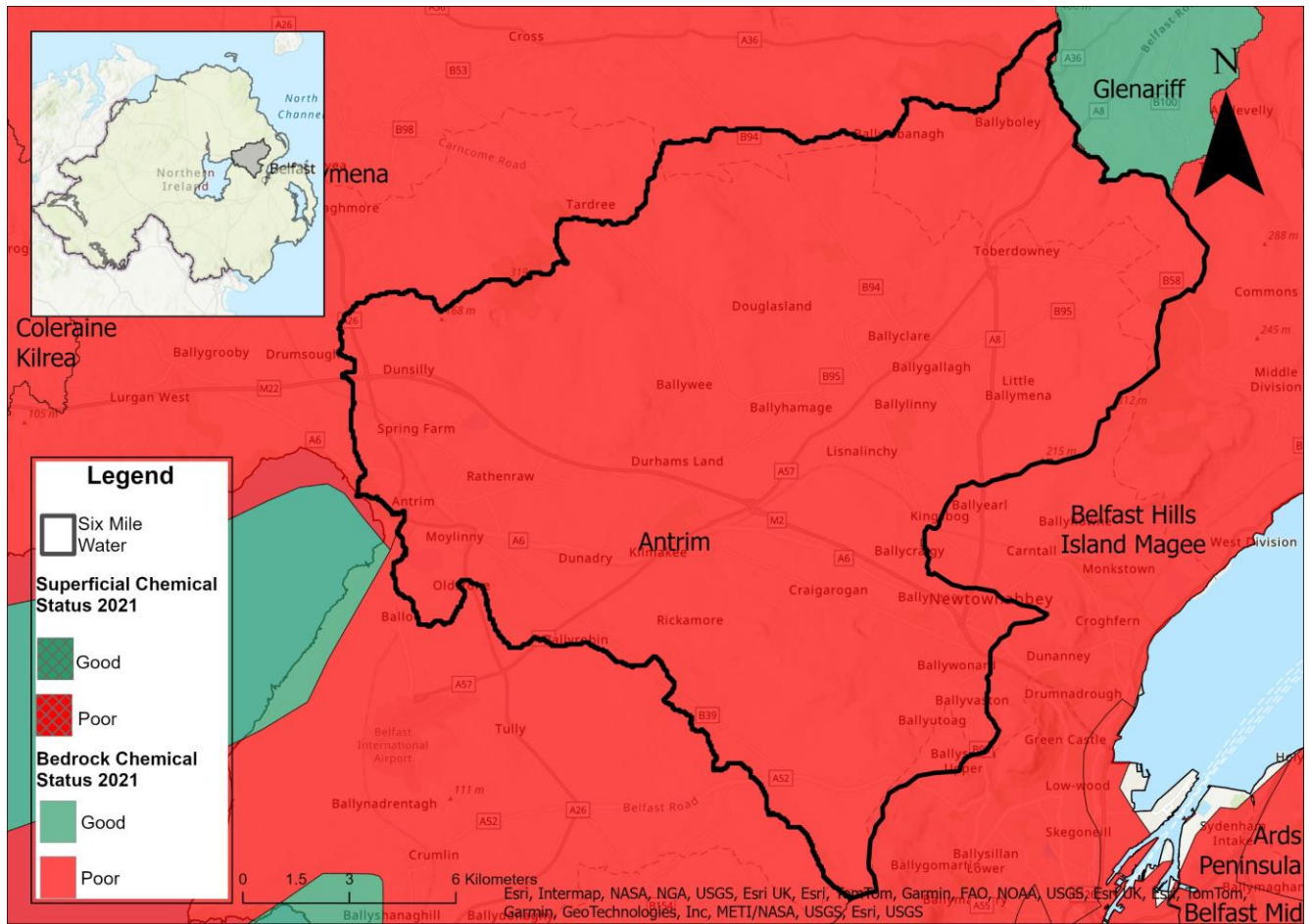
Table 46 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Six Mile Water LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	10	91	10	91	0	0	0	0
Bad	1	9	1	9	11	100	11	100

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.7.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Six Mile Water LMA

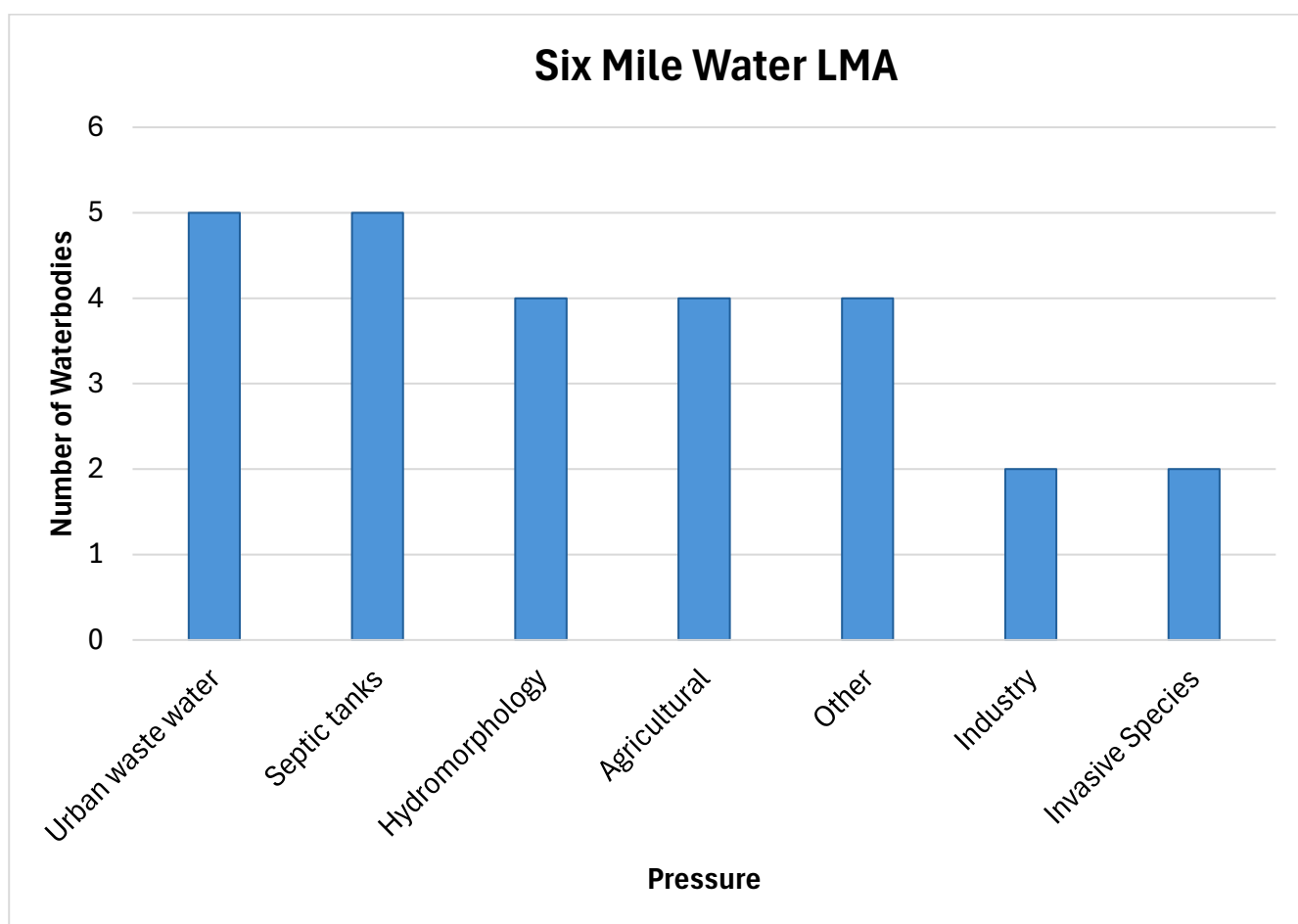
Map 32 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Six Mile Water LMA



The Antrim groundwater body shown in the map is included in Lough Neagh LMA, therefore there is no table for the Six Mile Water LMA.

3.7.4 Six Mile Water LMA Pressures

Figure 16 Pressures in Six Mile Water LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Six Mile Water LMA (Figure 16) are urban waste water, septic tanks, hydromorphology, agricultural, and other.

3.8 Overview of the Lough Neagh Local Management Area

The Lough Neagh LMA forms part of the Neagh Bann River Basin District and spans approximately 954 km². The main rivers include Crumlin, Glenavy and Ballinderry (Co. Antrim) Rivers. At its heart lies Lough Neagh, a vast freshwater lake covering 383 km², making it the dominant feature of the catchment. The lough is relatively shallow around its edges, with an average depth of 9 metres and a maximum depth of 30 metres, found near its outflow at Toome Bay. Lough Neagh plays a vital hydrological role, draining 38 % of Northern Ireland's surface area. It is encircled by five of the six counties in Northern Ireland, underscoring its central importance to the region. Several key rivers feed into Lough Neagh including the Moyola, Ballinderry (Co. Tyrone), Blackwater, Upper Bann, Six Mile Water and Main. The Lower Bann serves as the lake's primary outflow at Toome. Each of these river systems will be addressed in detail within their respective LMAs.

Prominent towns within the LMA include Lurgan, Antrim, and Craigavon, with smaller communities like Crumlin, Glenavy, and Aghalee dispersed throughout the region.

Land Use and Ecology The main land use is improved grassland, arable horticulture and calcareous grass. The area also encompasses Portmore Lough, one of Northern Ireland's rare natural fens. Lough Neagh also supports significant populations of wildfowl, including Whooper Swans, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Scaup, and Goldeneye.

3.8.1 Water quality in the Lough Neagh LMA

The Lough Neagh LMA comprises of 14 rivers and 3 lakes. Currently, 100 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 33). Lough Neagh Peripherals has been designated a heavily modified waterbody due to flood risk management, navigation and wider environment issues. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Closet River, Crew Burn, Crumlin River (Crumlin), Glenavy River, Lough Neagh and Stonyford Reservoir.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, 0 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021 and 2024 this remained unchanged.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

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Groundwater Status

There are two bedrock groundwater bodies within the Lough Neagh LMA, one is achieving good chemical status and one has poor chemical status. Both groundwater bodies have good quantitative status.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.8.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Lough Neagh LMA

Map 33 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lough Neagh LMA

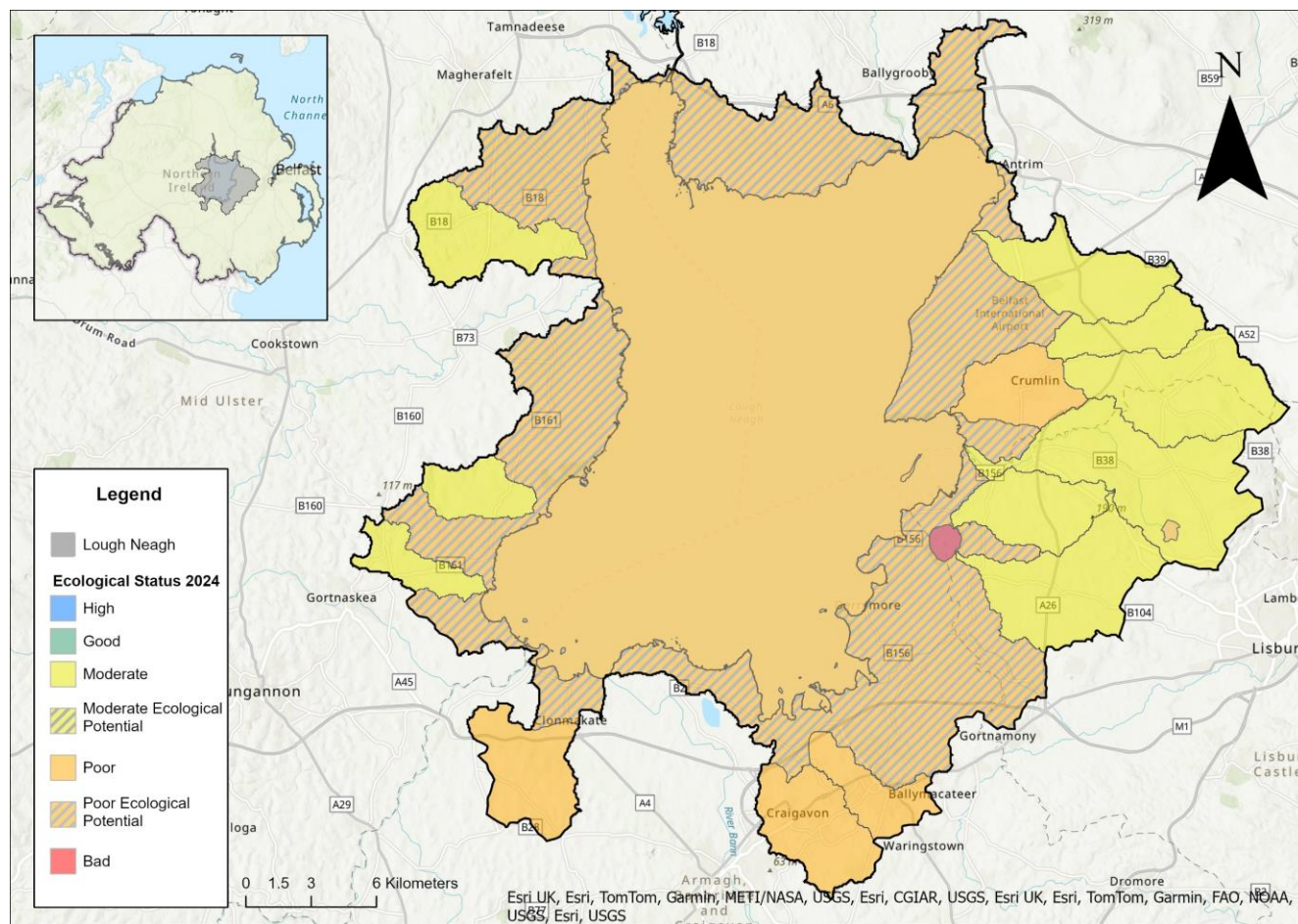


Table 47 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lough Neagh LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moderate/MEP	12	71	9	53	9	53
Poor/PEP	2	12	5	29	7	41
Bad/BEP	3	18	3	18	1	6

Table 48 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Lough Neagh LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	12	71	12	71	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	18	3	18	17	100	17	100
No Data	2	12	2	12	0	0	0	0

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.8.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Lough Neagh LMA

Map 34 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Lough Neagh LMA

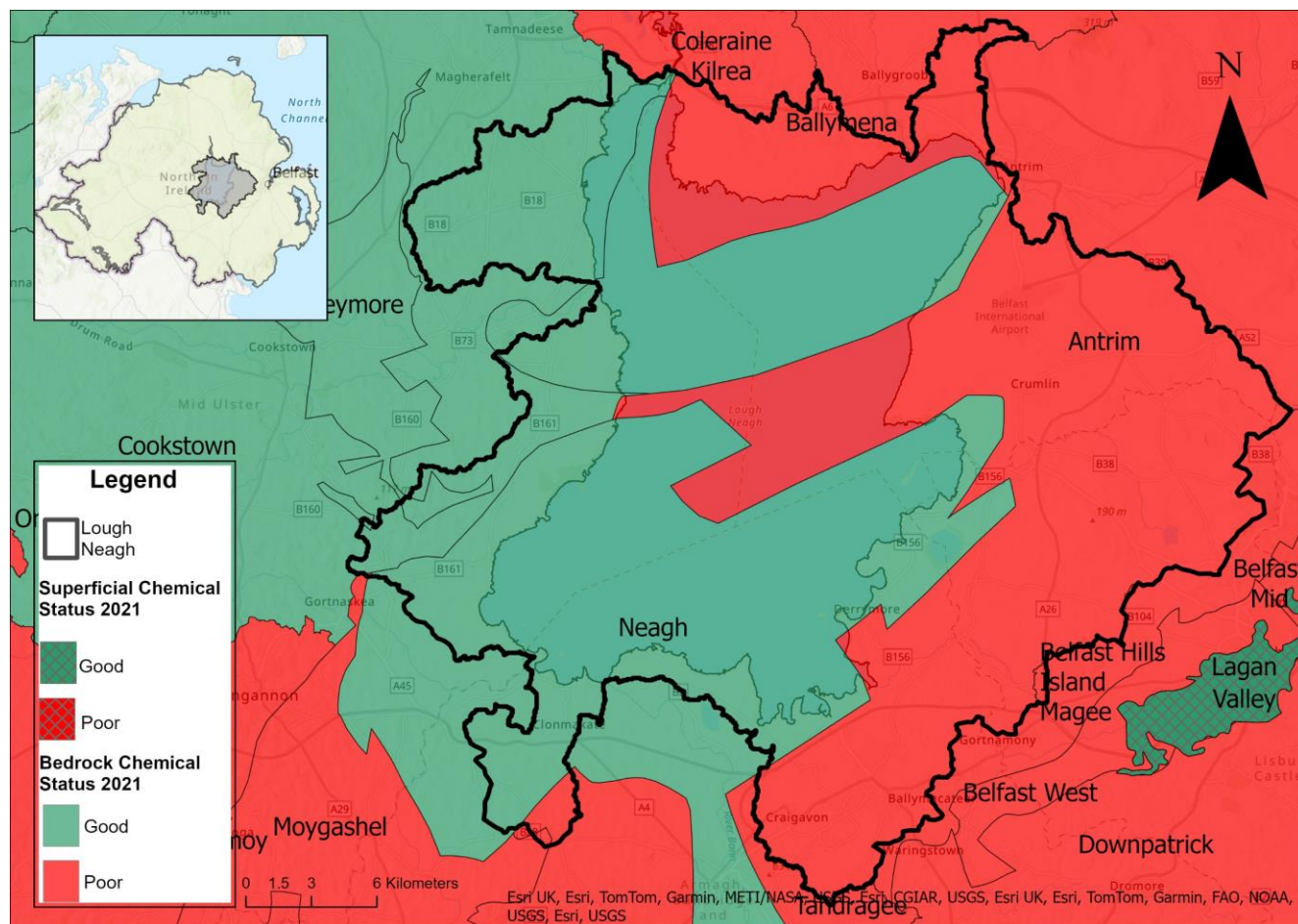


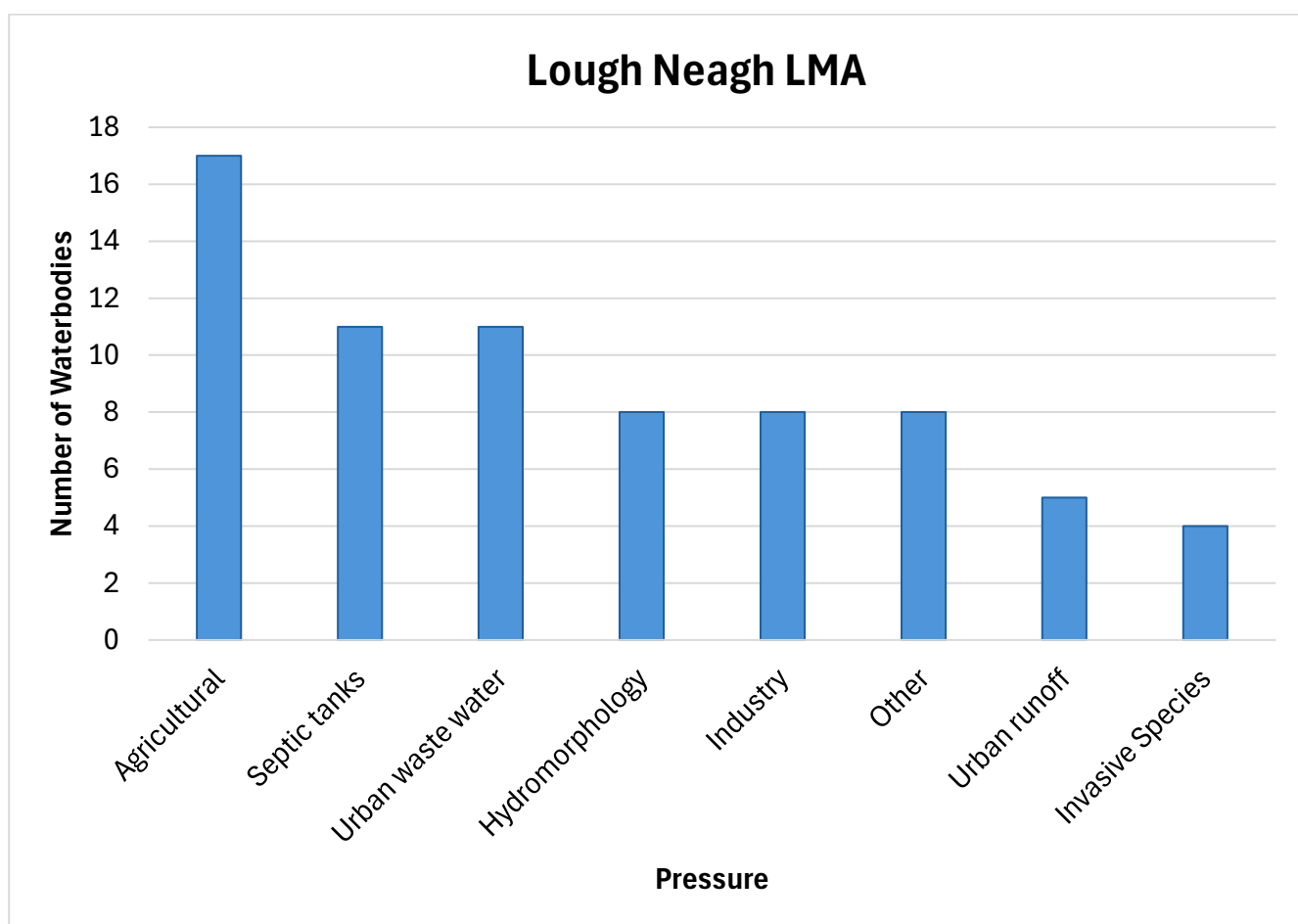
Table 49 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Lough Neagh LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	1	50	1	50	2	100	2	100
	Poor	1	50	1	50	0	0	0	0

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.8.4 Lough Neagh LMA Pressures

Figure 17 Pressures in Lough Neagh LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Lough Neagh LMA (Figure 17) are agricultural, septic tanks, urban waste water, hydromorphology and industry.

3.9 Overview of the Upper Bann Local Management Area

The Upper Bann LMA, situated within the Neagh Bann River Basin District, spans approximately 397 km² and drains into Lough Neagh at Bannfoot. The main river is the Upper Bann, with the Cusher River as a major tributary. The Upper Bann rises in the Mourne Mountains from several tributaries including the Leitrim River, the Muddock River, the Rocky River and the Upper Bann reach. Flowing northward through Banbridge, the Upper Bann converges with the Cusher River just south of Portadown.

The region's primary urban centres are Craigavon and Banbridge, complemented by smaller towns such as Tandragee, Markethill, and Rathfriland.

Land Use and Ecology Land use across the LMA is predominantly improved grassland, with areas of arable horticulture and forestry. Notably, the upper reaches of the Upper Bann and Cusher Rivers lie adjacent to two designated Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the Mourne AONB and the Ring of Gullion AONB, respectively.

3.9.1 Water quality in the Upper Bann LMA

The Upper Bann LMA comprises of 18 rivers and 3 lakes. Currently, 90 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 35). Muddock River and Upper Bann (Spelga) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies due to drinking water supply reasons. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Cusher River (Mount Norris), Drumadonnell River, Lough Island Reavey, Muddock River, Spelga Dam and Upper Bann (Spelga).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 10 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- In 2021, this declined to 5 % but improved back to 10 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

The bedrock groundwater body within the Upper Bann LMA has poor chemical status but good quantitative status.

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.9.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Upper Bann LMA

Map 35 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Upper Bann LMA

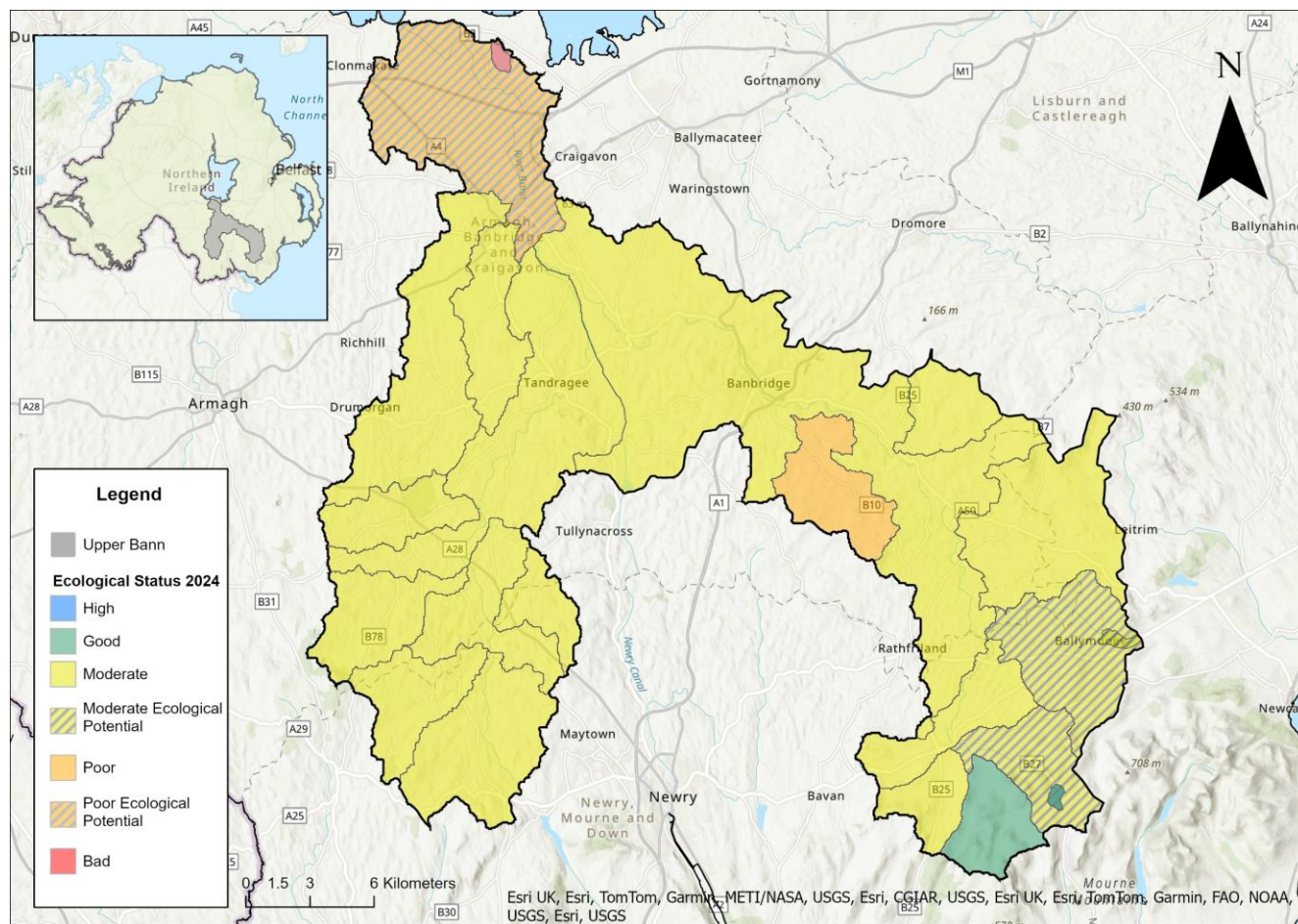


Table 50 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Upper Bann LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	2	10	1	5	2	10
Moderate/MEP	14	67	18	86	17	81
Poor/PEP	2	10	1	5	1	5
Bad/BEP	3	14	1	5	1	5

Table 51 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Upper Bann LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	15	71	15	71	0	0	0	0
Bad	6	29	6	29	21	100	21	100

Neagh Bann River Basin District

3.9.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Upper Bann LMA

Map 36 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Upper Bann LMA

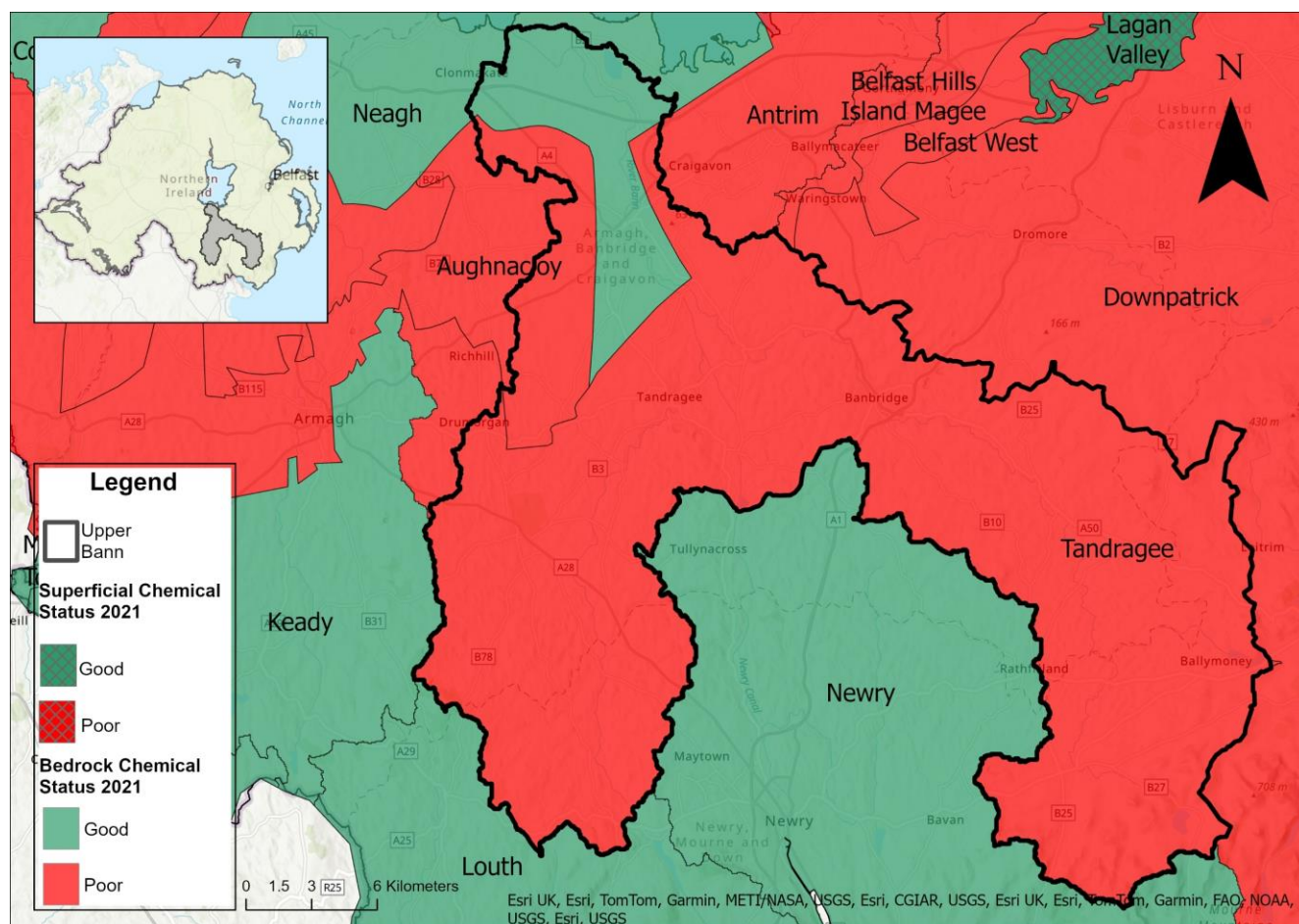


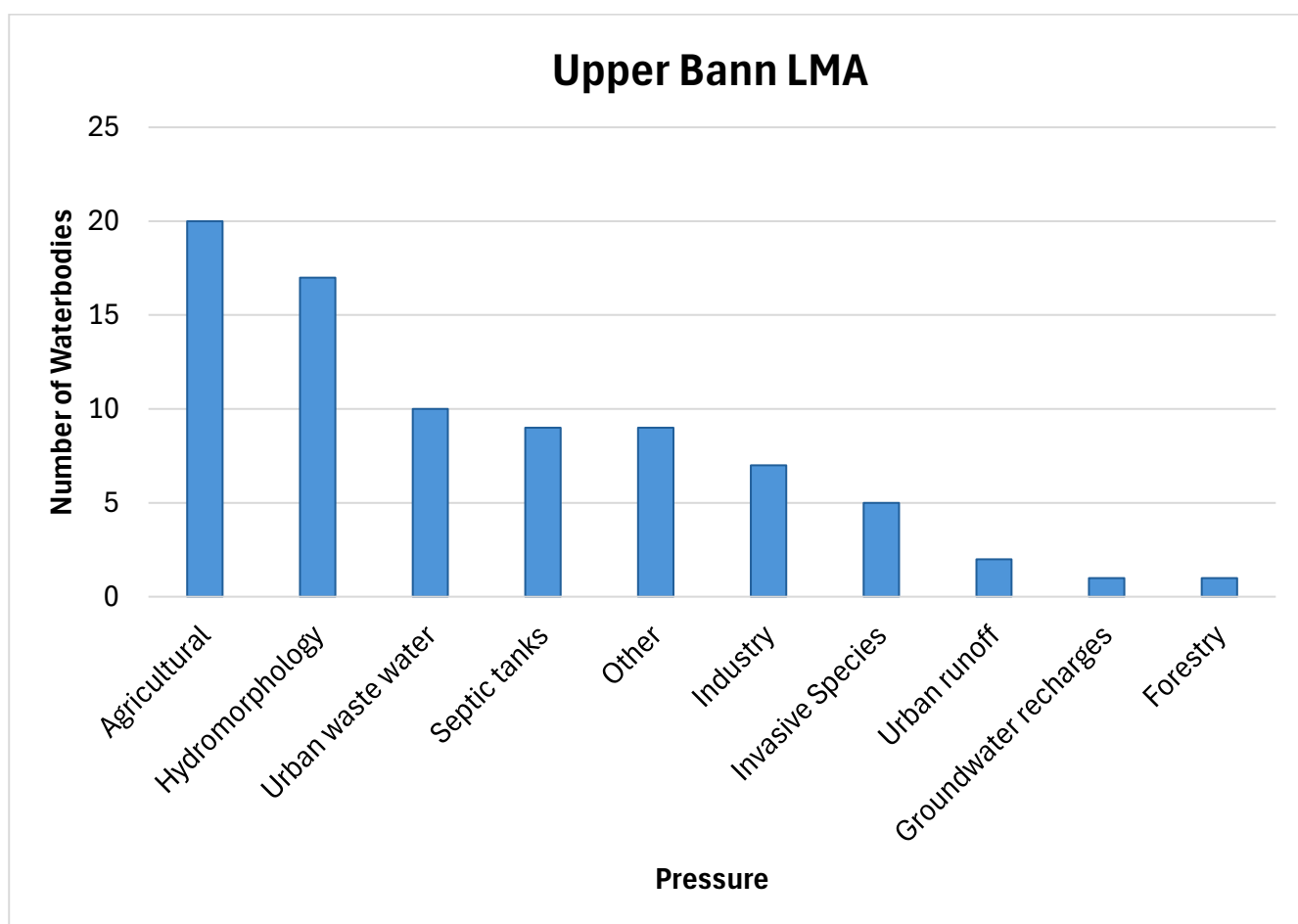
Table 52 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Upper Bann LMA

Classification	Chemical Status				Quantitative status				
	2015		2021		2015		2021		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Bedrock	Good	0	0	0	0	1	100	1	100
	Poor	1	100	1	100	0	0	0	0

Neagh groundwater body is shown in the map above but not counted in the table, as it is counted within the Lough Neagh LMA.

3.9.4 Upper Bann LMA Pressures

Figure 18 Pressures in Upper Bann LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Upper Bann LMA (Figure 18) are agricultural, hydromorphology, urban waste water, septic tanks and other.

4. North Eastern River Basin District

4.1 Overview of the Glens & Rathlin Local Management Area

Located within the North Eastern River Basin District, the Glens & Rathlin LMA encompasses the nine iconic Glens of Antrim along with the rugged beauty of Rathlin Island, spanning an area of approximately 823 km². The main rivers throughout this area all rise within the Glens and ultimately flow into the North Channel, with the exception of the Glenshesk River which flows into the Atlantic Ocean. Glens & Rathlin comprises of 3 coastal waterbodies: Maiden Islands, North Channel and Rathlin Island.

Ballycastle is on the northern edge, with Larne on the southern boundary. Between them lie villages such as Cushendun, Cushendall, Glenarm, and Carnlough.

Land Use and Ecology The landscape is dominated by improved grasslands, interspersed with forestry and areas of arable farming. These land uses reflect the area's agricultural heritage and its role in supporting rural livelihoods. The Glens & Rathlin LMA is home to diverse habitats and species of ecological importance. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

4.1.1 Water quality in the Glens & Rathlin LMA

The Glens & Rathlin LMA comprises of 15 rivers and 3 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 33 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 37). Inver River has been officially designated as a heavily modified waterbody due to drinking water supply reasons. Additionally, there are 9 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbody: Glenshesk River.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 56 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this improved to 72 % and then declined to 67 % in 2024.
- The number of waterbodies classified as high status declined from one in 2015 to zero in both 2021 and 2024.

Groundwater Status

There are three bedrock groundwater bodies in Glens and Rathlin LMA, one is achieving good chemical status and two are of poor chemical status. All three are achieving good quantitative status.

North Eastern River Basin District

4.1.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Glens and Rathlin LMA

Map 37 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Glens and Rathlin LMA

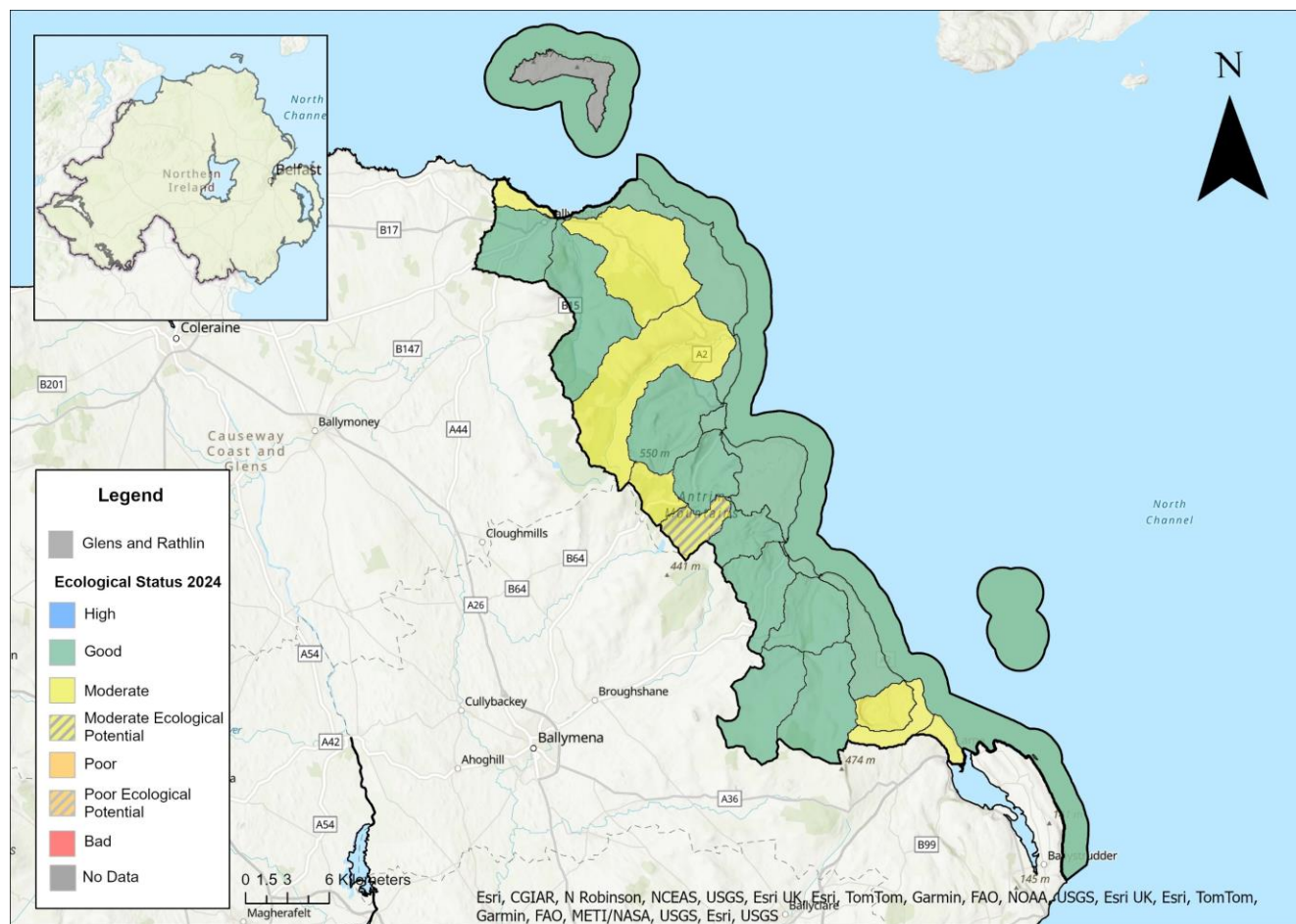


Table 53 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Glens and Rathlin LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	1	6	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	10	56	13	72	12	67
Moderate/MEP	7	39	4	22	5	28
Poor/PEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Data	0	0	1	6	1	6

Table 54 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Glens and Rathlin LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	14	78	13	72	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	17	4	22	18	100	18	100
No Data	1	6	1	6	0	0	0	0

North Eastern River Basin District

4.1.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Glens and Rathlin LMA

Map 38 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Glens and Rathlin LMA

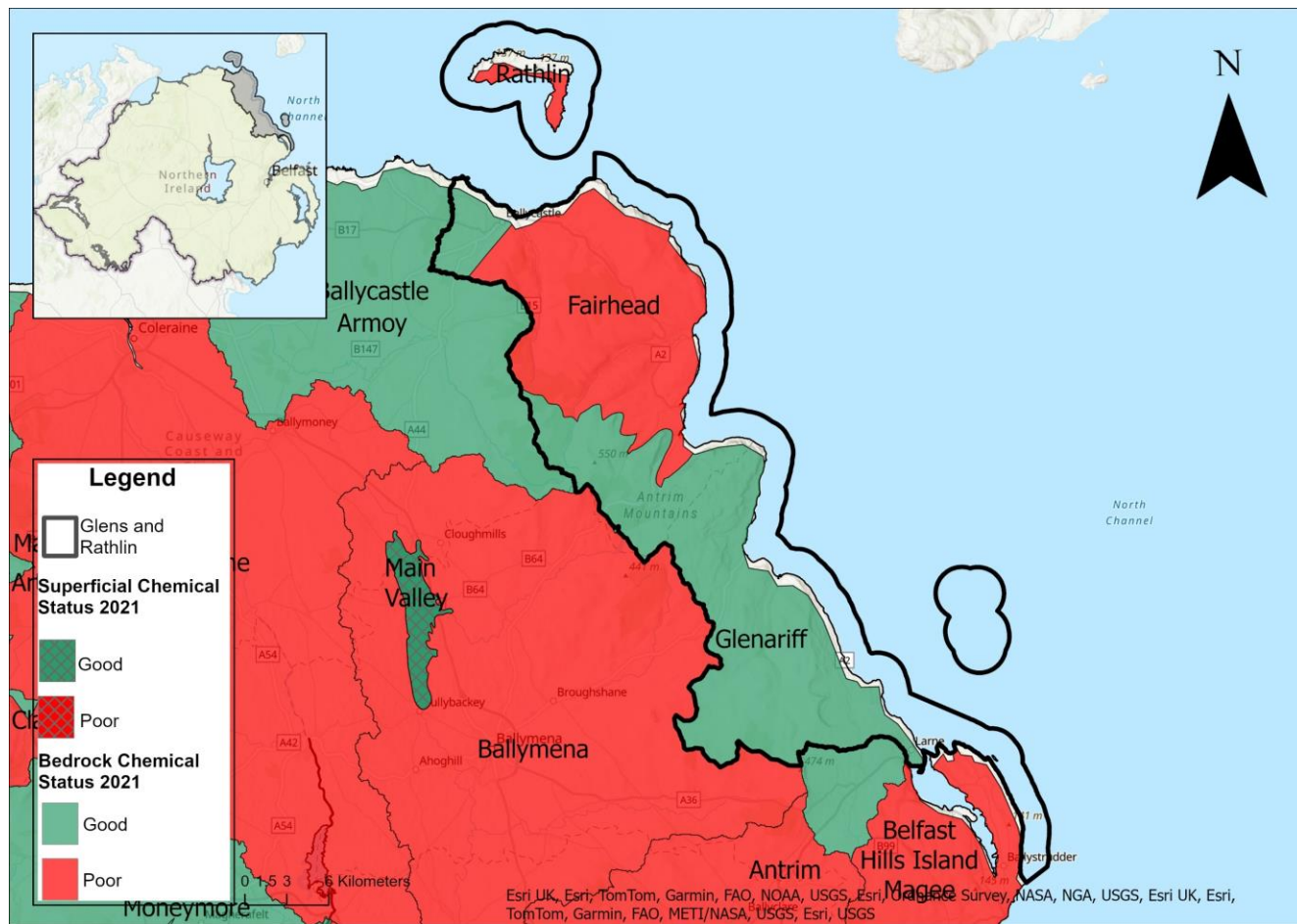
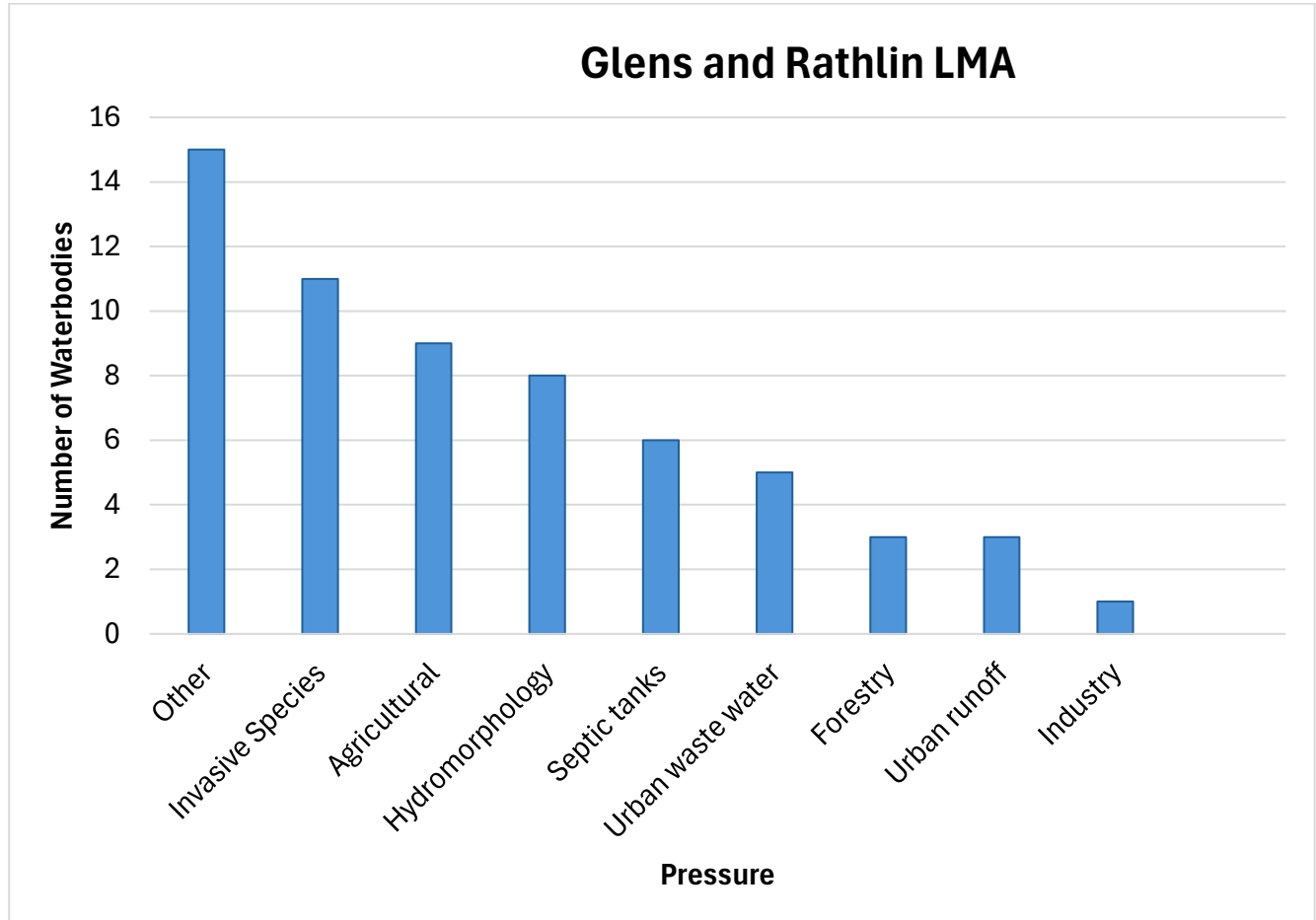


Table 55 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Glens and Rathlin LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	3	100	1	33	3	100	3	100
	Poor	0	0	2	67	0	0	0	0

4.1.4 Glens & Rathlin LMA Pressures

Figure 19 Pressures in Glens & Rathlin LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Glens and Rathlin LMA (Figure 19) are other, invasive species, agricultural, hydromorphology and septic tanks.

