Annual Environmental Report (AER)

2024

Company Name: Microsoft Ireland Operations Limited

Licence Number: P1187-1

Address: Microsoft Dublin Data Center Campus, Unit 75 Grange Castle Business Park, Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin

Class of Activity[1]: 2.1 Energy

[1] See Appendix I

Purpose of this Report

One of the functions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to licence and regulate the activities[2] of large scale industrial (e.g. chemical, food processors, power plants) and waste facilities. Submitting an Annual Environmental Report (AER) is a requirement of all EPA licences.

An AER is a public document. To this end, this format has been developed for industrial and waste licence holders (other than the intensive agriculture sector) to use as a template. This is to assist any member of the public to interpret and understand the environmental performance of the licensed facility.

The AER is a **summary** of environmental information for a given year. It includes:

- Details of the licence holder's environmental goals achieved goals to maintain compliance and/or improve their environmental performance;
- Answers to questions regarding their facility's activities;
- Tables of results from monitoring emissions such as air, water, noise, and odour; and
- Details of waste generated, accepted and treated.

An AER does **not** provide detailed technical data. Such information is available in three ways:

1) Contacting the licence holder directly. The Contact Us section of this template enables the licence holder to provide details of where a member of the public can obtain further information on topics reported in this document.

[2] See Appendix I

2) Some documents[3] are available on the EPA website via the licence details page for each individual licence. This can be found by browsing either the http://www.epa.ie/licensing/ or http://www.epa.ie/enforcement/ pages of the EPA website.

3) All formal enforcement correspondence exchanged between the EPA and a licence holder during the regulatory process is available for public viewing by appointment at any EPA Office.

If you have a question or query about an AER or an individual EPA licensed facility see the EPA's website or contact the relevant EPA office. See http://www.epa.ie/about/contactus/ for contact details.

[3] This includes EPA site inspection and compliance monitoring reports, licence holders' self-monitoring reports, AERs and special reports

Contents

Glossary

Abatement Equipment	Technology used to reduce pollution
AER	Annual Environmental Report.
Beyond Compliance	Beyond compliance is concept to help deliver greater organisational performance and long-term value for the environment, society and the economy.
CRAMP	Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan.
ELRA	Environmental Liability Risk Assessment.
Emission Limit Value	Limits set for specified emissions, typically outlined in Schedule B of an EPA licence.
EMS	Environmental Management System.
Environmental Goal	An objective or target set by a licensee as part of an environmental management system (EMS).
Environmental Pollutant	Substance or material that due to its quantity and/or nature has a negative impact on the environment.
Facility	Any site or premises that holds an EPA industrial or waste licence.
FP	Financial Provision.
GJ	Giga joules, an international unit of energy measurement.

Groundwater	All water which is below the surface of the ground in the saturation zone and in direct contact with the ground or subsoil.
Incident	As defined by an EPA industrial or waste licence.
Inert Waste	Is waste that will not undergo physical, chemical or biological change thereby, is unlikely to cause environmental pollution or harm human health.
List of Wastes (LoW)	A list of wastes drawn up by the European Commission and published as Commission Decision 2014/955/EU.
Noise Sensitive Location	Any dwelling house, hotel or hostel, health building, educational establishment, place of worship or entertainment, or any other installation or area of high amenity which for its proper enjoyment requires the absence of noise at nuisance levels.
Non-Renewable Resource	A resource of economic value that cannot be replaced at the same rate it is being consumed e.g. coal, peat, oil and natural gas.
Oil Separator	Separator system for light liquids (e.g. oil and petrol).
PRTR	Pollutant Release and Transfer Register.
Renewable Resource	Wind, solar, aerothermal, geothermal, hydrothermal and ocean energy, hydropower, biomass, landfill gas, sewage treatment plant gas and biogases.