4.2 Overview of the Bush Local Management Area

Located within the North Eastern River Basin District, the Bush LMA spans approximately 490 km². Its defining feature is the River Bush, which originates high in the Antrim Plateau at around 500 metres above sea level. The river is fed by several smaller tributaries as it flows through the town of Bushmills, eventually flowing into the Atlantic Ocean at Bushfoot Strand, near Portballintrae. Bush comprises of 1 coastal waterbody (North Coast).

Key settlements include Bushmills, Portrush, Portstewart, Dervock, Stranocum, and Armoy, alongside a scattering of smaller villages.

Land Use and Ecology The landscape is predominantly shaped by improved grassland, forestry, and arable farming, reflecting the area's strong agricultural heritage. The River Bush is ecologically significant, supporting native populations of Atlantic Salmon and Brown Trout. A dedicated salmon hatchery helps sustain healthy fish stocks, contributing to both biodiversity and local angling traditions. A highlight of the region is the Giant's Causeway, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, renowned for its dramatic basalt columns and geological wonder.

4.2.1 Water quality in the Bush LMA

The Bush LMA comprises of 14 rivers and 1 coastal and transitional waterbody. Currently, 73 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 39). Burn Gushet River and Bush River (Altnahinch) have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies due to wider environment issues and drinking water supply reasons respectively. Additionally, there are 3 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbody: Portrush (N Coast).

Trends over Time

There was no change between 2015, 2021 and 2024 in the number of waterbodies registered as good status (27 %).

Groundwater Status

The bedrock waterbody present within the Bush LMA is currently achieving good chemical and good quantitative status.

North Eastern River Basin District

4.2.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Bush LMA

Map 39 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Bush LMA

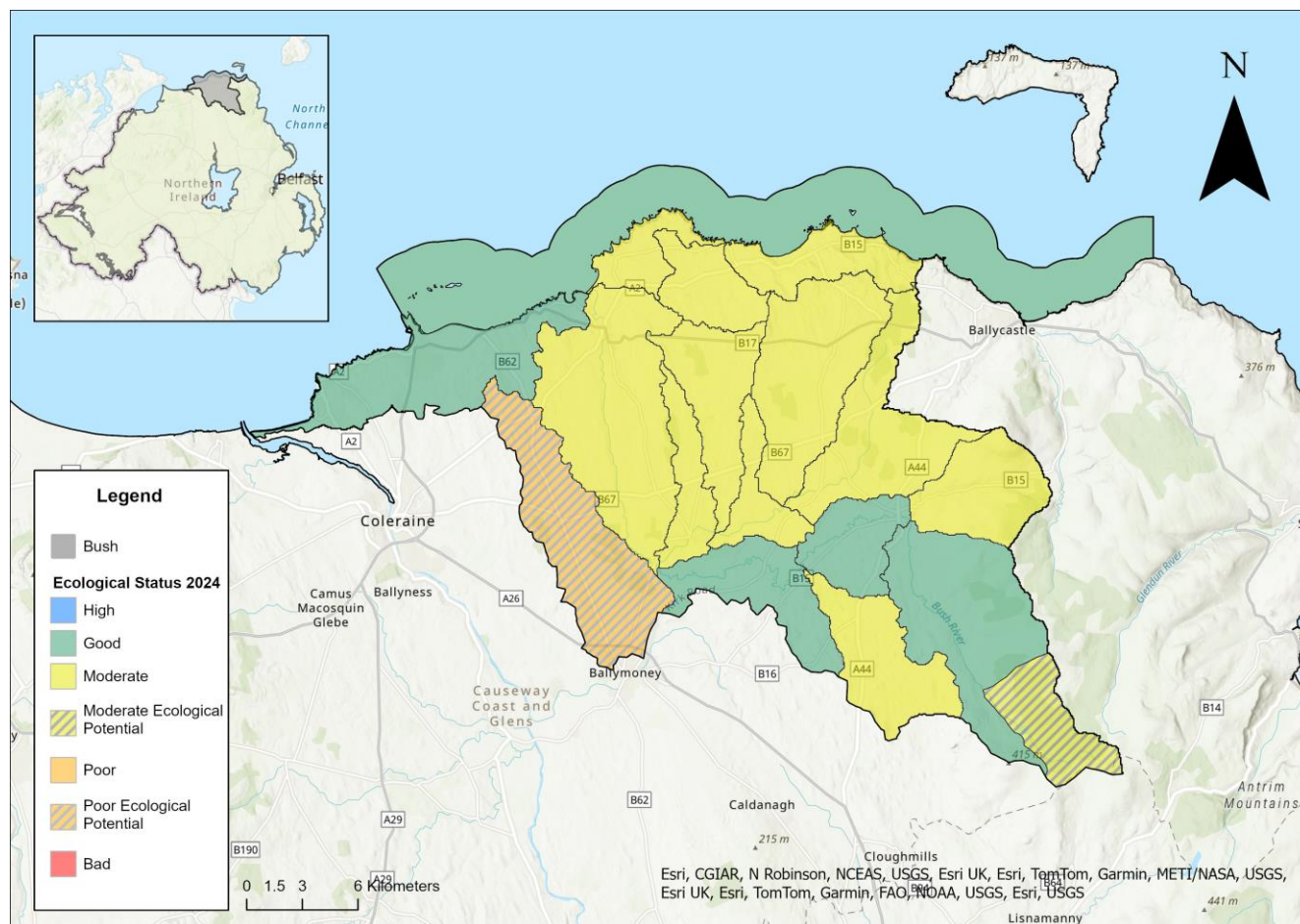


Table 56 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Bush LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	4	27	4	27	4	27
Moderate/MEP	10	67	10	67	10	67
Poor/PEP	1	7	1	7	1	7
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 57 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Bush LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	14	93	13	86	0	0	0	0
Bad	1	7	2	14	15	100	15	100

North Eastern River Basin District

4.2.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Bush LMA

Map 40 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Bush LMA

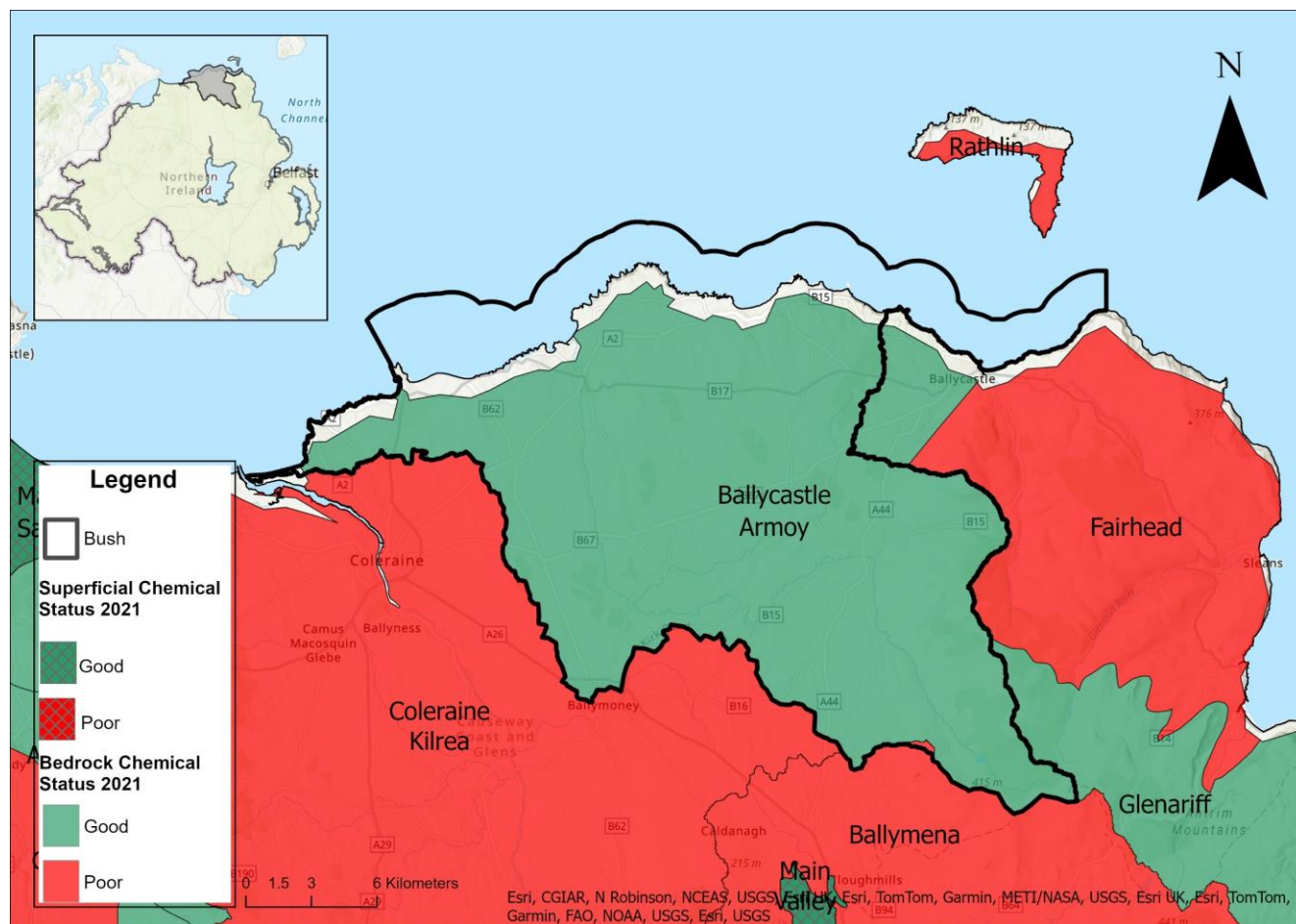
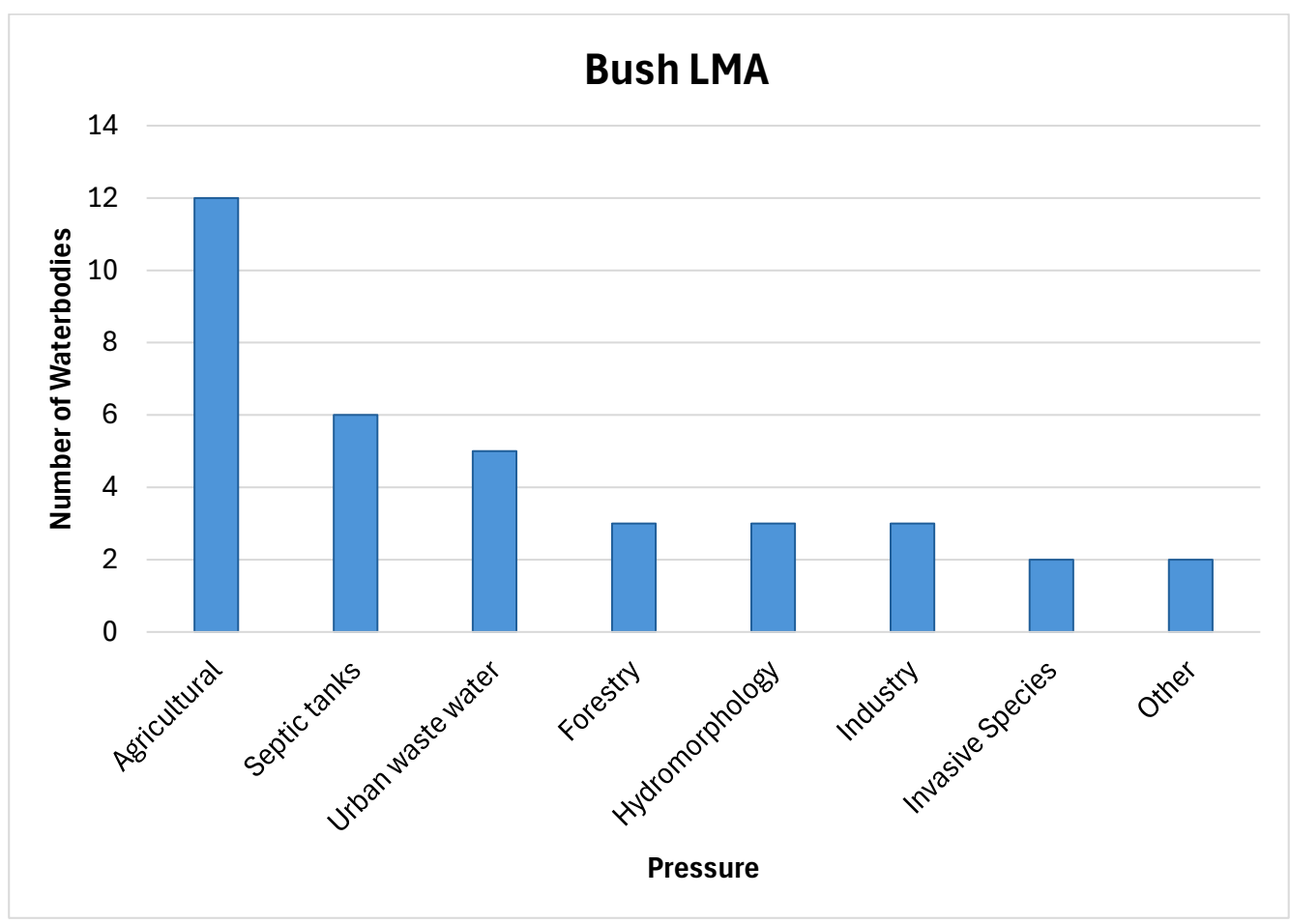


Table 58 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Bush LMA

Classification	Chemical Status				Quantitative status				
	2015		2021		2015		2021		
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	
Bedrock	Good	1	100	1	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

4.2.4 Bush LMA Pressures

Figure 20 Pressures in Bush LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Bush LMA (Figure 20) are agricultural, septic tanks, urban waste water, forestry and hydromorphology.

4.3 Overview of Larne Lough Local Management Area

The Larne Lough LMA lies within the North Eastern River Basin District and spans approximately 141 km². It is shaped by the hydrology of several rivers, including the Inver River, which originates near Thorny Hill, and the Glynn/ Glenoe River, rising near Drummond's Hill. These, along with smaller tributaries, flow into Larne Lough—a shallow sea lough bordered to the east by Islandmagee. Larne Lough features extensive mudflats in its southern reaches, exposed during low tide, while its northern end is broader and deeper. Larne Lough comprises of five coastal waterbodies: Larne Lough South, Larne Lough Mid, Larne Lough North, Maiden Islands, and North Channel.

The principal urban centre is the town of Larne, accompanied by smaller settlements such as Ballycarry, Glynn, and Glenoe.

Land Use and Ecology The landscape is predominantly composed of improved grassland, arable farmland, and a mix of rural and suburban development. The Lough supports designated shellfish waters and important breeding and feeding grounds for a range of birds. Larne Lough Shellfish Water Protected Area extends into both Larne Lough South and Larne Lough Mid waterbodies. The LMA also encompasses the Port of Larne, a key hub for both passenger and freight transport. Additionally, Brown's Bay Bathing Water, located nearby, is directly influenced by the environmental quality of the Lough. Larne Lough LMA is home to a range of valuable habitats and wildlife that have protected area status. .

4.3.1 Water quality in the Larne Lough LMA

The Larne Lough LMA comprises of 2 rivers and 3 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 40 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 41). The Larne Lough North waterbody includes the Port of Larne and is heavily modified due to its use as a functioning port and harbour. Additionally, there are 2 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 40 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this improved to 60 %, a level that remained unchanged in 2024.
- The number of waterbodies classified as high status declined from one in 2015 to zero in both 2021 and 2024.

North Eastern River Basin District

4.3.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Larne Lough LMA

Map 41 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Larne Lough LMA

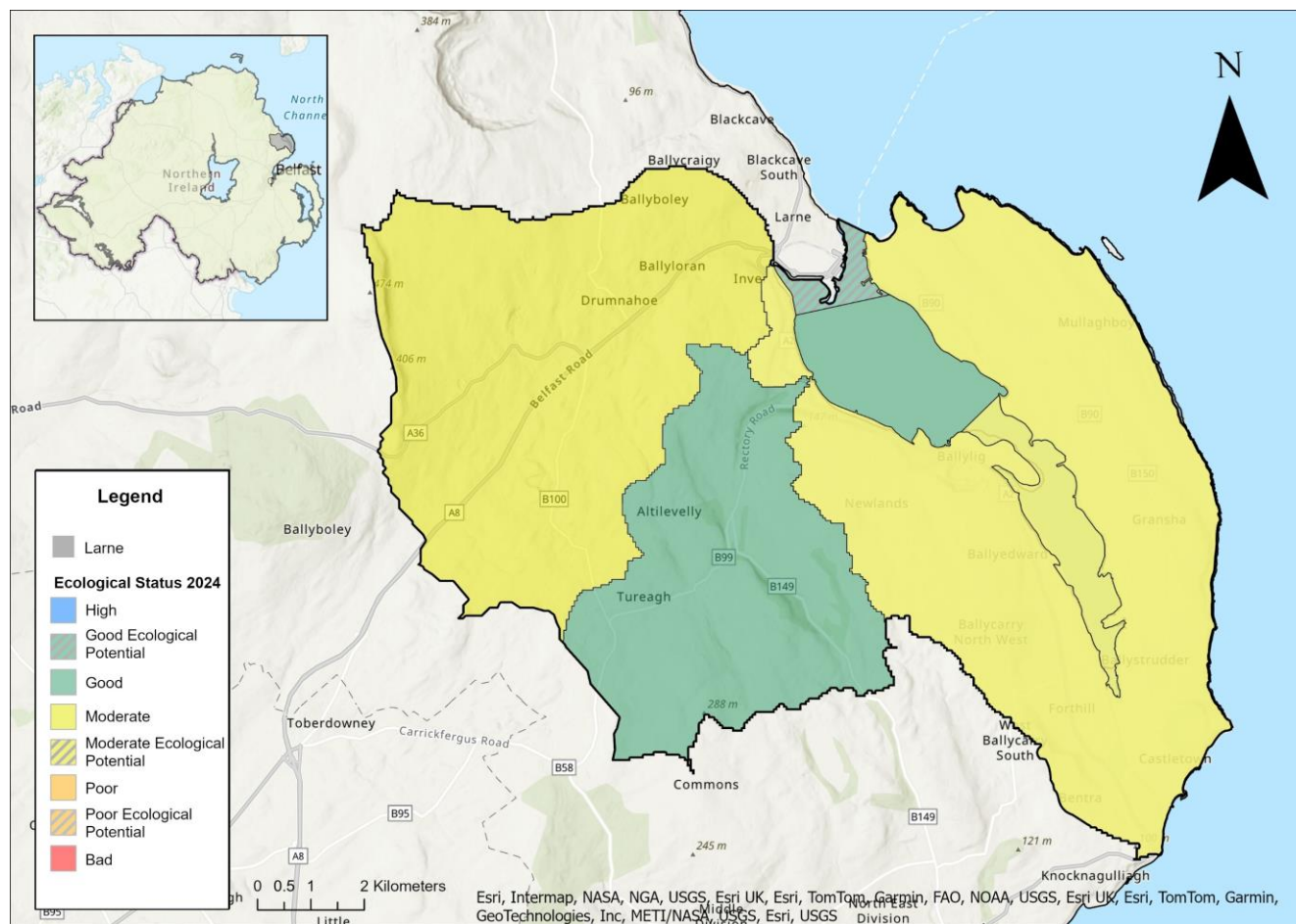


Table 59 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Larne Lough LMA

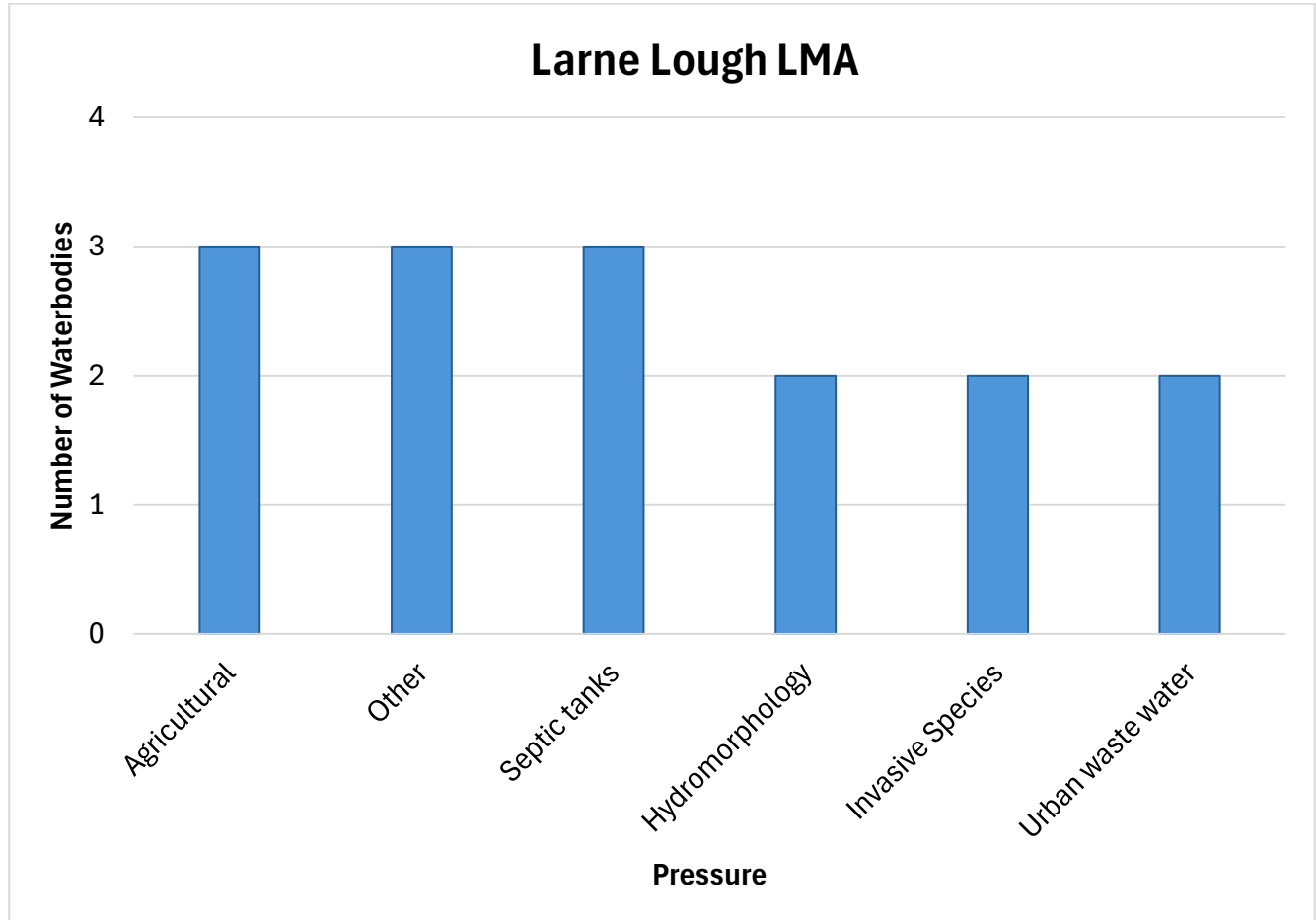
Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	2	40	3	60	3	60
Moderate/MEP	3	60	2	40	2	40
Poor/PEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 60 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Larne Lough LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	2	40	3	60	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	60	2	40	5	100	5	100

4.3.4 Larne Lough LMA Pressures

Figure 21 Pressures in Larne Lough LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Larne Lough LMA (Figure 21) are agricultural, other, septic tanks, hydromorphology and invasive species.

4.4 Overview of Belfast Lough Local Management Area

Belfast Lough LMA, part of the North Eastern River Basin District, is a semi-closed inter-tidal sea lough at the mouth of the River Lagan. The area covers approximately 399 km². Although the River Lagan has an influence on the Lough its catchment lies within the Lagan LMA. The other main rivers entering Belfast Lough are Woodburn River, Kilroot River, Ballyholme River, Crawfordsburn River and Three Mile Water. Numerous smaller streams exist throughout the area and enter the Lough at various points. The inner region of the Lough contains an inter-tidal area comprising a series of mudflats, while the outer area is mainly rocky shores, with some sandy bays. The mudflats provide a valuable habitat for a range of bird species and the shallow waters on either side of the main shipping channel, which runs through the middle of the Lough, sustains a growing shellfish industry. Belfast Lough comprises of 2 coastal waterbodies: Belfast Lough Inner and Belfast Lough Outer. At the southwestern end of the Lough lies the city of Belfast, home to one of Northern Ireland's busiest ports.

Land Use and Ecology The surrounding land is predominantly used for improved grassland, suburban and urban development, arable farming, and areas of dense dwarf shrub heath. Belfast Lough LMA encompasses a range of ecologically important habitats and wildlife. Many of these areas have been designated as protected areas due to their ecological importance.

4.4.1 Water quality in the Belfast Lough LMA

The Belfast Lough LMA comprises of 6 rivers and 2 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 100 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 43) and half of these are officially designated as heavily modified (Ballyholme River, Copeland Water, Woodburn River, Lagan Estuary and Belfast Harbour). Additionally, there are 6 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Ballyholme River, Bangor (North Down), Copeland Water, Crawfordsburn River, Groomsport (North Down), Lough Mourne and Woodburn River.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 25 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this declined to 12.5 % and then declined further to 0 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

The bedrock groundwater body contained within the Belfast Lough LMA has poor chemical status but good quantitative status.

North Eastern River Basin District

4.4.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Belfast Lough LMA

Map 44 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Belfast Lough LMA

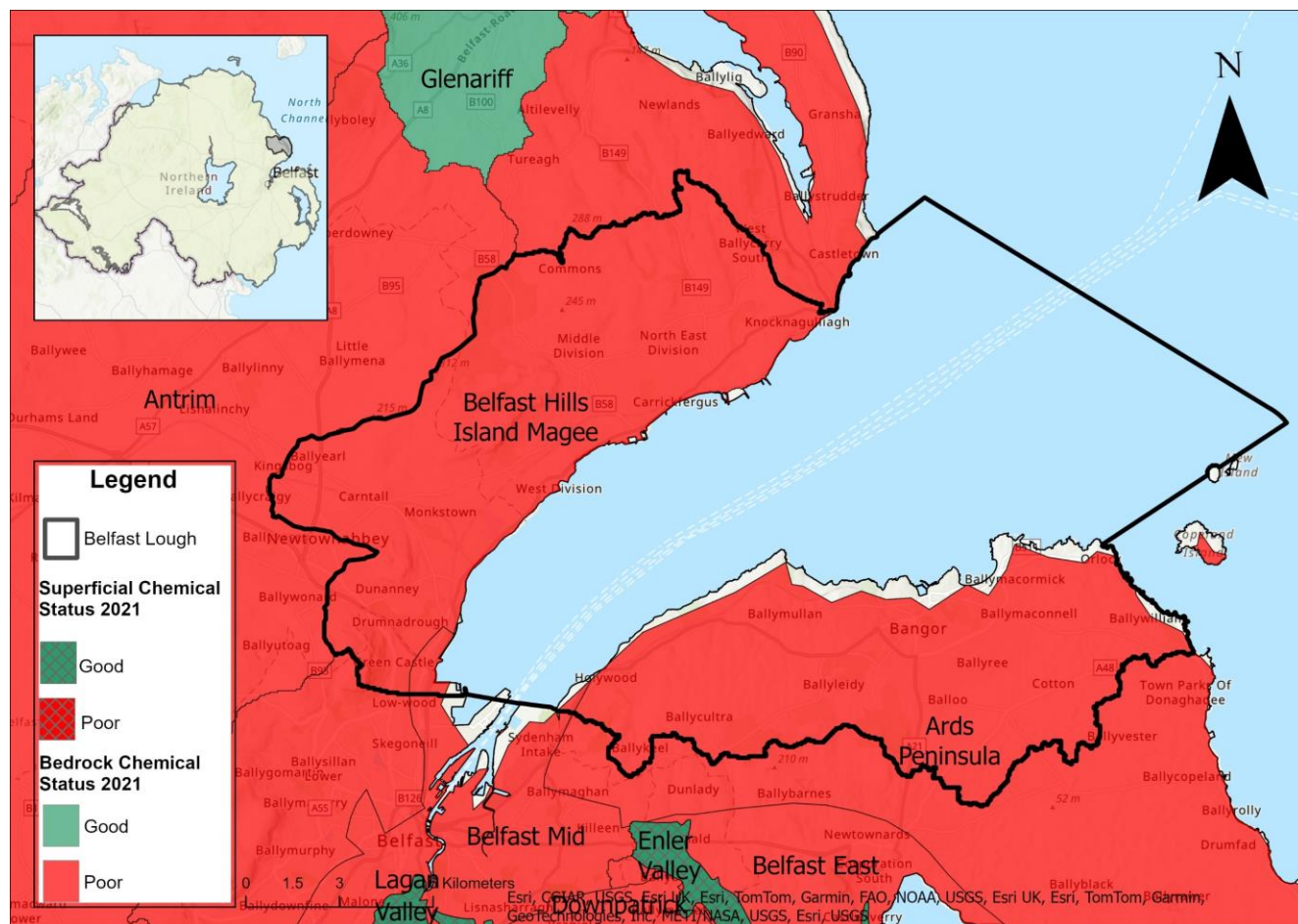


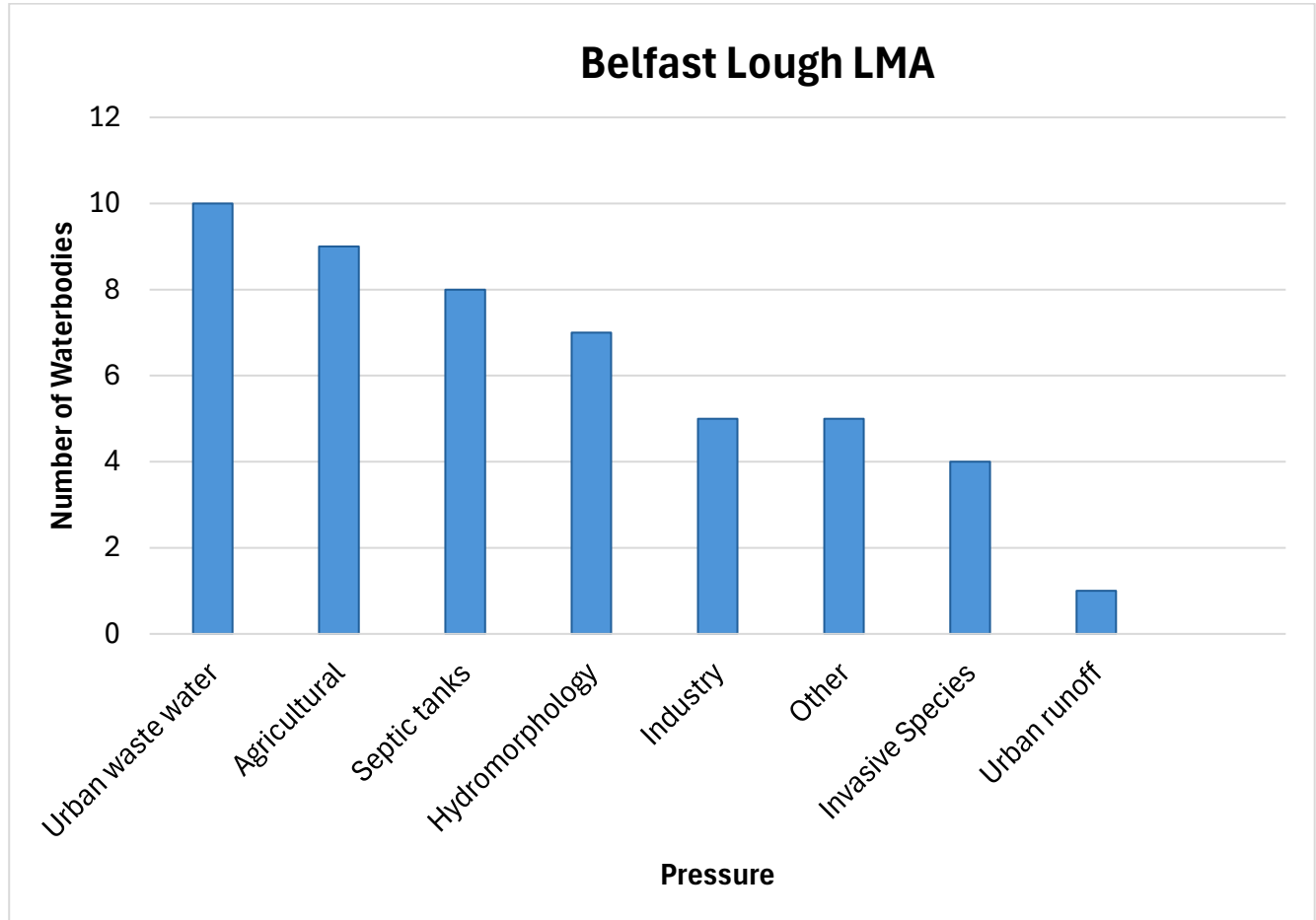
Table 63 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Belfast Lough LMA

Classification	Good	Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	1	100	0	0	1	100	1	100
	Poor	0	0	1	100	0	0	0	0

Ards Peninsula groundwater body is shown on the map above but not counted in the table. It is counted within the Strangford LMA.

4.4.4 Belfast Lough LMA Pressures

Figure 22 Pressures in Belfast Lough LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Belfast Lough LMA (Figure 22) are urban waste water, agricultural, septic tanks, hydromorphology and industry.

4.5 Overview of the Lagan Local Management Area

The Lagan LMA is in the North Eastern River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 606 km². The River Lagan rises around Slieve Croob and flows approximately 70 km to Stranmillis Weir at Belfast from which point it is transitional (estuarine). There are also sections of the river that feed the Lagan Canal. The Lagan Weir, further downstream from Stranmillis, is the lower limit of the River Lagan. From here the Lagan flows into the fully tidal Belfast Lough. This area also contains Belfast Harbour Estate, the busiest passenger port in Northern Ireland and handles 60 % of Northern Ireland's sea borne trade. George Best Belfast City Airport is also situated on the Estate. Lagan comprises of 2 coastal waterbodies: Belfast Harbour and Lagan Estuary.

The main populated areas include the cities of Belfast and Lisburn. Other significant towns are Moira, Dromore, Lurgan, Hillsborough and Carryduff.

Land Use and Ecology The main land use in Lagan LMA is improved grassland, with arable farming and suburban and rural development.

4.5.1 Water quality in the Lagan LMA

The Lagan LMA comprises of 17 rivers and 2 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 95 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 45). Blackstaff (Belfast) River, Connswater, Derriaghy River and River Lagan (Stranmillis) have been designated as heavily modified waterbodies due to flood risk management reasons. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Blackstaff (Belfast) River, Hillsborough Park Lake Stream, River Lagan (Dromara) and River Lagan (Stranmillis). Additionally, there is 1 coastal interbasin that has no official classification status. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Blackstaff (Belfast) River, Hillsborough Park Lake Stream, River Lagan (Dromara) and River Lagan (Stranmillis).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, 0 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this improved to 5 %, a level that remained unchanged in 2024.

Groundwater Status

The superficial groundwater body in the Lagan LMA is achieving good for both chemical and quantitative status. The 2 bedrock groundwater bodies are achieving good for quantitative but poor for chemical status.

North Eastern River Basin District

4.5.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Lagan LMA

Map 45 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lagan LMA

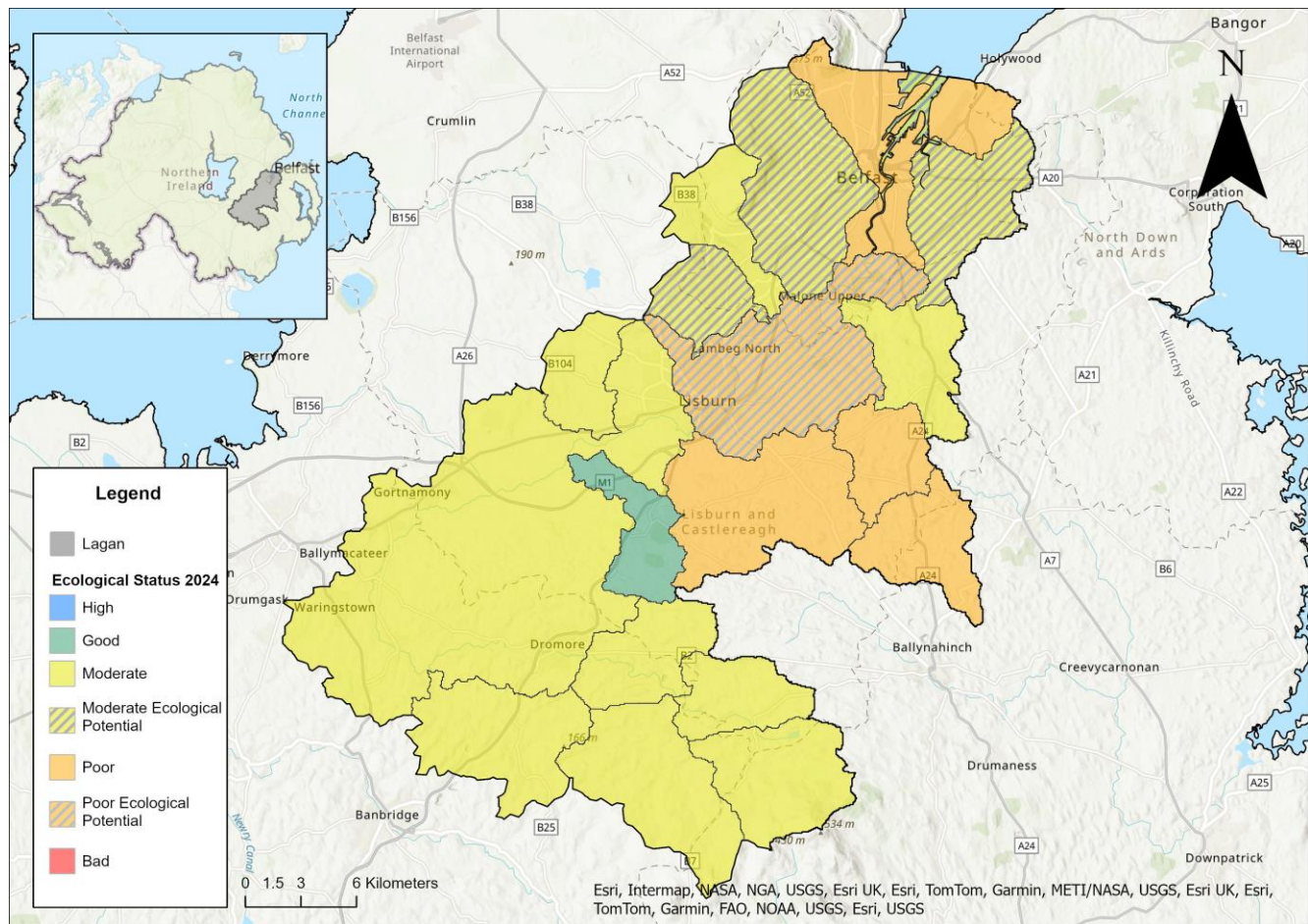


Table 64 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Lagan LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	0	0	1	5	1	5
Moderate/MEP	15	79	12	63	14	74
Poor/PEP	4	21	6	32	4	21
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 65 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Lagan LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	16	84	16	84	0	0	0	0
Bad	3	16	3	16	19	100	19	100

North Eastern River Basin District

4.5.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Lagan LMA

Map 46 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Lagan LMA

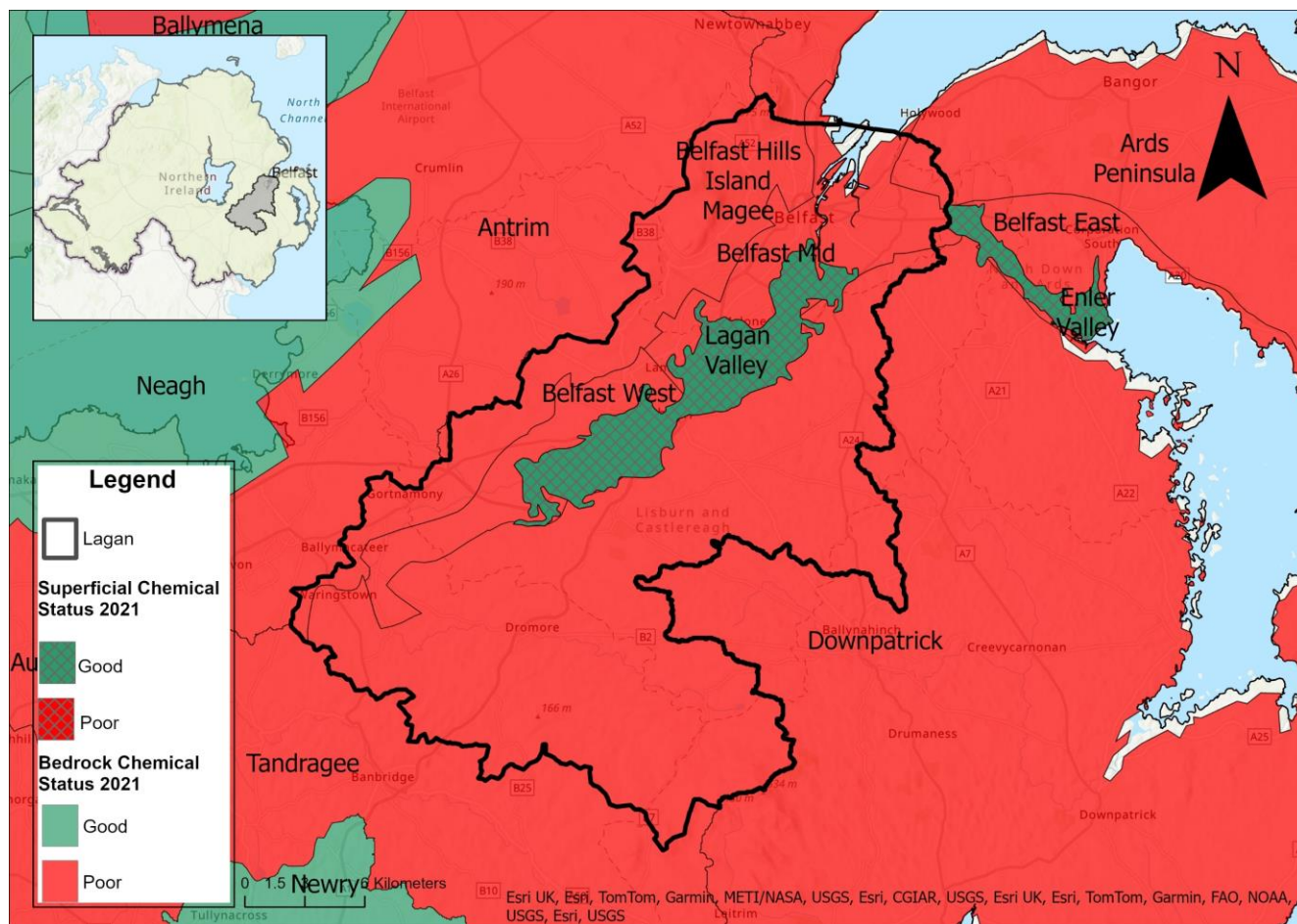


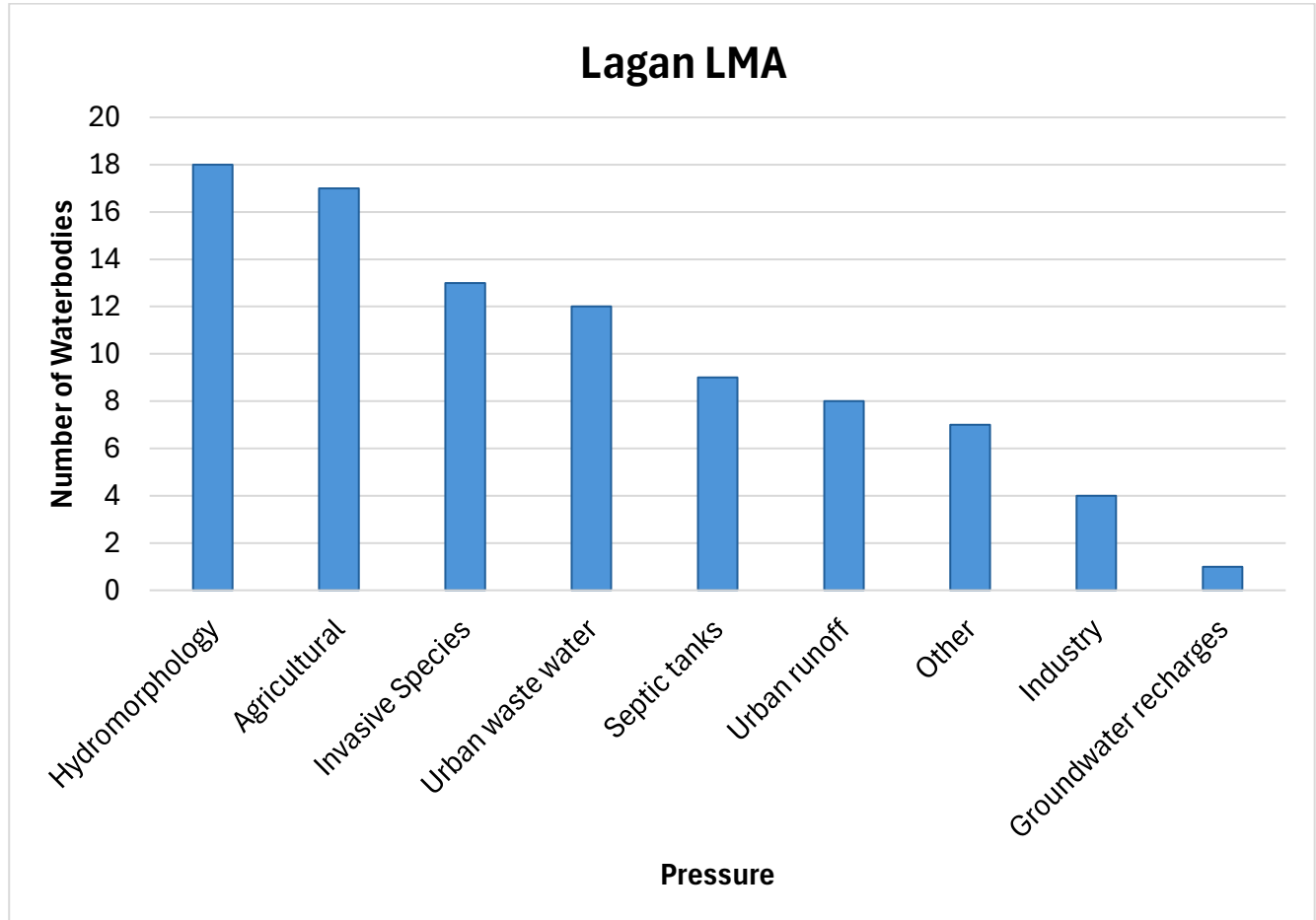
Table 66 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Lagan LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	0	0	0	0	1	50	2	100
	Poor	2	100	2	100	1	50	0	0
Superficial	Good	0	0	1	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0

Belfast Hills Island Magee groundwater body is shown on the map above but not counted in the table; it is counted within the Belfast Lough LMA. Additionally, Downpatrick groundwater body also shown on the map above but not counted in the table as it's counted within the South Down LMA.

4.5.4 Lagan LMA Pressures

Figure 23 Pressures in Lagan LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Lagan LMA (Figure 23) are hydromorphology, agricultural, invasive species, urban waste water and septic tanks.

4.6 Overview of the South Down Local Management Area

The South Down LMA is within the North Eastern River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 500 km². The area includes the eastern part of the Mourne Mountains, as well as the land area draining to Dundrum Bay and Killough Harbour. The main rivers that drain from the mountains are the Shimna and Burren Rivers at Newcastle, with the Kilkeel and Annalong Rivers to the south. The Carrigs, Moneycarragh and Blackstaff Rivers all drain into Dundrum Bay Inner which is important as a shellfish water and lies within the Murlough Special Area of Conservation.

There are also smaller coastal rivers that flow directly to the sea and some tributaries to the main rivers already named. Killough Harbour is also a shellfish water and is a Special Protected Area as it is an important habitat for Pale-Bellied Brant Goose. Dundrum Bay Outer includes the sea area that extends one nautical mile from the coastline between St. John's Point and Glasdrumman and contains the three designated bathing waters within this LMA. Newcastle is the largest settlement in the LMA.

Land Use and Ecology The Eastern Mournes is an SAC in the south of the LMA and is important for blanket bogs and North Atlantic wet heath.

4.6.1 Water quality in the South Down LMA

The South Down LMA comprises 15 rivers, 1 lake and 2 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 83 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 47). Additionally, there are 8 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status.

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 39 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this declined to 22 % and further declined to 17 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

There are three groundwater bodies in the South Down LMA, one is achieving good chemical status and two have poor chemical status. All three have good quantitative status.

North Eastern River Basin District

4.6.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the South Down LMA

Map 47 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in South Down LMA

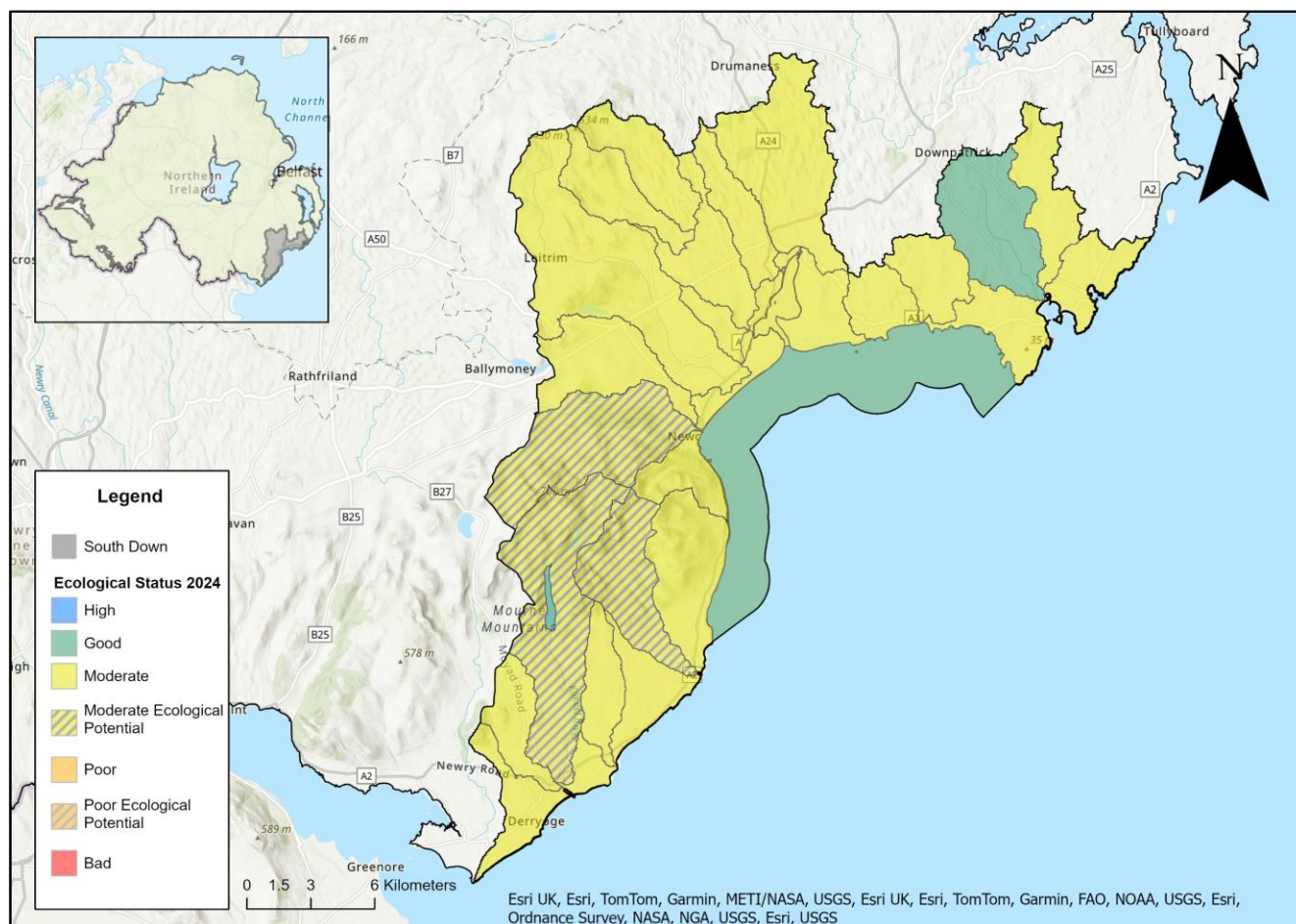


Table 67 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in South Down LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High/HEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	7	39	4	22	3	17
Moderate/MEP	9	50	13	72	15	83
Poor/PEP	2	11	1	6	0	0
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

Table 68 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in South Down LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	14	78	13	72	0	0	0	0
Bad	4	22	5	28	18	100	18	100

North Eastern River Basin District

4.6.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the South Down LMA

Map 48 Chemical status 2021 of groundwater bodies in South Down LMA

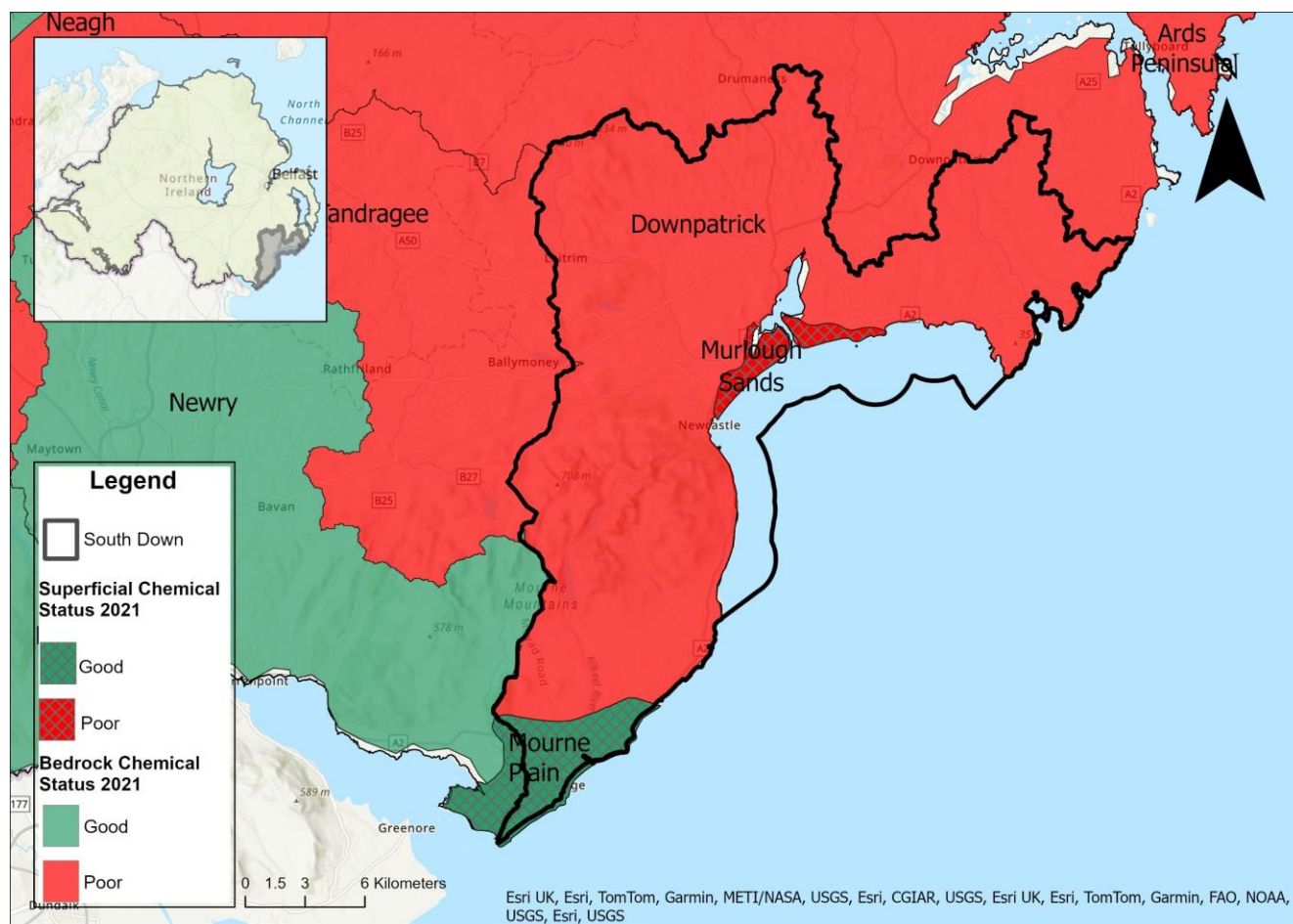
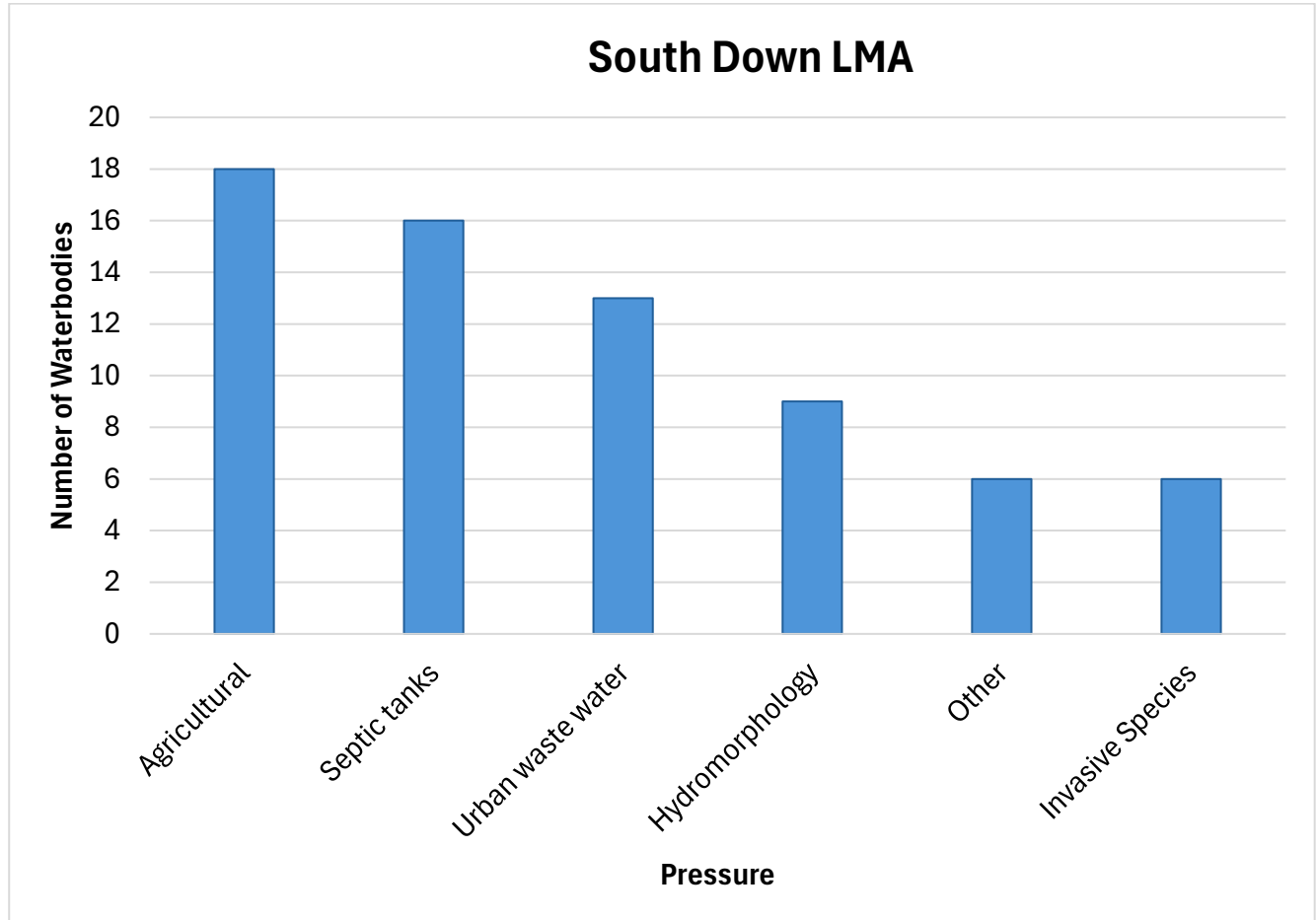


Table 69 Comparison of Chemical and quantitative status of groundwater in South Down LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	0	0	0	0	1	100	1	100
	Poor	1	100	1	100	0	0	0	0
Superficial	Good	1	50	1	50	1	50	2	100
	Poor	1	50	1	50	1	50	0	0

4.6.4 South Down LMA Pressures

Figure 24 Pressures in South Down LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the South Down LMA (Figure 24) are agricultural, septic tanks, urban waste water, hydromorphology and other.

4.7 Overview of the Quoile Local Management Area

The Quoile LMA, covers an area of approximately 245 km². The catchment has two different headwaters: Glasswater River rising around Saintfield town in the north and Ballynahinch River, northwest of Ballynahinch. The two headwaters converge to become the Annacloy River at Kilmore. The river then turns east and flows north before Downpatrick where it becomes the Quoile River which flows into the Quoile Pondage. The Quoile Pondage is an impoundment created by the Quoile Barrage. The Barrage was constructed in 1957 to prevent flooding in the Downpatrick area and was refurbished in 2007. It marks the boundary between the fresh and the saline waters although the Pondage is considered transitional. The largest town within the Quoile LMA is Ballynahinch.

Land Use and Ecology The main land cover is represented by improved grassland with a small amount of arable horticulture and neutral grass. The area has a range of habitats that have protected status and is a National Nature Reserve.

4.7.1 Water quality in the Quoile LMA

The Quoile LMA comprises of 6 rivers. Currently, 100 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 49). The Quoile Pondage has been officially designated as a heavily modified waterbody. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Ballynahinch River, Drumaness Tributary, McAuleys Lake Feeder and Quoile River.

Trends over Time

- There was no change between 2015, 2021 and 2024 in the number of waterbodies registered as good status (0 %).

North Eastern River Basin District

4.7.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Quoile LMA

Map 49 Ecological status/potential of surface waterbodies in Quoile LMA

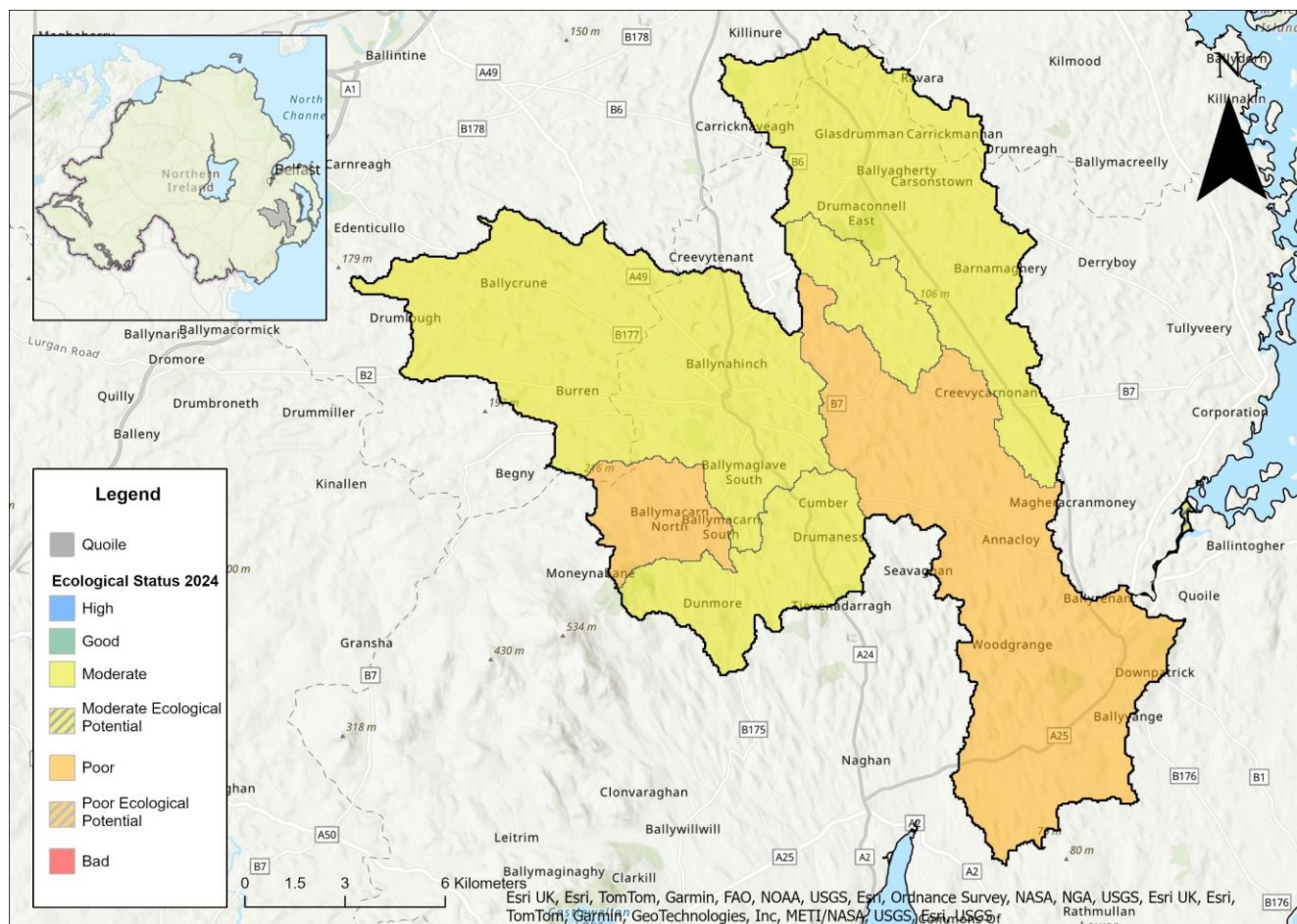


Table 70 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Quoile LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	0	0	0	0	0	0
Moderate/MEP	4	67	5	83	4	67
Poor/PEP	2	33	1	17	2	33
Bad/BEP	0	0	0	0	0	0

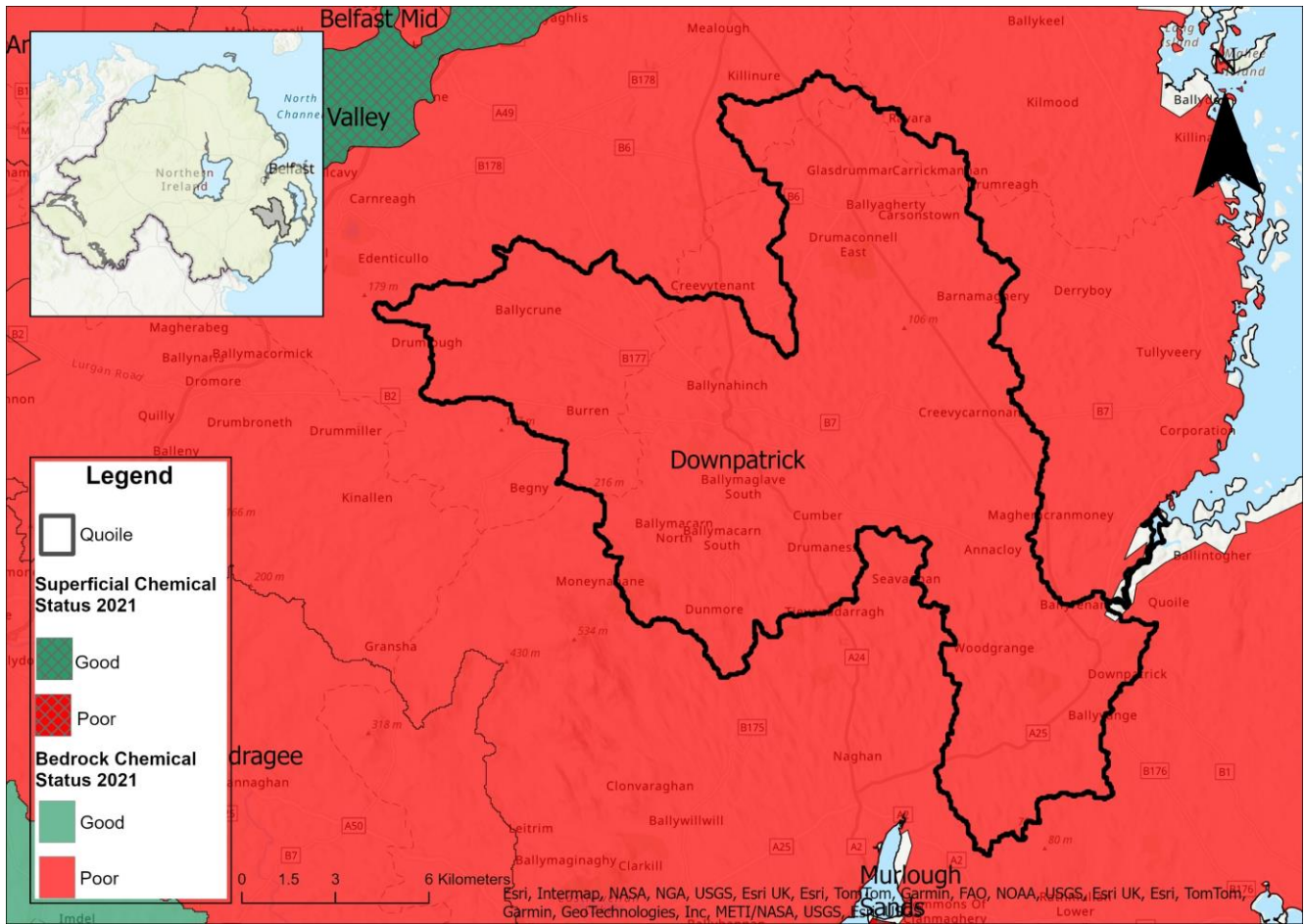
Table 71 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Quoile LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	5	83	5	83	0	0	0	0
Bad	1	17	1	17	6	100	6	100

North Eastern River Basin District

4.7.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Quoile LMA

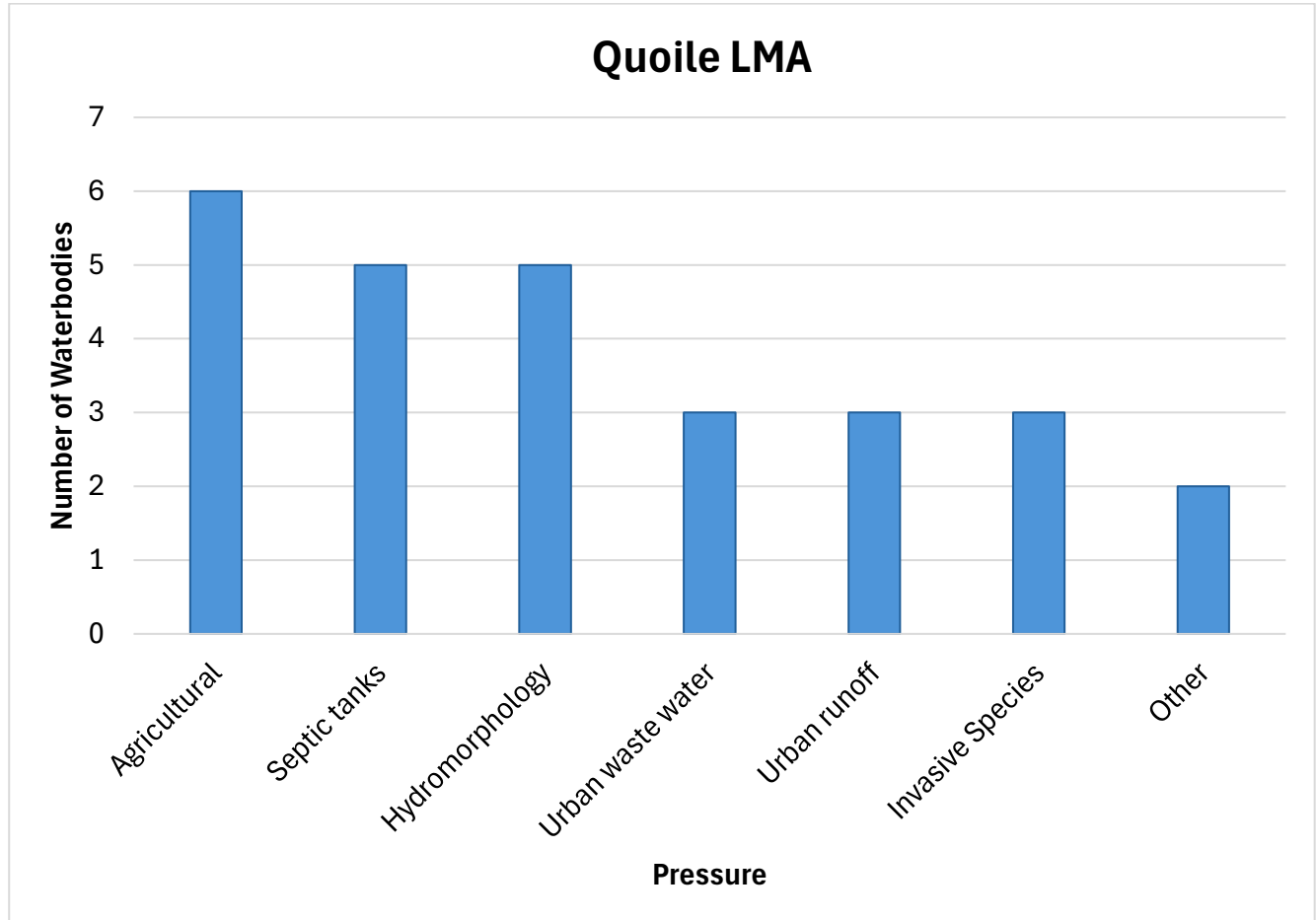
Map 50 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Quoile LMA



Downpatrick groundwater body is shown on the map above, although counted in the South Down LMA, therefore there is no comparison groundwater table for the Quoile LMA.

4.7.4 Quoile LMA Pressures

Figure 25 Pressures in Quoile LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Quoile LMA (Figure 25) are agricultural, septic tanks, hydromorphology, urban waste water and urban runoff.

4.8 Overview of the Strangford Local Management Area

Strangford LMA is in the North Eastern River Basin District and covers an area of approximately 885 km². The main rivers are River Blackwater (Ards) and Enler River. Strangford comprises of 4 coastal waterbodies: Quoile Pondage, Strangford Lough North, Strangford Lough South and Ards Peninsula (good ecological status). Numerous smaller rivers and streams exist throughout the area all entering Strangford Lough at various points. Strangford Lough itself is a large shallow sea lough with an indented shoreline that contains extensive areas of mudflats, sandflats, saltmarshes as well as a rocky coastline.

The largest towns include Newtownards, Dundonald, Comber and Downpatrick. There are also numerous smaller towns and villages in the area.

Land Use and Ecology The land usage is predominantly improved grassland, along with arable farming. Strangford Lough is one of the most important marine sites and many of the habitats and species have protected status. The lough supports economically important pot fishing and aquaculture and is a shellfish water protected area. It is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

4.8.1 Water quality in the Strangford LMA

The Strangford LMA comprises of 14 rivers, 1 lake and 4 coastal and transitional waterbodies. Currently, 100 % of surface waterbodies in the region are classified as having less than good ecological status (see Map 51). Cully's Burn, Enler River (Dundonald) and Quoile Pondage have been officially designated as heavily modified waterbodies. Additionally, there are 12 coastal interbasins that have no official classification status. Blue-green algae occurrences have been observed in the following waterbodies: Blackwater (Ards) River, Clea (W Strangford), Clea Lakes, Dibney River and Greyabbey (NE Strangford).

Trends over Time

- In 2015, only 5 % of waterbodies achieved good status.
- By 2021, this improved to 16 %, then declined back to 5 % in 2024.

Groundwater Status

There are three groundwater bodies in the Strangford LMA, two have poor chemical status and poor quantitative status. One is achieving good chemical status and good quantitative status.

North Eastern River Basin District

4.8.2 Summary of surface waterbodies in the Strangford LMA

Map 51 Ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Strangford LMA

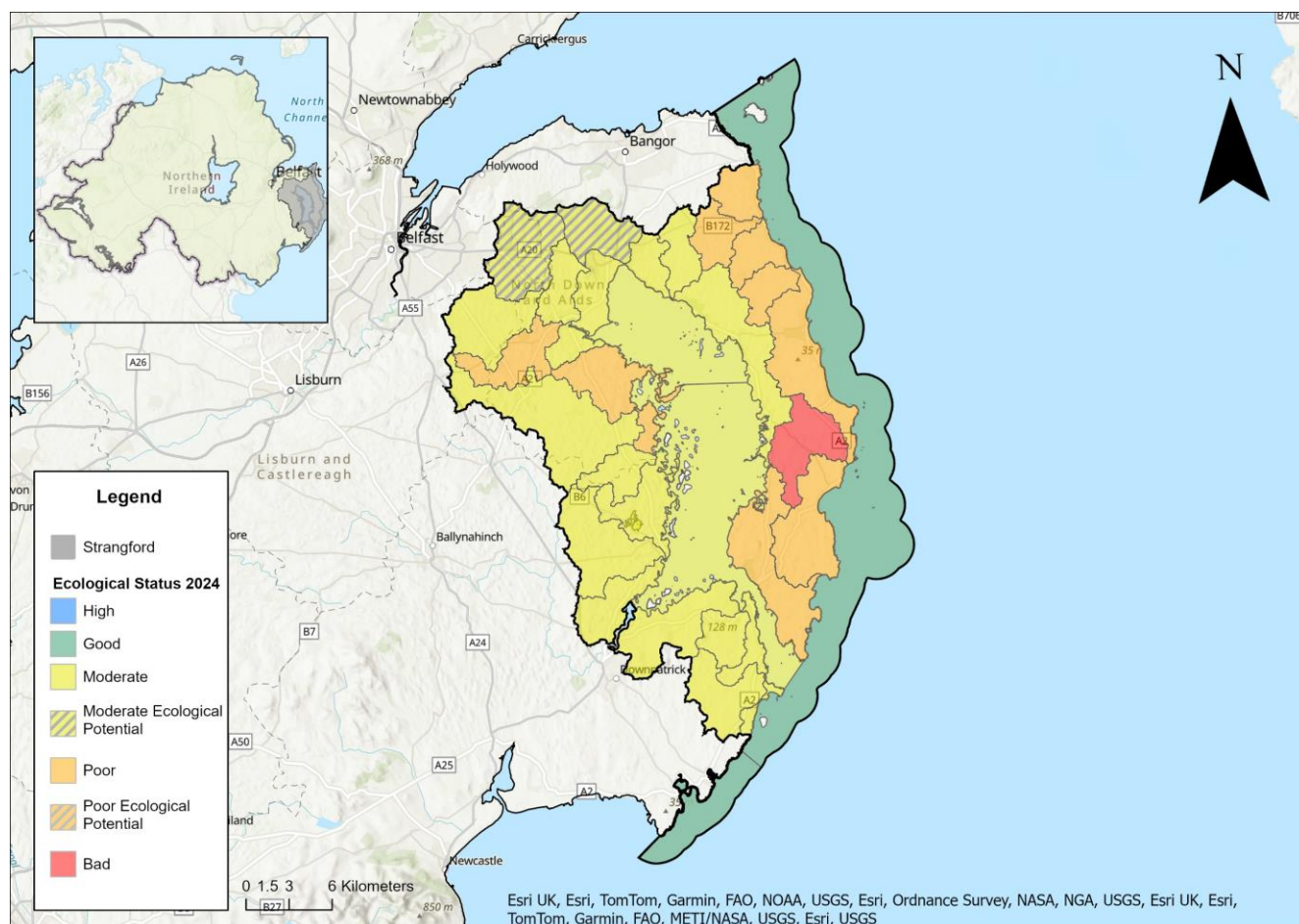


Table 72 Comparison of ecological status/ potential of surface waterbodies in Strangford LMA

Classification	Ecological status or potential					
	2015		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
High	0	0	0	0	0	0
Good/GEP	1	5	3	16	1	5
Moderate/MEP	11	58	12	63	14	74
Poor/PEP	6	32	3	16	3	16
Bad/BEP	1	5	1	5	1	5

Table 73 Comparison of chemical status of surface waterbodies in Strangford LMA

Classification	Chemical subgroup B				Chemical subgroup C			
	2021		2024		2021		2024	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Good	15	79	14	74	0	0	0	0
Bad	4	21	5	26	19	100	19	100

North Eastern River Basin District

4.8.3 Summary of groundwater bodies in the Strangford LMA

Map 52 Chemical status of groundwater bodies in Strangford LMA

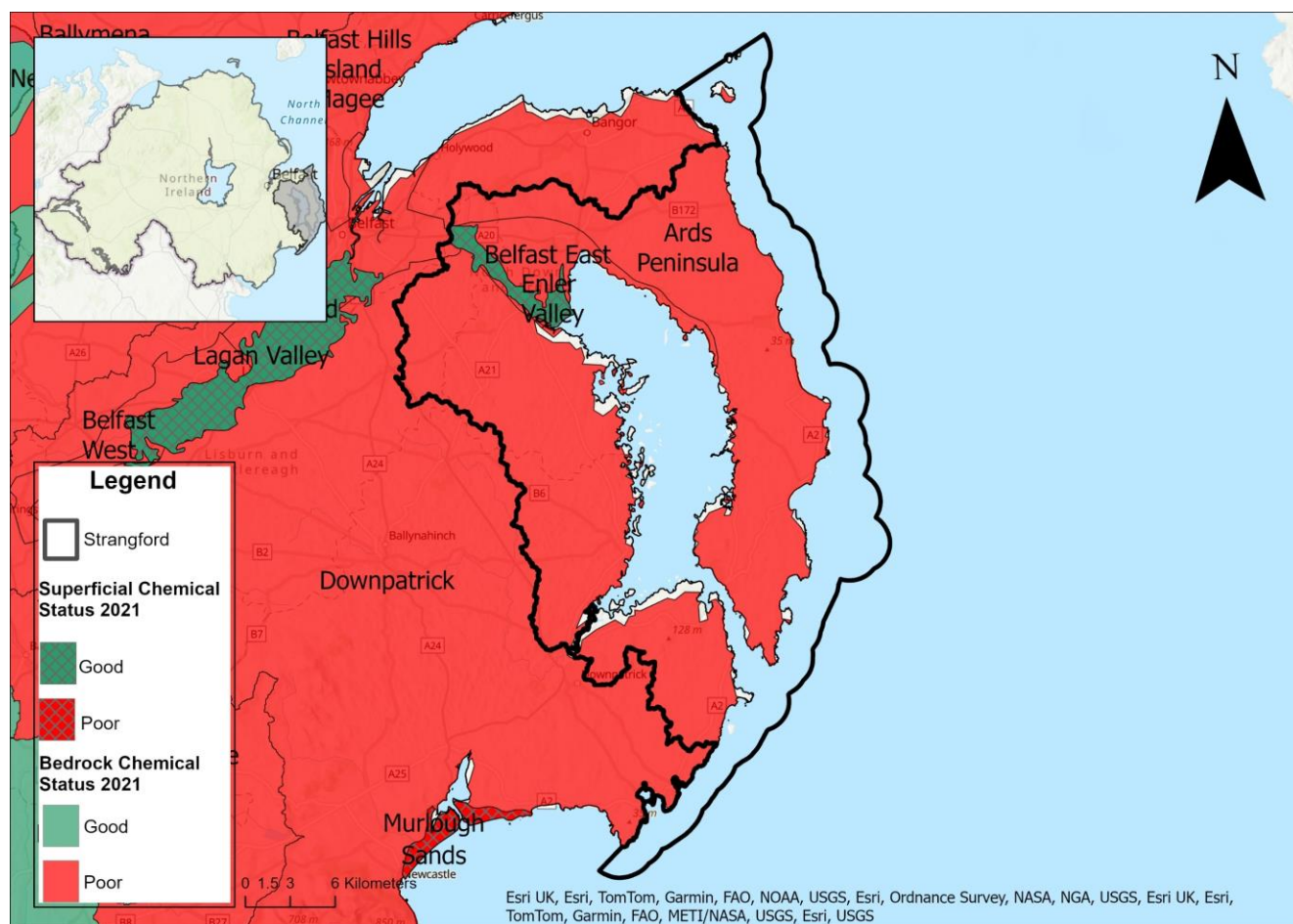


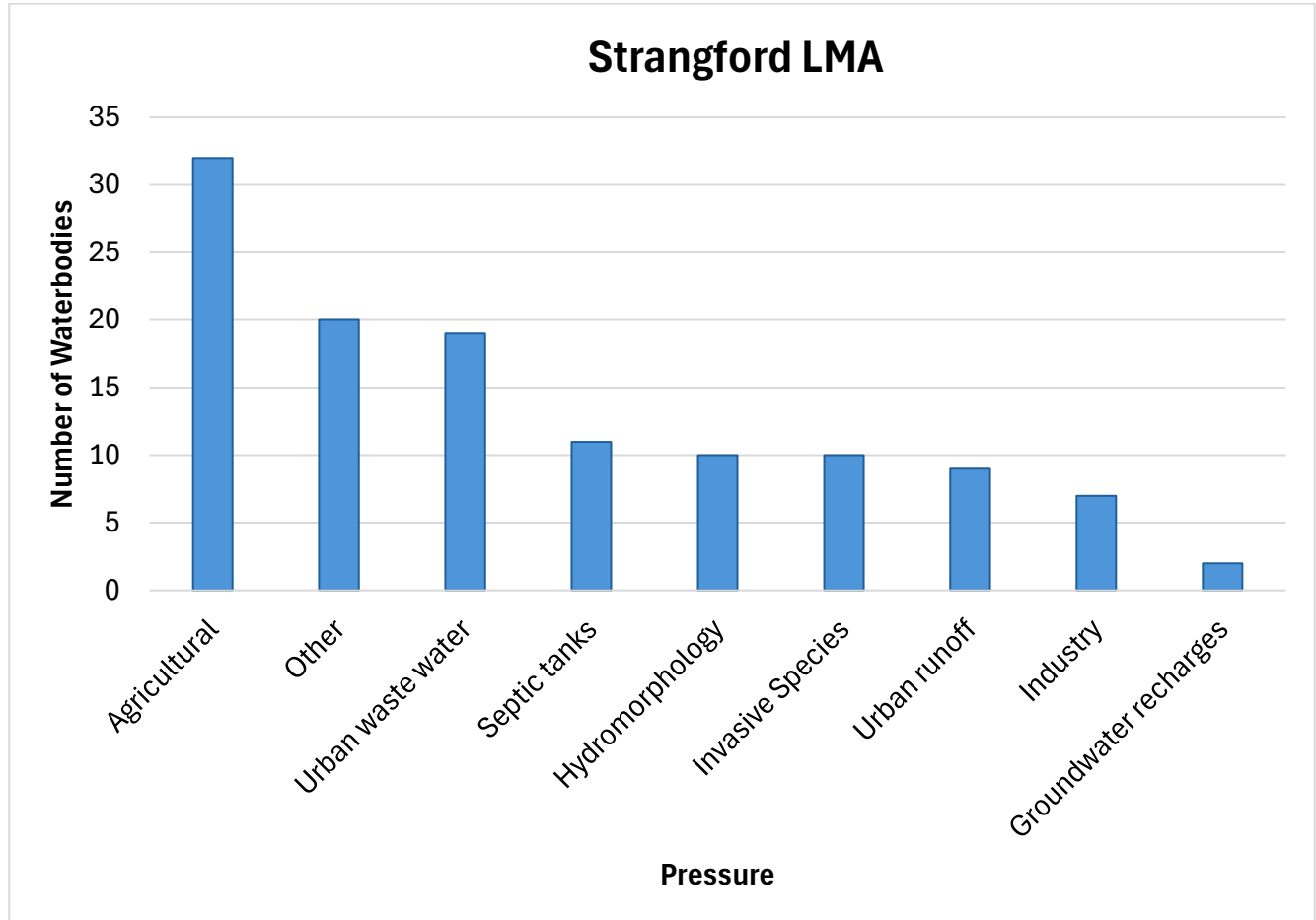
Table 74 Comparison of chemical and quantitative status of groundwater bodies in Strangford LMA

Classification		Chemical Status				Quantitative status			
		2015		2021		2015		2021	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Bedrock	Good	0	0	0	0	2	100	0	0
	Poor	2	100	2	100	1	0	2	100
Superficial	Good	0	0	1	100	1	100	1	100
	Poor	1	100	0	0	0	0	0	0

Downpatrick groundwater body is shown on the map above but not counted in the table; it is counted within the South Down LMA.

4.8.4 Strangford LMA Pressures

Figure 26 Pressures in Strangford LMA



The most frequently identified pressures in the Strangford LMA (Figure 26) are agricultural, other, urban wastewater, septic tanks and hydromorphology.



For further information:

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agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

An Agency w'in the Department o
**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

APPENDIX 3

Significant Water Management Issues 2025 Consultation Document – ANDBC Responses

4. Do you think we have correctly identified the significant issues impacting on water resources in Northern Ireland?

Yes – at a strategic level, the SWMI 2025 report correctly identifies the principal issues affecting water resources in Northern Ireland, including agriculture, wastewater, septic tanks, chemicals, invasive species and climate change.

However, while the main issues are largely correct, several significant pressures are under-represented, insufficiently distinguished, or grouped too broadly, which risks concealing root causes and making future measures less effective.

5. Are there other significant issues we have not captured? Yes as detailed below

In the Strangford Lough Local Management Area, while the report broadly identifies the main pressures affecting water quality, several significant issues are either insufficiently captured or subsumed within broad categories. These include drinking water abstraction and supply resilience, legacy nutrient loading in lakes, systemic wastewater capacity constraints, interactions with shellfish waters, private water supplies, cross-border governance challenges in shared catchments, and the scale of unknown or poorly characterised pressures. Clear recognition of these factors is necessary to ensure that measures developed for the fourth-cycle RBMP are proportionate, effective and appropriate for this strategically important coastal system.

5(i). Drinking water supply security

The report does not clearly address drinking water supply resilience

NI Water has acknowledged:

- a. Chronic leakage rates
- b. Over-abstracted catchments
- c. Increasing sensitivity to drought and climate variability

However, the document does not address:

- a. No explicit assessment of water resource availability
- b. No discussion of future demand growth

This needs to be assessed due to the worsening summer low-flow conditions and projected climate impacts (section 4.1.1 climate change).

5(ii). Wastewater infrastructure capacity & constraints on investment

The report says some WWTW are operating beyond their designed capacity.

However, it doesn't say what the scale of under-investment is, and how the waste water capacity constraints are restricting housing developments and economic development.

APPENDIX 3

Good water quality and sustained access to both coastal and inland waters are also vital to the development of Northern Ireland's outdoor water tourism product, helping to attract more visitors and supporting the NI economy.

It should also explicitly address intermittent discharges and combined sewer overflows during wet weather, including the scale, frequency and receiving-water impacts (particularly in protected areas such as shellfish waters and designated bathing sites). The RBMP should set out how these discharges will be monitored, reported transparently and prioritised for reduction alongside treatment works upgrades.

This needs to be analysed, as WWTW capacity failures are a major contributor to nutrient loading.

The NIW infrastructure deficits are structural and not fit for future capacity.

5(iii). Nutrient legacy

The report focuses on current nutrient inputs, particularly agriculture. However, there is no mention of legacy phosphorus in sediments, especially in Lough Neagh (and other lakes) despite all the recent reports on Lough Neagh by Minister Muir.

This is important for setting realistic ecological recovery timescales and for prioritising measures and investment; it should therefore be assessed in detail.

Legacy nutrients should be clearly recognised as a significant water management issue.

5(iv). Stormwater misconnection

Urban runoff is listed as affecting only 10% of waterbodies.

However, the report does not fully consider foul waste to surface drains, impacts of small-scale urban diffuse pollution, and poorly regulated private drainage systems

The issue is likely significantly under-recorded.

5(v). Private water supplies & rural drinking water quality

The report focuses only on surface waters, groundwater bodies and public water supply.

It does not clearly address:

- Private boreholes and wells
- Microbial and nitrate contamination risks
- Climate and drought impacts on small supplies

This is a gap from a public health and equality perspective.

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6. What interventions would you suggest to tackle these issues under the following four pillars? a) education b) incentivisation and innovation c) regulation d) enforcement**6a. Education**

Education should focus on behavioural change at source, improving understanding of cause-and-effect rather than simply raising awareness.

Key interventions

i. Targeted education

- Go beyond general campaigns and focus on targeted education in priority places (e.g., high-risk catchments, areas with high septic tank density, and towns with known stormwater misconnections).
- Co-deliver with councils, farming groups, angling clubs and coastal user groups

ii. Mandatory competency training

- Introduce mandatory refresher training for:
 - Septic tank owners (maintenance, desludging, compliance)
 - Operators of regulated agricultural activities in priority catchments
- Training should be outcome-focused and linked to environmental objectives and not just regulatory compliance

iii. Professional skills development

- Expand training for Planning officers, Drainage engineers, Environmental health practitioners
- Focus on urban drainage misconnections, SuDS, cumulative impacts and climate resilience

6b. Incentivisation and innovation

Incentives should be strategic, outcome-based and time-limited.

Key interventions

i. Catchment-targeted environment incentives

- Redirect incentives towards Phosphorus-critical source areas, livestock exclusion, and soil nutrient balance improvements
- Payment levels should reflect environmental risk, not just land ownership

ii. Septic tank upgrade and rationalisation schemes

- Provide targeted financial support for the replacement of high-risk or failing system and connections to sewers where feasible.
- Prioritise systems within Drinking Water Protected Areas and shellfish waters

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iii. Wastewater and stormwater innovation pilots

- Support demonstrator projects on enhanced nutrient removal, nature-based wastewater treatment solutions, and retrofit SuDS in constrained urban catchments

iv. Nature-based solutions at scale

- Incentivise wetlands and floodplain reconnection as dual climate and water quality measures
- Ensure schemes are designed at catchment scale, not site-by-site

6c. Regulation

Regulation should focus on clarity, consistency and proportion, with an emphasis on addressing the causes of degradation.

Key interventions

i. Strengthen nutrient regulation by introducing tighter phosphorus controls in nutrient-sensitive catchments, require nutrient budgeting and reporting in priority areas, and aligning agricultural regulation more closely with ecological objectives.

ii. Wastewater capacity as a regulatory constraint

- Recognise wastewater treatment capacity as an environmental limitation in:
 - Planning decisions
 - Growth strategies
- Prevent new connections where environmental objectives cannot be met without infrastructure upgrades
- Require transparent monitoring and reporting of intermittent discharges and storm overflows, and set out prioritised reduction plans based on receiving-water sensitivity (including bathing and shellfish waters).

iii. Septic tank regulatory reform could be aided by introducing periodic inspection or certification for existing septic systems and by strengthening controls on installations in unsuitable locations.

iv. Urban drainage standards to include SuDS in all new developments and introduce regulatory requirements to identify and correct surface water–foul misconnections.

v. Protected Areas focus by applying more stringent objectives consistently within drinking water protected areas, bathing waters and shellfish waters.

6d. Enforcement

Enforcement must be credible, and consistent, otherwise regulation and education will lose its legitimacy.

Key interventions

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i. Risk-based enforcement

Prioritise enforcement in failing waterbodies, known pollution hotspots, and high-risk catchments. And use environmental outcomes to determine enforcement

ii. Visible and proportionate sanctions to ensure penalties reflect environmental damage and the duration and recurrence of pollution.

Publicise results to strengthen deterrence and instil public trust.

iii. Cross-agency enforcement coordination will improve coordination between NIEA, Councils and NI Water. This would be particularly in relation to septic tanks, urban drainage and construction activity

iv. Data-led compliance monitoring using remote sensing, monitoring data and citizen reporting to detect unregulated discharges and identify legacy pressures. This would reduce over-reliance on complaints-based enforcement.

v. Transparency and follow-up: publish overflow/spill and compliance data and apply follow-up action where performance is persistently poor or where discharges are unpermitted.

7. *We will carry out screening or impact assessments when developing the draft Programme of Measures. Is there anything that you think needs to be considered when carrying out the Equality Screening, Rural Needs Assessment, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats screening? Please provide details.*

Yes. The following points should be considered:

Equality screening

- Some measures (e.g. septic tank upgrades, compliance costs) may excessively affect low-income households, older people, disabled people and those in isolated rural properties.
- Water quality improvements deliver public health benefits, particularly for vulnerable groups, which should be clearly recognised.
- Information and engagement must be accessible, including for people with limited digital access or additional support needs.

Rural Needs Assessment

- Rural areas rely more heavily on septic tanks, private water supplies and agriculture, and often lack realistic alternatives such as sewer connections.
- Regulatory and financial burdens should be proportionate, recognising higher costs and fewer options in rural communities.
- Impacts on the rural economy and farm viability should be considered alongside environmental benefits.

APPENDIX 3

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- The assessment should consider cumulative and long-term impacts, not just individual measures in isolation.
- Measures should be assessed for their resilience to climate change and their potential co-benefits for biodiversity, flood risk and carbon reduction.
- Any unintended environmental effects (e.g. on landscapes or soils) should be identified early.