Sanitary Waste	Waste water from toilet, washroom and canteen facilities.
Storm Water	Rain water run-off from roof and non-process areas.
Surface Water	Lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries and coastal waters.
Trigger Level	A value set for a specific parameter, the achievement or exceedance of which requires certain actions to be taken by the licence holder.
Volatile Organic Compounds	Gases produced from solids or liquids that evaporate readily in ambient conditions.
Waste	Any substance or object which the holder discards or intends or is required to discard.

Disclaimer

These are **not** legal definitions. Legal definitions can be found in the corresponding legislation.

Declaration

I, Garrett Prendiville – CE Program Manager, confirm that by ticking the box below, all information in this report is truthful and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

In addition, I confirm that all monitoring and performance reporting required by our EPA licence and summarised herein is available for inspection by the EPA.

Tick here [x]

1) Introduction

See below a brief description of our facility and a summary of our environmental performance this year.

The Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd facility is a data storage installation located in Grange Castle South Business Park, Dublin 22. The facility provides secure data storage services, and distribution of information to individuals, businesses and organisations. The site is licenced for the operation of back-up generators and a standby gas generation plant. Outside of routine testing and maintenance related uses, the operation of the back-up generators is typically only required for emergency circumstances e.g. a loss or other reduction of grid power supply or instability caused by equipment failure. The gas generation plant will operate for up to 8 hours a day, during peak demand periods, 365 days a year, to meet the requirements of the utilities flexible demand policy.

The site is not currently fully operational. As of 24th July 2023, the DUB14 Datacentre Admin Block and Data Hall one (of five) went live and the licence was considered active from this date. Two further Data Halls went live in 2023, in August and November. The remainder of DUB14 went live in 2024 with 2 data halls in DUB 15 going live in 2024.The remainder of the DUB 15 site is still under construction and undergoing commissioning. In addition the CAB building collocated with DUB14 and DUB15 had not become operational in 2024. As a result, some of the required monitoring has not been carried out in 2024 where the conditions on site were unsuitable due to the ongoing construction or where the relevant plant is not operational.

There were no environmental incidents or complaints at the site in 2024. There are no Emission Limit Values (ELVs) in place at the site for stormwater. There are ELVs and monitoring requirements for main air emission points,

however the relevant plant was not operational in 2024. The wastewater grab sampling undertaken was compliant with the wastewater ELVs. 17 out of 24 site specific noise levels fell within the ELVs for noise as set out in the licence. Where the apparent exceedances were found, they were due to noise sources unrelated to the site, including traffic on public roads and construction works. 75.07% of waste generated at the site was recovered rather than disposed of.

Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like further information on any aspect of our licensed activity, please contact us directly.

See below details:

Garrett Prendiville – CE Program Manager
Email: Garrett.Prendiville@microsoft.com

2) How we Manage our Facility

Environmental Management System

Explanation
To ensure our facility's activities do not cause environmental pollution we are required to have detailed documentation systems in place to help us manage and track our environmental performance. These systems are referred to as Environmental Management Systems (EMS). We review our EMS every year and set up-to-date **environmental goals** to continually improve our environmental performance.

The information below sets out the environmental goals for our facility to help us prevent environmental pollution and reduce our impact on the environment. Target dates for completing each goal and progress towards achieving the goal are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1 Environmental Goals

Environmental Goal	Target Date	Progress
Complete and implement the site's EMS	2024	In place
Heat recovery project DUB15	2025	On track
Rainwater harvesting system	2024	In place
EU Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency	2026	Not commenced
Zero waste programme	2030	Not commenced
Implementation of ISO140001 accredited EMS	2026	Work commencing in 2025
Environmental Competency Training	2025	Training commencing in 2025

Add rows as necessary

Comment

As the site is not yet fully operational, the EMS for the site has been developed and is being implemented in operational environments. The EMS system will be expanded and improved to achieve ISO14001 accreditation by 2026. Heat recovery systems is in place, commissioned and will become operational as the next phase of COLOs are handed over. The rainwater harvesting systems became fully operational in 2024. The staff training programme will be expanded in 2025 to include additional environmental training modules to increase staff competency. The Zero waste programme aims to achieve 90% diversion of operational waste at the data centre campus. The programme is subject to ongoing monitoring and is verified through audits and external QA/QC checks. As there were no environmental incidents or complaints at the site in 2024, no new environmental goals arose in response to incidents or complaints.