Habitats screening

- Many protected sites depend directly on good water quality and appropriate flows, so measures should be tested against conservation objectives.
- Effects with other plans and projects should be considered.
- Early screening should help avoid measures that could unintentionally damage protected habitats.

Unclassified

ITEM 6

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	Consultation – Product Safety Framework & Product regulation: market surveillance and enforcement framework
Attachments	6.1 Appendix 1 - Product Safety Framework Consultation Response 6.2 Appendix 2 - Market Surveillance & Enforcement Consultation Response
File Reference (if applicable)	CW99
Legislation	Other Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 1: Economic 3. A thriving and sustainable economy If multiple:

Background

The UK Government started to carry out a Product Safety Review in 2019, the outcome of which was endorsed by Parliament in passing the Product Regulation and Metrology Act in July 2025.

The product safety regulatory framework is highly complex and technical, spanning a large number of products with 150 pieces of legislation, covering a huge variety of requirements. The current framework has been around since 1987 with the Consumer Protection Act containing officer powers and the General Product Safety Regulations in 2005, which has recently been updated for Northern Ireland under Regulation (EU) 2023/988 on General Product Safety, covering safety requirements for products on sale and responsibilities of those in the supply chain.

Given the age of the UK regulatory framework, it has not kept up to date with technology, in particular how consumers buy products. In March 2024, 25.4% of all UK retail sales occurred online, compared with just 10.8% ten years previously. This poses a challenge to enforcement authorities when taking action against unsafe goods for sale to local consumers.

Key Issues

To address these issues, the UK government has launched 2 consultations:

Product Regulation: The UK's New Product Safety Framework

This consultation sets out the UK Governments proposals for the new framework, grouped into the following themes:

- Getting the basics right: proposals for the new framework to cover a wider scope of products, updating how a safe product will be defined, and how the safety of a product can be assessed.
- Accountability throughout the supply chain: proposals for the definitions of businesses in scope of the new framework – producers, onward suppliers and online marketplaces – and their core obligations to proactively protect consumers from dangerous products.
- A new approach to product information: proposals to allow product information to be provided more flexibly – both physically and digitally – and to move towards a 'digital by default' approach to product information.
- Supporting enforcement activity: proposals for a consolidated set of duties to cooperate effectively with enforcement action.
- Building on the new foundations: proposals for additional tools to manage products posing greater risk of harm and paving the way for further reform of sector and product-specific regulations.

Product Regulation: Market Surveillance and Enforcement Framework

Through the proposals in this consultation, UK Government aims to:

- Simplify and consolidate enforcement powers to create a comprehensive, coherent, and effective regulatory environment.
- Widen the available options for civil sanctions by introducing monetary penalties, reducing reliance on criminal prosecution.
- Address enforcement challenges posed by online and international supply chains.
- Explore whether cost recovery should form part of the enforcement toolkit and if so, for what types of activities.
- Allow enhanced information sharing between relevant authorities, establishing clear statutory powers to facilitate the secure and effective exchange of data for the purposes of product regulation, safety, and compliance.

Next Steps

Council officers have drafted responses to both Consultations, attached as Appendices to this report for Members to consider.

Summary

The UK Government has launched two consultations to review the current Product Safety, Market Surveillance and Enforcement frameworks, which are widely recognised as outdated. Draft responses to both consultations have been prepared for Members' consideration and are attached as Appendices 1 and 2.

Officers agree that the existing frameworks require comprehensive review to ensure they remain fit for purpose in light of advances in technology, changing consumer behaviour, and evolving purchasing patterns, particularly the growth of online and cross-border trade.

At present, the enforcement landscape is fragmented and inconsistent, with multiple pieces of legislation providing differing powers depending on the product type and the point at which it enters the supply chain. This complexity can be confusing and difficult to navigate for both enforcing authorities and businesses. Officers therefore support the development of a single, coherent set of enforcement powers, which would improve consistency, transparency and regulatory clarity.

However, officers consider it essential that any new framework reflects the unique legal and regulatory position of Northern Ireland. In particular, the framework should preserve the additional powers currently available to Northern Ireland enforcement officers and avoid introducing further uncertainty.

While the potential introduction of civil monetary penalties is welcomed in principle, careful consideration is required, as such penalties are not currently available within Northern Ireland.

Given Northern Ireland's currently distinct position within the UK regulatory landscape, it is important that the Government gives due consideration to promoting a consistent and aligned approach between Northern Ireland and Great Britain, while recognising existing legal differences. In particular, any new framework should seek to minimise unnecessary regulatory divergence, providing greater clarity for businesses and enforcement authorities operating across jurisdictions. Through these consultations, officers seek to emphasise the importance of this approach to the UK Government.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Approves** the draft consultation responses, attached as Appendices 1 and 2.



Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Consultation on the UK's new product safety framework:

Response form

Summary

We are seeking views on a new, modernised and enhanced core product safety framework.

Please return to: ProductSafetyReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Closing: 23.59 on 23 June

Introduction

The existing product safety framework needs an upgrade. It is based on the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, introduced two decades ago, and overlaid with specific regulations for certain product sectors. We live in a world vastly different from the turn of the century, and the way people buy products has evolved. There are simply too many instances of dangerous products being sold to UK consumers, often online, resulting in serious harm.

The need for a new core framework was identified by the [Product Safety Review](#) and endorsed by Parliament in passing the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025. In this consultation we propose a new, modernised and enhanced framework giving people confidence that what they buy will be safe, thereby supporting growth and giving businesses incentives to invest by providing a level playing field, with clearer responsibilities and a more consistent and streamlined set of regulations.

Our proposals are grouped into the following themes:

1. Getting the basics right
2. Accountability throughout the supply chain
3. A new approach to product information
4. Supporting enforcement activity

The new core product safety framework will:

- require proactive action from everyone in the supply chain to protect consumers;
- reflect modern products and supply chains;
- capitalise on the opportunities new technology has provided for both businesses and consumers; and
- support delivery of the government's [Regulation Action Plan](#).

This consultation should be read together with its companion consultation on the market surveillance and enforcement aspects of the new framework. The proposals and questions in this document are in the format 'A1, A2' and in the other document are in the format 'B1, B2' Please ensure your answers reference the proposal and questions numbers with the correct letter and number.

[Read and respond to the consultation on market surveillance and enforcement.](#)

Confidentiality and data protection

DBT is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information. Details on how we collect and process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation when you respond to one of our public consultations are provided in the Confidentiality and data protection section of the [consultation document on GOV.UK](#). You can also read the [Public consultations privacy notice](#).

Your Details	
1. Your name	Gareth Kinnear
2. Your email address	Gareth.kinnear@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	<input type="checkbox"/>
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Name of organisation	Ards and North Down Borough Council
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 to 49	<input type="checkbox"/>
50 to 249	<input type="checkbox"/>
250 or more	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Type of organisation	
Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test House or Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consumer Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire and Rescue Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions			
Getting the basics right			
Question A1: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed scope of the regulations, including the exemptions from scope?			
Agree		Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	x	Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
<p>We disagree in principle with the proposed scope of the framework, as products intended for business or workplace use are already subject to enforcement under existing directives for which HSENI is the competent authority, for example the Machinery Safety Directive.</p> <p>While we recognise that the framework seeks to address identified gaps in product safety enforcement, there must be clear guidance and explicit consideration of HSENI's enforcement role in relation to business products. Consideration should be given to providing HSENI enforcement powers under General Product Safety Regulation to close a current regulatory gap.</p> <p>Without clear statutory boundaries or joint guidance between OPSS, local authorities and HSENI, there is a risk of inconsistent enforcement and duplication, particularly for products that may be used both by consumers and within the workplace.</p>			
Question A2: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed definition of a safe product?			
Agree		Neither agree nor disagree	x
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
<p>The extension of the scope to include maintenance requirements introduces additional variables that may affect whether the product considered safe. This will require suppliers to provide clear, reasonable instructions for maintenance supported by enforceable regulations.</p> <p>The proposed definition creates divergence with the definitions used in 2023/988 General Product Safety Regulation, which may create difficulties for NI Businesses and District Councils operating within a dual regulatory framework. In this context, detailed and consistent guidance will be essential to support enforcement.</p> <p>The inclusion of additional risks to property, domestic animals or the environment will allow more appropriate standards in relation to these products to be applied and enforced.</p>			
Question A3: Do you agree or disagree with the new list of considerations when assessing safety?			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	

Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
Agree as it broadly mirrors the considerations for assessing safety in 2023/988 General Product Safety Regulation.			
Question A4: Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to revoke the Food Imitations (Safety) Regulations 1989?			
Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
EU has repealed the equivalent EU law for food imitating products, so revoking these regulations will also ensure a consistent position across the UK.			
Question A5: Do you agree or disagree that essential safety requirements, testing or conformity assessment may be useful in the new framework?			
Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
<p>Agree in principle there needs to be clear guidance and consideration should be given to mirroring the approach set out in 2023/988 GPSR to avoid divergence.</p> <p>The unique situation of NI which requires alignment with both UK and EU markets and legislative requirements, must be fully taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and avoiding any potential divergence issues.</p>			
Question A6: Do you agree or disagree with introducing the 'designation' mechanism for products covered by the framework?			
Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
The unique position of NI requiring alignment with both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements need to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and avoiding potential divergence issues.			
Question A7: In what circumstances, if any, might it be appropriate to designate a standard from a competent standards body other than BSI, European standards bodies, or international standards bodies?			

It may be appropriate to designate a standard from another competent standards body **only where there is a clear, objective justification**, such as:

- Absence of suitable recognised standards
- Sector-specific expertise not reflected in BS/EN/ISO standards
- Urgent or emerging risks
- Legal or international requirements
- Demonstrable equivalence or superiority

Such designations should be **exceptional, transparent, proportionate**, and avoid unnecessary barriers to compliance or competition.

Question A8: Are there any further actions you believe we should be taking to ensure lithium-ion batteries within consumer products are safe?

Overall, the aim should be to ensure lithium-ion batteries remain safe throughout their entire life cycle, not merely at the point of manufacture or sale.

This should include controls relating to replacement batteries, compatibility of chargers, and risks arising from repair, refurbishment and second-hand sales.

Accountability throughout the supply chain

Question A9: Do you agree or disagree with the requirement that producers must only place safe products on the market?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Links should be made to the definitions set out in 2023/988 GPSR to ensure consistency and avoid any divergence issues. Needs to be a more responsive attitude to the market and guidance for the different types of markets and their obligation.

In 2023/988 GPSR the definition of “Producer” has been changed to “manufacturer” causing the roles of an economic operator to be defined differently in GPSR 2005 2023/988 GPSR thus causing divergence issues within Northern Ireland.

Question A10: Do you agree or disagree with the requirement that onward suppliers should act with due care and not supply a product unless it is compliant?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Links should be made with 2023/988 GPSR definitions to ensure consistency and avoid any divergence issues. Needs to be a more responsive attitude to the market and guidance for the different types of markets and their obligation.

Question A11: Do you agree or disagree that online marketplaces should be required to act with due care to prevent, identify and remove non-compliant products from their sites?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

From previous experience sites remove a single product on request however do not follow up with same product being sold by multiple other suppliers. We agree in principle that online marketplaces should be required to identify and remove all non-compliant product from their sites, however this needs to be supported by clear guidance and adequate enforcement powers provided to MS authorities.

From an Environmental Health and product safety enforcement perspective, we support the proposed requirement that onward suppliers must act with due care and should not supply a product unless it is compliant.

The proposal appropriately reflects that product safety is a **shared responsibility across the supply chain**, rather than resting solely with producers. To ensure the requirement can be implemented effectively and consistently, it will be important that:

- Clear and practical guidance is published illustrating what “due care” means for different types of onward supplier
- Guidance is aligned with enforcement practice and supported by appropriate training where necessary
- Expectations are clearly communicated to small and medium-sized enterprises

Question A12: Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of a requirement that online marketplaces should practice due diligence to identify and take action against non-compliant sellers and sellers that provide non-compliant goods?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

This will help promote consistency across enforcing authorities and provide businesses with greater confidence in how to meet their obligations.

From enforcement experience, non-compliant or dangerous products are frequently encountered at the retail, wholesale or fulfilment stage, including cases where producers are based overseas or are difficult to identify or engage. Introducing a clear duty on onward suppliers to:

- Remain alert to product safety alerts, recalls and known hazards
- Maintain proportionate checks and internal procedures
- Refrain from supplying products where compliance is uncertain

would enable earlier intervention before harm occurs, reduce reliance on reactive enforcement once products have reached consumers, and improve the effectiveness of corrective actions such as product withdrawals and recalls.

This approach is particularly important in the context of e commerce and fulfilment based supply models, where onward suppliers may represent the only UK based economic operator with meaningful control over products entering the market.

As officers we do not have the tools to trace, trace and take enforcement action against rogue online sellers / carry out online forensic investigation.

The proposed requirement for online marketplaces to verify seller contact details is essential, particularly in NI where Councils are experiencing an increase in businesses registering in vacant premises or addresses with multiple businesses registered to it in an attempt to hold both UK and EU registered addresses to comply with legislative requirements.

Question A13: In which situations or for which products do you think additional verification requirements or local presence requirements would be useful?

We are of the opinion that all products require additional verification and local presence requirements. If a responsible person will not be a legal requirement for all products this causes a divergence issue for NI under a number of different regulations i.e. 2023/988 GPSR and products in scope of Article 4 of the market surveillance regulation.

To differentiate between high and low risk products would require a risk assessment for each product type, and cause further confusion for consumers and business.

Question A14: Do you agree or disagree that we should give all supply chain actors a duty to participate in monitoring of products already supplied and to cooperate in corrective action?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Agree as this places an onus on businesses to notify Market Surveillance (MS) authorities and take corrective action in line with 2023/988 GPSR requirements.

Question A15: Do you agree that all supply chain actors should have a duty to cooperate with relevant authorities and others in the supply chain?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Effective cooperation is fundamental to protecting consumers and other users from unsafe products. In practice, enforcement action is often delayed or undermined by difficulties obtaining timely, accurate or complete information from businesses within the supply chain. A clear, consistent duty to cooperate would help address these issues and support more effective and proportionate enforcement.

Question A16: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for online marketplaces and producers to have a single point of contact?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

This is beneficial however there needs to be an onus on businesses to update contact details, understand the responsibilities associated with this role and for MS authorities to have adequate enforcement powers. A central directory of these contact details should be available to market surveillance authorities.

We consider the proposal especially important for online marketplaces, given their central role in modern supply chains and the volume and speed at which products are made available to consumers. Clear and reliable contact arrangements would support more effective cooperation, particularly where rapid action is required to mitigate risk.

Overall, a requirement for a single point of contact would be a practical and proportionate measure that strengthens communication between businesses and relevant authorities and supports a more effective product safety framework.

A new approach to product information

Question A17: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for information that must be provided on or with the product?

Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Should this progress the information needs to be provided in a consistent format, that is easy for the consumer to read and understand. This information must also contain, in a standard consistent format, information for MS authorities to suitably assess compliance.

The proposed information requirements reflect the core purposes of product information, namely:

- Enabling products to be used and handled safely
- Supporting traceability and accountability within the supply chain
- Allowing enforcement authorities to identify responsible economic operators and take timely action where risks arise.

However, the acceptance of digital labelling again will cause divergence for NI businesses and MS authorities who will be required to continue with printed information.

Question A18: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed types of information that can be provided digitally?			
Agree		Neither agree nor disagree	x
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
We are of the opinion that the proposed information including safety warnings should remain present on the product or its packaging so it is clearly visible, and can easily be seen on purchase, particularly by vulnerable consumers on purchase.			
Question A19: What, if any, protections would be necessary to ensure that consumers with limited digital access or low digital confidence online are not disadvantaged?			
From an Environmental Health perspective, consumer protection frameworks must remain inclusive and proportionate. While digital labelling can improve efficiency and access to information, it is essential that critical product information remains accessible to all consumers. A combined approach is therefore necessary to ensure that no consumer is placed at increased risk due to limited digital access or low confidence.			
Question A20: Are there any further actions you believe we should take beyond the existing and proposed requirements to ensure period products are safe?			
We agree with the introduction of safety standards, and as MS authorities rely on the provision of standards to inform enforcement decisions and support consistent enforcement action.			
Question A21: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed information that producers and onward suppliers selling products online should provide on an online listing?			
Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			
We agree, however, this may present practical challenges in relation to the identification of businesses, access to closed or private online platforms (including those requiring registration), and the effective enforcement of such legislative requirements.			
Question A22: Do you agree or disagree that online marketplaces should be required to design their interface to allow sellers to provide customer information?			
Agree	x	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
Please explain your answer			

Agree however this will present difficulties in the identification of businesses, accessing closed sites and the enforcement of such legislation. The measures must be supported by robust enforcement powers and appropriate penalties to ensure compliance.

Question A23: Should online marketplaces introduce additional steps, such as verifying certain product information or making some information mandatory, before listings are published?

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please explain your answer

From an Environmental Health perspective, online marketplaces should have a verified presence in the UK (GB) or Northern Ireland, including a confirmed name, physical address and (where applicable) a Companies House registration, with an identifiable person responsible for product safety, is essential to enable effective enforcement. Such businesses should also be able to verify key product safety information and making specified details mandatory before listings go live.

Requiring information such as producer or importer details, compliance declarations, traceability information, and relevant safety warnings at the point of listing would help prevent unsafe or non-compliant products entering the market, particularly via third-party sellers and overseas suppliers.

Building on the new foundations

Question A24: Do any of the provisions in existing sector regulations fit these categories?

Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If you responded ‘Yes’, please provide details of the provisions and your reasons. If you consider that any of the additional tools in proposals A5 or A9 may be helpful for the relevant products, you may include this in your response.

Suggest review of children’s nightwear and children’s dress up costumes to fall under the new framework with product specific standards.

Inclusion of food packaging which might cause physical harm and is not included under the materials and articles in contact with food regulations – i.e. sharp bottle tops / cans which District Councils have received complaints of following injury however no specific guidance / standard exists.

Motor vehicle tyres and the pedal bicycles regulation could be incorporated with an additional standard.

Jewellery products are considered under REACH however additional requirements under GPSR would assist enforcement.

Question A25: Are you aware of any data or evidence on the types of AI-enabled products that are likely to be manufactured in the future?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
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If you responded ‘Yes’, please detail the data or evidence you are aware of.

This Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.

Question A26: What do you think are the current or potential harms associated with AI-enabled products?

This Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.

Question A27: How can we ensure that the reformed product safety framework effectively addresses the unique challenges posed by AI-enabled products and digital innovations, while supporting innovation?

When responding to the question, please consider:

- Is the framework proposed in this consultation sufficient?
- Are any additional sector-specific provisions required?
- What new approaches might be needed to safeguard consumers while supporting innovation, and how could measures such as consumer information, standards, quality assurance, data governance, documentation requirements or human oversight improve the safety of AI-enabled products?

This Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.

Question A28: Considering that the role of AI can adapt and evolve across a product's entire life cycle, how can regulation best account for this?

Regulation should be flexible, risk-based and take account of a product throughout its lifecycle subject to reasonable use, recognising that such products can evolve through updates and learning after being placed on the market.

Safety requirements should therefore include ongoing monitoring, clear responsibility across supply chains (including software providers and marketplaces), be proportionate, transparent to support enforcement and accountability.

Please return to: ProductSafetyReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk



Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

The UK's new core product regulation market surveillance and enforcement framework

Response form

Introduction

This consultation survey is to be read alongside the consultation document ([link to gov.uk page](#)) and seeks your feedback on proposed reforms to modernise and strengthen the UK's market surveillance and enforcement framework under the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025.

The proposals cover:

- Consolidating and modernising enforcement powers into a single toolkit.
- Improving market surveillance across all routes to market, including online marketplaces.
- Introducing proportionate civil sanctions and enforcement undertakings.
- Strengthening information sharing powers between relevant authorities.
- Exploring whether cost recovery should be included and for what activities.

Your views will inform the final design of a coherent, fair and effective enforcement and market surveillance system that supports consumer protection, compliant businesses, and efficient regulation.

Confidentiality and data protection

Information you provide in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation (the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please tell us, but be aware that we cannot guarantee confidentiality in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

We will process your personal data in accordance with all applicable data protection laws. See our [privacy policy](#). In addition, please be aware that OPSS uses Qualtrics survey software to process online responses, this involves personal data being sent outside the European Economic Area (EEA). Any processing outside of the EEA will be subject to the safeguards specified within the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and the Data Protection Act 2018.

We will summarise all responses and publish this summary on gov.uk. The summary will include a list of names or organisations that responded, but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Your Details	
1. Your name	Gareth Kinnear
2. Your email address	Gareth.kinnear@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4. Name of organisation	Ards and North Down Borough Council
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	
10 to 49	
50 to 249	
250 or more	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Type of organisation	
Business	
Trade Association	
Test House or Laboratory	
Consumer Body	
Local Authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Fire and Rescue Service	
Government Body	
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions	
Proposal B1 Consolidating and Modernising Powers	
B1a. Do you agree that the UK product regulation market surveillance and enforcement legislation should be reformed to establish a single, coherent set of enforcement powers available regardless of where it might be utilised within the product journey (e.g. at the border)?	
Strongly agree	X
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B1b. Please explain your answer	
<p>The current enforcement framework is disjointed, inconsistent, often confusing and difficult to navigate with multiple pieces of legislation providing varying powers dependant on the product type and point in the supply chain. One single set of powers would provide greater consistency and transparency for both enforcing authorities and businesses.</p> <p>Merging the current framework to a simplified enforcement toolkit would also improve officer confidence when taking enforcement action, meaning it is more likely that officers will utilise their suite of resources. At present the need to correctly identify applicable product specific legislation, and match this to appropriate relevant enforcing legislation can act as a barrier to enforcement, and in some cases officers are discouraged from taking formal action due to the complication of interpretating available powers.</p> <p>Northern Ireland local authorities welcome the proposal of one single set of enforcement regulations that apply across GB and Northern Ireland equally.</p> <p>A single framework would support more effective and proportionate enforcement.</p>	

B2a. Do you agree this new enforcement 'toolkit' should apply to product regulation more widely, beyond product safety? For example, should apply to measuring instruments and non-automatic weighing instruments (but not to other metrology legislation e.g. specified quantities)	
Strongly agree	x
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B2b. Please explain your answer	
<p>Although councils in NI do not enforce weights and measures legislation, extending the toolkit beyond product safety would promote consistency with other areas such as construction products. It would also help address enforcement gaps that have been identified in practice, for example during the introduction of the Single Use Vape legislation.</p>	
B3. What challenges might there be in having fewer, more flexible, consolidated, enforcement powers for product regulations?	
<p>A proposed single enforcement framework must be capable of being used equally by Northern Ireland councils, including for the enforcement of EU Directives and Regulations that continue to apply in Northern Ireland. Without this, enforcement officers would face significant practical challenges in carrying out their regulatory functions.</p> <p>The framework should also address existing variations in enforcement powers between the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the Market Surveillance (Northern Ireland) Regulations, where the latter currently provide broader and more effective powers.</p>	
B4. What additional reforms to existing powers would improve enforcement of metrology legislation?	
<p>Councils in Northern Ireland do not enforce metrology legislation.</p>	

B5a. Which provisions in product regulation legislation create unnecessary administrative process? Please describe and explain any administrative burdens you are aware of.

The exercise of powers of entry, including determining when such powers are appropriate, together with the additional requirement to provide a notice of powers and rights under PACE, introduces additional complexity during enforcement visits.

A simplified approach, while still ensuring compliance with PACE requirements, would reduce the risk of enforcement action or prosecution being undermined due to delay or the incorrect application of these provisions.

B5b. Please provide what you think could be an alternative.

The use of notices similar to those available within health and safety and food functions, such as improvement notices, prohibition notices, or remedial action notices would provide an efficient and proportionate mechanism for taking immediate enforcement action.

Similarly, the availability of compliance notices under the Market Surveillance Regulation allows formal enforcement action to be taken without the need to progress directly to prosecution, mirroring the principles underpinning enforcement undertakings discussed later in the consultation. This approach supports timely compliance while reserving prosecution for the most serious or persistent breaches.

When creating a single enforcement framework, consideration must also be given to the powers available in respect of goods not yet in circulation, such as those at ports and borders, or in transit, to ensure that appropriate and equivalent enforcement options are available across all stages of the supply chain.

B6. How could we simplify enforcement provisions (including for market surveillance) across the UK to establish a coherent and consistent UK-wide framework that supports effective enforcement in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in line with the government's Windsor Framework obligations?

Enforcement regulations and officer powers need to be consistent across legislative regimes. At present, discrepancies exist for enforcement authorities in Northern Ireland depending on whether they are enforcing the Consumer Rights Act or the Market Surveillance (NI) Regulations.

For example, the Market Surveillance (NI) Regulations provide stronger powers to obtain products, including test purchases, for the purposes of determining non-compliance. Importantly, these powers may be exercised by officers acting under a cover identity, whereas comparable powers are not available under the current Consumer Rights Act 2015.

To assist Northern Ireland councils, the powers contained within the Market Surveillance (Northern Ireland) Regulations should be replicated or consolidated into a single set of regulations that can be uniformly enforced in Northern Ireland.

Proposal B2 Addressing the enforcement challenges of global and online supply chains

B7. What bespoke powers are required to enforce against online and overseas supply chain actors, in addition to the broad powers outlined under Proposal B1?

A requirement for businesses to have a verifiable presence in the GB or Northern Ireland, including a confirmed name, physical address and (where applicable) a Companies House registration, with an identifiable person responsible for product safety, is essential to enable effective enforcement.

Councils have repeatedly received referrals where the provided business address, when investigated, is found to be vacant, non-existent, or a shared mailing address with no identifiable responsible person. Such arrangements significantly hinder enforcement action and regulatory engagement.

Councils in Northern Ireland have observed an increase in these occurrences, particularly since EU Exit, highlighting the need for strengthened requirements to ensure accountability within online and overseas supply chains.

Proposal B3: Proportionate and effective penalties	
B8a. To what extent do you agree with this approach of categorising offences?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	x
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B8b. Please explain your answer.	
<p>The distinction between pre-market and on-market responsibilities is generally clear for businesses to understand. However, some of the pre-market requirements listed relate primarily to technical or labelling irregularities rather than product safety concerns. As a result, it is difficult to justify this division solely on the basis of risk.</p> <p>Overall, the approach provides a strong and appropriate framework for proportionate enforcement, aligned with the regulators code, but its effectiveness will rely on consistent implementation, clear guidance and sufficient resources. Clear guidance will be required to assist enforcement authorities with this proposed approach.</p>	
B9a. Do you agree that this approach enables the application of proportionate penalties?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	x
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	

B9b. Please explain your answer.

As stated above, while the intention behind this division is understood, some pre-market requirements relate primarily to technical or labelling irregularities rather than product safety concerns. As a result, it is difficult to justify this distinction solely on the basis of risk. Clear and well-defined categories will therefore be required to support consistent and effective enforcement.

Consideration must also be given to the fact that each Council operates under its own enforcement policy, and any proposed approach must be sufficiently flexible to operate effectively within these existing frameworks.

B10a. Should enforcement undertakings be available across all product regulations

Yes	x
No	
Don't know	

B10b. if no, what products, regulatory obligations or types of non-compliance should be excluded and why.

B11a. Should we consider whether to accept undertakings that seek to benefit those affected by the non-compliance?

Yes	
No	x
Don't know	

B11b. Please explain your answer.

It is unclear from the consultation document what is meant by the term "benefit those affected by the non-compliance".

Compensation is outside the scope of product safety legislation, and its inclusion may encourage the use of enforcement undertakings in circumstances where they are not the most appropriate or proportionate enforcement response.

The provision of compensatory or other benefits could place officers in a position where they feel obliged, due to moral considerations or consumer pressure, to accept an enforcement undertaking, even where further formal enforcement action or prosecution would be more appropriate.

Councils recognise that undertakings can be a proportionate and efficient alternative to formal enforcement, and this approach is consistent with the Council's enforcement policy. Councils also consider it important to support businesses and contribute to economic growth.

However, authorities must retain the ability to escalate enforcement where undertakings are breached or where a serious risk exists.

Proposal B4 Civil monetary penalties

B12. Which instances of product regulation non-compliance would you consider fixed monetary penalties a useful, proportionate and effective response?

Civil monetary penalties are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

This would be most appropriate for simple, clear-cut offences where non-compliance is easily evidenced and the burden of proof is straightforward, allowing proportionate enforcement without unnecessary complexity.

B13. For which instances of product regulation non-compliance would you consider variable monetary penalties a useful, proportionate and effective response?

Fees should be set consistently within the legislative framework to ensure transparency and fairness.

However, there may be scope to consider whether fees could appropriately reflect the size and turnover of a business, in order to maintain proportionality.

B14. In which circumstances would you consider an escalating monetary penalty system a useful, proportionate and effective response?	
Fees should be set consistently within the legislative framework to ensure transparency and fairness.	
B15. To what extent do you agree / disagree that monetary penalties should be escalated by a pre-set amount, or by a percentage of the original penalty?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	x
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B15b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	
<p>Civil monetary penalties are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.</p> <p>Detailed guidance would be required to ensure this is implemented fairly and proportionately.</p>	
B16. Please list any other form of civil sanction that may be appropriate for either product safety, or broader product regulations.	
<p>Fixed penalty notices may be beneficial for clear cut or absolute offences. Fixed Penalty Notices could be an effective civil sanction for low-level, clear-cut breaches of product safety or wider product regulations where there is minimal risk and no evidence of deliberate or persistent non-compliance. FPNs provide a swift, proportionate and resource-efficient enforcement option, encouraging early compliance without the need for more formal or punitive action.</p>	

Proposal B5 Cost recovery framework	
B17a. To what extent would you agree / disagree that cost recovery would be an appropriate or beneficial feature within the UK product regulation enforcement regime?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	x
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B17b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	
<p>Should cost recovery be introduced, its application would need to be carefully considered by individual councils. However, we would welcome its introduction if it proves to be an effective tool for securing compliance. Where a statutory service is being provided, councils may be unable to recover costs unless this is expressly enabled within the legislative framework.</p> <p>While cost recovery may not be appropriate for the routine delivery of statutory functions, there may be merit in permitting cost recovery where non-compliance is identified, during the investigation of non-compliance, or for disposal of non-compliant goods. Models such as the Health and Safety Executive's "fee for intervention" approach demonstrate how cost recovery can assist in recouping enforcement costs and incentivising compliance.</p>	
B18a. Please list principles you consider should guide the design of any potential cost recovery provisions for product regulation enforcement.	
<p>To implement cost recovery effectively, councils would require additional capacity and resources, including administrative and debt-recovery support. Clear provision within the legal framework would therefore be essential to ensure cost recovery powers are within the legislative framework, proportionate and practical to administer.</p>	
B18b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	

Cost recovery is not currently used by Northern Ireland councils in regard to Consumer Protection, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism, however we welcome its introduction if it proves to be an effective tool.

Proposal B6. Information Sharing

B19a. To what extent would you agree / disagree that, there is a need for greater powers are needed, beyond establishing a legal framework, to facilitate sharing information between relevant authorities, emergency services, and specified persons for product regulation, safety, and compliance?

Strongly agree	x
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	

B19b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer. (optional)

This is essential to ensure efficient enforcement, and we strongly agree that greater powers are needed beyond the establishment of a legal framework to facilitate effective information sharing between relevant authorities, emergency services and specified persons for product regulation, safety and compliance. Information sharing between port authorities, MS authorities and other authorities such as Fire and Rescue Services will greatly assist consistent enforcement, particularly in Northern Ireland due to the small geographical area and the routine nature of collaborative working.

Greater powers to facilitate information sharing with neighbouring member states, in particular ROI, would also greatly assist with cooperation when dealing with business that operate cross border and complaints regarding these businesses.

Experience demonstrates that practical and operational barriers, such as data protection concerns, interpretations of information-sharing powers, and a lack of statutory duties to share information, often inhibit timely and effective collaboration. These barriers can delay interventions where there is a serious or emerging risk to safety, particularly in fast-moving product safety incidents.

B20a. Please list the information you consider should be made available for the purposes of product enforcement.

For the purposes of effective product enforcement, relevant authorities should have access to comprehensive information including complaint history, number of complaints received, action taken to date, product identification and traceability details; manufacturer, importer and distributor data; compliance and conformity documentation; incident, injury and risk information; product risk assessment, enforcement and compliance history; recall and corrective action data; and intelligence relating to supply chains, online marketplaces and distribution networks.

B20b. Please list which bodies or persons such information should be shared between to ensure effective market surveillance and enforcement.

Information relevant to product regulation, safety and enforcement should be shared between local authority enforcement bodies (including Environmental Health, Trading Standards and port health authorities); central government departments and national regulators responsible for product safety and standards; emergency services, including fire and rescue services and ambulance services; border, customs and import control authorities; and other relevant sector regulators.

Information from emergency services, port authorities and other regulators should also be available to support early identification of risks, coordinated intervention and proportionate enforcement action, subject to appropriate safeguards and data protection requirements.

Information sharing should also extend, where appropriate, to online marketplaces, fulfilment service providers, manufacturers, importers, distributors, conformity assessment bodies, and consumer protection organisations, as well as between enforcement authorities across regional and national boundaries. This joined-up approach is essential to support timely intelligence-led interventions, coordinated action on emerging risks, and consistent, proportionate enforcement.

B21a. Please list any additional safeguards you would wish to see within information sharing arrangements to prevent the improper use of data.

Information-sharing arrangements should include clear statutory limits on the purpose and use of data, supported by data minimisation principles to ensure only necessary and proportionate information is shared.

Clear retention and disposal policies should also be in place to ensure information is held only for as long as required and is securely disposed of in accordance with data protection requirements.

B21b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.

Role-based access controls, secure IT systems, audit trails and clear retention and disposal policies should be in place to prevent misuse of information.

The use of government security classifications on all correspondence should also be required.

These safeguards should operate alongside defined governance arrangements, staff training and full compliance with UK GDPR and data protection legislation.

Please email response form to

EnforceMarketSurvReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Unclassified

ITEM 7

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	Consultation – Product Regulation: Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Draft Consultation Response
File Reference (if applicable)	CW 182
Legislation	Other Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background

The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 were introduced in response to a sharp rise in fatal domestic fires involving upholstered furniture during the 1960s–1980s. At that time, smoking materials, particularly cigarettes, were a major cause of ignition. The regulations introduced mandatory ignition resistance tests, including open-flame testing, and strict labelling requirements. These measures are widely recognised as having contributed to a significant reduction in fire-related deaths over subsequent decades.

The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS), within the Department for Business and Trade, has launched a public consultation on reforms to the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 (FFRs). The aim is to modernise fire-safety rules so they reflect current domestic fire risks, modern furniture design, and scientific evidence about chemical flame retardants, while maintaining high levels of consumer safety. The consultation builds on the earlier “*Smarter Regulation*” review and a Government policy paper published on 22 January 2025, which set out the intended direction of reform.

Key Findings

The Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988 have helped reduce fire-related deaths, but stakeholders consider parts of the framework outdated in the context of modern homes, products and manufacturing. In particular, the consultation highlights that smoulder ignition (for example, from smoking materials) is viewed as the more representative real-world hazard for upholstered furniture than open-flame exposure, and that current open-flame testing may be disproportionate. This has prompted consideration of a more outcomes-based approach that maintains high fire-safety standards while reducing unnecessary burden and reliance on chemical flame retardants.

- Open-flame testing requirements have driven the use of chemical flame retardants, raising concerns about potential health and environmental impacts.
- Stakeholders support maintaining high fire-safety standards while enabling a reduction in chemical flame retardant use.
- An outcomes-based regulatory approach, supported by essential safety requirements, is favoured over prescriptive testing rules.
- Flexibility in demonstrating compliance (including component or final-product testing) is considered necessary for modern and bespoke manufacturing.
- Applying sector-specific rules to re-upholstered, repaired and second-hand furniture is seen as impractical; continued regulation under general product-safety law is supported.
- Simplified labelling and documentation could reduce burdens on businesses without undermining consumer safety.

Next Steps

A draft response to the consultation has been prepared by Environmental Health and Regulatory Services and is attached as Appendix 1.

Summary

The Government has opened a consultation which seeks opinions on reforming the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988, in order to modernise

fire-safety requirements for domestic upholstered furniture. The proposals seek to maintain high standards of fire safety while reducing reliance on chemical flame retardants. This would be achieved primarily through a shift towards smoulder-resistance based testing, the introduction of more flexible and proportionate testing arrangements, and targeted amendments to the scope of the regulations. The consultation also examines the potential impacts on businesses, consumers, and enforcement authorities, and invites evidence and stakeholder views to inform final policy decisions. A draft response has been prepared for Members consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Approves** the draft response to the Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture consultation.



Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Consultation: The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture

Response form

Introduction

This consultation seeks your views on important reforms to how we regulate the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture.

The proposals set out below reflect the policy aim to maintain a high level of fire safety while meaningfully reducing chemical flame retardant use. They reflect the large volume of stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering that has taken place over a number of years. The Government will:

- Introduce new furniture fire safety requirements based on a smoulder test.
- Pragmatic testing solutions to facilitate innovation.
- Proportionate scope adjustments.

The proposed policy remains subject to review and may change as a result of the evidence and views provided by stakeholders in response to this consultation.

Please return to: furniturefiresafety@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Closing: 23:59 on 23 June

Confidentiality and data protection

DBT is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information. Details on how we collect and process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation when you respond to one of our public consultations are provided in the Confidentiality and data protection section of the [consultation document on GOV.UK](#). You can also read the [Public consultations privacy notice](#).

Your Details	
1. Your name	
2. Your email address	
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	X
4. Name of organisation	Ards and North Down Borough Council
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	
10 to 49	
50 to 249	
250 or more	X
6. Type of organisation	
Business	
Trade Association	
Test House or Laboratory	
Consumer Body	
Local Authority	X
Fire and Rescue Service	
Government Body	
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions	
<p>1. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce reformed furniture fire safety sector legislation, based on a smoulder test?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	
<p>This proposed approach addresses the potential concerns of chemical flame retardants (CFR's) and their impact on health as there is evidence that they may migrate from products onto surfaces and into house dust as well as contributing to an increase in smoke toxicity. Furthermore, removing such chemicals should make furniture easier to recycle and re-use and for its safer disposal at end of life. It will also bring the UK into line with the legislative requirements already in place in the EU and US.</p>	
<p>2. Do you agree with the proposal to allow businesses to use composite/ representative sample testing or component testing to demonstrate compliance with the new regulations?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	
<p>The proposal allows flexibility for manufacturers to decide how they demonstrate their products are safe and compliant avoiding the burden of additional and often unnecessary testing. There should be clear, documented guidelines/standards for manufacturers that will define how to achieve and demonstrate compliance with either testing option. This clearly defined guidance would also provide for consistent enforcement encouraging a level playing field whilst also maintaining consumer safety.</p> <p>We are of the view that this would encourage innovation and future proof for advances in science and technology.</p>	

<p>3. Do you agree with the proposal to use the General Product Safety Regulations to regulate re-upholstery and repair of upholstered furniture?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	
<p>Re-upholsterers advised they would like clear advice as the guidance previously issued was confusing. Hence the provision of clear definitions and guidelines as to what constitutes upholstery, repair and a safe product under GPSR will reduce the risk of inadvertent non-compliance, support small businesses and enhance consumer safety and regulator confidence in product safety.</p> <p>This is essential to support these small, often independent businesses and provide confidence to the public and regulators that the products are safe. It will also prevent any confusion or ambiguity from the outset for all stakeholders</p> <p>The unique situation of NI having to be aligned to both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements needs to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and will avoid any potential divergence issues.</p>	
<p>4. Do you agree with the proposal to use the General Product Safety Regulations to regulate second-hand upholstered furniture?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	

Using the General Product Safety Regulations (GPSR) to regulate second-hand upholstered furniture is appropriate, provided clear and proportionate guidance is issued. This would protect consumers from unsafe products while recognising the practical challenges faced by charities, re-use organisations and small second-hand retailers. The increase in reliance on charity and second-hand shops was an issue already identified by the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland who have produced guidance for this sector, and we feel that having clear guidance/a checklist for second hand upholstered furniture would be extremely beneficial as clear criteria for assessing safety will be essential to support compliance and consistent enforcement.

The unique situation of NI having to be aligned to both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements needs to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and will avoid any potential divergence issues.

Please email response form to: furniturefiresafety@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Unclassified

ITEM 8**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	12 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community Services (Interim)
Report title	Consultation response to Draft Framework for Race Relations and Delivery Plan 2026-2028
Attachments	Appendix 1 Draft Framework for Race Relations Appendix 2 Draft Framework for Race Relations - Delivery Plan 2026-2028 Appendix 3 Draft Race Relations Consultation and Responses
File Reference (if applicable)	
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social

If multiple:

	<p>5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing</p> <p>If multiple:</p>
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Background

In 2023, the Executive Office (TEO) committed to commission an independent review of progress on the implementation of the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025.

While it remained a key priority to continue to deliver on the commitments in the Racial Equality Strategy, it was felt important that post-2025, there was a clear mechanism and overarching Framework for achieving racial equality in our society that would go beyond the standard approaches tried before.

Focusing on and exploring the principles of the public health approach utilised by various Executive strategies, a Framework (Appendix 1) has been developed for Race Relations which aims to tackle complex issues that sustain racial disparities. This new Framework builds upon the foundation laid by the 2015–2025 Strategy and introduces four key outcomes that will guide future efforts:

1. Elimination of Racial Inequality
2. Combatting Racism and Race Hate Crime
3. Equality of Service Provision
4. Community Cohesion

These outcomes reflect the evolving priorities and challenges identified through engagement and research. They provide a strategic focus for interventions and monitoring, ensuring that the vision of a fair and inclusive society is realised and everyone’s rights are upheld. To support the achievement of outcomes, targeted interventions have been identified with priorities for the first two years of implementation set out in an accompanying Delivery Plan (Appendix 2).

Key Issues

Racism and hate are increasing at a concerning rate and if not tackled will have a negative impact within communities and on society as a whole. Everyone has a part to play and the Framework for Race Relations sets out our vision and the associated outcomes we seek to achieve collectively.

Achieving this requires a sustained and coordinated effort across all sectors of society. It demands not only a commitment to eliminating racial inequality and combating racism, but also a proactive approach to fostering community cohesion and ensuring that everyone feels a sense of belonging. This is reflected in the proposed outcomes.

The Framework has identified the key issues and a range of primary, secondary and tertiary interventions to help address these issues. It is however flexible to adapt to new or emerging challenges and to allow for approaches and interventions to be

adjusted to meet needs as they arise. It also recognises that not all can be progressed at once and meaningful change will take time.

Next Steps

Consultation on the Draft Framework for Race Relations and Delivery Plan 2026-2028 is open for views and will close on Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

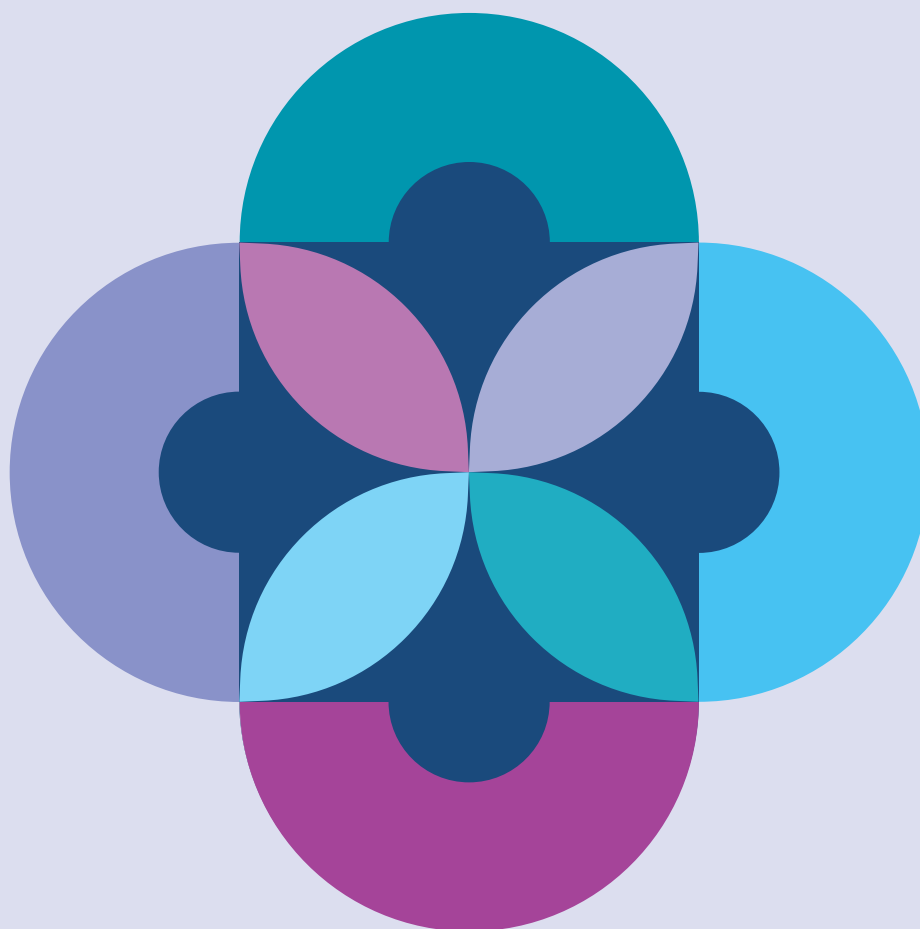
The proposals for the Framework are subject to the views of the Executive who will be responsible for final approval.

Summary

Consultation questions relevant to an organisation and possible responses are attached for discussion (Appendix 3).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Agrees** the responses and responds to the consultation.



A Framework for **Race** Relations



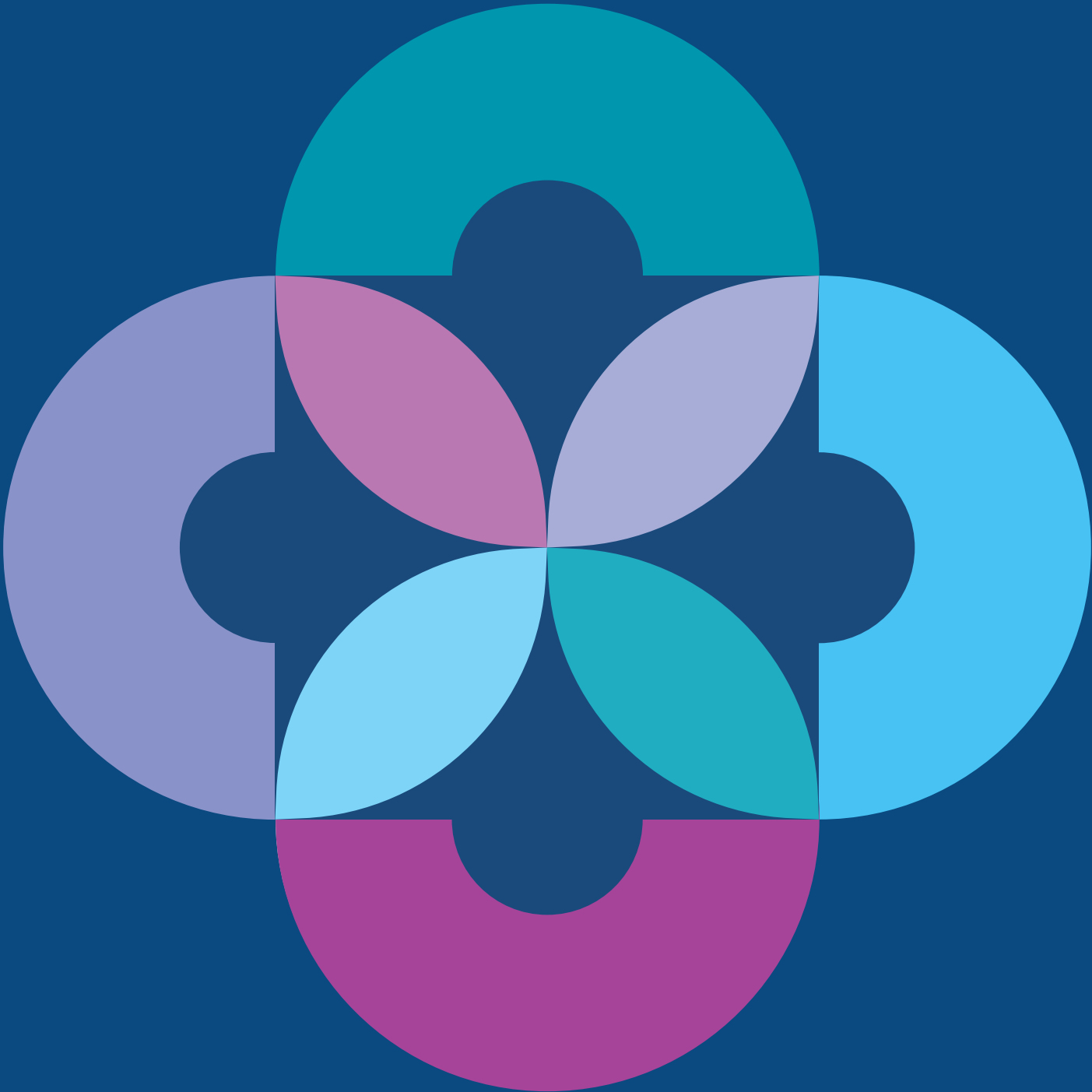
The
Executive Office

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Ministerial Foreword





As we look ahead to the future of our increasingly diverse society, our commitment to equality, fairness, and justice remains unwavering. This Framework for Race Relations represents a renewed and strategic effort to ensure that everyone, regardless of race or ethnicity, can thrive, contribute meaningfully, and feel a genuine sense of belonging.

We acknowledge that racism, in all its forms, continues to impact individuals and communities across key areas of life. These challenges demand a clear and coordinated response, one that places inclusion, respect, and good relations at the centre of our collective mission.

All our communities continue to enrich our society in countless ways, including our minority ethnic communities, through culture, innovation, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. Their contributions strengthen our social fabric and help shape a vibrant, dynamic, and successful future for all.

This Framework sets out a clear direction for progress. It is guided by a shared vision of a society where diversity is valued and where everyone can live free from discrimination.

To achieve this, we are focusing on four key areas: removing structural inequalities; tackling racism and hate crime; ensuring fair access to public services; and strengthening community cohesion. These priorities reflect the voices of those with lived experience and are informed by evidence, consultation, and international best practice.

This is a call to action for sustained collaboration, shared responsibility, and meaningful change. Whether in government, business, education, or everyday life, each of us has a role to play in building a society that is inclusive, respectful, and fair. Together, we can create a future where everyone feels safe, valued, and empowered to reach their full potential.

We are fully committed to this process, not only for now, but as a legacy we must shape for generations to come.

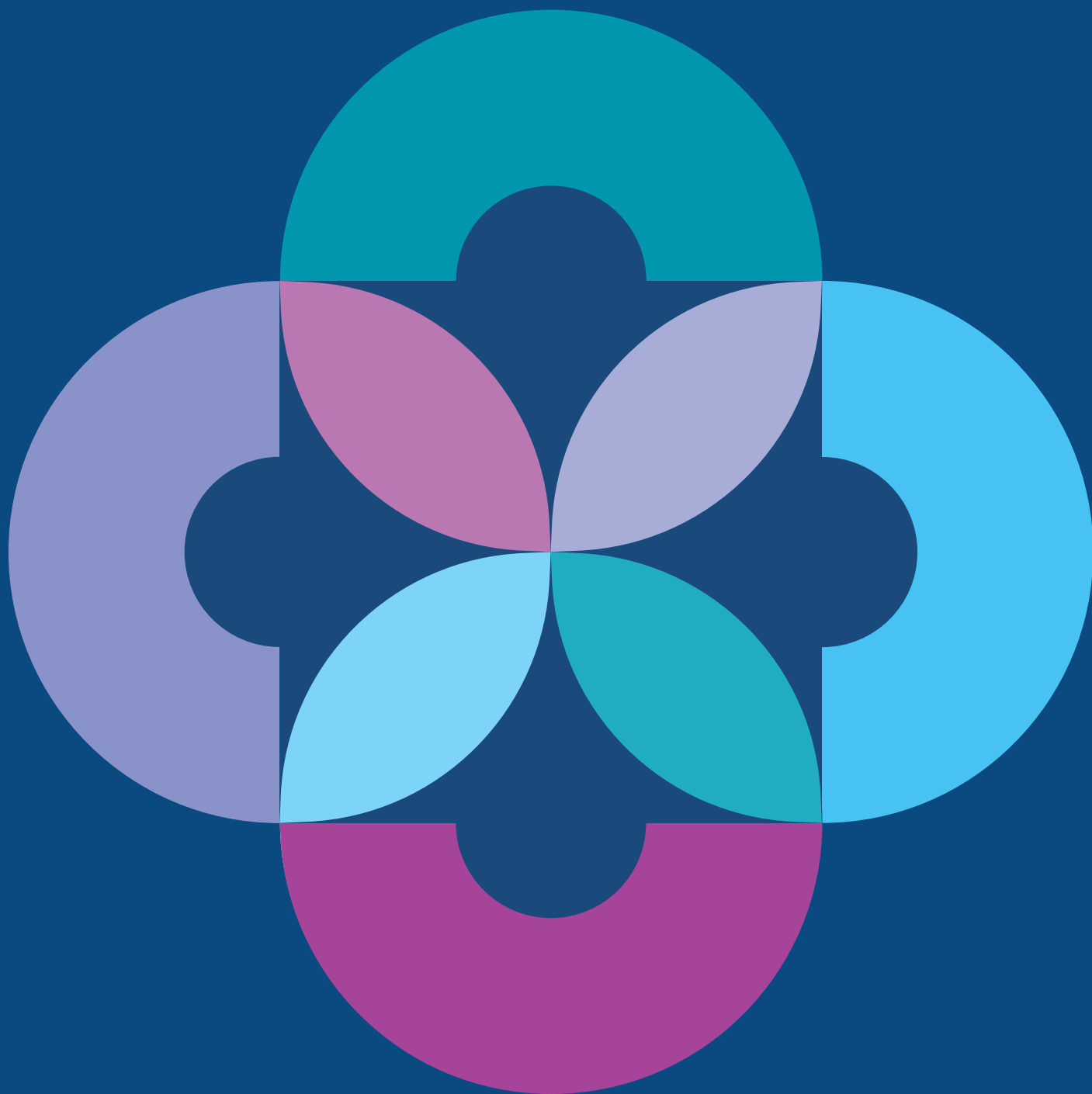
Michelle O'Neill

Michelle O'Neill MLA
First Minister

Emma Little-Pengelly

Emma Little-Pengelly MLA
deputy First Minister

Executive Summary





Purpose

This Framework for Race Relations sets out a strategic vision for advancing racial equality beyond 2025. Building on the achievements of the Racial Equality Strategy 2015–2025, this new Framework responds to evolving demographic realities and persistent inequalities by proposing an inclusive, and evidence-informed approach.



Context

The demographic landscape here has evolved. This growing diversity necessitates policies that are inclusive, adaptable, and reflective of the lived experiences of all communities. The Framework acknowledges that traditional approaches are no longer sufficient and a new model is required. One that:

- centres on lived experience as well as evidence;
- embraces community-led solutions;
- aligns with international human rights standards; and
- embeds racial equality across all sectors and society ensuring that interventions are dynamic, inclusive, and sustainable.



Vision

A society which is strengthened by its ethnic diversity, where we can live together free from racism, racial inequality and unlawful racial discrimination, where we can share a common sense of belonging and where human rights and equality are enjoyed by all.



Outcomes

 **Outcome 1: Elimination of Racial Inequality**

 **Outcome 2: Combatting Racism & Race Hate Crime**

 **Outcome 3: Equality of Service Provision**

 **Outcome 4: Community Cohesion**



Interventions

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The Framework adopts a public health model to address racial disparities through identifying and implementing interventions in line with the four strategic outcomes.



Primary

- ✓ Drive systemic change by enacting updated Race Relations legislation.
- ✓ Expand educational opportunities to reflect diverse histories and cultures, raising aspirations and increasing attainment.
- ✓ Improve equality of opportunity for employment and leadership opportunities for minority ethnic communities, increasing representation in leadership and public sector roles.
- ✓ Enhance communications and education to dispel myths and stereotypes.
- ✓ Increase access to ESOL provision.
- ✓ Enhance capacity building initiatives to strengthen grassroots leadership.
- ✓ Launch a refreshed Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) that is effective in delivering the outcomes of the Framework.
- ✓ Design and deliver a coordinated programme to strengthen social inclusion across communities.
- ✓ Develop and deliver a communications strategy focused on community cohesion.
- ✓ Enhance linkages and improve communication between the Racial Equality Subgroup and wider minority ethnic communities using workshops to increase reach and opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practice.
- ✓ Establish strong links with the wider Good Relations Programme to maximise synergies and ensure a responsive and agile approach to community priorities.



Secondary

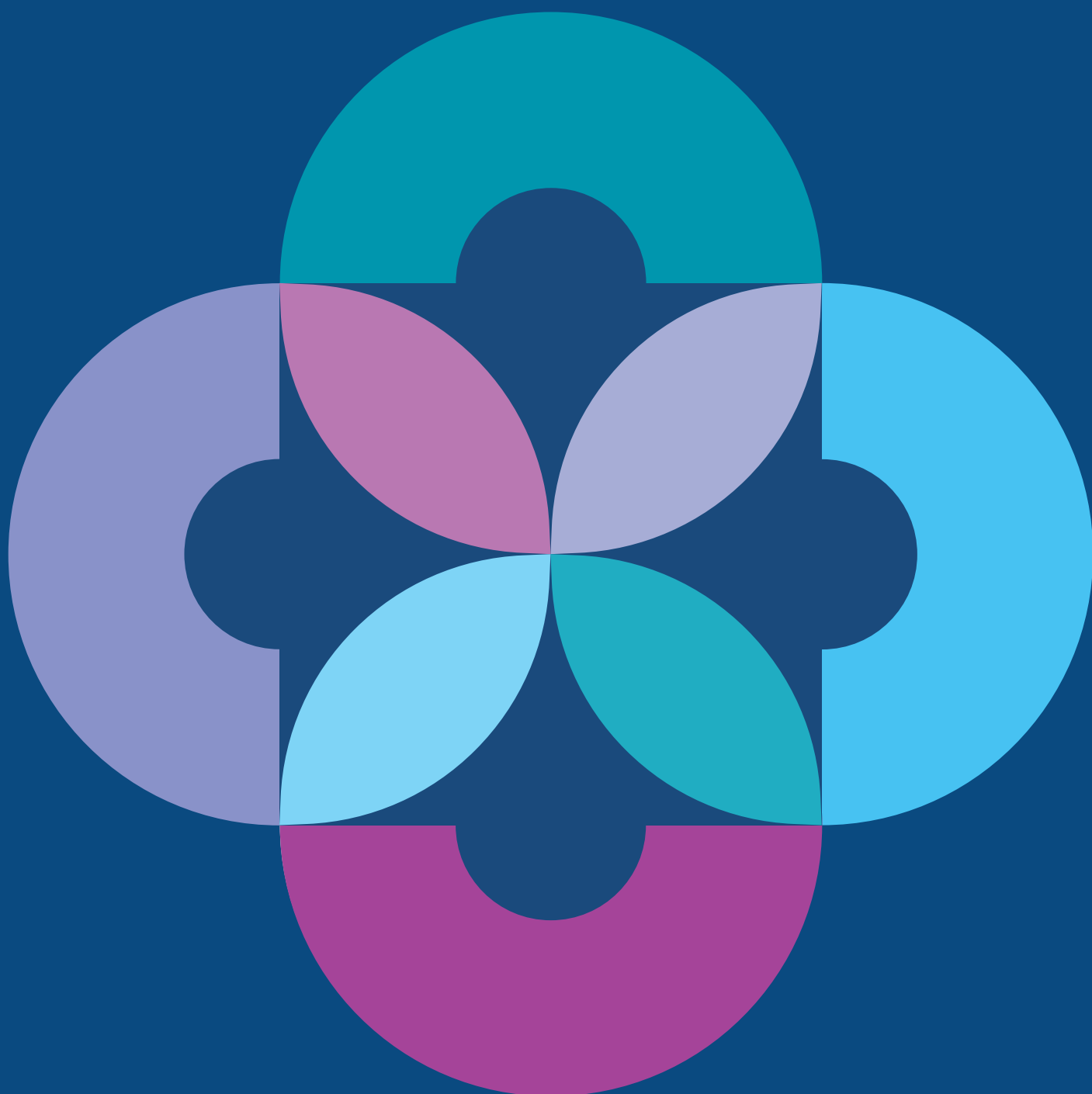
- ✓ Promote shared cultural awareness and understanding through education and awareness initiatives which includes tackling misinformation and harmful narratives, where relevant.
- ✓ Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.
- ✓ Increase engagement with minority ethnic communities to promote understanding of hate crime and increase reporting and trust in the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Embed racial equality across governmental & societal structures.
- ✓ Work with the Roma and Travellers Thematic Groups to implement specific activities to improve access to services and integration into communities through inclusive interventions.
- ✓ Enhance link between race relations work and the outworkings of the T:BUC Strategy review to aid in incorporating race relations more effectively.
- ✓ Develop interventions for the groups with the poorest outcomes, informed by the results of the Census Microdata Report.



Tertiary

- ✓ Review approaches to racially motivated and aggravated crime in tandem with access to justice for victims.
- ✓ Enhance the accessibility and cultural responsiveness of public services for minority ethnic communities.
- ✓ Expand community-based hubs led by the Refugee Integration Strategy to support all communities
- ✓ Reduce mental health inequalities.
- ✓ Build upon the work already being progressed in the field of Ethnic Equality Monitoring.
- ✓ Complete an initial round of community-led reviews to develop plans on key topics.
- ✓ Develop a programme of scalable interventions to address the root causes of hate and strengthen community relations informed by the outworkings of ongoing Innovation Consultancy Services (ICS) research.

Introduction & Background

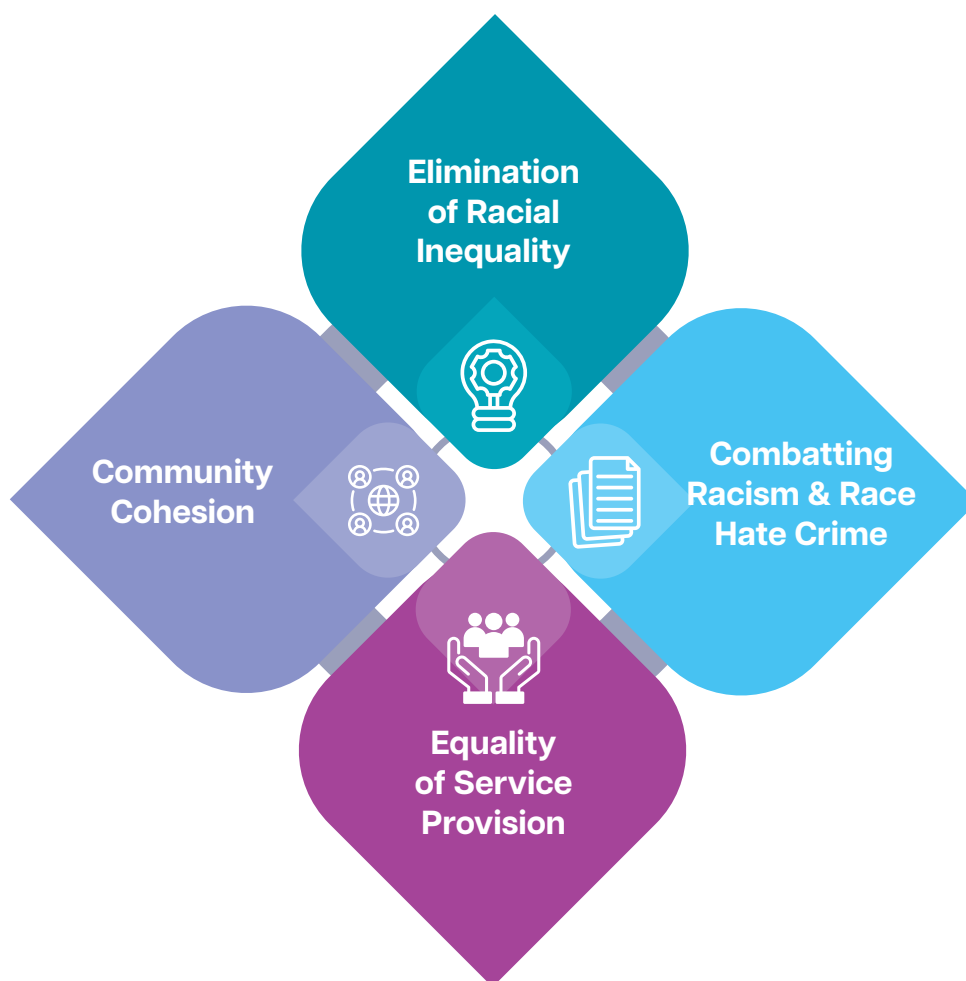




Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025

While it remains a key priority to continue to deliver on the commitments in the Racial Equality Strategy, it was felt important that post-2025, there was a clear mechanism and overarching framework for achieving racial equality in our society that would go beyond the standard approaches tried before.

This new framework builds upon the foundation laid by the 2015–2025 Strategy and introduces four key outcomes that will guide future efforts:



These outcomes reflect the evolving priorities and challenges identified through engagement and research. They provide a strategic focus for interventions and monitoring, ensuring that the vision of a fair and inclusive society is realised and everyone’s rights are upheld. To support the achievement of outcomes, targeted interventions will be prioritised within a Delivery Plan which will accompany the Framework.

This plan will act as a roadmap whilst ensuring that implementation is both strategic and responsive to emerging needs. It will be created utilising input from Departments, consultation responses, research being carried out into the causes of racism and the action plans created by the Racial Equality Subgroup and Thematic groups. It will be overseen by the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) for Race Relations and Integration.

The previous Strategy helped establish the comprehension of racism here along with the evidence base, and partnerships necessary, to pursue positive outcomes. The new Framework will build on this progress to deliver lasting change. A new approach to racial equality must not only focus on the lived experiences of minority ethnic communities, but also actively engage wider communities here to build shared understanding and foster inclusion. This new approach will be one that goes beyond statistics and centres on the shared humanity and interests of everyone who lives here.

It is also essential to recognise that minority ethnic communities are not homogenous. Within these communities, individuals may face multiple and overlapping forms of disadvantage based on factors such as gender, disability, age, religion, or migration status. Intersectionality highlights how different aspects of a person's identity can combine to create unique experiences of discrimination or exclusion.

Understanding these interrelating inequalities is important to ensuring that policies and interventions are truly inclusive and effective. To support this, TEO statisticians are currently undertaking research using Census microdata to identify and better understand the experiences of particularly disadvantaged groups within minority ethnic communities. This evidence will help inform targeted actions and ensure that no one is left behind in the pursuit of racial equality.



Current landscape

The population landscape here has changed in the last ten years and we welcome the opportunity to create a new framework that will allow us to remain flexible in supporting our increasingly diverse society.

To better reflect the complexity of ethnic identity, particularly among individuals who recorded their ethnic group as white, a new variable was developed with NISRA using Census 2021 data. It combines ethnic group, national identity, and religion. This alternative lens shows a minority ethnic population of 8.1%, or around 153k of the overall 1.9m population.

Data from the Northern Ireland Life and Times (NILT) survey shows that the proportion who thought minority ethnic people participated 'a little' or 'a lot' in public life increased significantly in the decade between 2014 and 2024 (from 71% to 76%). Over the same period, the proportion of NILT respondents who agreed or strongly agreed that the culture and traditions of people from different minority ethnic groups adds to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society also increased significantly, from 59% to 65%.

While it is clear that we have made some progress, we want to ensure that all communities are afforded 'the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, disability, gender or ethnicity' as per The Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. A major part of that work is supporting a strong economy which in turn provides opportunities for all. It is long established that migrants make a significant contribution to the economy, primarily through employment. They help fill critical skill gaps in various sectors, ensuring that businesses have the talent necessary to thrive. As we face demographic shifts, with an ageing population and declining

birth rates, the need for a diverse and skilled workforce and population has never been more apparent.

HMRC publishes data on payrolled employment by nationality, region and industry. The latest release covers the period up to December 2024. Some key findings highlight that non-UK nationals held a relatively high proportion of total payrolled employments here in several sectors in December 2024, including:

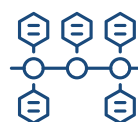
- 22% of total payrolled employments in manufacturing (20,200)
- 19% of total payrolled employments in administrative and support services (11,100)
- 18% of total payrolled employments in accommodation and food service activities (9,900)
- 13% of total payrolled employments in health and social work (19,600)

Central to this Framework is the commitment to eliminate racial inequalities and promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of economic, educational, social, cultural, political, and public life. Achieving this requires a proactive and inclusive approach that empowers individuals and communities.

Capacity building initiatives will support minority ethnic communities to participate fully and confidently in civic and public life. Community development efforts will foster stronger networks and local leadership, while the celebration of cultural identity will help build mutual respect and understanding across society. These elements are essential to creating a society where diversity is valued and everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Recent race related disorder further highlighted the need for effective interventions against racism and race hate crime. This Framework will continue to develop the partnership working already

witnessed between the PSNI, community organisations and statutory bodies to move forward together on combatting all forms of hate and intimidation.



Building on work to date

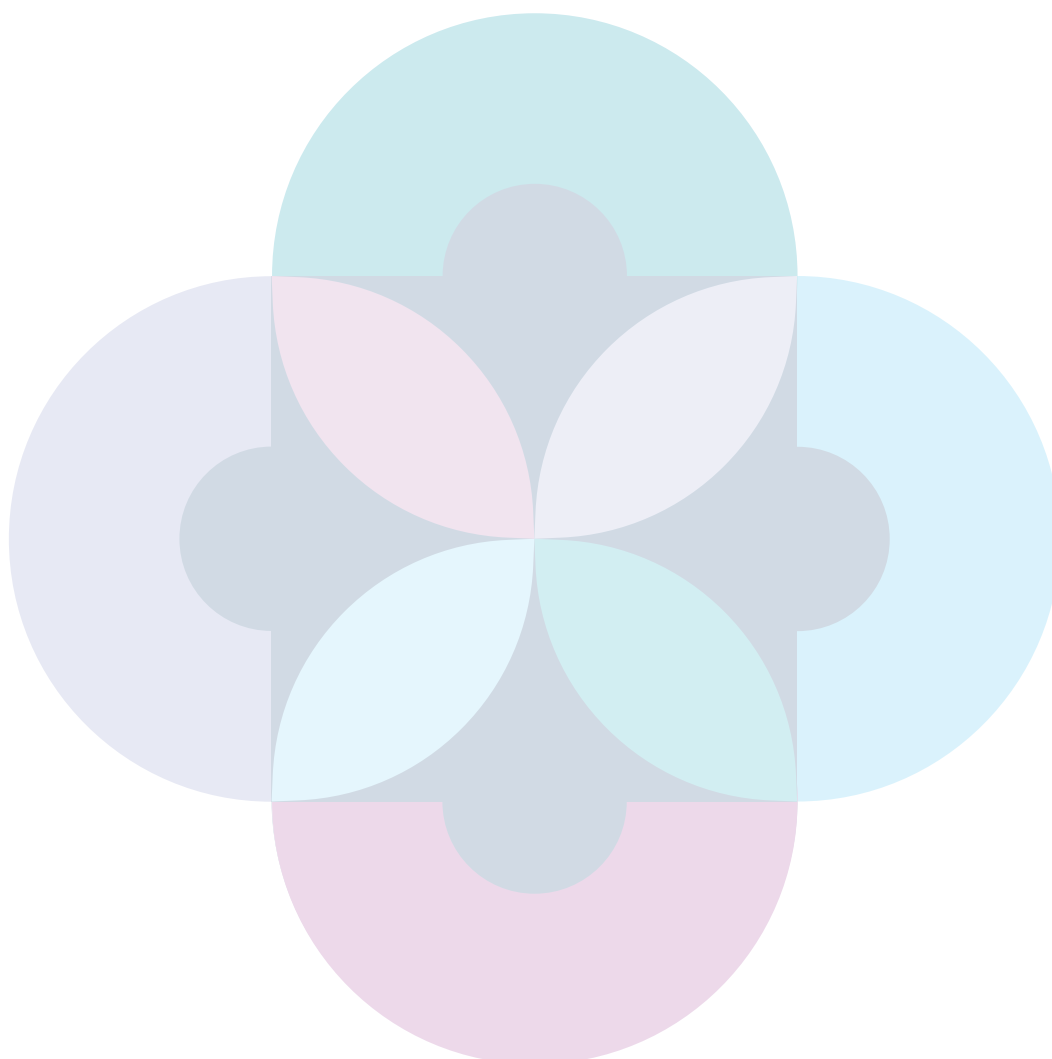
Over the last decade, considerable progress has been made in key thematic areas such as shared housing, shared education, removing interface barriers and engaging young people. However, we recognise there is much more to do and the changing demographic across society makes it more important than ever that our Good Relations approach continues to effectively engage with all those who live here, including our minority ethnic communities.

Good Relations delivery is comprised of the implementation of the Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC) Strategy, and wider grant funding programmes. The Review of T:BUC is ongoing and recognises that good relations now encompass a more diverse society with issues spanning more than the traditional communities. It is expected to reflect community diversity and include social cohesion strands.

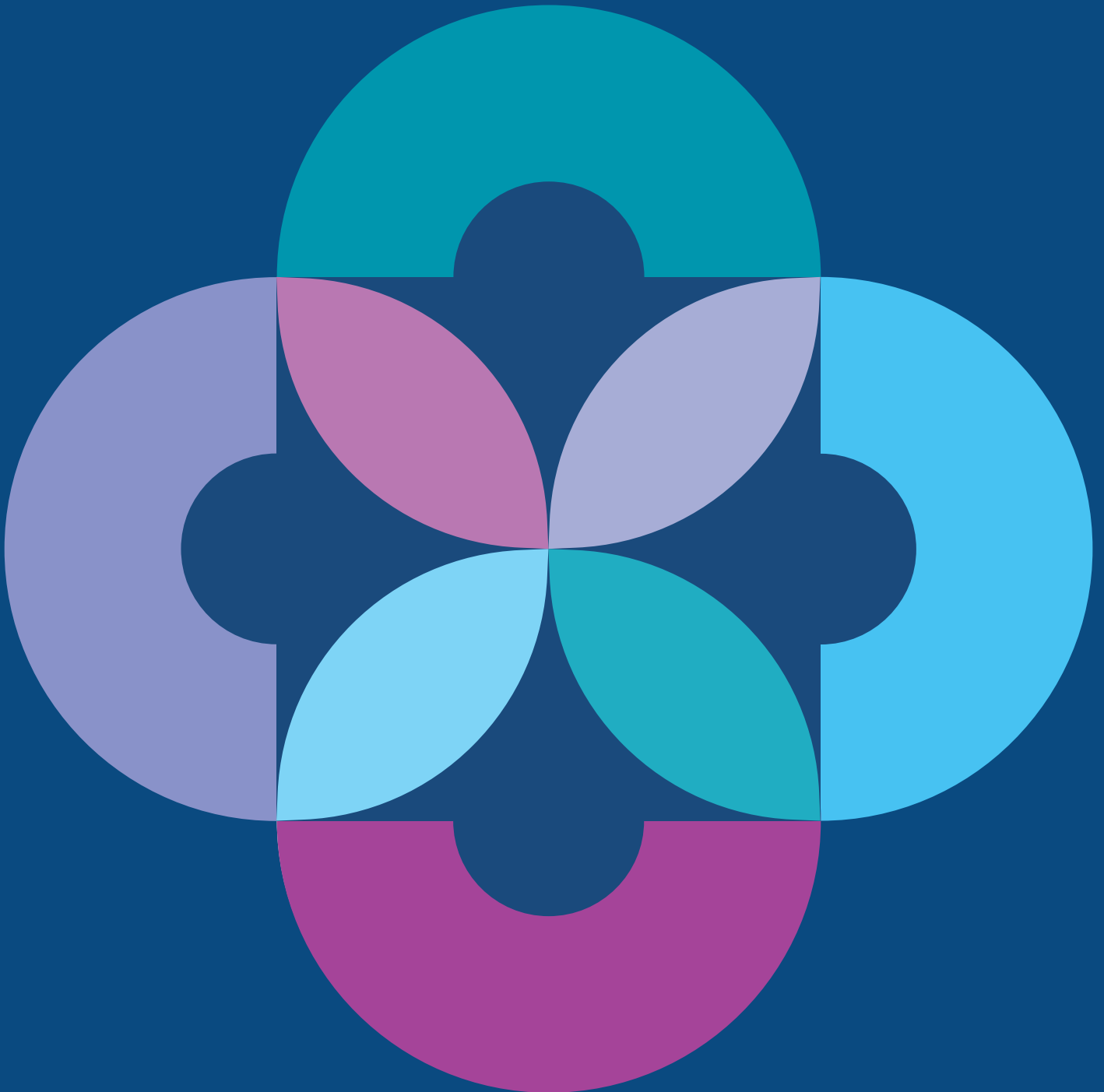
In addition, the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) delivery plan commits to reviewing the needs of women and girls who face additional risk of violence, abuse or harm, and the barriers to accessing services. This includes migrant women and girls. These are just some examples of the other cross cutting Executive strategies which all work in tandem to deal with major societal issues and continue to bring together the various remits of the Executive Departments to drive lasting change.

Creating an inclusive society does not happen by accident; everyone has a part to play. While our work to date has laid a strong foundation, we recognise there is more to do. The ongoing development and review of our policies and programmes reflect this commitment. We continue to strengthen collaboration across all Departments, embedding partnership working into everything we do as set out in the Programme for Government.

Crucially, the success of this Framework also depends on meaningful partnerships with local government and the Voluntary and Community Sector, who are vital in delivering change on the ground and ensuring that interventions are responsive to the needs of diverse communities. An Executive-wide dedication, working hand in hand with these key partners is essential to shaping and implementing effective, inclusive and sustainable solutions.



Framework Development





Engagement and Consultation

Engagement and consultation with both the minority ethnic sector and wider society ensures that this Framework is underpinned by a mutual commitment to partnership working.

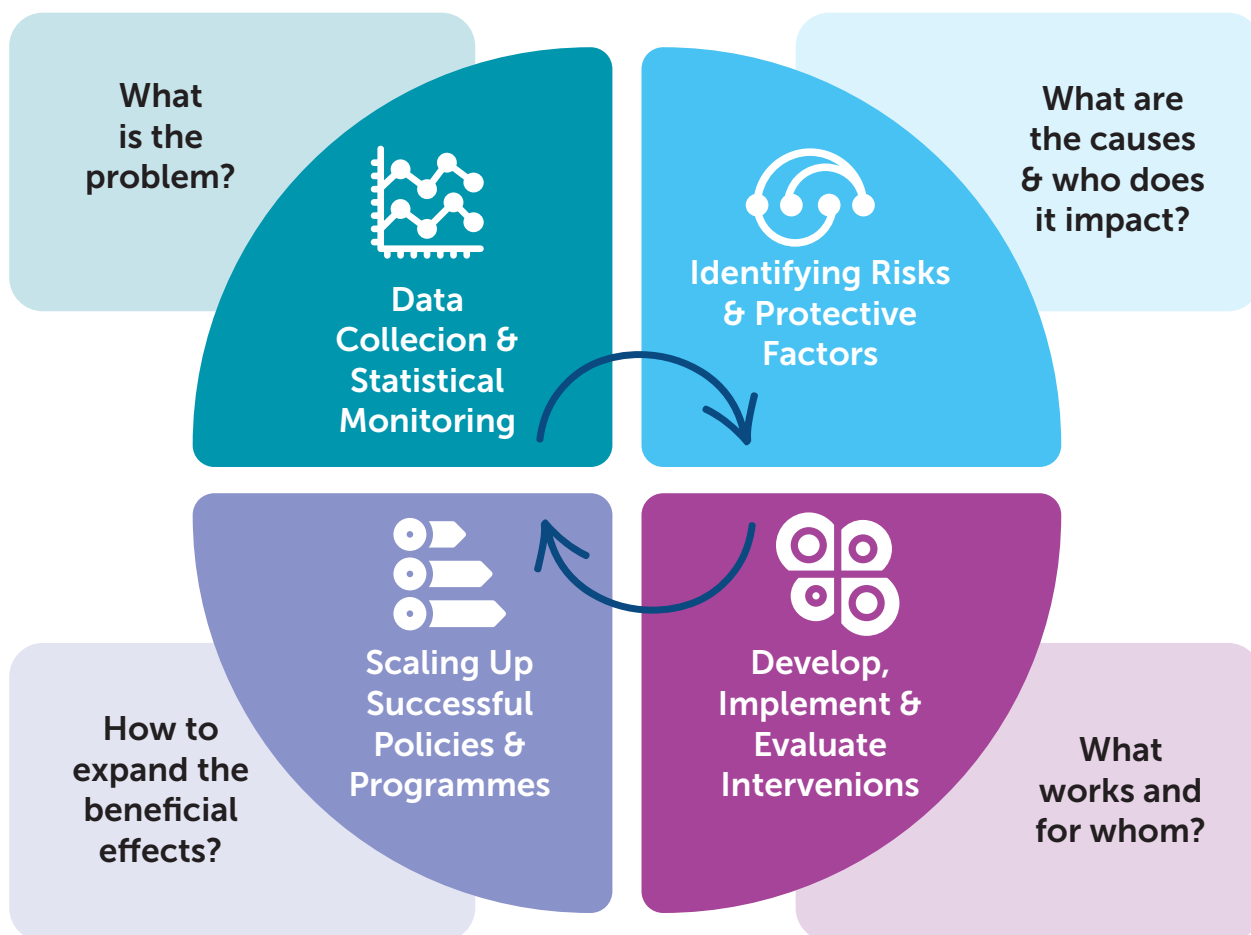
To date this has included:

- Racial Equality Subgroup Visioning Day
- Travellers Thematic Group Workshop
- Roma Thematic Group Workshop
- TEO's Public Call for Views on Racial Equality
- The Independent Review of the Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025
- The Race Relations Order Review consultation
- Refugee Integration Strategy consultation
- Continuous engagement with sectoral and statutory groups

In addition to extensive local engagement, the development of the new strategic Framework has also been shaped by key international standards and instruments. These include the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, which sets out global obligations to combat racial discrimination in all its forms; the ADI-ROM – Committee of Experts on Roma and Traveller Issues, which provides guidance on improving the situation of Roma and Traveller communities across Europe; and the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI), whose recommendations support member states in addressing racial and ethnic discrimination. These ensure that the Framework aligns with best practice and international human rights commitments, reinforcing its credibility and effectiveness.

Its development was and continues to be informed by research, recommendations and, crucially, lived experience both locally and via academic research and strategic approaches adopted across other jurisdictions. The Framework draws on best practices from other regions and countries, ensuring that it reflects not only local priorities but also global learning. This cross-jurisdictional perspective strengthens the Framework's capacity to deliver meaningful change by integrating proven policy solutions from diverse contexts.

By focusing on and exploring the principles of the WHO public health approach, we have developed a Framework for racial equality which aims to tackle the complex issues that sustain racial disparities. Our approach recognises that, in order to find effective interventions to the issues highlighted by stakeholders, we must understand the causes. By centring our efforts on prevention, early intervention and community-based solutions, we are seeking to create the conditions for long-term change. This will allow us to shape interventions and services appropriately and measure success through a four-step model. This is demonstrated on the following page.



How these Principles have informed the development of the Strategic Framework and will support implementation

Data Collection & Statistical Monitoring

A robust evidence base is essential for designing interventions that are responsive, inclusive, and effective for all.

- Collection of data on racial disparities across sectors (e.g. education, health, employment, justice) such as the piece commissioned by TEO on minority ethnic outcomes using 2021 Census Microdata.
- Inclusion of qualitative insights from lived experience to ensure data reflects real-world impacts and diverse perspectives.
- Ensuring transparency and accessibility of data to empower communities, foster trust, and inform inclusive policy development.
- Using data to identify patterns of exclusion, discrimination, and inequality, as well as areas of progress and resilience.

Identifying Risks & Protective Factors

Understanding the root causes of racial inequality is key. This analysis helps ensure that interventions are not only reactive but are preventative and transformative.

- Identifying and understanding structural, institutional, and interpersonal factors that perpetuate racism and inequality.
- Identifying protective factors such as community cohesion, cultural resilience, and inclusive leadership.
- Engaging with communities to understand the social determinants of racial disparities.
- Recognising how intersecting identities (e.g. gender, disability, migration status) shape experiences of racism.

Develop, Implement & Evaluate Interventions

To realise a society free from racial discrimination, we must act decisively and collaboratively. Effective interventions must be dynamic, evidence-informed, and rooted in partnership.

- Co-developing solutions across Departments, local councils, Voluntary and Community Sector, minority ethnic communities and society as a whole, ensuring cultural relevance and ownership.
- Prioritising early intervention and community-based approaches that build trust and capacity.
- Embedding human rights and equality principles into all programmes and services.
- Testing programmes and establishing clear feedback mechanisms to evaluate impact and adapt strategies.

The public health approach recognises that there are three types of interventions that should be actioned to address poor outcomes:

- **Primary Interventions:** Activities that reduce risks or those that address the cause;
- **Secondary Interventions:** Activities which focus on early detection to support early intervention and reduce the level of harm; and
- **Tertiary Interventions:** Activities that minimise and/or address the consequences and provide support.

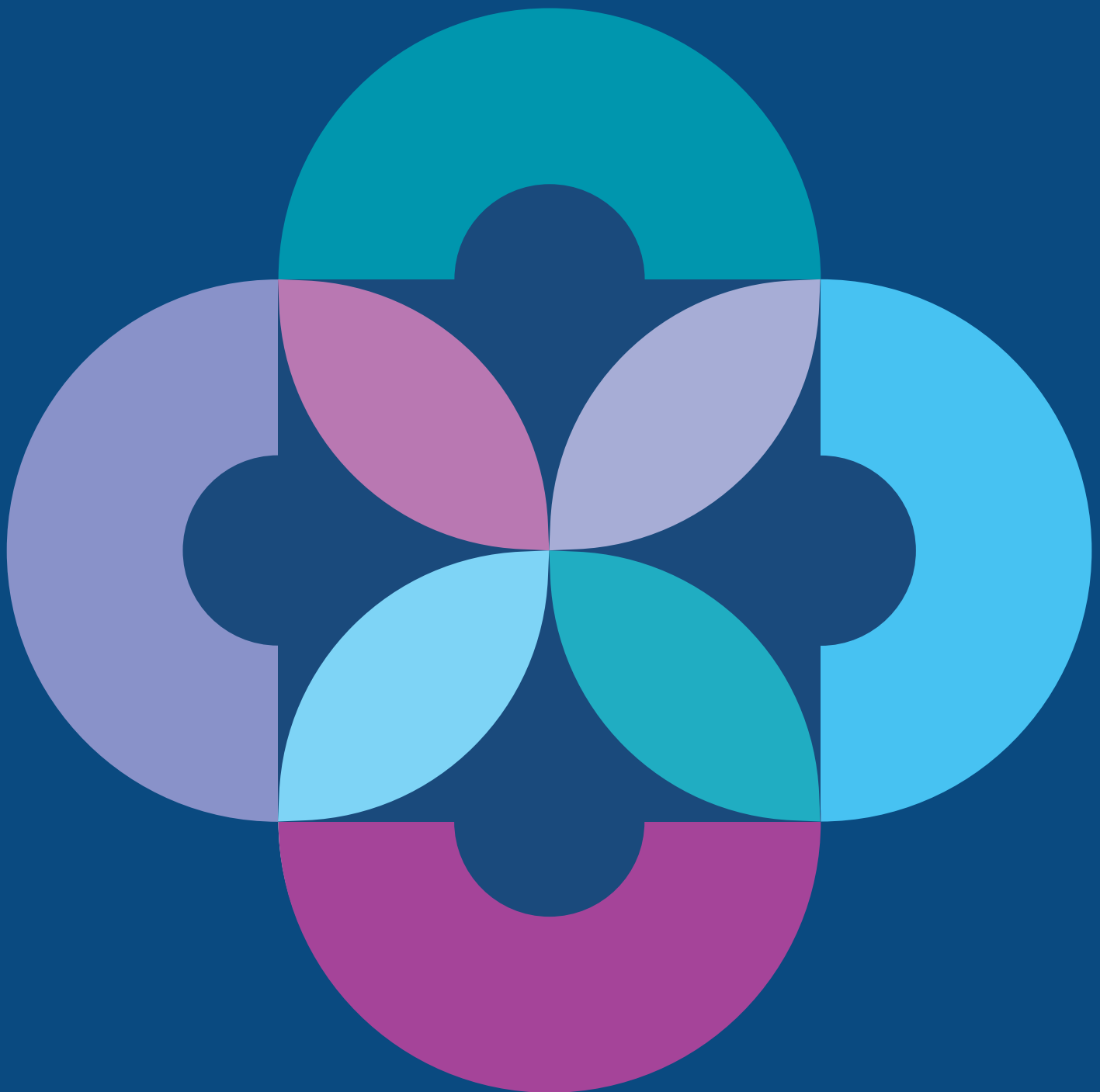
This model allows us to remain flexible and provides opportunities to respond appropriately to emerging issues. It allows us to continually seek feedback from stakeholders on areas of priority and the ability to amend associated activities. We will use this Framework as our guide to develop a fluid plan based on the key priorities determined by all stakeholders and underpinned by a human rights approach.

Scaling Up Successful Policies and Programmes

Long-term change requires embedding what works into the fabric of society. Scaling up ensures that racial equality is not a project, but a permanent societal commitment.

- Mainstreaming successful initiatives into policy, legislation, and institutional practice.
- Securing sustainable funding and cross-sectoral commitment to racial equality.
- Promoting shared learning and replication of best practice across regions and sectors.
- Ensuring continued engagement with communities to maintain relevance and accountability.

Vision & Outcomes





Vision

72% of respondents in the Call for Views agreed or strongly agreed with the vision in the current Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025. As such, we believe this vision should be carried forward into the new Framework.



Outcomes

Based on the engagement and research to date, four key outcomes have been identified which, if met, should achieve the overall vision. The outcomes serve as strategic pillars that guide both the implementation and evaluation of the Framework.

They reflect the priorities and concerns raised through extensive consultation with minority ethnic communities, thematic groups, and wider society, as well as alignment with international best practices.

Each outcome represents a critical area where progress is essential to achieving racial equality. They are designed to be interconnected and mutually reinforcing, ensuring a holistic approach to tackling racial disparities. The outcomes provide a clear structure to help focus efforts and resources where they are most needed.

To support the achievement of each outcome, targeted interventions will be prioritised within an implementation plan to accompany the Framework. This plan will outline operational steps, timelines, and responsibilities, ensuring that implementation is both strategic and responsive to emerging needs.

Vision

“A society which is strengthened by its ethnic diversity, where we can live together free from racism, racial inequality and unlawful racial discrimination, where we share a common sense of belonging and where human rights and equality are enjoyed by all.”

**Outcome 1:
Elimination
of Racial
Inequality**




To eliminate racial inequalities and promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of economic, social, cultural, political and public life. This includes a focus on capacity building, community development and celebration of cultural identity.

**Outcome 2:
Combatting
Racism & Race
Hate Crime**



To combat racism and race hate and to provide effective protection against all manifestations of racism and racist crime. This includes providing redress and having a victim-centred approach.

**Outcome 3:
Equality
of Service
Provision**



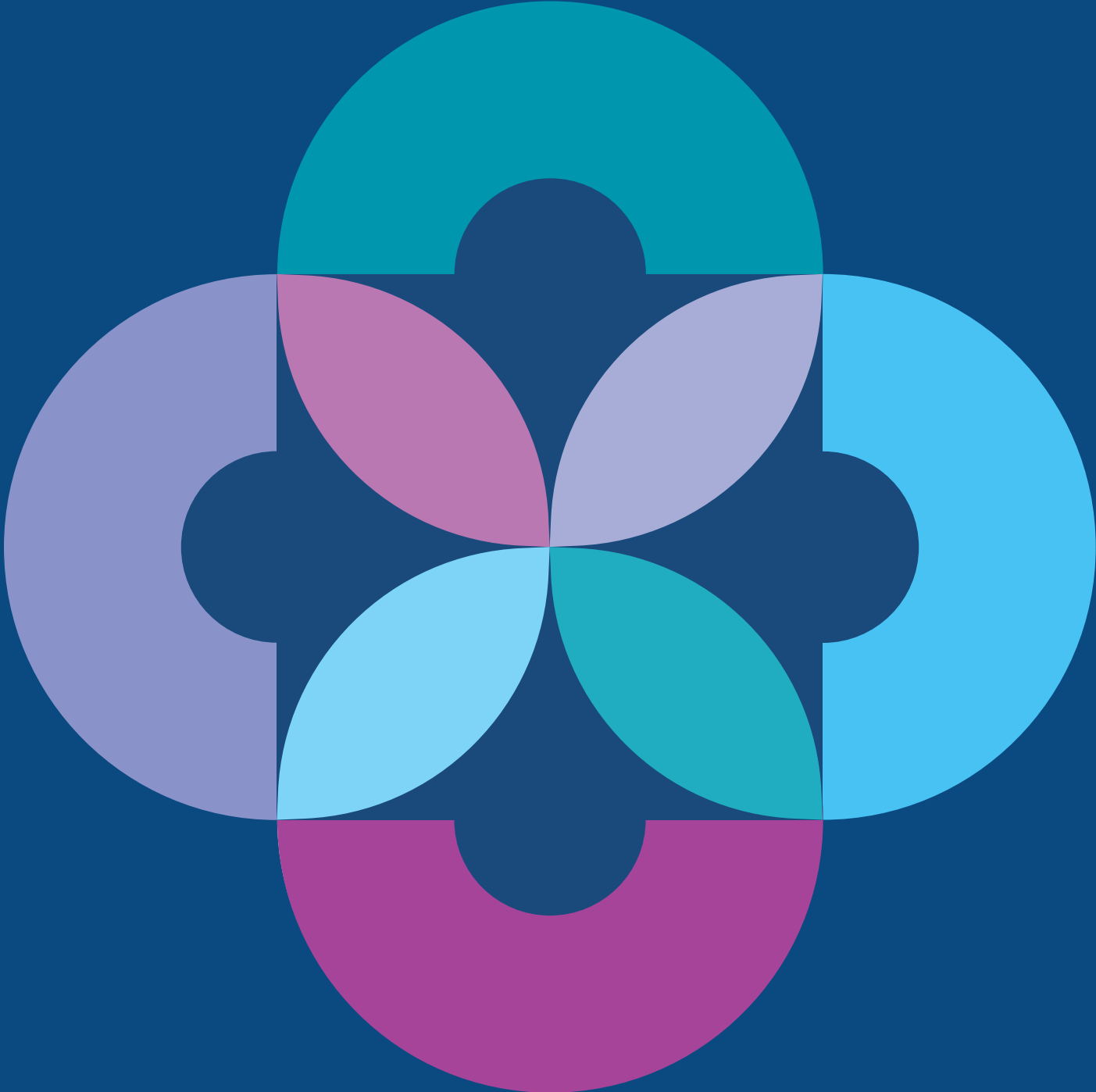
To ensure that individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds have equitable access to and can fully benefit from public services, including opportunities in education and enterprise, in a manner that promotes equality of opportunity and good relations.

**Outcome 4:
Community
Cohesion**



To strengthen social relations and promote integration between all communities. This includes increasing the participation, representation and sense of belonging of people from minority ethnic communities.

Framework Delivery





Achieving the outcomes

It is important to recognise that achieving the outcomes requires a whole of society approach. Whilst this Framework, led by Government, sets the direction, everyone has their part to play. Success will be dependent on effective partnership working with local government and the Voluntary and Community Sector as well as ensuring those with lived experience, continually inform implementation.

Based on engagement with minority ethnic communities, thematic groups, and wider society, various issues and potential interventions have been compiled under the outcomes below. These have been prioritised with a number selected for delivery in Year One and Two within the accompanying Delivery Plan. This list is not extensive and remains open for amendment in response to emerging issues and on the feedback received during monitoring.

Outcome 1: Elimination of Racial Inequality



To eliminate racial inequalities and promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of economic, educational, social, cultural, political and public life. This includes a focus on capacity building, community development and celebration of cultural identity.

Key Issues



- Public narratives and misinformation can impact the rhetoric around migrants, asylum seekers and refugees.
- High levels of unemployment in some minority ethnic communities.
- Academic underachievement in some minority ethnic communities.
- Lack of representation of minority ethnic people in leadership positions.

Key Interventions



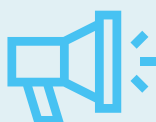
- ✓ Drive systemic change by enacting updated Race Relations legislation.
- ✓ Embed racial equality across government and societal structures.
- ✓ Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.
- ✓ Expand educational opportunities to reflect diverse histories and cultures, raising aspirations and increasing attainment.
- ✓ Launch a refreshed Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) that is effective in delivering the outcomes of the Framework.
- ✓ Enhance linkages and improve communication between the Racial Equality Subgroup and wider minority ethnic communities using workshops to increase reach and opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practice.
- ✓ Improve equality of opportunity for employment and leadership opportunities for minority ethnic communities, increasing representation in leadership and public sector roles.



Outcome 2: Combatting Racism & Race Hate

To combat racism and race hate and to provide effective protection against all manifestations of racism and racist crime. To provide redress and to have a victim-centred approach.

Key Issues



- Increase in race hate crime and racist incidents.
- Increase in sharing of inaccurate information, particularly online.
- Low levels of trust in the justice system by minority ethnic communities.

Key Interventions



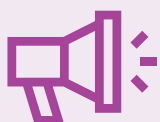
- ✓ Review approaches to racially motivated and aggravated crime in tandem with access to justice for victims.
- ✓ Enhance communications and education to dispel myths and stereotypes.
- ✓ Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.
- ✓ Promote shared cultural awareness and understanding through education and awareness initiatives which includes tackling misinformation and harmful narratives where relevant.
- ✓ Increase engagement with minority ethnic communities to promote understanding of hate crime and increase reporting and trust in the criminal justice system.