Beyond Compliance

Explanation
We are legally required to comply with our environmental licence. However, the EPA realise that some sites go further than just complying with their environmental licence requirements. Some projects carried out at facilities can have long term positive impacts on the environment and local communities.
The EPA's beyond compliance initiative is encouraging us to identify and report on these environmental and sustainability projects. For example, the project could involve renewable energy, biodiversity, water conservation or exemplar community engagement.

Did any project completed on your site in the reporting year go beyond your licence requirements?

Yes [x] No [ ]

If yes, provide details of one case study in Appendix III that demonstrates how the project went beyond compliance of your licence.

3) Energy & Water

Energy

Explanation
Fossil fuels such as coal, gas and oil are non-renewable resources. As a result, our EPA licence requires that we measure our energy use and set targets to improve the energy efficiency of our activities and reduce our overall use, where possible. Where we have the means and technology on-site to generate energy, this is also captured in this report.

The information below summarises the energy used this year compared to the previous year and includes renewable and non-renewable energy types.

Table 3 Energy Used

Energy Used	Quantity (GJ)	% Increase/ decrease on previous year
Electricity	401,152.62	848%
Heavy Fuel Oil	-	-
Light Fuel Oil	-	-
Natural Gas	N/A	N/A
Coal / Solid Fuel	-	-
Peat	-	-
Renewable Biomass	1,794.2	1,449%
Renewable Energy Generated On-site	-	-
Total Energy Used	**402,946.82**	**849%**

Comment

Energy used at the site is mainly sourced from purchased electricity. The backup generators on the site ran on Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), a renewable biomass energy source. There was an increase in energy usage onsite however, last year's reported energy figures only accounted for 6 months of the year from commencement of the site's licence in July 2023. Additionally, the figures only accounted for three partially operational Data Halls which were commissioned and handed over throughout the course of 2023 with some data halls only operational for the final two months of 2023. There was further Data Halls handed over in 2024 and the reporting period was for the full calendar year. As such, this increase was expected.

Natural Gas will be utilised on site once the gas generation plant is operational, but is not applicable for 2024.

The information below summarises the energy we generated on our site this year with specific focus on renewable energy generation.

Table 4 Energy Generated

Energy Generated	Quantity (GJ)	% Increase/ decrease on previous year
Renewable Energy	-	-
Total Energy Generated	**-**	**-**

Comment

No renewable energy is generated on site.

Water

Explanation
Water is a natural resource and we are required by our EPA licence to identify ways to reduce our use where possible. Water used in industry can be extracted from groundwater, rivers and lakes (surface water), taken from public water supplies (Irish Water), recycled from the facility's processes or harvested from rainwater.

The information below summarises and compares the quantity of water used this year compared to the previous year.

Table 5 Water Used

Source of Water Used	Quantity (m^3/year)	% Increase/ decrease on previous year
Groundwater	-	-
Surface Water	-	-
Public Supply	1,617	-33%
Recycled Water	-	-
Rainwater	20,000	N/A
Total Water Used	**21,617**	**N/A**

Comment

Water used at the site in 2024 was sourced from the public water supply and the on site rainwater harvesting tank. There is a decrease of 33% on last year's public water supply water usage figure. The 2023 figure accounted for both operational activities at the site, and construction/commissioning activities, as these could not be accurately separated for reporting purposes for 2023. The decrease in public water supply usage for 2024 is a result of

capturing operational activities only and the introduction of the water treatment plant which enabled the use of harvested rainwater.

The rainwater harvesting water treatment plant on site became operational in May 2024. There was approximately 20,000 m3 of the collected rainwater used between May and December 2024.