Outcome 3: Equality of Service Provision



To ensure that people from a minority ethnic background access and benefit equally from all public services

Key Issues



- Difficulties in accessing public services.
- Language barriers in access to services.
- Perception by wider society that there is priority access to public services for certain communities and portrayal in the media.

Key Interventions



- ✓ Enhance the accessibility and cultural responsiveness of public services, for minority ethnic communities.
- ✓ Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.
- ✓ Build upon the work already being progressed in the field of Ethnic Equality Monitoring.
- ✓ Increase access to ESOL provision.
- ✓ Expand community-based hubs led by the Refugee Integration Strategy to support all communities.
- ✓ Reduce mental health inequalities.
- ✓ Work with Roma Thematic Group and Travellers Thematic Group to implement specific activities in relation to improving access to services through inclusive interventions.
- ✓ Develop interventions for the groups with the poorest outcomes, informed by the results of the Census Microdata Report.

Outcome 4: Community Cohesion



To strengthen social relations and promote integration between all communities. To increase the participation, representation and sense of belonging of people from minority ethnic communities

Key Issues



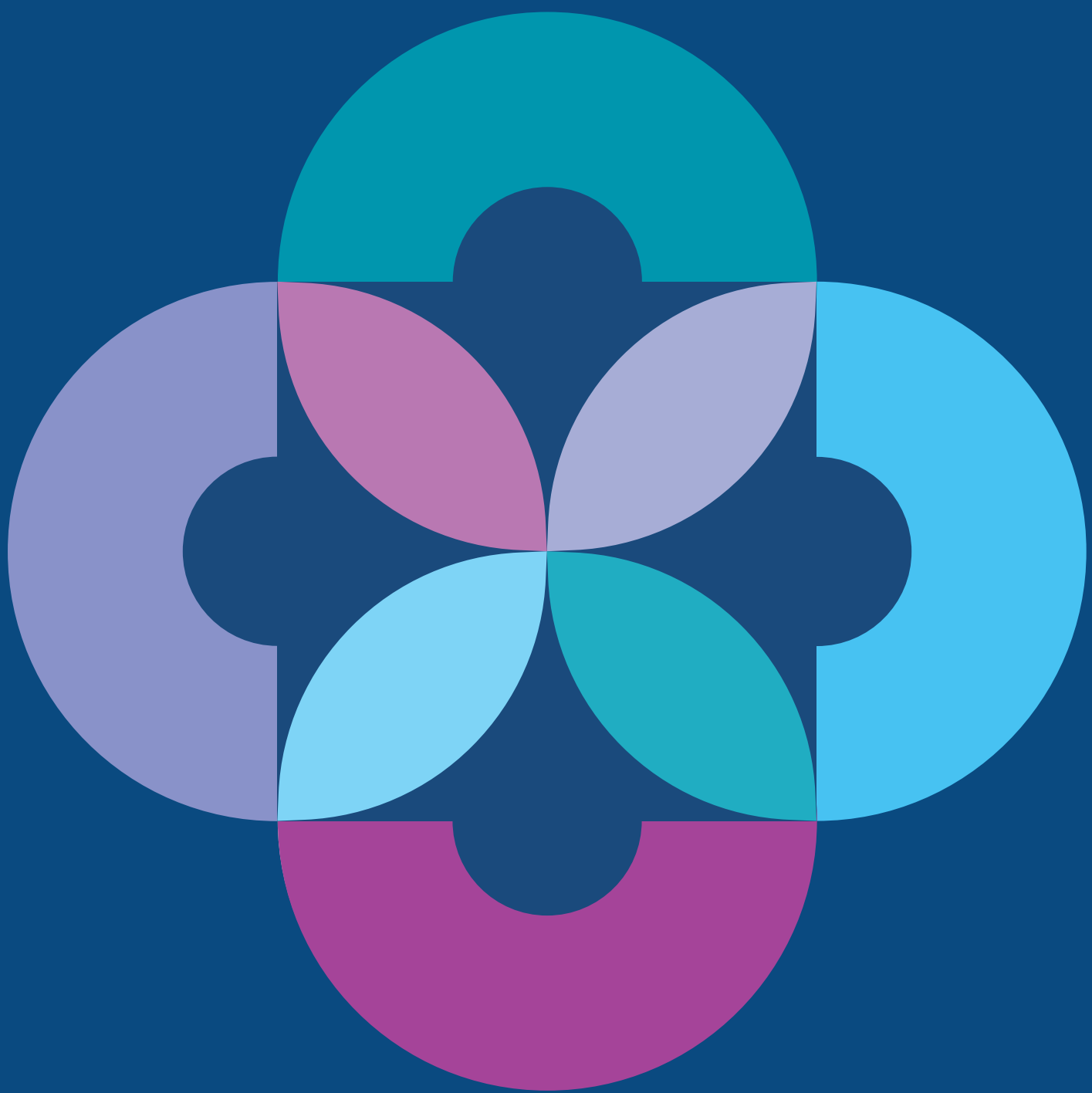
- Lack of social inclusion potentially as a result of limited opportunities to integrate, language barriers and a perception from wider society of unwillingness to integrate.
- Lack of cultural awareness and education across communities.

Key Interventions



- ✓ Establish strong links with the wider Good Relations Programme to maximise synergies and ensure a responsive and agile approach to community priorities.
- ✓ Launch a refreshed Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) that is effective in delivering the outcomes of the Framework.
- ✓ Enhance link between race relations work and the outworkings of the T:BUC strategy review to aid in incorporating race relations more effectively.
- ✓ Design and deliver a coordinated programme to strengthen social inclusion across communities.
- ✓ Enhance capacity building initiatives to strengthen grassroots leadership.
- ✓ Develop and deliver a communications strategy focused on community cohesion.
- ✓ Complete an initial round of community-led reviews to develop plans on key topics.
- ✓ Work with Roma Thematic Group and Travellers Thematic Group to implement specific activities in relation to integration into communities here through inclusive interventions.
- ✓ Develop a programme of scalable interventions to address the root causes of hate and strengthen community relations informed by the outworkings of ongoing Innovation Consultancy Services (ICS) research.

Monitoring & Evaluation



To ensure the Framework remains agile and adaptable, governance structures are built around principles of **collaboration**, **accountability**, and **strategic alignment**. These mechanisms enable timely responses to emerging priorities, promote cross-departmental learning, and ensure coordinated delivery.

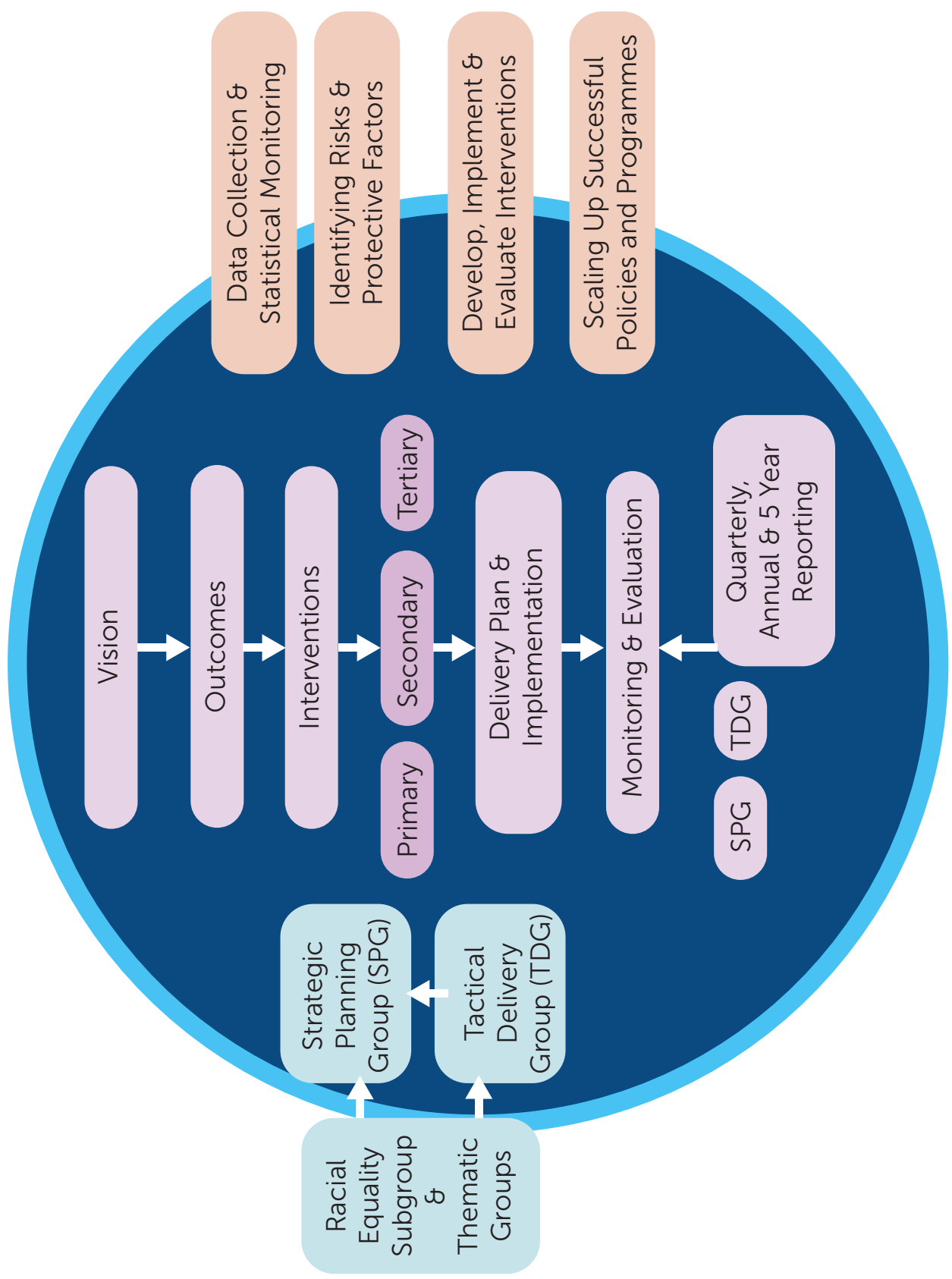
Official statistics and surveys, such as PSNI data and Northern Ireland Life and Times/ Young Life and Times, will track progress toward the outcomes, recognising that meaningful societal change will take time and may initially show increased prevalence due to greater awareness and reporting of issues such as hate crime.



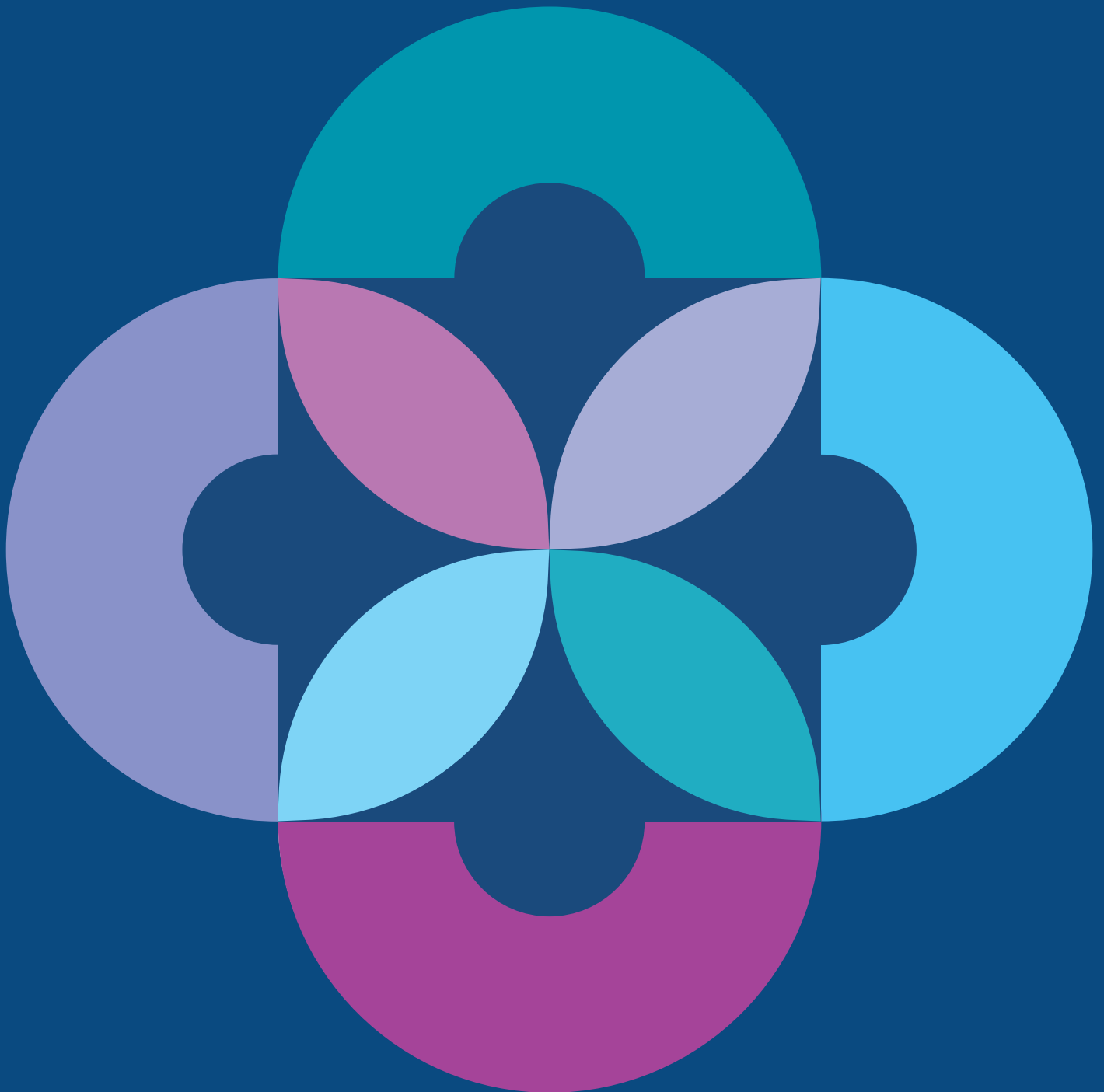
Key Governance Mechanisms

- **Strategic Planning Group (SPG):** Regular meetings to review progress, align departmental strategies, and support shared learning.
- **Tactical Delivery Group (TDG):** Focuses on operational delivery, identifying barriers, and enabling practical solutions.
- **Quarterly Updates:** Delivered to the Racial Equality Subgroup (RES) and Thematic Groups to support collaboration and allow for timely course correction.
- **Annual Report:** Provides Ministers and public with an overview of progress on implementation of interventions and achievement of outcomes.
- **Five Year 'Temperature Check':** This will provide an overview of societal changes in the longer term and progress of the Framework.
- **SPG Performance Report:** Updated regularly to reflect progress and challenges, informing planning and thematic discussions.
- **Strategic Linkages:** Ongoing engagement with related strategies (T:BUC, EAWG, RIS) ensures coherence, avoids duplication, and strengthens collective impact. This can be strengthened through connections between structures of these Strategies.
- **Racial Equality Subgroup and Thematic Groups:** Regular engagement with the Racial Equality Subgroup as our Panel of Experts and thematic groups to brief on progress and garner continuous feedback.
- **Further Research:** Further research and engagement opportunities throughout the lifetime of the Framework to include impacts of interventions and changes in attitudes/issues.

This structure ensures that the Framework can respond dynamically to change, integrate feedback, and maintain momentum across all levels of delivery.



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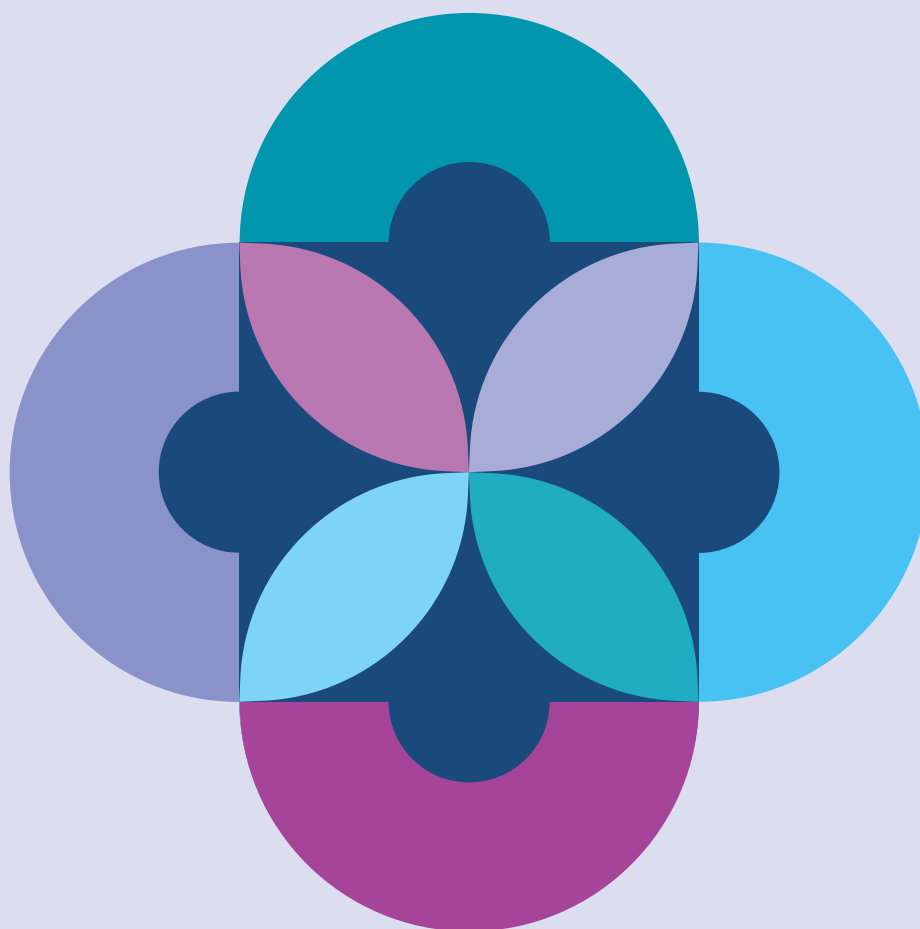
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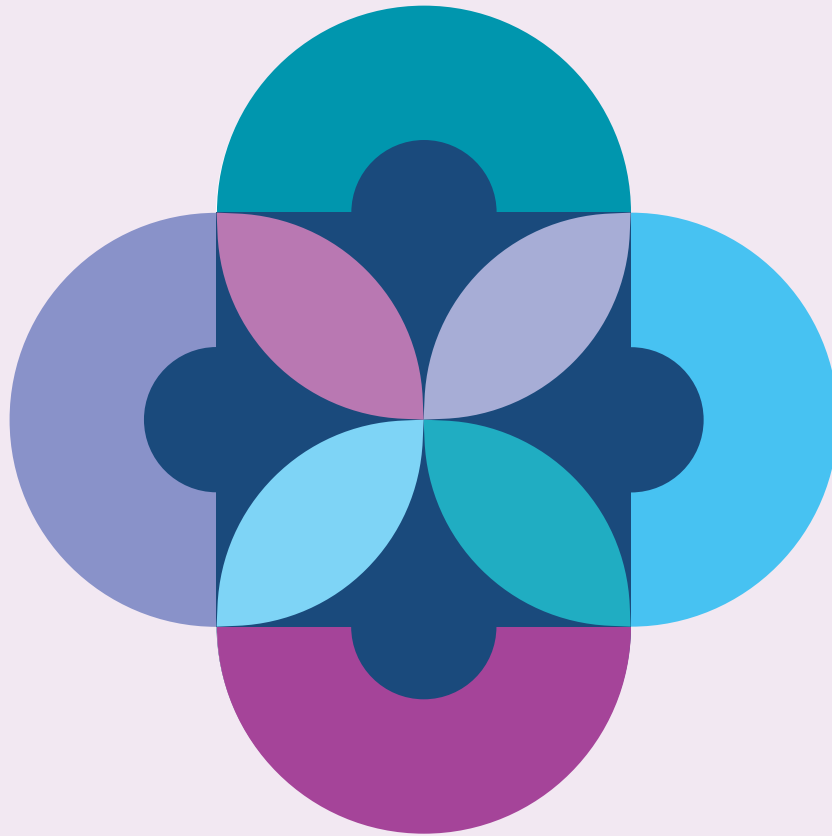
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A Framework for **Race** Relations

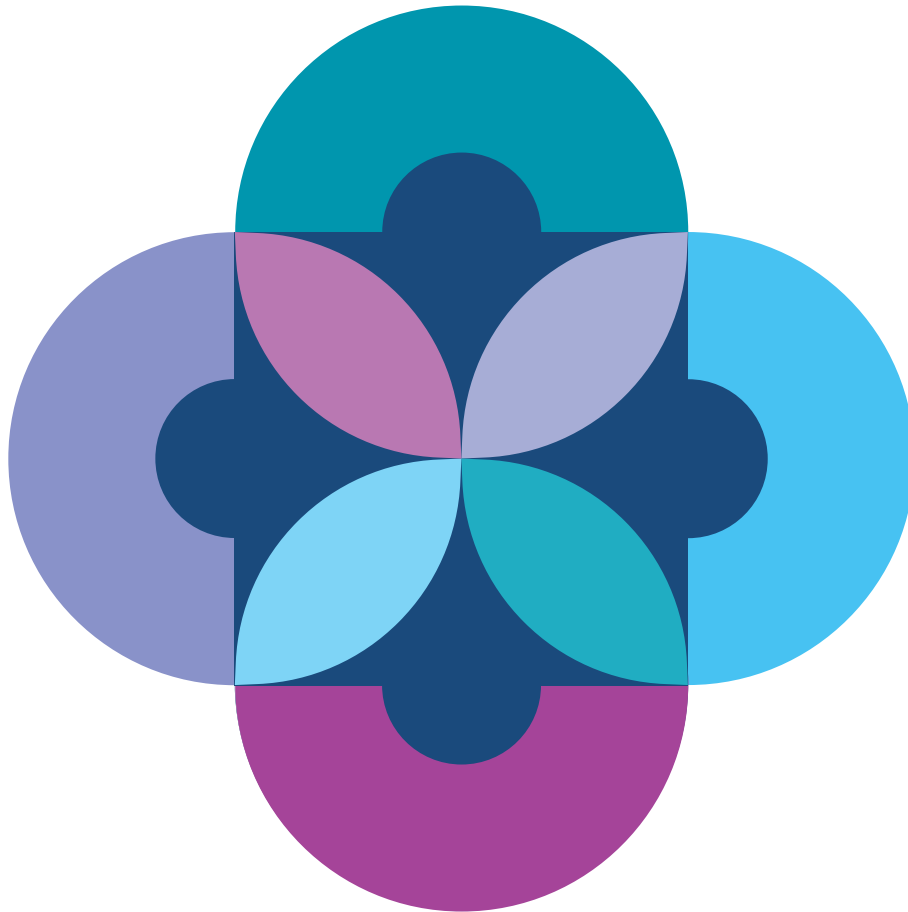


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A Framework for Race Relations

Delivery Plan 2026-2028



The Framework and Context

Racism and hate are increasing at a concerning rate and if not tackled will have a negative impact within communities and on society as a whole. Everyone has a part to play and the Framework for Race Relations sets out our vision and the associated outcomes we seek to achieve collectively.

Achieving this requires a sustained and coordinated effort across all sectors of society. It demands not only a commitment to eliminating racial inequality and combating racism, but also a proactive approach to fostering community cohesion and ensuring that everyone feels a sense of belonging. This is reflected in the proposed outcomes.

The Framework has identified the key issues and a range of primary, secondary and tertiary interventions to help address these issues. It is however flexible to adapt to new or emerging challenges and to allow for approaches and interventions to be adjusted to meet needs as they arise. It also recognises that not all can be progressed at once and meaningful change will take time. The vision, outcomes and key interventions to be taken forward are on the next page.



Vision

A society which is strengthened by its ethnic diversity, where we can live together free from racism, racial inequality and unlawful racial discrimination, where we share a common sense of belonging and where human rights and equality are enjoyed by all.



Outcomes



Outcome 1:
Elimination of Racial Inequality



Outcome 2:
Combatting Racism & Race Hate Crime



Outcome 3:
Equality of Service Provision



Outcome 4:
Community Cohesion



Primary Interventions

- ✓ Drive systemic change by enacting updated Race Relations legislation.
- ✓ Expand educational opportunities to reflect diverse histories and cultures, raising aspirations and increasing attainment.
- ✓ Improve equality of opportunity for employment and leadership opportunities for minority ethnic communities, increasing representation in leadership and public sector roles.
- ✓ Enhance communications and education to dispel myths and stereotypes.
- ✓ Increase access to ESOL provision.
- ✓ Enhance capacity building initiatives to strengthen grassroots leadership.
- ✓ Launch a refreshed Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) that is effective in delivering the outcomes of the framework.
- ✓ Design and deliver a coordinated programme to strengthen social inclusion across communities.
- ✓ Develop and deliver a communications strategy focused on community cohesion.
- ✓ Enhance linkages and improve communication between the Racial Equality Subgroup and wider minority ethnic communities using workshops to increase reach and opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practice.
- ✓ Establish strong links with the wider Good Relations Programme to maximise synergies and ensure a responsive and agile approach to community priorities.



Secondary Interventions

- ✓ Promote shared cultural awareness and understanding through education and awareness initiatives which includes tackling misinformation and harmful narratives.
- ✓ Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.
- ✓ Increase engagement with minority ethnic communities to promote understanding of hate crime and increase reporting and trust in the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Embed racial equality across governmental & societal structures.
- ✓ Work with the Roma and Travellers Thematic Groups to implement specific activities to improve access to services and integration into communities through inclusive interventions.
- ✓ Enhance link between race relations work and the outworkings of the T:BUC strategy review to aid in incorporating race relations more effectively.
- ✓ Develop interventions for the groups with the poorest outcomes, informed by the results of the Census Microdata Report.



Tertiary Interventions

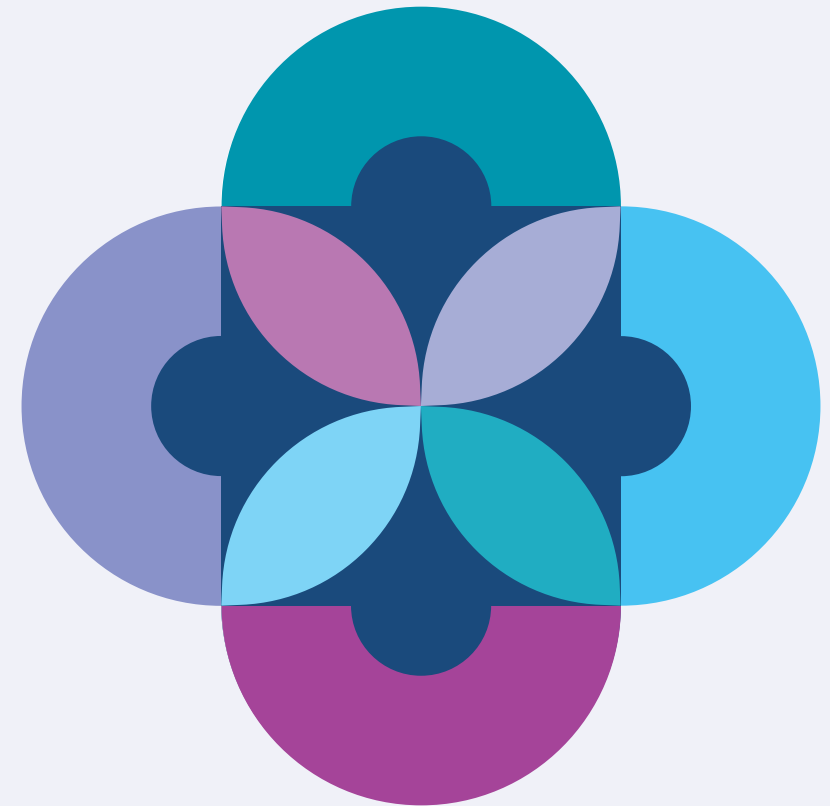
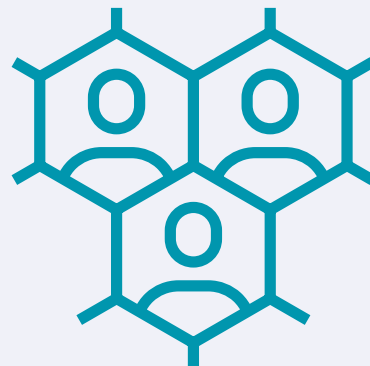
- ✓ Review approaches to racially motivated and aggravated crime in tandem with access to justice for victims.
- ✓ Enhance the accessibility and cultural responsiveness of public services for minority ethnic communities.
- ✓ Expand community-based hubs led by the Refugee Integration Strategy to support all communities.
- ✓ Reduce mental health inequalities.
- ✓ Build upon the work already being progressed in the field of Ethnic Equality Monitoring.
- ✓ Complete an initial round of community-led reviews to develop plans on key topics.
- ✓ Develop a programme of scalable interventions to address the root causes of hate and strengthen community relations informed by the outworkings of ongoing Innovation Consultancy Services (ICS) research.

Focus of this Delivery Plan

This two-year Delivery Plan sets out the initial primary, secondary and tertiary actions that will be progressed as priorities.

Future additions and amendments to the Delivery Plan will be informed by the Action Plans created by the Racial Equality Subgroup and Thematic groups, the work of the Community Cohesion Group as well as ongoing engagement with minority ethnic communities and wider society.

It is designed so that it will remain agile, allowing response to emerging needs and issues.





Primary Interventions

1. Launch a refreshed Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) that is effective in delivering the outcomes of the Framework.
2. Enhance linkages and improve communication between the Racial Equality Subgroup and wider minority ethnic communities using workshops to increase reach and opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practice.
3. Develop and deliver a communications strategy focused on community cohesion.



Secondary Interventions

4. Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.
5. Enhance link between race relations work and the outworkings of the T:BUC strategy review to aid in incorporating race relations more effectively.
6. Develop interventions for the groups with the poorest outcomes, informed by the results of the Census Microdata Report.

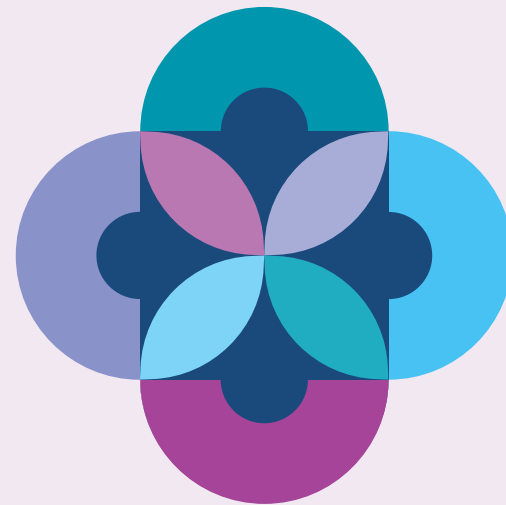


Tertiary Interventions

7. Develop scalable programmes on community cohesion and start roll-out.
8. Complete an initial round of community-led reviews to develop plans on key topics.
9. Expand community-based hubs led by the Refugee Integration Strategy to support all communities.

For further information:

race.consultation@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk



A Framework for Race Relations



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APPENDIX 3

A Framework for Race Relations Consultation Responses

About your Organisation

14. Please provide the name and email address of the organisation you are answering on behalf of.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

15. Can we contact you to discuss your response to this consultation? (Required)

Yes

No

16. Can we contact you in future about the draft Framework for Race Relations and Delivery Plan 2026-2028? (Required)

Yes

No

17. Which of the following best describes the sector you operate in? (Required)

Central Government

Local Government

Statutory Body (e.g. health, education, transport, housing etc.)

Other Public Sector

Private sector Charity / Community / Voluntary sector

Trade Union

Academia

Media

Political Party

Other

Prefer not to say If you selected 'Other' please describe the sector you operate in below.

**This is the end of this section for those answering on behalf of an organisation.
Please proceed to Question 18.**

Vision 72% of respondents in the Call for Views agreed or strongly agreed with the vision in the current Racial Equality Strategy 2015-2025. As such, we believe this vision should be carried forward into the new Framework.

“A society which is strengthened by its ethnic diversity, where we can live together free from racism, racial inequality and unlawful racial discrimination, where we can share a common sense of belonging and where human rights and equality are enjoyed by all.”

18. Do you agree or disagree with the draft Framework’s vision?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

19. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to the draft Framework’s vision in the space below.

ANDBC support the decision to carry forward the vision from the 2015–2025 Racial Equality Strategy. The focus on belonging, human rights, and freedom from racism remains essential.

For the vision to have real impact, it will need to be backed by strong implementation, clear outcomes, and accountability. Overall, it provides a solid foundation for the new Framework. Work must continue with the ethnic and the indigenous communities to make this a reality.

Outcomes

Based on the engagement and research to date, four key outcomes have been identified which if met should achieve the overall vision. The outcomes serve as strategic pillars that guide both the implementation and evaluation of the Framework.

Outcome 1: Elimination of Racial Inequality

To eliminate racial inequalities and promote equality of opportunity in all aspects of economic, social, cultural, political and public life. This includes a focus on capacity building, community development and celebration of cultural identity.

20. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 1 will help us to achieve the vision as detailed in the draft Framework document?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

21. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to Outcome 1 in the space below.

Ensuring equal opportunities, supporting community development, and celebrating both minority ethnic and indigenous cultural identities will help all communities participate fully and confidently.

Outcome 2:

Combatting Racism and Race Hate Crime

To combat racism and race hate and to provide effective protection against all manifestations of racism and racist crime. This includes providing redress and having a victim-centred approach.

22. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 2 will help us to achieve the vision as detailed in the draft Framework document?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

23. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to Outcome 2 in the space below.

Strong protection, clear routes to redress, and a victim-centred approach are essential to ensuring that everyone—across minority ethnic and indigenous communities—feels safe, supported, and able to report incidents with confidence.

Outcome 3:

Equality of Service Provision

To ensure that individuals from minority ethnic backgrounds have equitable access to and can fully benefit from public services, including opportunities in education and enterprise, in a manner that promotes equality of opportunity and good relations.

24. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 3 will help us to achieve the vision as detailed in the draft Framework document?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

25. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to Outcome 3 in the space below.

ANDBC want to make sure that everyone in our community can access and benefit fully from public services. This includes fair opportunities in education, employment, enterprise, and everyday support. By promoting equality of opportunity and encouraging positive relationships between all communities, we can help build a place where everyone feels valued, included, and able to thrive within our diverse communities.

Outcome 4: Community Cohesion

To strengthen social relations and promote integration between all communities. This includes increasing the participation, representation and sense of belonging of people from minority ethnic communities.

26. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 4 will help us to achieve the vision as detailed in the draft Framework document?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither Agree nor Disagree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

27. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to Outcome 4 in the space below

ANDBC agree with this outcome. Strengthening relationships between all communities is vital to improve a sense of belonging to Northern Ireland and to make Northern

Ireland a more cohesive and inclusive society where everyone feels valued and connected.

Interventions

The Framework adopts a public health model to address racial disparities through identifying and implementing interventions in line with the four strategic outcomes. To support the achievement of each outcome, the draft two-year Delivery Plan sets out the initial nine primary, secondary and tertiary actions that will be progressed as priorities. It is designed so that it will remain agile, allowing response to emerging needs and issues.

Primary Interventions: Activities that reduce risks or those that address the cause.

- Launch a refreshed Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) that is effective in delivering the outcomes of the Framework.
- Enhance linkages and improve communication between the Racial Equality Subgroup and wider minority ethnic communities using workshops to increase reach and opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practice.
- Develop and deliver a communications strategy focused on community cohesion.

28. Do you agree or disagree that each of the proposed Primary Interventions should be progressed as priorities within the Two-Year Delivery Plan?

Required	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Prefer not to say
Launch a refreshed Minority Ethnic Development Fund (MEDF) that is effective in delivering the outcomes of the Framework.	✓					
Enhance linkages and improve communication between the Racial Equality Subgroup and wider minority ethnic communities	✓					

using workshops to increase reach and opportunities for sharing knowledge and best practice.						
Develop and deliver a communications strategy focused on community cohesion.	✓					

29. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to the proposal to prioritise these Primary interventions within the Two-Year Delivery Plan in the space below.

ANDBC welcome efforts to build stronger links between the Racial Equality Subgroup (RES) and minority ethnic communities. It is often difficult with the barriers to culture to bring ethnic and indigenous communities together. Using the RES to connect people will help improve communication, share ideas, and promote good practice. These opportunities will support a more connected, inclusive environment.

Secondary Interventions: Activities which focus on early detection to support early intervention and reduce the level of harm.

- Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.
- Enhance link between race relations work and the outworkings of the T:BUC strategy review to aid in incorporating race relations more effectively.
- Develop interventions for the groups with the poorest outcomes, informed by the results of the Census Microdata Report.

30. How much do you agree or disagree that each of the proposed Secondary interventions should be progressed as priorities within the Two-Year Delivery Plan?

Required	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Prefer not to say
Embed cultural awareness and anti-racism training across public services.	✓					

Enhance link between race relations work and the outworkings of the T:BUC strategy review to aid in incorporating race relations more effectively.	✓					
Develop interventions for the groups with the poorest outcomes, informed by the results of the Census Microdata Report.			✓			

31. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to the proposal to prioritise these Secondary interventions within the Two-Year Delivery Plan in the space below.

ANDBC would support any training offered and encourage stronger links between the T:Buc strategy and race relations. ANDBC would advocate that all groups are included in the interventions and not solely those with the poorest outcomes, this inclusive approach could contribute to a more cohesive society in Northern Ireland.

Tertiary Interventions: Activities that minimise and/or address the consequences and provide support.

- Develop scalable programmes on community cohesion and start roll-out.
- Complete an initial round of community-led reviews to develop plans on key topics.
- Expand community-based hubs led by the Refugee Integration Strategy to support all communities.

32. How much do you agree or disagree that each of the proposed Tertiary interventions should be progressed as priorities within the Two-Year Delivery Plan

Required	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Prefer not to say
Develop scalable programmes on community cohesion and start roll-out.	✓					
Complete an initial round of community-led reviews to develop plans on key topics.	✓					
Expand community-based hubs led by the Refugee Integration Strategy to support all communities.	✓					

33. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to the proposal to prioritise these Tertiary interventions within the Two-Year Delivery Plan in the space below.

ANDBC would welcome all support for community based hubs that can strengthen all communities. A flexible approach to emerging needs and issues should be used for all programmes. A standardised model will not meet the diverse needs locally and therefore a one size fits all approach would be unsuitable.

Monitoring & Evaluation

To ensure the Framework remains agile and adaptable, governance structures are built around principles of collaboration, accountability, and strategic alignment. These mechanisms enable timely responses to emerging priorities, promote cross-departmental learning, and ensure coordinated delivery.

Key governance mechanisms include:

- Oversight by the cross departmental Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and Tactical Delivery Group (TDG) including SPG Performance Report
- Quarterly updates to the Racial Equality Subgroup & Thematic Groups

- Annual reporting to Ministers
- Five-year temperature check providing update on longer term progress
- Linking with other strategies
- Regular engagement with Racial Equality Subgroup and Thematic Groups
- Further research

34. How much do you agree or disagree that these key governance mechanisms are helpful for monitoring progress?

Required	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Prefer not to say
Oversight by the cross departmental Strategic Planning Group (SPG) and Tactical Delivery Group (TDG) including SPG Performance Report		✓				
Quarterly updates to the Racial Equality Subgroup & Thematic Groups		✓				
Annual reporting to Ministers			✓			
Five-year temperature check providing update on longer term progress	✓					
Regular engagement with Racial Equality Subgroup and	✓					

Thematic Groups						
Further research		✓				

35. Please provide any comments you wish to make in relation to the key governance mechanisms in the space below.

ANDBC would agree to an oversight with the SPG and TPG with the provision of quarterly reports on programmes/ projects to the RES. However the information given to RES should be used for their reporting to Ministers rather than add a further layer of bureaucracy on local government. Longer term progress monitoring and regular engagement with RES would better support the implementation of projects across all areas.

36. Please provide any additional comments you wish to make in relation to the Framework for Race Relation and Delivery Plan 2026-2028 in the space below.

The Framework for the Race relation and Delivery Plan 2026-2028 incorporates sections from previous policies and reflects a strong collaborative approach. The emphasis on collaborative working will enhance community cohesion across all ethnic and indigenous communities, forging stronger relationships, promote inclusion and build united and resilient communities.

Unclassified

ITEM 9

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	ANDBC Caravan Licence Conditions Update
Attachments	Appendix 1 - ANDBC Proposed Caravan Licence Conditions 2026
File Reference (if applicable)	EHPD13
Legislation	Other
	The Caravans Act (NI) 1963
Resource Implications	None
	Narrative: Business as Usual
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 4. A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors If multiple:

Background

There are currently 26 Holiday Caravan Sites and 2 Residential Sites in the Ards and North Down Borough. As required by The Caravan Act (NI) 1963, the Council has issued a Caravan Site Licence for each site along with a set of Licence Conditions. These conditions are uniform for most of the sites, with minor differences in conditions for the two residential parks.

The Council's current licence conditions are based on previous model licence conditions for caravan sites and residential caravan sites which were issued in 1992 and 1994 respectively by the Department of the Environment. The Department for Infrastructure (DFI) commenced a review of these in 2019 with a consultation to which the Council responded. Caravan site operators were also consulted directly by DFI and given an opportunity to respond. There was a significant delay in issuing the new conditions; the 'Model Licence Conditions 2025 Residential and Holiday Sites' published by the Department for Infrastructure in July 2025.

Key Issues

Following publication of the Model Licence Conditions 2025, the Service is reviewing and updating local caravan site licence conditions to ensure they remain current, enforceable and consistent across Northern Ireland.

Under section 5 of the Act the Council must have regard to the new Model Licence Conditions. While the accompanying guidance states that where current licence conditions are adequate in serving their purpose the council do not need to apply new conditions, there are several reasons why this Service feels the current licence conditions need reviewed.

- The previous model licence conditions were published in 1992 and 1994, caravan sites have evolved over the last thirty years, and new conditions would reflect this.
- The update would allow the Council to combine the residential and holiday conditions
- The update offers an opportunity for consistency across Northern Ireland. The new licence conditions have been drafted in consultation with the other member Councils of the Caravan Licensing Group Northern Ireland following their review of the Model Licence Conditions 2025. The Group has taken account of the need for the conditions to be; Reasonable, clear and precise, practical to enforce and future proofed re. legislation & guidance.

Key differences between the Model Licence Conditions 2025 Residential and Holiday Sites and the Draft ANDBC Licence Conditions for Residential and Holiday Sites: -

- Electrical installation – due to the coastal location of the majority of sites and the potential for corrosion of electrical equipment, this Service proposes to retain the requirement for the electrical installation to be inspected every 3 years.
- Telephones – the 1992 Model Conditions required that an immediately accessible telephone be available on site. This condition has been removed as the 2025 conditions only require an emergency telephone where mobile reception is poor.
- Fencing – The current ANDBC licence conditions include a condition that fencing is not to be erected around a caravan unless of a non-combustible material. It is proposed to clarify the condition for holiday parks to state that fencing is not permitted between or around individual caravans. In the case of the two residential parks, fences and hedges are permitted where allowed by the site owner and form the boundary between individual caravan pitches providing they are not higher than 1m. A higher fence is permitted provided it is made from non-combustible material, in line with the NIFRS Caravan Site Operators Fire Safety Guide 2026. This will permit segregation of homes while preventing the spread of fire between units.
- Paddling Pools and similar – While these were not conditioned previously, the observation by inspecting officers that these are left filled with water and unattended present a serious risk of drowning. It is proposed to prohibit the provision of these on the park.
- Tents and Gazebos – tents are not covered in the new model licence conditions, however, were not previously permitted without consent from ANDBC due to their flammability. It is proposed to prohibit the provision of tents and gazebos due to the risk of spread of fire, with the exception of tents erected in a dedicated campsite/touring area of the site.
- BBQs, Fire pits and Chiminea's - this was not previously conditioned by ANDBC; however their prevalent use around caravans increases the risk of fire due to the open fire and creation of ash and embers. It is proposed to prohibit the provision of these on sites in line with the NIFRS Caravan Site Operators Fire Safety Guide 2026.
- Storage Boxes – ANDBC required storage boxes to be of a non-combustible construction, not exceed 1.3m height and be maintained in a state of good repair. It is proposed to retain this condition and additionally include the prohibition of laundry appliances also being housed in such storage boxes, unless connected to an electrical supply suitable for outdoor use.
- Trampolines and Play Equipment – inspecting officers have witnessed large trampolines, slides and swings in the separation space between caravans. This presents a health and safety risk to other site users; equipment is often not adequately secured, takes up the separation space, reduces car parking space and potentially causes a nuisance to surrounding residents.

- **Pets** -This was previously conditioned by ANDBC and it is proposed this is retained. If allowed on site, domestic pets shall not be allowed to roam at will and must be kept under control on a leash or other suitable means and shall not be allowed to trespass or cause annoyance in any way.

Next Steps

Section 8 of the Act which gives the Council power to alter the conditions attached to site licences states that before doing so it shall afford licence holders an opportunity of making representations. This Service therefore intends to write to licence holders, advising them of the proposed new licence conditions and giving them the opportunity to respond. All responses will be considered before a final draft is made and the new licence conditions issued. Section 8 of the Act also allows the holder of a site licence to appeal any alteration of the conditions attached to the licence to the Magistrate's Court.

Summary

This report seeks Council approval to update the caravan site licence conditions for all holiday and residential caravan sites in Ards and North Down Borough Council following the publication of the Department for Infrastructure's Model Licence Conditions 2025. The current Council conditions are based on outdated 1992 and 1994 models and no longer fully reflect modern caravan site or safety standards. The proposed updated conditions consolidate residential and holiday site requirements, improve consistency across Northern Ireland, and introduce or clarify measures to address fire safety, electrical safety, and general health and safety. The conditions have been developed collaboratively with other councils through the Caravan Licensing Group Northern Ireland and are intended to be reasonable, enforceable and future-proofed. Licence holders will be formally consulted in line with Section 8 of the Act before the conditions are finalised and issued.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Agrees** to adopt the ANDBC proposed Caravan Licence Conditions 2026 (copy attached in Appendix 1).

Draft NI COUNCIL CARAVAN LICENCE CONDITIONS 2026

(RESIDENTIAL AND HOLIDAY)

1. Site Boundaries

The boundaries of the site from any adjoining land should be clearly marked by a manmade or natural feature. No caravan or combustible structure should be positioned within 3 metres of the boundary of the site (subject to the particular characteristics of the site).

2. Plan of the Site

A plan of the site should be supplied to the council upon an application for a licence and, thereafter whenever there is a material change to the boundaries or layout of the site, or at any other time on the demand of the council. The plan supplied should be to scale and clearly illustrate the layout of the site including buildings, roads, footpaths, electrical intake, sewers, fire points, features and facilities and should be of suitable quality.

3. Spacing Between Caravans

The minimum spacing distance between any two caravans should not be less than 6 metres in permanent residential caravan sites and touring caravan sites. On holiday caravan sites the minimum spacing should not be less than 5 metres between caravans, 3.5 meters at the corners, made of aluminium or clad with Class 1 fire related materials or 6 metres between those made of plywood or similar skin. Where there is a mixture of holiday caravans of aluminium and plywood and for glamping pods, yurts, or similar units the separation distance should be 6 metres.

The point of measurement of porches, awnings etc., is the exterior cladding of the caravan, excluding the draw bar. The distance from any part of a caravan to any part of a road within the site should not be less than 2 metres where appropriate.

Porches may protrude 1 metre into the 5 or 6 metres space and should be of the open type.

Where awnings are used, the distance between any part of the awning and an adjoining caravan should not be less than 3 metres. They should not be of the type which incorporates sleeping accommodation and they should not face each other or touch.

Eaves, drainpipes and bay windows may extend into the 5 or 6 metre space provided the total distance between the extremities of 2 adjacent units is not less than 4.5 metres in a 5-metre space, or 5.25 metres in a 6-metre space.

Where there are ramps for disabled people, verandas, decking or stairs extending from the unit, there should be 4.5 metres (3.5 metres on a holiday caravan site which has holiday caravans only) clear space between them and such items should not face each other in any space. If they are enclosed, they should normally be considered as part of the unit and, as such, should not intrude into the 5 or 6 metres space.

A garage, shed or covered storage space should only be permitted between units if it is of non-combustible construction (including non-combustible roof) and sufficient space is maintained around each unit so as not to prejudice means of escape in case of fire. Windows in such structures should not face towards the unit on either side. Car ports and covered walkways should in no circumstances be allowed within the 5 or 6 metres space.

4. Density

The density should be consistent with safety standards and health and amenity requirements. The gross density should not exceed: -

- a. 50 caravans per hectare in permanent residential caravan sites;
 - b. 60 caravans per hectare in holiday caravan sites; and
 - c. 75 caravans per hectare in touring caravan sites;
- calculated on the basis of the usable area (i.e. excluding lakes, roads, communal services and other areas unsuitable for the siting of caravans) rather than the total site area.

5. Condition of caravans

Caravans stationed on site should be weatherproof, clean and in a good state of repair externally.

6. Roads, Footpaths, Pavements, Gateways and Overhead Cables

Roads and footpaths should be designed to provide adequate access for emergency vehicles. Emergency vehicle routes within the site should be kept clear of obstruction at all times.

Roads and footpaths should be maintained in a good condition. Where practicable, communal footpaths and pavements should not be less than 0.9 metres wide.

All roads should have adequate surface water/storm drainage.

Where the approach to the caravan is across ground which may become difficult or dangerous in wet weather, each standing should be connected to a road by a footpath with a hard surface.

New roads should be constructed and laid of suitable bitumen macadam or concrete with a suitable compacted base.

New two-way roads should not be less than 3.7 metres wide, or if they are designed for and used by one way traffic, not less than 3 metres wide.

One-way systems should be clearly signposted.

Where existing two-way roads are not 3.7 metres wide, passing places should be provided where practical.

Vehicular access and at least 1 gateway to the site must be a minimum of 3.1 metres wide and have a minimum height clearance of 3.7 metres.

Cable overhangs must meet the statutory requirements (no less than 5.8 metres)

7. Lighting

Considering the needs and characteristics of a particular site, roads, communal footpaths and pavements should be adequately lit between dusk and dawn to allow the safe movement of pedestrians and vehicles around the site during the hours of darkness.

8. Bases

Every unit must stand on a concrete base or hard standing.

The base must extend over the whole area occupied by the unit and must project a sufficient distance outward from its entrance or entrances to enable occupants to enter and leave safely. The hard standings must be constructed to the industry guidance, current at the time of siting, considering local conditions.

9. Maintenance of Common Areas, including Grass, Vegetation and Trees

Every part of the site to which the public have access should be kept in a clean and tidy condition.

Every road, communal footpath and pavement on the site should be maintained in a good condition, good repair and clear of rubbish.

Grass and vegetation should be maintained and cut at frequent and regular intervals and removed where necessary.

Trees within the site should (subject to the necessary consents) be maintained.

Any cuttings, litter or waste should be removed from the immediate surrounds of a pitch.

10. Supply & Storage of Gas etc.

Gas (including natural gas) and oil installations, and the storage of supplies should meet current statutory requirements and relevant Standards and Codes of Practice.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas cylinders must not be positioned or secured in such a way as to impede access or removal in the event of an emergency.

Exposed gas bottles or cylinders should not be within the separation boundary of an adjoining unit.

11. Electrical Installations

On the site an electricity network of adequate capacity should be installed to meet safely all reasonable demands of the caravans and other facilities and services within it.

The electrical network installations are subject to regulation under current relevant legislation and must be designed, installed, tested, inspected and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the current relevant statutory requirements. Inspection and testing should be conducted at least every 3 years.

Any work on electrical installations and appliances should only be conducted by persons who are competent to do the particular type of work being undertaken, in accordance with current relevant statutory requirements.

Any work on the electrical network within the site should be done by a competent person fully conversant with the appropriate statutory requirements.

12. Water Supply

All pitches on the site should be provided with a wholesome water supply sufficient in all respects to meet all reasonable demands of the caravans situated on them.

All new wholesome water supplies should be in accordance with all current legislation, regulations and relevant British Standards.

All repairs and improvements to water supplies and installations should be carried out to conform with current legislation and British Standards.

Work on water supplies and installations should be carried out only by persons who are qualified in the particular type of work being undertaken and in accordance with current relevant legislation and British Standards.

13. Drainage and Sanitation

Surface water drainage should be provided where appropriate to avoid standing pools of water.

There should be satisfactory provision for foul and wastewater drainage either by connection to a public sewer or sewage treatment works or by discharge to a properly constructed septic tank or cesspool approved by the council.

All drainage and sanitation provision should be in accordance with all current legislation and British Standards.

Work on drains and sewers should be carried out only by persons who are qualified in the particular type of work being undertaken and in accordance with current legislation and British Standards.

For caravans without their own water supply and water closets, clean and properly maintained communal toilet blocks should be provided, with adequate supplies of water, to at least the following scales: -

- Men: 1 WC and 1 urinal per 15 caravans or less;
- Women: 2 WCs per 15 caravans or less;
- 1 wash basin for each 2 WCs (or urinals).

Toilet blocks should be sited conveniently so that all site occupants may have reasonable access to one by means of a road or footpath.

On holiday and touring caravan sites, where laundry facilities are not available, at least one deep sink with adequate supplies of hot and cold water should be provided.

14. Disabled Persons

Particular consideration should be given to the needs of disabled people in the provision made for water points, toilets, washing points and showers if appropriate.

Provision for access for disabled people to common buildings should comply with

Building Regulations extant at the time the building was erected, altered or extended.

Particular consideration should be given as to how any new standards may be introduced where appropriate.

15. Refuse Storage & Disposal

Where communal refuse bins are provided these should be housed within a properly constructed bin store which should include a facility to enable it to be hosed down with clean water. All refuse should be regularly removed from the site in accordance with all current legislation and regulations.

16. Parking

Private cars, jet skis, and boats may be parked between adjoining caravans provided that they do not obstruct entrances to caravans or access around them and they are a minimum of 3 metres from an adjacent caravan.

Fuel tanks for motorboats should be disconnected and stored in a shaded area, but not under the caravan

Suitably surfaced parking spaces should be provided to meet the requirements of residents and their visitors.

17. Communal Recreation Space

On sites where it is practical to do so, suitable space equivalent to about one tenth of the total area of the site should be allocated for recreational purposes, unless in the council's opinion there are adequate recreational facilities within close proximity to the site.

18. Notices and Information

The name and address of the site should be displayed on a sign in a prominent position at the entrances to the site together with the current name, address and telephone number of the licence holder and manager and emergency contact details. In addition, the following should be available for inspection in a prominent place on the site: -

- a copy of the current site licence.
- a copy of the most recent periodic electrical inspection report.
- a copy of the site owner's certificate of public liability insurance.
- a copy of the local flood warning system and evacuation procedures, if appropriate.
- a copy of the fire risk assessment made for the site (if required by the NIFRS Caravan Sites Operators Guide).

A current plan of the site with roads and pitches marked on it should also be prominently displayed at the entrances.

All notices should be suitably protected from the weather and from direct sunlight, preferably in an area lit by artificial light.

19. Emergency Telephone

An emergency telephone for calling the emergency services is only required if mobile phone reception in the area is poor. If provided, the telephone should be immediately accessible and a notice by the telephone should include the name, address and postcode of the site.

20. Flooding

The site owner should establish whether the site is at risk from flooding by referring to the Department for Infrastructure's Flood Maps.

Where there is risk from flooding the site owner should consult the Department for Infrastructure (Rivers) for advice on the likelihood of flooding, the depths and velocities that might be expected, the availability of a warning service and on what appropriate measures to take.

21. Fire Safety Measures

Fire Points

These points should be located so that no caravan or site building is more than 30 metres from a fire point. Equipment provided at a fire point should be housed in a weather-proof structure, easily accessible and clearly marked "FIRE POINT."

Firefighting Equipment

All fire hydrants should conform to the current British Standard.

Access to hydrants and other water supplies should not be obstructed or obscured.

Where fire extinguishers are provided, they should comply with the current British Standard and be serviced annually.

Fire Warning

A suitable means of raising the alarm in the event of a fire should be provided at each fire point on permanent residential caravan sites, holiday caravan sites and touring caravan sites.

Maintenance and Testing of Firefighting Equipment

All alarm and firefighting equipment should be installed, tested and maintained in working order by persons who are qualified in the particular type of work being undertaken and be available for inspection by, or on behalf of, the licensing authority or the Fire and Rescue Service.

A record should be kept of all testing and remedial action taken.

All equipment susceptible to damage by frost should be suitably protected.

Fire Notices

A clearly written and visible notice should be provided and maintained at each fire point to indicate the action to be taken in case of fire. This notice should include the following: -

"On discovering a fire:

1. Ensure the caravan or site building involved is evacuated.
2. Raise the alarm.
3. Call the fire brigade (the nearest phone is sited at)."

If the site has a barrier/gate, access arrangements should be in place for the NIFRS (and other emergency services as necessary)

22. Miscellaneous

Fencing

Holiday sites: fences or hedges are not permitted between or around individual caravans.

Residential sites: fences and hedges, where allowed and forming the boundary between caravans, are permitted provided they are no higher than 1 metre. A higher fence is permitted if made from a non-combustible material.

Equipment prohibited at individual pitches

Paddling pools

Gazebos

Large play equipment e.g. trampolines, swings, slides,

Fire pits, Chimineas, open fires

BBQs may be used but must not be positioned below any awning or close to any combustible surface.

Storage containers

Storage containers must be non-combustible (e.g. metal) and maintained in a state of good repair. They should not exceed 1.3 metres in height.

Electrical appliances should not be housed in storage containers unless connected to a suitable supply for outdoor use by a person competent to do so.

Pets

If allowed on site, domestic pets shall not be allowed to roam at will and must be kept under control on a leash or other suitable means and shall not be allowed to trespass or cause annoyance in any way.

Unclassified

ITEM 10

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	Animal Welfare 2024
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Animal Welfare 2024
File Reference (if applicable)	EHPD 25
Legislation	Choose an item. Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: Funding of Animal Welfare function remains uncertain due to DAERA budget decisions.
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background

In Northern Ireland, animal welfare is governed by the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act). The 2011 Act places a duty on any person who has permanent or temporary responsibility for an animal to ensure its welfare. It applies equally to farmed and non-farmed animals and sets out five welfare needs that must be met. While the majority of owners and carers comply with these requirements, failures can occur. In such cases, the Act provides for a range of animal welfare offences, including failing to take reasonable steps to meet an animal's welfare needs and causing, or allowing, unnecessary suffering through an act or omission.

Enforcement of the legislation is carried out by DAERA in relation to farmed animals, while non-farmed animals are dealt with by councils. PSNI also have duties relating to wildlife, animals on roads and arranged animal fighting.

In Northern Ireland, councils have adopted a collaborative regional shared services model for the delivery of animal welfare enforcement functions in respect of non-farmed animals. This in turn is broken down into smaller council groups for the employment of Animal Welfare Officers, and at present we work in partnership with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in this regard.

The publication of an annual Animal Welfare Report was recommended following a review of the implementation of the 2011 Act, which concluded in 2016. This is the ninth report published by the DAERA and it sets out the scope and level of animal welfare enforcement activity undertaken during 2024 (reporting period: 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024).

Key Issues – Animal Welfare Report 2024

Demand for Council Animal Welfare Services

Local councils continue to have responsibility for the enforcement of animal welfare legislation in respect of non-farmed animals, including domestic pets and equines. During 2024, councils received a substantial number of animal welfare complaints, resulting in a high volume of officer visits. A proportion of cases required more than one visit, reflecting the nature of investigations and the need to monitor compliance over time. This level of activity confirms that animal welfare enforcement remains a significant area of council regulatory work.

Use of Enforcement Measures

Council Animal Welfare Officers applied a range of enforcement actions during 2024 in accordance with the provisions of the 2011 Act. These included the issuing of improvement notices to secure compliance and, where necessary, the seizure of animals to prevent further suffering. While many cases were resolved through advice and voluntary action, the data indicates that formal enforcement action continued to be required in a number of cases in order to protect animal welfare.

Animal Seizures and Associated Implications

Cases involving the seizure of animals can present particular operational and resource challenges for councils. These cases may involve urgent decision-making, veterinary assessment, temporary accommodation and ongoing care arrangements, as well as follow-up enforcement and legal processes. The number of seizure cases recorded during 2024 highlights the importance of effective procedures and inter-departmental coordination to manage such cases in a proportionate and consistent manner.

Councils as the Primary Point of Contact

Councils remain the main point of contact for members of the public wishing to report concerns regarding the welfare of non-farmed animals. This role includes receiving and assessing complaints, prioritising responses based on risk, and carrying out appropriate follow-up action. Councils are also responsible for managing communication with complainants, within the constraints of confidentiality and legal requirements.

Inter-Agency Working

The delivery of animal welfare enforcement continues to rely on cooperation between councils, DAERA and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. Effective referral arrangements and information sharing are required where cases involve overlapping responsibilities, such as incidents involving equines, animals on roads, wildlife or suspected criminal activity. Ongoing multi-agency working remains an important aspect of ensuring that animal welfare concerns are dealt with appropriately and efficiently.

Legal Outcomes

While the majority of council animal welfare cases do not result in prosecution, court proceedings continue to be taken in more serious cases where evidential and public interest tests are met. Convictions secured during 2024, including the use of custodial sentences and disqualification orders, demonstrate the application of the full range of enforcement measures available under the legislation.

Key Issues – Animal Welfare Service

Following a decision by DAERA to withdraw financial support for council-led enforcement of non-farmed animal welfare legislation, a number of councils initiated judicial review proceedings challenging the decision, while continuing to deliver the statutory service in order to meet their duties under the 2011 Act.

The High Court considered the statutory framework, the historical funding arrangements that had supported the regional shared services model, and the circumstances in which the decision was taken, including the absence of normal ministerial and Assembly scrutiny at the time.

The judgment clarified that while councils retain the statutory responsibility for the delivery of non-farmed animal welfare services, there is no corresponding statutory obligation on DAERA to provide funding. The provision of financial support therefore remains a matter for ministerial discretion within the wider budgetary and public expenditure framework, notwithstanding the expectation that such decisions would ordinarily be subject to Assembly consideration and scrutiny by the AERA Committee. At this stage, a final decision on DAERA’s budget allocations has not yet been confirmed.

Next Steps

In the absence of a dedicated or recurring funding stream, the animal welfare service has continued to be delivered by councils on an at-risk funding basis, and current indications are that this position is likely to continue into 2026/27. A further report will be brought to a future meeting to update Members on the funding position and any implications for service sustainability and delivery.

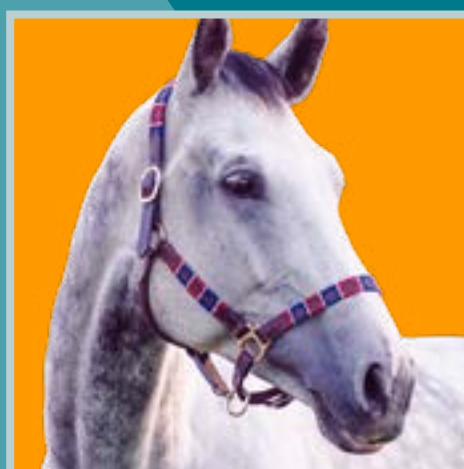
Summary

Animal welfare in Northern Ireland is governed by the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011, with councils responsible for the enforcement of non-farmed animal welfare through a regional shared services delivery model. The 2024 Animal Welfare Report highlights the continued high demand on council animal welfare services, the ongoing use of a range of enforcement measures to secure compliance, and the importance of effective inter-agency working to protect animal welfare.

Alongside these operational pressures, recent changes to funding arrangements and the outcome of judicial review proceedings have confirmed that, while councils remain legally responsible for service delivery, funding remains a matter for ministerial discretion. As a result, the service continues to be delivered on an at-risk funding basis, with further updates on funding and service sustainability to be brought to Members in due course.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the report.



Animal Welfare Report 2024



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Animal Welfare Report 2024

Introduction

In Northern Ireland, the welfare of animals is governed by the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the 2011 Act).

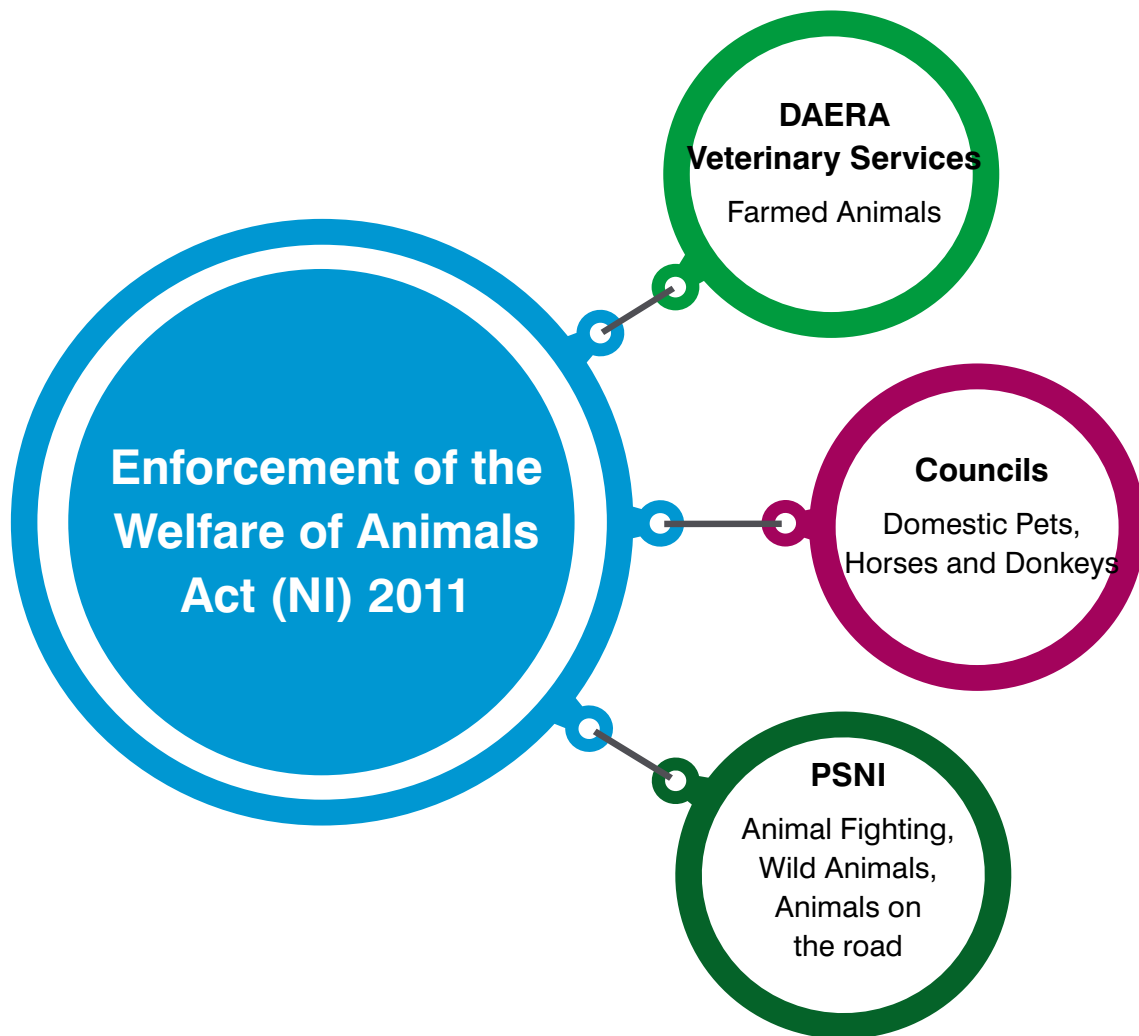
The 2011 Act requires anyone who has permanent or temporary control of an animal to ensure its welfare, giving equal protection to both farmed and non-farmed animals. The law outlines five key welfare needs every animal should have met. Most owners and caretakers follow these rules, but sometimes people do fail to fulfil their responsibilities. When this happens, the Act lists specific offences related to animal welfare. For instance, failing to take reasonable measures to meet an animal's welfare needs, or actions—or lack thereof—that result in unnecessary suffering, are considered offences under the law.

The production of an annual Animal Welfare report was recommended following a review of the implementation of the 2011 Act which concluded in 2016. This is the ninth report published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and details the range and level of animal welfare enforcement activities that took place during 2024 (reporting period 1 January 2024 – 31 December 2024).



Enforcement Responsibilities

Responsibility for the enforcement of the 2011 Act lies with three statutory agencies; the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and local councils.



If a member of the public has any concerns regarding the welfare of an animal, they should contact the relevant enforcement body. Detailed information on the reporting process for each enforcement body along with contact details can be found on pages 12-15 of this report and at nidirect.gov.uk [Animal Welfare section](#). Responsibility for the welfare of an animal remains with the relevant owner at all times.

Animal Welfare Report 2024

Investigation Procedures

Each statutory agency maintains comprehensive records of all reported concerns. These cases are referred to enforcement officers for investigation, with each matter assessed on an individual basis. The enforcement officers will consider a range of factors prior to determining the most suitable course of action. Prosecution is among several measures available to officers when addressing animal welfare cases; alternatively, they may offer advice, issue warnings, or serve legally binding improvement notices to ensure compliance by owners or keepers. In severe instances involving significant animal suffering, authorities may take animals into their possession.

Animal Welfare Report 2024



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DAERA enforces the Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 which were made under the 2011 Act. The work is delivered by DAERA Veterinary Service Inspectors and Veterinary Officers located across Northern Ireland in 12 local DAERA Direct offices.

DAERA also has responsibility for the licensing and inspection of pet shops, animal boarding, riding and zoological establishments under the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972.

Inspections are carried out in response to concerns raised, for example, by members of the public or are targeted based on the identification and assessment of potential risks or issues, for example, through information provided by Departmental veterinary staff working in slaughterhouses.

Following the receipt of a complaint, it is decided at local level whether to carry out an initial or full inspection, when and by whom. An initial inspection may be carried out when it is suspected that the case is straightforward or possibly not an animal welfare related matter, e.g. improper disposal of animal by-products. A full inspection may be carried out as a follow up to an earlier initial inspection or when there is an immediate suggestion that animals are suffering unnecessarily.

	2022	2023	2024
Number of initial inspections carried out following complaint.	57	105	140
Number of full inspections completed on complaints established to be animal welfare related cases.	89	101	44
Number of inspections where a breach was detected.	32	39	14
Number of welfare seizures.	0	2	1
Total number of animals seized.	0	300	11

Animal Welfare Report 2024

During 2024, Departmental Veterinary Inspectors completed 1040 production site inspections for compliance with animal welfare requirements. These inspections included routine, scheduled visits as well as randomly selected sites and 184 originated from concerns reported. The overall compliance rate was 93% representing an improvement of 2% compared to the previous reporting year.

2024



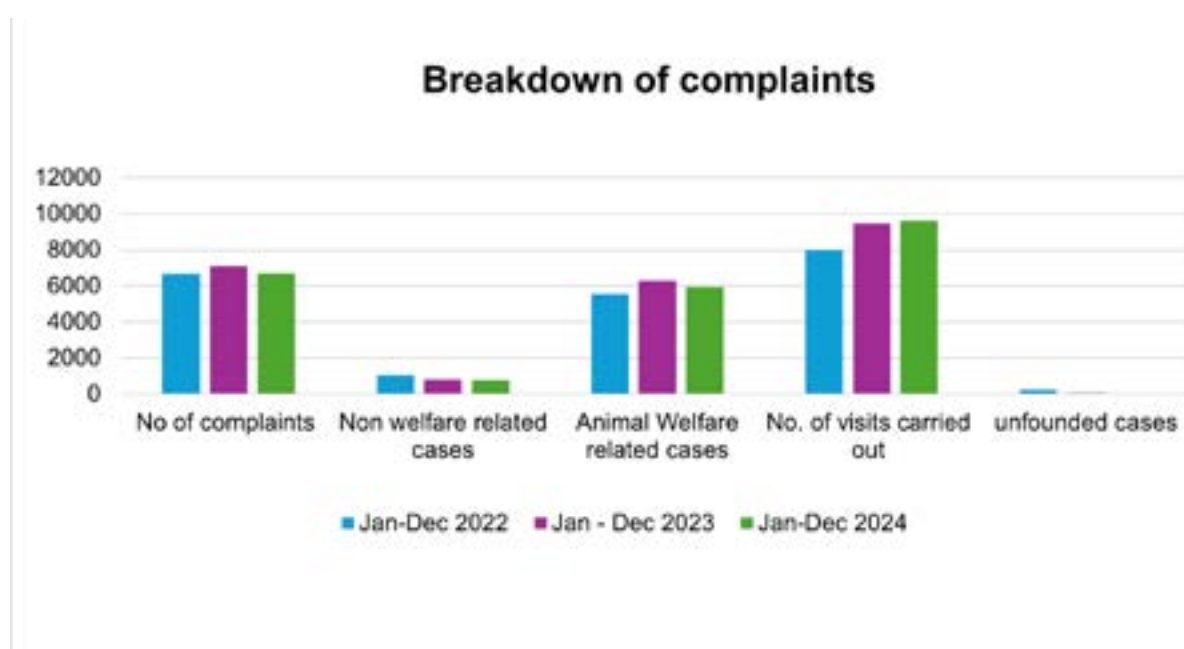
Animal Welfare Report 2024



Regional Councils' Animal Welfare Service

The 2011 Act requires local councils to enforce animal welfare requirements in respect of non-farmed animals, for example, domestic pets of any vertebrate species and equines. Councils have adopted a collaborative regional approach to delivering its animal welfare service with Council appointed Animal Welfare Officers enforcing the Act.

Animal Welfare complaints received by local councils and visits carried out.	Jan - Dec 2022	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2024
Number of complaints received.	5556	6284	5929
Number of visits carried out (some cases may have required more than one visit).	8011	9457	9612
Number of cases established to be unfounded/ malicious following visits by animal welfare officers.	240	48	57



Animal Welfare Report 2024

Follow up action taken by Animal Welfare sections of Councils on animal welfare related cases.	Jan - Dec 2022	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2024
Animals voluntarily signed over to local councils.	231	222	237
Number of improvement notices issued.	138	173	200
Number of formal cautions issued.	13	7	6
Number of disposal orders issued.	14	14	13
Number of cases where seizures took place.	75	47	116
Total number of animals seized.	166	115	189

2024



Animal Welfare Report 2024



Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

The 2011 Act gives the PSNI power to deal with animal fighting. In addition to its responsibilities under the 2011 Act, the PSNI has responsibility for animals on roads and wildlife crime. It also deals with offences involving wild animals and other animal-related criminal activities.

Currently, under Home Office guidelines, wildlife and animal welfare offences are not considered recordable crimes. As a result, it is not possible to gather precise data on the number of incidents reported to the PSNI.

Enforcement actions taken by PSNI following concerns reported	Jan - Dec 2022	Jan - Dec 2023	Jan - Dec 2024
Number of incidents reported which led to seizure.	56	63	69
Total number of animals seized.	152	88	107

The PSNI has a dedicated Wildlife Liaison Officer who raises awareness of wildlife and animal welfare issues within the Police Service. All investigating police officers can utilise the specialist knowledge of the central Wildlife Liaison officer to investigate cases. The PSNI also collaborate with other agencies, Police Forces and Partners from across the United Kingdom to address issues such as Equine related Crime, Road Safety and equine welfare, dog fighting, badger baiting and deer poaching.

Criminal Proceedings

The Public Prosecution Service, the principal prosecuting authority in Northern Ireland, has responsibility for taking decisions as to prosecutions in all cases investigated by the Police, and DAERA. It will impartially consider evidence provided and decide which cases to take forward. Councils bring cases through their own legal services.

During 2024, a total of 65 prosecutions were initiated across all enforcement bodies, of these, 44 resulted in convictions. Three of the persons convicted had relevant previous convictions. Most of these prosecutions (59) were taken through the Magistrates' Courts, with the most serious crimes progressed through the Crown Court.

Four of the convictions were handed down in the Crown Court and in each case a sentence of imprisonment was imposed. Forty convictions in the Magistrates' Courts resulted in 9 terms of imprisonment, 13 suspended sentences, 9 community sentences such as an Attendance Centre Order, Supervision Order, Enhanced Combination/Combination Probation Order, Probation Order, Community Service Order, Youth Conference Order or Community Responsibility Order.

Six monetary fines were imposed and 4 Conditional Discharges issued, whereby the individual charged avoided formal conviction by adhering to specific probation terms for a specified period. In 26 of the convictions a ban was also imposed relating to a disqualification order or deprivation order.

Three convictions were recorded for breaching a court ban from keeping animals offences under Article 33(9) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Complainant	Prosecutions	Convictions
PSNI / DPP	39	19
COUNCILS	21	21
DAERA	5	4
Total	65	44

Animal Welfare Report 2024

Note:

- 1. Figures are based on initial disposals at courts. Appeals are not included.*
- 2. Figures relate to cases where there was a prosecution, conviction of diversionary disposal, eg, caution, for at least one offence under the Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.*
- 3. Figures relate to main disposal imposed following conviction for at least one offence under the Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.*
- 4. Figures for cases where a ban was imposed relate to cases where a Disqualification Order or a Deprivation Order was imposed.*
- 5. Community Sentences relate to disposals such as Attendance Centre Order, Supervision Order, Enhanced Combination/Combination Probation Order, Probation Order, Community Service Order, Youth Conference Order or Community Responsibility Order.*

Animal Welfare Enforcement Roles

The Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, (the 2011 Act), is enforced by DAERA (Livestock), Councils (domestic pets) and PSNI (wildlife and fighting offences). The 2011 Act sets out a range of welfare offences for which penalties may be imposed when a person has committed an offence set out in the legislation. The maximum penalty available in Northern Ireland for the most serious welfare offences is: five years imprisonment and/or an unlimited fine.

The 2011 Act enshrines the five needs of an animal in law: the need for a suitable environment; the need for a suitable diet; the need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; any need to be housed with or apart from, other animals; and the need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease. On occasions this can merit an improvement notice that the enforcement bodies can issue and follow up on.

Enforcement bodies: (DAERA, Councils and PSNI) investigate all animal welfare related complaints and have statutory enforcement powers to take a range of actions when investigating a complaint. Action taken will be determined by the severity of the incident. Actions can include giving advice; issuing verbal warnings; issuing improvement notices (except PSNI); and, in extreme cases of suffering, taking animals into their possession and initiating prosecution action.

Enforcement bodies are unable to comment on any active or ongoing investigations.

The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is responsible for farmed animals (any animal bred or kept for the production of food, wool or skin or for other farming purposes).

Councils are responsible for enforcement in respect of non-farmed animals i.e. domestic pets and equines (e.g. horses and donkeys etc).

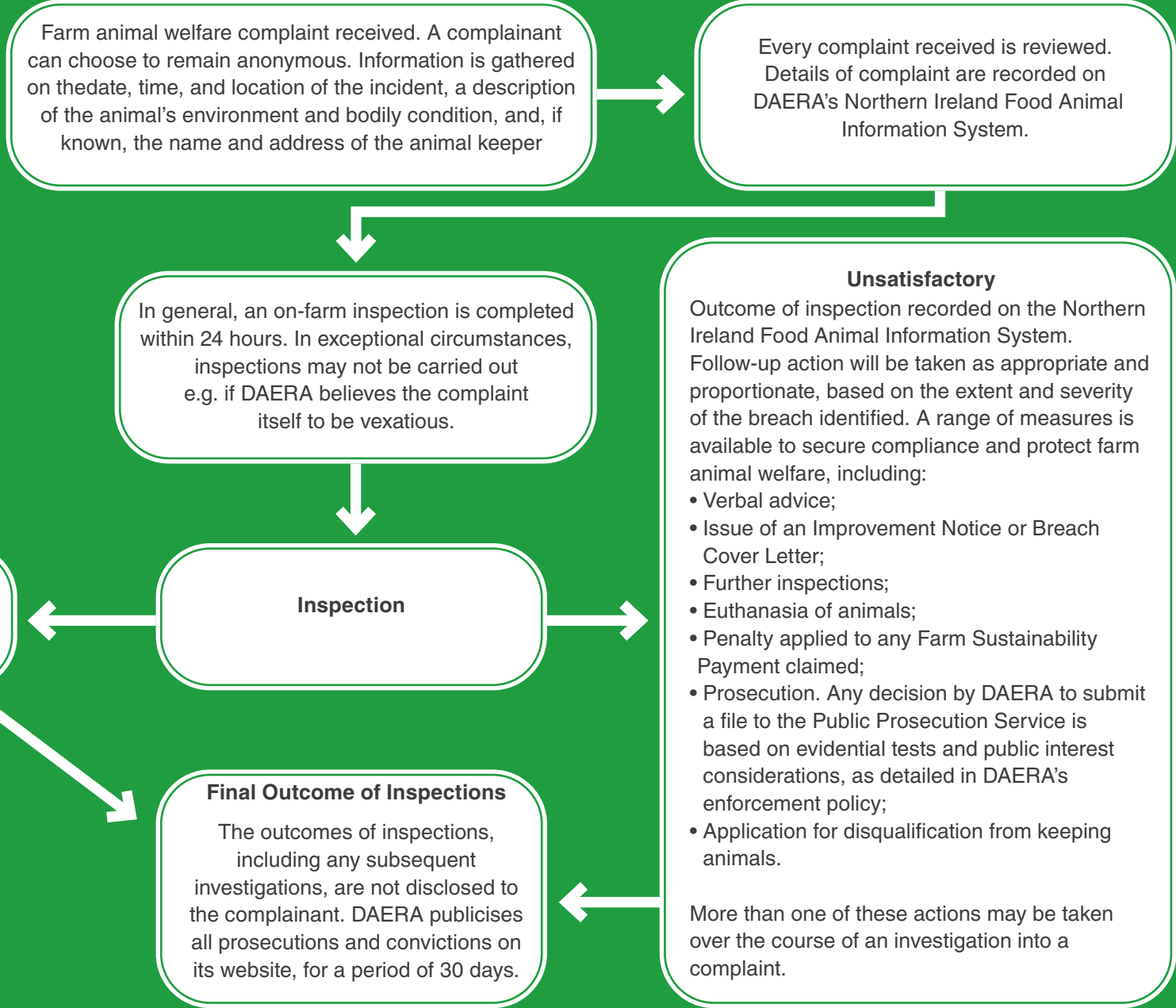
PSNI enforce section 8 of the 2011 Act for animal fighting such as badger baiting, dog fighting or cockerel fighting. The PSNI is also responsible for wildlife crime which can include poisoning of wild birds and illegal trapping of wildlife.

If you wish to speak to someone regarding the welfare of farmed animals please contact DAERA:
 During office hours - Monday to Friday 9am-5pm telephone - 0300 200 7840
 At weekends - contact a local Private Veterinary Practice or a local Police Station who will, as necessary, refer the welfare complaint to the relevant DAERA "on call" officer.

If you wish to speak to someone regarding the welfare of non-farmed animals i.e. domestic pets, horses, donkeys please [contact your local Council](#).
 At weekends and over holiday periods contact the same number and your call will be diverted to an answering service.

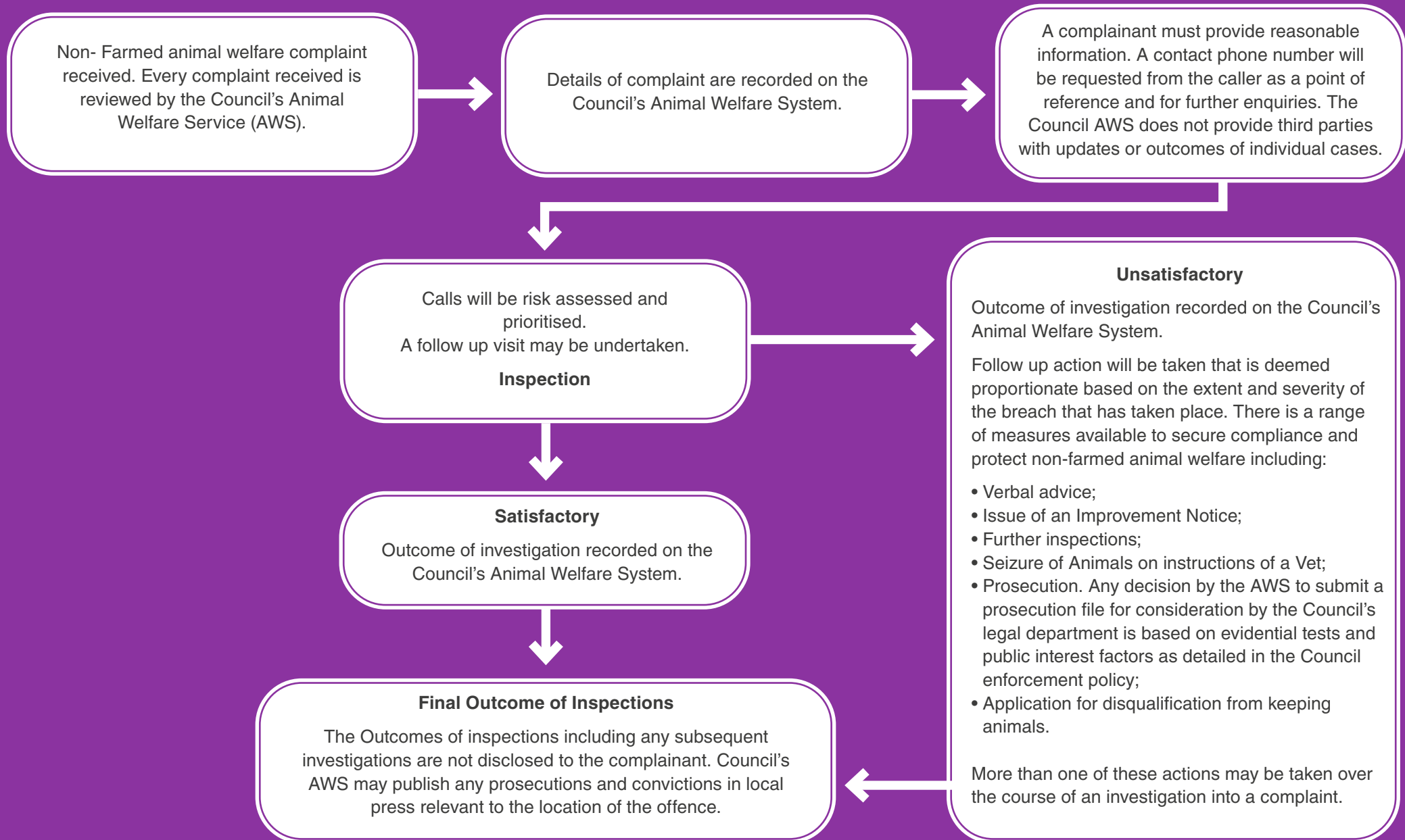
If you wish to make a complaint about animal fighting you should contact the PSNI on 101, or online at www.psni.police.uk or anonymously using Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111.
 PSNI can also investigate organised crime and economic crime involving animals and work with DAERA and Councils to do so.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, (DAERA)

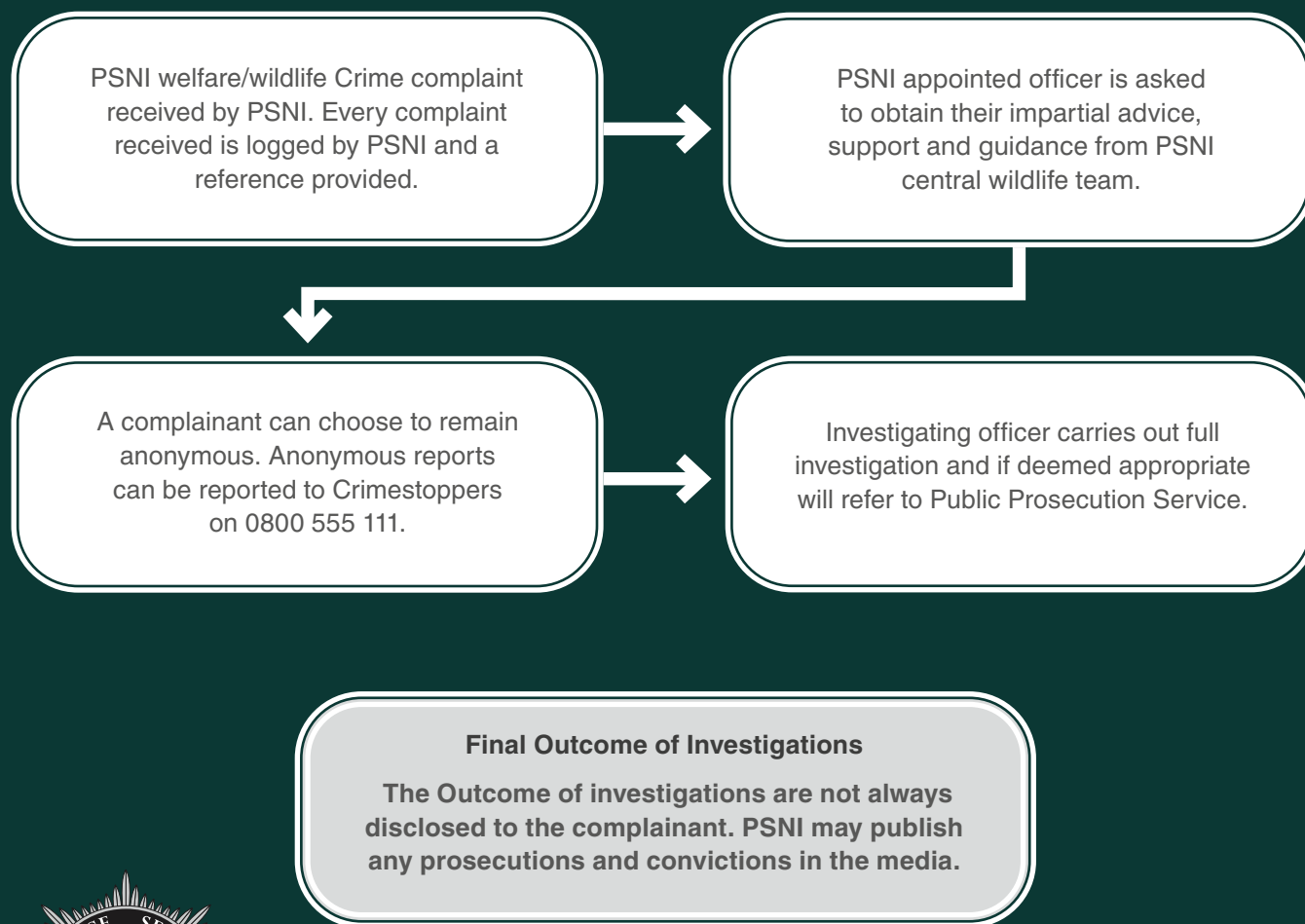



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NI Councils



Police Service of NI (PSNI) Central Wildlife/Animal Welfare Team



There are a range of measures available and some examples include:

- Referral to local Councils Animal Welfare Services if report is in relation to domestic pets.
- Referral to DAERA if report is in relation to livestock.
- Seizure of Animals.
- Application for Disposal Order on any Animal seized.
- Prosecution. Any decision by the PSNI to ultimately submit a prosecution file is based on evidential tests and public interest factors
- Application for disqualification from keeping animals.
- Further penalties may include; probation order, conditional discharge, monetary, prison, suspended sentence, prohibition for keeping animals.
- PSNI may seek an application for costs for PSNI's care/treatment of the animal against the owner/ defendant where appropriate.

More than one of these actions may be taken over the course of an investigation into a complaint.





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Unclassified

ITEM 11

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	Response to Notice of Motion 671 - Responsible Dog Walking (May 2026)
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	NoM 671
Legislation	Choose an item. Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 The Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: Costs associated with Education Campaign
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental 4. A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors If multiple:

Background

A Notice of Motion relating to Responsible Dog Walking in Public Spaces was adopted at the Environment Committee Meeting in September 2025. It stated that the Council, as a Dog Friendly Borough, recognises the need to balance animal welfare, public safety, and shared use of parks and footpaths. It raised concerns about individuals walking multiple dogs, the rise of unlicensed professional dog walkers without insurance, and the associated risks to people and pets. It noted that other councils, including Belfast City Council, have introduced limits on the number of dogs walked at one time and suggested similar measures be considered. More specifically, the Notice of Motion proposed that the Council resolves to:

1. Produce a report outlining the costs and steps required to introduce a local restriction under the relevant provisions of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environments Act (Northern Ireland) 2011: Limiting the number of dogs that any one person may be in charge of to a maximum of four at any given time in public spaces.
2. Mandating that professional dog walkers must have dogs on leads at all times to ensure dog control and accountability for dog behaviours.
3. Include in the report, the provision and cost of a complementary public education campaign, to inform residents, recreational and professional dog walkers about the new limit, about what it means to have a dog under your control in public spaces (whether on or off lead), and what promoting responsible dog control and safety in shared spaces should be.
4. To write to the DAERA Minister to ask him to introduce, and provide funding support to Councils to enforce, mandatory registration of professional dog walkers to help to ensure suitable animal welfare standards, the provision of suitable training, experience, insurance, and public safety.

Subsequently, reports were brought to the January and March meetings of this Committee. Following the March meeting, it was agreed to proceed with carrying out a consultation to assess public opinion, with a range of options on what a future Dog Control Order (DCO) may look like. Additionally, it was agreed that officers bring a report on our options for a responsible dog ownership and dog control education campaign.

Key Issues

It is not possible at this point to provide Members with a comprehensive proposal on what the education campaign will consist of, due to the fact that the public consultation has not yet commenced. Officers are currently carrying out work to build the online survey, and it is hoped that the consultation will go live on 1st June 2026, and remain open for one month.

Once the survey has closed, officers will analyse and present the results to Members at a future meeting. Following this process, there will be a more accurate indication as to the details of any future DCO, and therefore what will be required in an accompanying education campaign.

However, at this stage, the following options have been discussed as possible educational mediums or ways of engaging with dog owners/walkers:

- Making use of existing campaigns and promotional material, such as DAERA's "Responsible Dog Ownership" initiative.
- A revised website section on responsible dog ownership.
- Regular messaging on the Council's social media pages.
- Pop-up clinics at popular dog walking areas.
- Information sent with new licence applications and renewal letters.
- Direct engagement with professional dog walkers
- Media advertisement (will require funding).
- Commission the creation of visual media, possibly animated, to promote the broad message of responsible dog ownership (will require funding).

Next Steps

The public consultation is planned to open on 1st June and remain open for one month. Once this has been completed, the results will be collated and analysed over the summer before being presented to this Committee in September. Officers will request direction on how to proceed, and as part of this process, will devise a tailored education campaign in relation to responsible dog walking.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the report.

Unclassified

ITEM 12**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	Bathing Waters Amendment
Attachments	None
File Reference (if applicable)	PCA100
Legislation	Other The Quality of Bathing Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2008
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental 6. Opportunities for people to be active and healthy If multiple:

Background

At the January Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting, a report was noted in relation to the possible nomination of additional Designated Bathing Waters in the Borough. At the subsequent Council Meeting, an amendment to the recommendation was approved as follows: -

“That the recommendation be adopted, and given the tragic news of the death at Helen's Bay at the weekend, that Council continues to work in partnership with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, to explore best practice with regards to supporting bathers' safety, bringing back a report to the Committee to outline what else Council can do to promote safety at our beaches and harbours, and any potential safety measures that could be implemented.”

Key Issues

In our role as land owner and beach operator for Designated Bathing Waters, the Council carries out risk assessments at each of our approved beaches. As part of the risk assessment process, site-specific hazards are identified and attention is drawn to them on signage at the beach. The Council also provides safety equipment such as lifebuoy rings where appropriate. Risk assessments carried out at Council beaches are subject to review and will take account of new information. NIEA carry out the same duties at the two beaches under their management in the Borough, at Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn.

The Council also endeavours to promote open water swimming safety for bathers in the Borough. As such, we are partners in the 'Get Wet Stay Safe' programme, and host safety sessions at several of our designated beaches. The Get Wet Stay Safe (GWSS) programme is a joint initiative between Sport NI, RNLI, Royal Life Saving Society, ROSPA, HM Coastguard the National Trust and Local Authorities. Now in its third year of delivery by Swim Ulster, this programme provides the tools and expertise needed to ensure both novice and experienced swimmers enjoy open water spaces safely.

Even with comprehensive planning and the implementation of appropriate control measures, sea swimming remains an inherently unpredictable activity. Risk assessments and safety provisions can reduce many foreseeable hazards, but they cannot fully control the dynamic and changeable nature of the sea. Factors such as changing tides, the sudden development of rip currents, and rapid decreases in water temperature can occur with little warning and may place swimmers at risk, including those with significant experience. As a result, a residual level of risk is unavoidable once individuals enter the sea.

Next Steps

The following GWSS sessions will take place at Council operated Designated Bathing Waters in 2026:

Saturday 2nd May - Groomsport 11:30-12:30

Saturday 13th June - Cloughey 10-11

Saturday 27th June - Brompton Bay 10-11

Saturday 26th September - Groomsport 11-12

Sea swimming and microbiological water safety are key considerations for the Council, with a number of departments contributing to ensuring good practice at our beaches. We will continue to engage with other agencies, such as at the Better Beaches Forum, to share and identify methods that improve the safety of our site users.

Summary

While the benefits of open water swimming are evident in relation to both physical and mental health, there are inherent risks in the activity due to the unpredictable nature of the sea. The Council carries out risk assessments at Designated Bathing Waters for which we act as operator, and will promote safe swimming initiatives when possible. Officers will also continue to engage with other agencies to ensure there is awareness of emerging safety measures and guidance.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the report.