4) Environmental Complaints

Explanation
Our EPA licence requires that activities do not cause environmental nuisance such as odour, dust or noise. Our licence also requires that we have procedures in place to record, investigate and respond to environmental complaints if or when they arise.
We have an environmental complaints procedure in place where you can contact us[4] directly. You can also contact the EPA[5] if you wish to make an environmental complaint, confidentially or not.

See the information below for a summary of **all** the environmental complaints relating to our activities made directly to us and to the EPA this year.

Table 6 Summary of All Environmental Complaints Received in

Type of Complaint	Number of Complaints	Number Closed
Odour / Smells	-	-
Noise	-	-
Dust	-	-
Water Quality	-	-
Air Quality	-	-
Waste	-	-
Litter	-	-
Vermin/Flies/Birds	-	-
Soil Contamination	-	-
Vibration	-	-
Other	-	-

[4] See Section 1, Introduction – Contact Us

[5] If you wish to contact the EPA to make an environmental complaint about an EPA licenced facility, please go to https://lema.epa.ie/complaints

Comment

No environmental complaints were received in 2024.

5) Environmental Incidents

Explanation
It is our responsibility as an EPA licensed facility to ensure we have systems in place to prevent incidents that have the potential to cause environmental pollution. If an incident occurs, we are required to report it to the EPA, investigate the cause and fix the problem.
The EPA classify environmental incidents into 5 categories based on the potential impact on the environment:

- Minor
- Limited
- Serious
- Very Serious
- Catastrophic

See Table 6 for the number of the environmental incidents we reported to the EPA this year.

Table 7 Number of Environmental Incidents

Incident Category	Minor	Limited	Serious	Very Serious	Catastrophic
Abatement Equipment Offline	-	-	-	-	-
Breach of Ambient ELV	-	-	-	-	-
Breach of Emission Limit	-	-	-	-	-
Explosion	-	-	-	-	-
Fire	-	-	-	-	-
Monitoring Equipment Failure	-	-	-	-	-
Odour	-	-	-	-	-
Spillage	-	-	-	-	-
Breach of trigger Level	-	-	-	-	-
Uncontrolled Release	-	-	-	-	-

Incident Category	Minor	Limited	Serious	Very Serious	Catastrophic
Other	-	-	-	-	-

Comment

No environmental incidents occurred in 2024.

6) Our Environmental Emissions

Explanation

We are required to ensure the emissions from our activities do not cause environmental pollution.

We are required to monitor any of the following emissions that we make:

- Storm water
- Waste water
- Air
- Groundwater
- Noise

We regularly test any such emissions for specific pollutants and materials to ensure they do not contain levels of pollution that exceed emission limit values (ELVs) or cause environmental pollution. If monitoring of an emission indicates an ELV is exceeded, we are required to report this to the EPA[6].

The next sub-sections of this report summarise our compliance with any ELVs set in our EPA licence. Some emissions monitored do not have specific ELVs, but we still carry out monitoring and report all incidents that may give rise to environmental pollution.

[6] See section 5, Incidents

Storm Water

Explanation
Storm water is rain water run-off from roof and non-process areas of a facility, e.g. carparks, and generally shall not contain any pollution.
Storm water is usually released into a local water body after a basic form of treatment. Our EPA licence requires that we manage storm water to ensure no polluting substances or materials are released into the environment.

The information below summarises how the storm water from our facility is treated, where it is released and the results of monitoring this year.

1. **Storm water from our facility is managed prior to release by;**

Stormwater is diverted to an attenuation tank. Prior to entering the attenuation tank stormwater passes through three class one full retention fuel separators with carbon monitors and lockdown valves. There is a hydrobrake flow control device at the outfall from the attenuation tank that limits discharge to 21.6l/s. A series of lockdown valves across the site can intercept runoff in the event of a fire or major spill.