Unclassified

ITEM 13

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	Response to Notice of Motion 370 - Review of Council Byelaws (May 2026)
Attachments	None
File Reference (if applicable)	92019
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	Budget and Staffing Narrative: Budget approved to appoint Byelaw Project Officer
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background

A Notice of Motion was adopted at the Environment Committee Meeting in October 2019, asking for a review to be carried out in relation to the Council's Byelaws. The NoM read as follows:

“That this Council acknowledges that Council byelaws are in need of review. Many of our Council byelaws are now outdated and do not cover new housing developments and playparks in the Borough. The Council therefore will carry out a comprehensive review of the Council byelaws to create a modern system to assist the Council in meeting the outcomes identified within the Community Plan.”

A report was brought to the Environment Committee Meeting in September 2020 to provide members with an update. At the Council Meeting in April 2025, it was proposed that:

“further to NOM 370, that an officer's report is brought back on the possible strengthening of No Alcohol consumption byelaws on Council land and at our Borough's beaches and parks. Furthermore, the report will also explore options on possible restrictions of open fires and the use of disposable BBQs at our beaches and parks.”

Key Issues

Progress in relation to Notice of Motion (NoM) 370 has been slower than anticipated, largely due to the complexity and scale of the work required. It has also become increasingly evident that the existing suite of byelaws has a number of limitations, highlighting that a comprehensive review is now more necessary than at the time the NoM was originally adopted.

To provide momentum and support progress, a proposal was brought forward as part of the 2026/27 budget-setting process. The proposal sought approval to appoint a specialist officer on a one-year fixed-term contract to carry out a comprehensive review and update of all Council byelaws. Funding for the post was approved through the Council's Transformation Fund. The creation of this dedicated fixed-term role is intended to provide the focused resource required to deliver the objectives of NoM 370, and will play a key role in ensuring that the Council's byelaws are fit for purpose, legally robust, and reflective of the needs of a modern Borough.

Next Steps

Work is ongoing to create the specification and job description for the new specialist officer. When these steps have been completed, a recruitment exercise will immediately follow. It is hoped that the Council may be in a position to make an appointment to the post by late summer.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the report.

Unclassified

ITEM 14**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure
Report title	Update on Portaferry Town FC High Street Pitch
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Sports Labs Site Condition Report
File Reference (if applicable)	LEI29
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	None
	Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 6. Opportunities for people to be active and healthy If multiple:

Background

Members may recall a previous report brought to this Committee on 11th February 2026 regarding the Portaferry Town FC (PTFC) High Street pitch.

In 2005, PTFC entered into a 21-year lease with the former Ards Borough Council for Council-owned lands at High Street, Portaferry. With support from Peace II and Sport NI funding (£150,000), the site was developed to include a 45m x 30m 3G synthetic pitch, associated changing accommodation, floodlighting and perimeter fencing. The synthetic surface was installed in 2007 and, at almost 19 years old, has exceeded the typical life expectancy of a 3G carpet (circa 12–15 years). It was noted within February's report that Leisure officers would proceed to initiate a technical assessment of the pitch to be completed by a qualified contractor specialising in artificial sports surfaces. This assessment was completed on the 25th March 2026 and the subsequent Site Condition Report is attached as Appendix 1.

Key Issues

Summary of Sports Labs Findings

The Sports Labs Site Condition Report (Appendix 1) concludes that the playing surface is at the end of its service life. Key findings include:

- Severe fibre wear and degradation across the pitch, with the carpet yarn heavily fibrillated and flattened
- Visible and weakened seams, presenting an increased risk of failure and potential trip hazards
- Failure of key playing quality tests, including shock absorption and energy restitution, indicating a hard surface with reduced player protection
- Overall performance scores of approximately 28–29%, placing the surface firmly within the “end of life” category
- Engineered base confirmed to be structurally sound, with no significant defects identified in the underlying formation
- The report confirms that remedial maintenance or rejuvenation works would not restore the pitch to an acceptable performance standard for sustained use. Full replacement of the carpet system is required to address safety and playability concerns.

The existing Lease

The existing lease for the pitch expires in August 2026. However, this agreement can move into an ‘overhold’ period, during which time the club may continue to operate and utilise the facility under the terms of the existing lease.

Council gave permission to the club to change the playing surface from natural grass (at the time of lease agreement) to 3G.

A new Lease

PTFC have previously indicated that they wished to secure a new lease agreement to continue to use the pitch and assist with potential future external funding applications. Compliance has been engaging with the PTFC for approximately 3 years to finalise a new lease and most recently a draft new lease agreement has been shared with PTFC for their consideration.

However, recently PTFC have expressed concern about renewing the lease without certainty regarding the future of the playing surface. Under the terms of the existing lease agreement the responsibility for the maintenance of the facility and pitch is on PTFC.

Members may be aware that this pitch is not on the synthetic pitch replacement schedule 2025 – 2032.

If PTFC's wish to progress with a new lease, Compliance and Leisure officers will continue to engage with the club to ensuring appropriate lease terms are established to:

- Allow the club to maximise potential access to external funding sources for the pitch replacement
- clarify long-term responsibilities for maintenance and investment

Summary

A site condition report confirms that the existing playing surface is at the end of its service life. Rejuvenation or minor remedial works would not be effective or cost-efficient therefore a full replacement of the 3G carpet system is required. Considering the relatively short timeframe to the end of the existing lease, an overhaul arrangement can be agreed between PTFC and the Council to enable PTFC to have more time to consider the next steps.

If PTFC did wish to enter into a new lease agreement, officers would work collaboratively with PTFC to ensure appropriate lease terms were agreed to serve both parties operational and strategic requirements.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** this report.



TESTING TECHNOLOGY FOR SPORT

APPENDIX 1

SITE CONDITION REPORT

Site Name: Portaferry
Address: High Street
Portaferry
Newtonards
BT22 1QU
Client: Ards and North Down Borough Council
Report No: 26070
Report Status: FINAL
Prepared by: Craig Hanna
Checked by: Michael Gillespie
Test Date: 25/03/2026

SITE SUMMARY REPORT

Site Summary

Year Installed:	2007	Base:	Engineered
Carpet Manufacturer:	Unknown	No. of Floodlights:	6 columns with 3 heads on each
Carpet type:	3G	Access:	Double gated
Dimensions:	45 x 30m	Technician on Site:	Craig Hanna & Kavan Keenan
Pile Height:	45mm	Site Contact:	Sean Fegan
Shockpad:	N/A	Email:	Sean.Fegan@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

CONDITIONS DURING VISIT

Surface Condition (dry or wet)	Damp
Surface Temperature/ Air Temperature (°C)	4.7
Humidity (%RH)	54
Maximum Wind Speed (m/s)	1.6
Weather Conditions	Overcast with showers
Test Laboratory	Sports Labs



TEST RESULTS

PLAYING QUALITY			PITCH ZONE SCORE					
TEST	Ranges	Possible Rating	1	2	3	Average Total Pitch Score	Awarded Rating	Awarded Score (%)
Shock Absorption - Artificial Athlete (%)	60 - 68	3	37	34	31	34	0	0%
	55 - 59/69 - 70	1						
	<55/>70	0						
Deformation - Artificial Athlete (mm)	5.0 - 10.0	3	3.6	3.1	2.8	3.2	0	0%
	4.0- 4.9 / 10.1 - 11.0	1						
	<4.0/>11.0	0						
Energy Restitution - Artificial Athlete (%)	25 - 50	3	47	50	54	50	1	33%
	20-25 / 50-60	1						
	<20 / >60	0						
Ball Roll (m)	5.0 - 12.0	3	13.2	11.2	12.7	12.4	1	33%
	4.0-4.9 / 12.0-14.0	1						
	<4.0 / >14	0						
Evenness 3m Straight Edge *	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	100%
	1-15	1						
	>15	0						
Defects	0	3	46	46	46	46	0	0%
	1-10	1						
	>10	0						
Infill Depth	INFO ONLY		30	27	25	27	INFO ONLY	
Total Score							0 - 18	5
							0 - 100%	28%

* Any deviation above 15mm will automatically score a 1 for this test

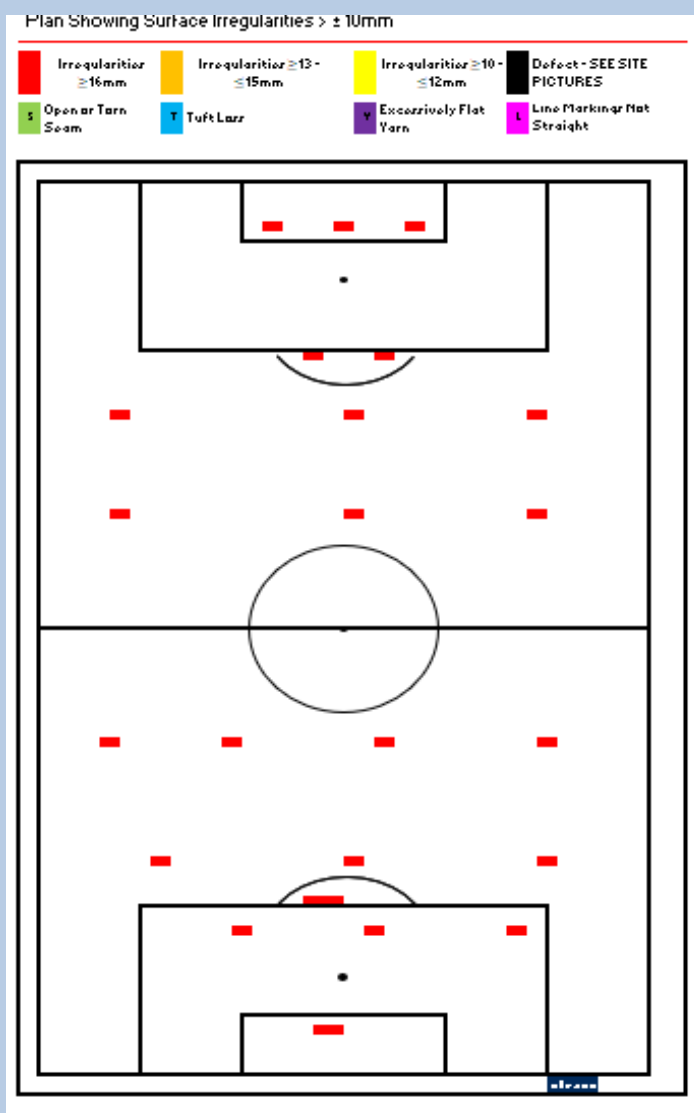


VISUAL INSPECTION

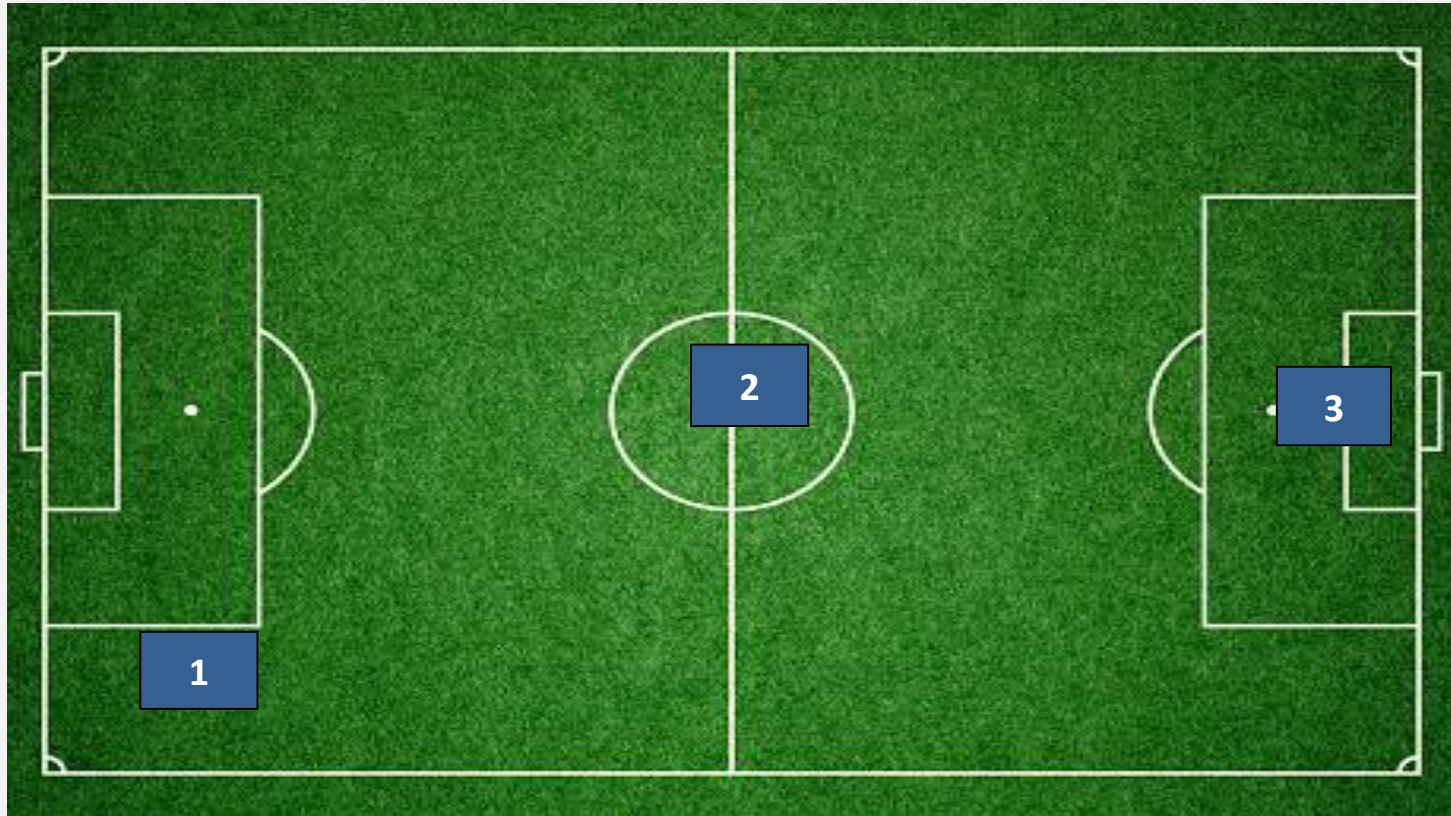
Surface Construction	OBSERVATION	GOOD	MONITOR	ACTION	Infill and Carpet Fibres	OBSERVATION	GOOD	MONITOR	ACTION
	Sub-base Levels	0	x	0		Infill Levels	0	0	x
	Shockpad	0	0	x		Infill Distribution	0	0	x
	Seams	0	0	x		Infill Compaction	0	0	x
	Inlaid Lines	0	0	x		Fibre Wear	0	0	x
	Carpet Movement	0	0	x		Free Pile Height	0	0	x
Surface Debris and Contamination	OBSERVATION	GOOD	MONITOR	ACTION					
	Debris	x	0	0	SCORES	Good	12		
	Vegetation	x	0	0		Monitor	1		
	Access Areas	x	0	0		Action	0		
	Pitch Surrounds	x	0	0					
	Surface Contamination	0	0	x					
						Total Score	13	/	45
						Total Score (%)	29		



SURFACE EVENNESS REPORT



TEST LOCATIONS



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS - OVERVIEWS



SITE OVERVIEW



SITE OVERVIEW



GOAL MOUTH



TEST EQUIPMENT ON SITE



TESTING TECHNOLOGY FOR SPORT

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS - DEFECTS

315



Worn yarn



Open seams



Damaged line markings








Worn yarn



TESTING TECHNOLOGY FOR SPORT

SUMMARY REPORT

Category	Score	Score %
Playing quality	5 out of 18	28% out of 100%
Visual Inspection	13 out of 45	29% out of 100%
Total Score:	18 out of 63	29% out of 100%

Star Rating	Score	
	0-16	0 - 25%
	17-31	26% - 49%
	32-41	50% - 65%
	42-50	66% - 79%
	51-63	80% - 100%

Estimated Lifespan of field	End of Life
Discussion and Recommendations	<p>The 3G playing surface is in a significantly worn condition, with extensive fibre degradation evident across the pitch. The carpet yarn is heavily worn and fibrillated, indicating advanced age and loss of performance characteristics. Seams are clearly visible and are in a weakened state, presenting a potential risk of further failure.</p> <p>Performance testing and visual inspection confirm that the surface is generally at the end of its service life. The infill is heavily compacted and contaminated, contributing to reduced play performance and poor shock absorption. The absence of a shockpad beneath the carpet is evident in the failing shock absorption results.</p> <p>The engineered base beneath the surface remains in good condition and appears structurally sound.</p>
Total Carpet Area (m2)	1577



TEST DESCRIPTIONS

AAA - Advanced Artificial Athlete testing measures variables which affect player interaction with the playing surface. Force Reduction is the measure of firmness of the field under foot, while vertical deformation is the depth that the player's foot would penetrate the surface during movement. The purpose of this test is to quantify surface stability as it relates to player interaction with the surface. Test results outside the ideal limits can indicate a surface is too unstable, or conversely, too compacted which can have performance implications for the athlete as well as raise the potential for injury.

Ball Roll - A calibrated ball is rolled down a ramp of 45 degrees from a height of 1.0m from the surface to the bottom of the ball. The distance is then measured from the point the ball contacts the ground to the middle of the ball. High ball roll results indicate the field performance is too fast and that the free pile values are too low (flat yarn). A low ball roll result indicates the field is too slow and hence performance levels would be reduced.

Surface regularity - The Surface regularity, Planarity or Straight Edge test, is the assessment of how level the playing field is. Undulations over 6mm or 10mm (dependent on type of playing surface) are noted in terms of location and magnitude. Deviations, either high or low, are a risk to users' safety and can also adversely affect ball performance.

Visual Inspection - The surface is examined for details and imperfections that are deemed to be a key and important factor in determining the overall condition, playability and lifespan of the surface.

Unclassified

ITEM 15**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health and Regulatory Services
Report title	NET Activity (October 2025 to March 2026)
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Number of Service Requests by Type Appendix 2 - List of Dog Attack Service Requests Appendix 3 - List of Fixed Penalties issued by Type and Location Appendix 4 - Results of Court Proceedings
File Reference (if applicable)	92016
Legislation	Other Dogs Northern Ireland Order 1983 Dogs (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 Litter (NI) Order 1994 Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i>

If multiple:

	Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 2: Environmental Choose an item. If multiple:

Background

The information provided in this report covers, unless otherwise stated, the period 1st October 2025 to 31st March 2026. The aim of the report is to provide members with details of some of the key activities of the Team, the range of services it provides along with details of level of performance.

Key Issues

Applications to the Neighbourhood Environment Team

Dog Licences - The Dogs (NI) Order 1983

It should be noted that these figures include block licences where one licence can be issued for multiple dogs in specific circumstances.

	Period of Report October 2025 – March 2026
Dog licences issued during the six months	9470

Concessionary licences remain at **81%** of dog licences issued over the period. This includes the categories of neutering (£5) / over 65 (Free – 1st dog) / over 65 subsequent dog (£5) and income related benefits (£5). Standard dog licence £12.50 and block licence £32. The application fees are set by statute.

DOG CONTROL – Dog Licences	October 2025 – March 2026
Full Cost	1747
Reduced - Neutered	4726
Reduced - Benefits	969
Free – Over 65	1777
Reduced – Over 65 Subsequent Dogs	225
Block Licence	26
TOTAL	9470

Investigations

The Neighbourhood Environment Team responds to a range of service requests. In terms of time spent, some types of service requests will be completed immediately whilst others require a longer-term strategy to find a resolution.

The breakdown within the categories for the types of service requests received have been detailed in Appendices 1 and 2.

SERVICE REQUESTS	
	Period of Report October 2025 – March 2026
DOG CONTROL	394
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	728

Fixed Penalty Notices

The Neighbourhood Environment Team issued **122** Fixed Penalty Notices for various environmental offences in the Borough. The breakdown has been detailed in Appendix 3.

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES	
	Period of Report October 2025 – March 2026
DOG CONTROL	73
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	49

Prosecutions

Breakdown of cases resulting in prosecution. The breakdown is provided in Appendix 4.

PROSECUTIONS	
	Period of Report October 2025 – March 2026
DOG CONTROL	14
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	9

Educational Programme

Project ELLA (Environment, Learning, Lifestyle, Action) continued with the following community-based elements delivered. For the reporting period the following initiatives were delivered:-

1. The Plastic Ocean – this talk that highlights the issue with plastic pollution in our seas was presented to,
 - P4 Clandeboye PS Class 1 (30 pupils in attendance)
 - P4 Clandeboye PS Class 2 (30 pupils in attendance)

2. Art and Craft Project – This innovative initiative that highlights the importance of using sustainable materials to highlight the impacts of litter on the natural environment was given to,
 - Clandeboye PS Class 1 (30 pupils in attendance)
 - Clandeboye PS Class 2 (30 pupils in attendance)
 - STRIDES Adult Learning Group (8 in attendance)
 - Donaghadee PS P4 Class 1 (30)
 - Donaghadee PS P4 Class 2 (30)

3. Rock Pooling/ Beach Cleans/ Beach Art - Beach Bioblitz events were delivered to the following groups,
 - STRIDES x3 activities (8 in attendance)
 - Donaghadee PS, P4 Class 1 x 3 activities
 - Donaghadee PS, P4 Class 2 x3 activities

4. Atlantic Salmon Conservation Project – hands-on project where pupils will learn about biological life cycles and why the conservation of many species is so important.

Bloomfield Primary School – P 5 (Classes 2 = 60 pupils)

Andrews Memorial Primary School – P5 (Classes x 2 = 60 pupils)

Summary

This report covers the period from 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026 and provides Members with an overview of the key activities undertaken by the Neighbourhood Environment Team, the range of services delivered, and performance levels during the reporting period, with detailed information contained in Appendices 1–4.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the report.

APPENDIX 1 – OCTOBER 2025 TO MARCH 2026**Service Requests**

SERVICE REQUESTS	
	Period of Report October 2025 – March 2026
DOG CONTROL	394
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	728

DOG CONTROL – Service Requests	October 2025 – March 2026
Dog Attack on Other Domestic Animal	28
Dog Attack on Person	27
Dog Attack on Livestock	3
Barking	29
Breeding Establishments	4
Collection/Stray	39
Control Conditions Issued	5
Dangerous Breed	12
Dogs Education / Awareness / Events	0
Dogs Off Lead	18
Expired Dog Licence Calls*	170
Greyhound Control	0
Inadequate Dog Control	22
Straying	28
Welfare Initial Response	9
TOTAL	394

*These calls are carried out to cleanse the database as and when required.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL – Service Requests	October 2025 – March 2026
Abandoned Shopping Trolleys	1
Abandoned Vehicles	153
Bye-Laws	2
Dog Fouling	240
Enviro Education / Awareness / Events	0
Fly-Posting	0
Fly-Tipping	227
Graffiti	45
Littering	54
Littering Detection (Under 18 yr olds)	2
Motorhomes	2
Nuisance Parking	0
Repairing Vehicles on a Road	1
Shellfish Gathering	1
Vehicles Exposed For Sale on a Road	0
TOTAL	728

Further to Members' request to receive a more detailed analysis of trends in relation to fly-tipping, officers have assessed the number of separate incidents reported. The figures in the table below reflect these statistics, which differ from the number of fly-tipping complaints/service requests given in the previous table, as some separate incidents will have been reported more than once.

Separate Fly-Tipping Incidents Recorded by Month							
2025	35	30	22	2026	31	31	39

Appendix 2 - October 2025 to March 2026**Dog Attack Service Requests by Location****OFFENCE****AREA****TOWN**

Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Main Street	Ballygowan
Attack On Person	Greggs	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Newtownards Road	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Bangor Grammar Fields	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Ardgheenan Gardens	Bangor
Attack On Person	Skipperstone Road	Bangor
Attack On Person	Hamilton Road	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Ballymacormick Avenue	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Donaghadee Road	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Ballycrochan Avenue	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Ganaway Walk	Bangor
Attack On Person	Dufferin Avenue	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Sunningdale Park	Bangor
Attack On Person	Killaire Avenue	Bangor
Attack On Person	Sinclair Road North	Bangor
Attack On Person	Uprichard Court	Bangor
Attack On Person	Ballymacconnell Road	Bangor
Attack On Person	High Street	Bangor
Attack on Livestock	Murdock's Lane	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Coastal Path	Bangor
Attack On Person	Auroa	Bangor
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Ballyholme	Bangor
Attack On Person	End of Greenway	Comber
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Park Way	Comber
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Comber Greenway	Comber
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Comber Greenway	Comber
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Newtownards Road	Comber
Attack On Person	Ballycreeley Road	Comber
Attack On Person	Ardvanagh Drive	Conlig
Attack on Other Domestic Animal	Cairn Wood	Craigantlet
Attack On Person	Burnside Park	Crawfordsburn
Attack On Other Domestic Animal	Edgewater	Donaghadee
Attack On Person	Warren Road	Donaghadee
Attack On Person	The Commons	Donaghadee
Attack On Person	Cypress Crescent	Donaghadee
Attack On Person	Millisle Road	Donaghadee

APPENDIX 3 – OCTOBER 2025 TO MARCH 2026**Fixed Penalty Notices**

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES	
	Period of Report October 2025 – March 2026
DOG CONTROL	73
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	49

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
DOG CONTROL						
No Dog Licence	0	12	2	16	6	1
Straying	5	5	2	10	2	2
Breach of Conditions	0	0	0	0	0	0
Exclusion Order	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dog Off Lead	0	2	1	1	2	3
TOTAL	5	19	5	27	10	7
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL						
Litter	3	7	4	5	2	2
Fly-Tipping	0	1	1	1	0	0
Fouling	7	5	1	4	4	2
TOTAL	10	13	6	10	6	4

Fixed Penalties Issued by Type and Location**OFFENCE****LOCATION****AREA**

No Licence	Blackrock Heights	Ballygowan
No Licence	The Burn Road	Ballygowan
No Licence	St Andrews Avenue	Ballyhalbert
No Licence	Hawthorn Crescent	Ballyhalbert
Straying	Moatlands	Ballyhalbert
Fouling	South Beach	Ballywalter
No Licence	Dunover Road	Ballywalter
No Licence	Dunover Road	Ballywalter
Litter	Sainsbury Car Park	Bangor
Straying	Silverstream Drive	Bangor
Straying	Baloo Retail Park	Bangor
Litter	Baloo Road	Bangor
Fly-Tipping	Belfast Road	Bangor
Straying	Eurospar, Hardford Link	Bangor

OFFENCE	LOCATION	AREA
Dog Off Lead	Ards Shopping Centre Car Park	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Belfast Road	Bangor
No Licence	Firmount Crescent	Bangor
No Licence	Glenview Avenue	Bangor
No Licence	The Commons	Bangor
Straying	Sunningdale Park	Bangor
Litter	Brunswick Road	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Ward Park	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Bangor Seafront Promenade	Bangor
No Licence	Ballyferris Walk	Bangor
Litter	Springhill Shopping Centre Car Park	Bangor
Straying	Navar Court	Bangor
Straying	Navar Court	Bangor
Fly-Tipping	Ballyree Gardens	Bangor
Fouling	Stricklands Glen	Bangor
No Licence	Clifton Manor	Bangor
Litter	Bloomfield Shopping Centre Car Park	Bangor
Litter	Newtownards Road	Bangor
No Licence	Ballyree Drive	Bangor
No Licence	Glastry Court	Bangor
No Licence	Hampton Drive	Bangor
No Licence	Clanmorris Close	Bangor
No Licence	Clanmorris Close	Bangor
Straying	Clanmorris Close	Bangor
No Licence	Balloo Walk	Bangor
No Licence	Coastguard Avenue	Bangor
Fouling	Bloomfield Playing Fields	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Ward Park	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Ward Park	Bangor
No Licence	Craigboy Park	Bangor
Litter	Bloomfield Shopping Centre Car Park	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Ballyholme Promenade	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Promenade adj to Pickie entrance	Bangor
Straying	Princetown Road	Bangor
Dog Off Lead	Bangor Seafront Promenade	Bangor
Straying	Ards shopping Centre Car Park	Comber
No Licence	Ballykeigle Road	Comber
Fouling	Cairn Wood Forest Park	Craigantlet
Fouling	The Commons	Donaghadee

OFFENCE	LOCATION	AREA
Fouling	Commons	Donaghadee
Fouling	Scrabo Road	Donaghadee
Fouling	Mill Street	Donaghadee
Fouling	The Commons	Donaghadee
No Licence	Park Avenue	Donaghadee
Fouling	The Commons	Donaghadee
Straying	Groomsport Beach	Groomsport
Fouling	Groomsport Beach Car Park	Groomsport
Straying	Bridge Road	Helens Bay
No Licence	Bridge Road	Helens Bay
Straying	Woodland Avenue	Helens Bay
Fouling	Coastal Path	Helens Bay
Litter	Seapark	Hollywood
Fouling	Redburn Playing Fields	Hollywood
Fouling	The Green	Hollywood
No Licence	Blenheim Drive	Hollywood
No Licence	Rathgill Gardens	Hollywood
Straying	Kintyre Avenue	Hollywood
Fly-Tipping	Public Beach, Station Road	Hollywood
Straying	Seafront Road	Hollywood
No Licence	Birch Drive	Hollywood
Litter	Whiterock View Point Car Park	Killinchy
Fouling	Community Centre	Kircubbin
Fouling	Crosby Street	Kircubbin
Straying	Parsonage Road	Kircubbin
Litter	Shore Road	Kircubbin
Fouling	Millisle Bach	Millisle
Straying	Woburn View	Millisle
No Licence	Millisle Beach	Millisle
Fouling	Berkley Square	Millisle
Straying	Windmill Road	Millisle
No Licence	Windmill Road	Millisle
Straying	Windmill Road	Millisle
No Licence	Windmill Road	Millisle
Fouling	Ballywalter Road Beach Car Park	Millisle
Fouling	Millisle Beach, Ballywalter Road	Millisle
Straying	Victoria Avenue	Newtownards
Straying	Scrabo Road	Newtownards
Litter	Lidl Car Park	Newtownards

OFFENCE	LOCATION	AREA
Litter	Ards Shopping Centre	Newtownards
Litter	Brunswick Road	Newtownards
Litter	Bangor Seafront Promenade	Newtownards
Litter	Bangor Seafront Promenade	Newtownards
Straying	Belfast Road	Newtownards
Straying	Ards shopping Centre Car Park	Newtownards
Litter	Ards shopping Centre Car Park	Newtownards
Litter	The Commons Car Park	Newtownards
No Licence	Millisle Beach	Newtownards
No Licence	Ballycrochan Avenue	Newtownards
No Licence	Weavers Grange	Newtownards
No Licence	Dunover Road	Newtownards
Litter	Ards S/C Car Park	Newtownards
Fouling	Killynether Wood	Newtownards
Litter	Ards Shopping Centre	Newtownards
Litter	Circular Road	Newtownards
Straying	Regency Park	Newtownards
Litter	Ards Shopping Centre Car Park	Newtownards
Straying	Whinpark Road	Newtownards
No Licence	Newtownards Road	Newtownards
Straying	Whinpark Road	Newtownards
No Licence	Mill Street	Newtownards
Fouling	William Street Car Park	Newtownards
Litter	Ards Shopping Centre Car Park	Newtownards
No Licence	Blackrock Grove	Newtownards
Fouling	Hardford Link	Newtownards
Litter	IMC/Movieland	Newtownards
Exclusion	Londonderry Park	Newtownards
No Licence	Rockfield Park	Portaferry
No Licence	Mill Lane	Portaferry

APPENDIX 4

Results of Court Proceedings

The following convictions were secured at Newtownards Magistrate's Court between 1st October 2025 and 31st March 2026.

In accordance with the instructions of the Resident Magistrate, Council's solicitor will notify defendants upon first appearance in court in response to a summons, that they may seek to have the matter withdrawn upon payment of legal costs and any fixed penalty notice previously offered. The cases are then adjourned to permit a further opportunity for payment. This has resulted in a number of cases being settled on the day of court upon payment of all costs and fines.

PROSECUTIONS	
	Period of Report October 2025 – March 2026
DOG CONTROL	14
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL	9

Reference	Date of Offence	Offence	Fine	Legal Costs	Service Fee	Offenders Levy	Total	Comments	Interim Bill - Exc Vat	Final Bill - Exc Vat	
Court October 2025											
369654	02/03/2025	Straying	£60	£150	£15	£0	£225		£99	£75	
								Settled & Withdrawn Prior Hearing			
373201	31/03/2025	Fly-Tipping	£300	£150	£36	£0	£486		£111	£75	
377957	20/05/2025	No Licence	Withdrawn – Unable to ascertain forwarding address							£99	£0
380796	31/05/2025	Straying	£80	£100	£0	£15	£195		£99	£75	
Court November 2025											
375828	24/04/2025	Straying	£80	£174	£0	£15	£269		£99	£75	
		Failure to Complete & Return Article 20						Evidence linking this defendant to the incident concerned was based solely in a hearsay statement and the amount of weight that the Court could put on it meant it had limited value. Therefore, the case was dismissed.	£75	£150	
356917	04/11/2024	Straying	£80	£199	£15	£0	£294		£103	£103	
								No Licence dismissed on lack of evidence			
373737	04/04/2025	Straying/No Licence	£80	£199	£15	£0	£294		£115.50	£102.50	
368338	19/02/2025	Fouling	Case ran as a contest and dismissed on merits							£103	£350
								Settled & Withdrawn Prior to Hearing			
377828	12/05/2025	Fouling	£200	£103	£0	£0	£303		£103	£75	
Court December 2025											
368859	01/04/2025	No Licence	£60	£30	£48	£15	£153		£99	£99	
								Settled & Withdrawn Prior to Hearing			
386681	24/07/2025	Straying	£80	£150	£24	£0	£254		£99	£99	

Court January 2026

377694	12/05/2025	Straying	Conditional Discharge 12 mths	£48	£0	£0	£48	£99	£360
387939	04/08/2025	Dog Attack	£150	£150	£48	£15	£363	£123	£75

Court February 2026

392366	08/09/2025	Litter	£250	£150	£28	£15	£443	Pay by 20/03/2026	£103	£75	
385703	23/07/2025	No Licence Failure to Complete & Return	£25	£150	£24	£15	£214	Pay by 23/03/2026	£99	£75	
388810	11/08/2025	Article 20	£250	150	28	15	£443	Pay by 23/03/2026 No Forwarding Address Details	£103	£75	
351540	18/09/2025	Straying / No Licence	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Withdrawn	Pay by 23/06/2026	£111.50	£24	
384496	08/07/2025	No Licence XL Bully Exemption	£100	£175	£24	£15	£314	Pay by 23/06/2026	£111.50	£75	
399215	10/11/2025	Exemption	EXEMPTION AUTHORISED							£0	£515

Court March 2026

353047	02/10/2024	Litter	£200	£0	£64	£15	£279	Pay by 10/07/2026	£107	£107
384869	09/07/2025	Litter	£200	£0	£56	£15	£271	Pay by 18/09/2026	£99	£103
365016	22/01/2025	Fouling	£200	£50	£56	£15	£321	Pay by 07/08/2026	£103	£103

*It should be noted Court will often limit the level of legal costs awarded against a defendant and this award may not be repaid to Council for several years (recent monetary receipts from cases 6 years ago). The award will normally be less than the actual cost t

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ITEM 16**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health & Regulatory Services
Report title	Licensing Activity Oct 25 - Mar 26
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	LQR
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Resource Implications	None
	Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of report not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 1: Economic 4. A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors If multiple:

Background

The information provided in this report refers to, unless otherwise stated, the period from 1 October 2025 – 31 March 2026. The aim of the report is to provide Members with further details on some of the key activities of the licensing service unit.

Applications Received

The Service deals with a wide range of licensing functions which require the Officers to consult with licensees, PSNI, NIFRS and other Council Services in making their assessment of an application. The table below shows the number of applications received during this period:

	Period of Report 1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026	Same period last year 1 October 2024 - 31 March 2025
Entertainments Licence	121	112
Cinema Licence	1	1
Amusement Permits	3	4
Marriage and Civil Partnership Place Approval	3	3
Pavement Café Licence	15	2
Street Trading Licence	2	0
Lottery Permits	10	13

Regulatory Approvals

The table below shows the number of licences, approvals and permits that have been issued during this period:

	Period of Report 1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026	Same period last year 1 October 2024 - 31 March 2025
Entertainment Licence	69	95
Cinema Licence	1	2
Amusement Permits	5	3
Marriage and Civil Partnership Place Approval	3	2
Pavement Café Licence	6	2

Street Trading Licence	2	0
Lottery Permits	9	13

Inspections

The Service carries out a range of inspections in connection with the granting and renewal of licences to establish if the premises are suitable. In some cases, this will involve a joint inspection with NIFRS.

‘During performance’ inspections are an important element in ensuring that licensees are abiding by their licence terms and conditions and that premises are safe for patrons.

The Service was unable to complete its annual planned programme of ‘during performance’ inspections in 24/25 due to resourcing issues.

	Period of Report 1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026	Same period last year 1 October 2024 - 31 March 2025
Initial/ renewal Entertainment Licence Inspections	90	34
During performance Inspections	73	6
Initial Inspections of Pavement Cafes	0	0
Initial Inspections of Places of Marriage and Civil partnerships	3	0

High Hedges

High Hedge legislation requires complainants to attempt to resolve their complaint informally prior to lodging a formal complaint with the fee of £360.

This generates a large volume of queries for Officers in an advisory role, which are not reflected in these statistics, however will be reported from 1st April 2026 onwards.

	Period of Report 1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026	Same period last year 1 October 2024 - 31 March 2025
Formal Complaints	0	0

CCTV incidents**Period of Report: 1 October 2025 - 31 March 2026**

Date	Location	Incident	Action
02-10-25	Main Street Bangor	Fight	None
10-10-25	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
25-10-25	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
06-11-25	Main Street Bangor	Pedestrian hit by car	Requested by and provided to PSNI
06-11-25	High Steet Bangor	Fight	None
14-11-25	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
16-11-25	High Street Bangor	Alleged assault	Requested by member of the public
05-12-25	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
02-01-26	Bridge Street Bangor	Fight	None
11-01-26	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
01-02-26	Bridge Street Bangor	Fight	None
13-02-26	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
19-02-26	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
01-03-26	High Street Bangor	Fight	None
07-03-26	Bridge Street Bangor	Fight	None

Officers are continuing to liaise with key stakeholders to review the current city/town centre CCTV system. A further report will be brought to Council in the coming months with a full progress update on the review of the Public Spaces CCTV system to enable Members to decide the next steps.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the information provided in this report.

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Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	12 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community Services (Interim)
Report title	Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Grant awards 2026-2027
Attachments	None
File Reference (if applicable)	PCSP209
Legislation	Other Northern Ireland Justice Act (2022)
Resource Implications	None Narrative:
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background

The Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) Strategic Framework 2024-31 was launched by the First Minister and the deputy First Minister on the 16th September 2024. The Strategy will support those organisations working to prevent and challenge the attitudes, behaviours and culture that can lead to violence against women and girls.

Following on from successful delivery of EVAWG funding in 2025-26 Council applied for EVAWG funding for 2026/27 and 2027/28. The funding consists of 3 elements;

1. **Management Resources £50,000** to be used to implement a full-time employee with no cost to Council.
2. **Momentum funding £60,000**, specifically to be used by Council to:
 - Facilitate opportunities for collaboration between expert organisations, tier 3 award recipients and local community groups to provide the support and confidence for communities to realise their role and take action.
 - Include showcase and shared learning event(s) for projects funded under the Local Change Fund, to raise awareness of examples of projects and how everyone can get involved, as well as providing feedback to the Department to inform further investment.
 - Provide awareness raising and capacity building activities for 2026/27 and future years call for Local Change Fund.
 - Engage with local expert organisations to facilitate training for staff, Councillors and community workers on EVAWG.
 - Support regional awareness campaigns.
3. **Local Change Fund £190,000**, specifically to be used for project applications from community and voluntary sector organisations to mobilise grassroots action, support innovative delivery and maximise the impact of community-led initiatives in the area under 3 levels of support:
 - **Tier 1:** grants between £1,000 and £5,000 - awareness-raising events or small projects
 - **Tier 2:** grants between £5,001 and £15,000 - more extensive and longer running projects and educational courses/workshops
 - **Tier 3:** grants between £15,001 and up to £25,000 - significant programmes of activity which include collaboration with and/or mentoring/support to other community-based organisations.

All projects must include a focus on Outcome 1. Applicants can choose to also demonstrate how their project proposals contribute to Outcomes 2 and/or 3.

Outcome 1 - Changed Attitudes, Behaviours & Culture

Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and plays an active role in preventing it.

Outcome 2 - Healthy, Respectful Relationships

Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.

Outcome 3 - Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do so that women and girls feel safe everywhere.

Key Issues

Applications for EAWG grants were advertised on the ANDBC website, social media and sent out to the community database on 19th February 2026 closing on 20th March 2026.

19 Applications were received, totalling £260,624.60, 5 for Tier 1, 9 for Tier 2 and 5 for Tier 3.

Applications were scored against set criteria and the panel agreed to a 60% pass mark. A maximum of £190,000 was available across all 3 tiers.

Next Steps

The following organisations were successful in their grant applications:

Organisation Name	Project Name	Synopsis	Amount Requested
Active Youth NI	Active Together	4 x 8 week sessions for different groups (based on age and locations) to create non-sport specific programmes to increase awareness on EAWG. Providing mixed gender sessions to engage in physical activities, learning respect etc through shared experiences.	£4,503.10
Bowtown Community Development Group	It Takes a Village	7 week project focusing on a series of workshops and activities aimed at challenging norms, attitudes, behaviour and culture, delivered in a grassroots setting. Activities include basketball, tennis, gardening, paddleboarding.	£4,050.00
Donaghadee YFC	Future without Fear	7 workshops delivered by Women's Aid - 1 for staff and volunteers, 6 for up to 30 young people. Creation to an awareness raising project to develop a leaflet/poster and podcast to promote EAWG. A Celebration event at the end of the project to reflect upon the learning.	£4,570.00
Beam Creative Network	RISE (Respect, Inspire, Support, Empower)	Delivery of an age-appropriate, prevent-and-deter programme of workshops targeting KS3 pupils in post-primary schools in ANDBC. Project will address the root causes of VAWG and empower young people to play an active role in prevention. Delivery of 40 workshops on	£13,312.00

		Changing Attitudes, Behaviours, and Healthy Relationships, reaching approx. 1200 pupils. 2 facilitators to lead each workshop including interactive learning such as role play & group discussions.	
Bangor Foodbank	Safe Steps	Delivery of two-weekly one-to-one Early Intervention Sessions to 45-60 women, and 6 Healthy Relationships & Financial Autonomy Workshops, 10-12 participants per session (total reach 80-96 women), 2 DA Awareness Training sessions for BFCS staff & volunteers (20-25 frontline personnel)	£13,600.00
Hollywood Family Trust	EVAWG Programme	Facilitation of 3 x 10 workshops within the existing youth provision to raise awareness. creation of a podcast series to enable young women to use their voice. design and creation of posters and social media posts to promote safety, respect, and signposting. 2 community events to raise awareness in the local community.	£15,000.00
Kilcooley Women's Centre	Creative Conversations	Restorative Storytelling project to explore how attitudes towards domestic violence, safety & women's rights have evolved across generations. Will include a textile installation, and a digital gallery and printed exhibition	£15,000.00
North Down YMCA	Flip the Script	Programme targeting young people in early adolescences and engage them in a youth work methodology in a transformative sustained programme over 6 months. Addressing issues that contribute to VAWG and creating a safe space for young people to challenge societal attitudes and behaviours, through interactive workshops, peer discussions, and experiential learning. Use of art, drama and digital media to explore and communicate their learning.	£15,000.00
Irish FA Foundation	NI Football Ending Violence Against Women & Girls	Delivery of workshops, campaigns and interactive sessions for players, coaches, volunteers and fans to develop understanding of EVAWG. Educational workshops and awareness campaigns with Women's Aid, PSNI, Irish FA, and PSNI.	£24,980.00
Lisburn YMCA	(DIS)Respect	Education programme aimed at post-primary schools, education centres and community groups. Exploring and challenging attitudes, behaviours and culture that contributes to women and girls feeling safe.	£24,950.00
North Down & Ards Women's Aid	NDAWA Safe Relationship Awareness Project	Empowering service users, post-primary aged young people. community/youth groups and professionals through educational workshops. Interactive education and awareness raising sessions with people discussing WA services, domestic and sexual abuse, healthy/unhealthy relationships and relationship breakdowns.	£24,965.00

The Change Trust	The Change Programme	Pilot of a bespoke domestic abuse perpetrator programme delivered within the community, targeting individuals before their behaviour escalates to a level requiring criminal justice intervention. 24-30 sessions to 8-12 participants combining group work and 1-2-1 support. 61-briefing sessions to increase awareness to stakeholders and professionals. Engaging with key partner organisations. DA awareness sessions to community groups, businesses and other organisations.	£25,000.00
Total			£184,930.10.

Summary

Projects will be monitored and evaluated using Outcomes-Based Accountability (OBA), with OBA scorecards required for each successful application.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the successful applications for EVAWG for 2026-27.

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ITEM 18**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
	If multiple:
Meeting	Active and Healthy Communities Committee
Date of Meeting	13 May 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community Services (Acting)
Report title	Grants update in response to Notice of Motion 599
Attachments	
File Reference (if applicable)	CD23
Legislation	Choose an item. The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Resource Implications	Budget Narrative: Funding not yet received from DfC
Screening Requirements	<i>The Council will commit to consider the implication of all reports under the categories of Section 75, Rural Needs, Data Protection, Climate and Sustainability:</i> Screening of decision not required
Link to Corporate Plan Priority and Outcome	Priority 3: Social 5. Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing If multiple:

Background

In January 2024 Council agreed to the following notice of motion.

That this Council recognises the invaluable work undertaken by community/voluntary groups and organisations in this Borough in identifying and tackling the needs of communities and residents. The Council, therefore, commits to undertaking a root and branch review of community development funding, arts and heritage, sports development and all other funding streams to ensure that it provides the most efficient, effective and responsive service to our community, thus maximising impact, accessibility and equitable allocation of resources. The review should examine the following 4 categories:

1. Accessibility

- Simplify application forms, review all funding applications to ensure that they are simple, clear and don't unnecessarily over burden applicants with information required.
- Digitisation of community grants, tenders and reporting to allow those that wish the option for simple and more efficient submissions.
- Building capacity in the community, creating a scheme to help the community to write and deliver more successful applications and bring in more external funding to this Borough.

2. Communication Enhancement

- Single grants list or 'open grants' page on council website with uniform advertisement of grants so that everyone receives the same information on available funding with a clear grants timetable, with scoring criteria clearly outlined including ranking and amount available across borough etc.
- A single point of contact to direct community and voluntary groups to support and assistance across different Council departments.
- Showcase & celebrate the great and valuable activities that the dedicated volunteers are delivering on this section of website.

3. Equity

- Make funding available proportional to size of communities/activities being delivered and the type of needs being addressed, community groups represent different sizes of population and area (areas of deprivation etc) and are doing different work ('essential needs' and 'non-essential') yet often funding is allocated 'per group' rather than area/numbers targeted or type of work being delivered.
- Funding available to reflect the continued rise in costs., e.g., ensure funding available for community events is adequate to actually host events & activities. Funding is offered dependent upon the terms and conditions set by the funder, which may not be Council.
- Up front funding is uniform, that groups get the same up front funding percentage (e.g.,80%) across all Council funding to help with delivery.
- Equality of opportunity, ensuring that groups are not pigeonholed into a certain category of funding pots and can apply for all they are eligible for.
- Removal of 'first come first serve' funding to ensure level playing field.

4. Efficiency

- Creation of reserve lists of funding to ensure Council can allocate underspend and slippage quickly, easily and equitably to ensure no funds are returned to Departments.

- 'Trusted Supplier Scheme' to allow emergency and time limited funding to be provided quicker.
- Logistical planning, ensuring that all grants are delivered in a timely manner to ensure impact on the ground.

Next Steps

A workshop was held on 26th March 2026 where all members were invited to consider how best to utilise the limited funding available for Community Development running costs and in particular consider the equity element of the original notice of motion.

At the workshop it was agreed to review the eligibility criteria and create a two-tiered grants policy for community development running cost grant funding for 2026-2027. Tier 1 to include groups who are volunteer led and have a responsibility for utility bills. Tier 2 would be for all other groups who meet the eligibility criteria.

It was reported to Committee in March 2026 that this process would be completed and reported to Council in April 2026, however the Community development team have been working on the changes requested but it has become clear that creation of the two tiers and associated eligibility criteria is more complex than initially thought. It is also clear that engagement with community organisations through a workshop comprising a small group of community representatives to test the proposed changes would be beneficial.

This will mean the current process will have to be used in order to award community development running costs for 2026/2027. To date no Letter of Offer for funding has been received from DfC and only the Council portion of funding will be awarded to successful applicants in the meantime.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council **Notes** the approach outlined above for 2026-2027, with further updates to be brought in in autumn 2026.