2. **Storm water from our facility is released into the following water bodies:**

River Griffeen (from emission point SW1)

Table 8 Summary of Storm Water Monitoring

Parameter measured	No. of Samples	% Compliant[7]	Comment
pH	10	N/A	Trigger level to be determined
Total Organic Carbon (TOC)	10	N/A	Trigger level to be determined
Temperature	10	N/A	Trigger level to be determined
Conductivity	10	N/A	Trigger level to be determined
Visual Inspection	Weekly	100%	All storm water visually inspected was clear with no odour

Add rows as necessary

Comment

Storm water was monitored on site for pH, TOC, temperature and conductivity, as well as visual inspections of the storm water. All visual inspections confirmed the water was clear with no odour. Visual inspections occurred at SW1 on a weekly basis due to access restrictions resulting from ongoing construction and general contractor site access controls.

Under the site's licence there are no ELVs for storm water emissions, however suitable trigger levels are being determined and agreed with the EPA. The monitoring data collected in 2024 will contribute to setting these trigger levels.

[7] % compliant = [(number of samples compliant) / (number of samples taken)] x 100. Compliance could refer to emission limit values or trigger levels. The EPA commonly use trigger levels on stormwater discharges.

Waste Water

Explanation
There are two types of waste water that can be produced:

- Process waste water produced from the activities and;
- Sanitary waste water from toilets, washrooms and canteens.

Our EPA licence requires us to manage our waste water on or off-site and ensure that it does not cause environmental pollution when discharged into the environment.

The information below summarises how we treat the waste water produced from our activities, where it is released and the results of monitoring this year.

1. **Waste water produced by our activities is treated as follows before discharge to a receiving waterbody**;

Sanitary waste water from the site is collected by the waste water network and discharged to the existing Local Authority sewer. Rainwater harvested and treated with sodium hypochlorite is used in the evaporative cooling system on site and discharged as process waste water to the same waste water network. The rainwater harvesting system became operational in May 2024, limited operational welfare facilities were in place with the majority of the sanitary waste for 2024 arising from the temporary facilities associated with the construction project. Administration areas within DUB14 and DUB15 became operational during 2024 however the CAB building did not become operational, and occupancy of this building will not occur until 2025 and canteen/catering operations within the CAB building will not be operational until 2025.

All waste water discharged from site enters the Local Authority (South Dublin County Council) foul sewer, discharging to Ringsend WWTP. Treatment here includes screening/grit removal, rectangular primary tanks with Lamella

settlers, SBR and Nereda Pilot Plant, UV treatment (during the bathing season) and Anaerobic digestion followed by thermal drying.

2. **Treated waste water from our facility is released into the following water bodies:**

Liffey Estuary Lower (Transitional Waterbody) & Dublin Bay (Coastal Waterbody) (from emission point SE1)

Table 9 Summary of Waste Water Monitoring

Parameter measured	No. of Samples	% Compliant	Comment
pH	2	100%	
Temperature	2	100%	
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	2	100%	
Chloride	2	100%	
Sulphate	2	100%	
Total hardness	2	100%	
Suspended solids	2	100%	
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	0	N/A	Omitted from test schedule for 2024

Add rows as necessary

Comment

The waste water network on site, including emission point SE1, had not been fully commissioned on site in 2024, remaining under general contractor control until Q1 2025. As such, the 24 hour composite sampling required under the site's licence could not be carried out in 2024. However, grab sampling was carried out at an accessible location upgradient of SE1. All grab samples obtained were compliant with the waste water ELVs.

Air

Explanation
Generally, three types of air emissions are monitored from industry in Ireland: gases, dust (particulates) and odour. Our EPA licence requires us to ensure that any air emissions from our activities do not cause air pollution or create an odour nuisance.

The information below details the number of air emission points we monitor, the results from testing the air emissions and any odour assessments carried out by us and the EPA this year.

1. We monitor air emissions from the following number of emission points at our facility.

Main Emissions – A2-1 to A2-22 (gas generation plant)
Minor Emissions – A3-1 to A3-21 (backup generators)
Ambient Monitoring – The ambient monitoring programme is still to be finalised with the EPA. 2024 data was collected from two indicative monitors.

Table 10 Summary of Air Emissions Monitoring

Parameter measured	No. of Samples	% Compliant	Comment
NO	Continuous monitoring	N/A	No ELV or trigger level applicable
NO_x	Continuous monitoring	N/A	No ELV or trigger level applicable

NO_2	Continuous monitoring	100%	Information threshold: 150µg/m^3 Alert threshold: 200µg/m^3

Add rows as necessary

Comment

The gas generation plant on site (emission points A2-1 to A2-22) did not become operational in 2024. No main air emission monitoring could be undertaken in 2024. Once fully operational CO, NO_x and flow will be monitored once every three years. An ELV for NO_x is set out in the site's licence.

The site's licence requires minor emission points to be monitored once every five years or when three times the permitted maximum annual operating hours have elapsed. As the licence was granted in 2023, and the site is not yet fully operational, neither of these scenarios apply and no minor emission point monitoring was undertaken in 2024.

Continuous ambient air monitoring is in place on site with reporting intervals recording hourly average concentrations of NO, NO_x and NO_2. The indicative monitors are continuously monitoring CO, particulate matter and NO, NOx and NO2.The information and alert thresholds detailed above are not ELVs, but are set out in EU legislation on ambient air quality (Annex I of Directive 2024/xx/EC). The site was 100% compliant with both of these thresholds. An ambient air quality monitoring report will be submitted to the EPA annually.

Table 11 Summary of Odour Assessments Carried Out

Assessment Conducted By	No. of Odour Assessments	% Compliant[8]	Comment
Licence Holder	-	-	-
EPA	-	-	-

Add rows where necessary

Comment

The activities on site do not generate odour sources. There is no requirement to carry out odour assessments.

[8] A compliant odour assessment is based on EPA Odour Impact Assessment Guidance available at Air Enforcement | Environmental Protection Agency (epa.ie)

Fugitive Solvent Emissions

Are you required to monitor fugitive solvent air emissions from your facility?

Yes [ ] No [X]

Explanation
The use of solvents is regulated under Irish and European Union (EU) Regulations[9]. Solvents are chemicals that, by their nature, are volatile (evaporate readily under ambient conditions). Solvents can be found in many inks, glues and cleaning agents. Due to the volatility of solvents some emissions may be released into the atmosphere during our activities before being captured in our air treatment system. This type of emission is called a **fugitive solvent emission**.

The information below summarises the quantity of solvents used this year, the percentage of fugitive solvent emissions (% of total quantity used) and whether the percentage complied with the targets set in the EU Regulations.

Table 12 Summary of Fugitive Solvent Emissions

Quantity of Solvents Used (Kg)	% Fugitive Solvent Emissions	Compliant
-	-	-

Comment

The activities on site do not generate fugitive solvent emissions.

[9] See Annex VII of the Industrial Emissions Directive
https://ec.europa.eu/environment/industry/stationary/ied/legislation.htm

Groundwater

Explanation
Groundwater is an important and sensitive resource in Ireland. Our EPA licence requires that we monitor groundwater to ensure our activities do not cause groundwater pollution.
Understanding how groundwater flows through soil and rock layers and eventually into surface and coastal waters is a complex science. Sometimes groundwater pollution that occurred in the past can take years and even decades to disappear. Therefore, it is important that experts help us monitor and interpret results from groundwater monitoring and testing.

The information below is a basic summary of the condition of the groundwater this year.

1. **Do you have a groundwater monitoring programme in place?**

Yes [ ] No [X]

2. **Have the groundwater monitoring results over the last 5 years indicated the presence of groundwater pollution?**

Yes [ ] No [X]

Table 13 List of Groundwater Pollutants Identified

Pollutants
N/A

Add rows as necessary

3. Give details of the investigations and subsequent actions taken, where applicable, to manage the groundwater pollution.

N/A

Comment

The site's licence requires groundwater to be monitored for relevant hazardous substances every five years. As the licence was granted in 2023, and the site is not yet fully operational, no monitoring has been undertaken to date. A groundwater monitoring plan has been agreed with the EPA, the programme will be implemented in 2025/2026.

Noise

Explanation
Our EPA licence requires that we monitor noise emissions from our facility. Noise monitoring can be conducted at the boundary of our facility and/or at locations beyond the boundary referred to as “noise sensitive locations”. Noise monitoring requires the use of special noise monitoring equipment. Our EPA licence requires that noise produced by our facility shall not exceed the noise limit values and/or give rise to nuisance.

The information below gives a summary of when and where we conducted noise monitoring this year and if results complied with our EPA licence limits.

1. **We conducted noise monitoring on the following dates this year:**

Day Survey: 08:21 – 17:31 on 23rd October 2024
Evening Survey: 19:00 – 21:17 on 23rd October 2024
Night Survey: 23:00 on 7th November 2024 – 01:38 on 8th November 2024

2. **Where was the noise monitoring carried out?**
   - i. **the boundary of our facility;**
   - ii. **noise sensitive locations off-site; or**
   - iii. **both.**

4 noise sensitive locations off-site

3. **Were measured noise levels compliant with your EPA licence limits?**

Yes [ ] No [X]

If No, we took the following actions to address the noise level exceedances?

No specific actions were taken as the instances of elevated noise levels were not related to the site. The survey engineer undertaking the noise monitoring noted that the dominant sources of noise at the monitoring

locations were road traffic from Grange Castle Park, the R136 and the Nangor Road and construction site noises.

A Noise Management Plan is in place at the site which is reviewed annually based on the results of the annual noise monitoring, or in the event that the site receives a valid noise complaint.

Comment

17 out of 24 site specific noise levels (i.e. noise attributable to activities within the IEL boundary) fell within the ELVs for noise as set out in the licence. Where apparent exceedances were found, they were due to noise sources unrelated to the site, including traffic on public roads and construction works. All night-time noise level measurements were in compliance with the night-time ELV. In addition, no audible tonal or impulsive noise was recorded at any period

7) Waste

Waste Generated

Explanation
Our EPA licence requires us to manage the waste we generate in a manner that does not cause environmental pollution.
We manage, store and record hazardous, non-hazardous and inert waste we generate in accordance with our licence. We ensure that this waste is subsequently treated or disposed of in accordance with the relevant waste Regulations.

The information in Table 14 is a summary of waste we generated this year and the percentage increase or decrease on the previous year. The percentage recovery is the amount of total waste generated that was reused, recycled or recovered.

Table 14 Waste Generated

Type	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% Increase/ decrease on previous year**	**% Recovery**
Hazardous	5.18	N/A	0%
Non-Hazardous	15.6	N/A	100%
Inert	0	-	-
Total Tonnes	**20.78**	**N/A**	**75.07%**

Comment

The majority of waste generated onsite is non-hazardous. Hazardous waste generated onsite in 2024 is associated with maintenance of the petrol interceptors.

In 2023 no waste generation figures were reported, as operational and construction waste streams were managed in combination so accurate operational waste generation figures could not be provided. As such a % increase/decrease cannot be provided for 2024, but will be included from 2025 onwards.

Waste Accepted

Did you accept waste onto your facility for storage, treatment, recovery or disposal this year?

Yes [ ] No [X]

Explanation
Our EPA licence requires us to manage the waste we accept in a manner that does not cause environmental pollution.
We manage, store and record all incoming and outgoing hazardous, non-hazardous and inert waste. The waste we accept may be treated, recovered, disposed or stored at our facility depending on our licence requirements.

The information in Table 15 provides a summary of waste we accepted this year and the percentage increase or decrease on the previous year. The percentage recovery is the amount of total waste accepted that was reused, recycled or recovered.

Table 15 Waste Accepted

Type	**Quantity (Tonnes)**	**% Increase/ decrease on previous year**	**% Recovery**	Comment
Hazardous	-	-	-	
Non-Hazardous	-	-	-	
Inert	-	-	-	
Total Tonnes	**-**	**-**	**-**	

No waste is accepted on site.

8) Financial Provision

Explanation
Our EPA licence requires us to assess the risk our activities pose to the environment if we cease our activities or if an incident occurred. If we are identified as a high risk facility[10] by the EPA, we are required to put provision in place such as a financial bond or insurance to cover the cost of restoring our site to a satisfactory condition. This financial provision can then be used to cover the cost of managing the restoration or clean up should such an event occur.

1. Are you required to have an agreed financial provision in place?

Yes [ ] No [X]

2. What year was your Closure, Restoration and Aftercare Management Plan (CRAMP) last agreed by the Agency?

N/A

3. What year was your Environmental Liability Assessment Report (ELRA) agreed by the Agency?

N/A

4. Has there been any significant changes on your site since the last agreements?

Yes [ ] No [X]

If yes, have you submitted details to the EPA?

[10] See Appendix II

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Appendix I

Class of Activity

Industrial and waste facilities are classed into different sectors depending on the nature of their activity and its potential impact on the environment. The EPA Act 1992 as amended, outlines these as follows:

Class 1	Minerals and other materials
Class 2	Energy
Class 3	Metals
Class 4	Mineral fibres and glass
Class 5	Chemicals
Class 6	Intensive Agriculture[11]
Class 7	Food and drink
Class 8	Wood, paper, textiles and leather
Class 9	Fossil fuels
Class 10	Cement, lime and magnesium oxide
Class 11	Waste
Class 12	Surface Coatings
Class 13	Other Activities

[11] This reporting template is not applicable to the **intensive agriculture sector**. Their annual environmental reporting structure is different and can be found at Compliance & Enforcement: Licensees: Reporting Publications | Environmental Protection Agency (epa.ie)

Appendix II

High Environmental Risk Categories

If an industrial or waste licence falls into one of these categories it is deemed, by the EPA, as a high environmental risk. As a result, the licence holder is required to have financial provision in place. See section 8, Financial Provision.

1. Landfills
2. Non-Hazardous Waste Transfer Station
3. Incineration and Co-Incineration Waste Facilities
4. Category A – Extractive Waste Facilities
5. Upper and Lower Tier Seveso Facilities
6. Hazardous Waste Transfer Stations
7. High Risk Contaminated Land
8. Exceptional Circumstances

NOTE:

This list is subject to change.

See the link below for further information.

Compliance & Enforcement: Financial Provisions Publications | Environmental Protection Agency (epa.ie)

Appendix III

Beyond Compliance

The case study below shows how we went beyond the requirements of our licence in the reporting year.

Since 2017, Microsoft has provided grants of over $3.5m to more than 100 community initiatives in the Dublin area. Microsoft's Datacenter Community Pledge aims to make datacenters not only the backbone of modern technology but also a force for good. The pledge focuses on three core areas: contributing to a sustainable future, advancing community prosperity and well-being and operating responsibly as a good neighbour. Below is a selection of community initiatives Microsoft has delivered to date.

- The Community Environmental Sustainability program has included the Community Tree Planting initiative, which has planted 28,000 trees in south and west Dublin in the last three year. The Community Solar PV Project involved installing panels on 27 schools and a hospital to support local renewable energy generation, with participating schools engaging in a further Dream Space sustainability programme.

- Microsoft has rolled out a number of Community Funds for communities near our datacenters in Dublin over the last few years. These Funds supports impactful community projects focused on sustainability and digital skills near our Dublin datacenter. To date this initiative has benefited over 16,000 community members.

- Microsoft has entered into multi-year Corporate Power Purchase Agreements for over 900 megawatts of onshore wind and solar energy projects across Ireland. Additionally, Microsoft's datacenters in Ireland use batteries to maintain an uninterruptible power supply, contributing to the national grid by allowing it to use these to reduce the need to revert to fossil fuel generation for short periods of time.