

<b>Report on</b>	Environmental Health Service Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	At the meeting of the Development Committee in September 2023, Members resolved that a regular update on the work of Mid Ulster District Council's Environmental Health Service should be provided to committee. This report seeks to provide Members with an update on the work of the Environmental Health Service during August to October 2025.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	The Health, Leisure, and Wellbeing Department's 'Environmental Health Service' provides a statutory regulatory service on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council.
2.2	The Environmental Health Service provides a range of Environmental Health and licensing services across the Mid Ulster District Council area, together with an animal welfare function which is currently delivered by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as part of a Service Level Agreement, administered on our behalf.
2.3	The MUDC Environmental Health team are also contracted to deliver a range of other regulatory services on behalf of third-party statutory agencies, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The assessment of Category 3 and 4 fireworks displays and the inspection of premises storing / selling fireworks on behalf of the Department of Justice</li> <li>• The sampling of private drinking water and completion of associated drinking water risk assessments on behalf of the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland.</li> <li>• House Fitness inspections on behalf of Northern Ireland Housing Executive</li> </ul>
2.4	The Environmental Health Service also works in partnership with a diverse range of stakeholders, both internal and external, in striving to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of those who live, work, and visit the Mid Ulster District Council area.

2.5 The Environmental Health Service is currently delivered by officers who work across the three functional areas as set out below, they are supported by key Business Support Officers within the team.

- Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control
- Health and Safety, Planning and Environment
- Neighbourhoods and Licensing

**3.0 Main Report**

3.1 The Environmental Health Service update set out below provides a substantial reflection of the work undertaken by the team in the period between 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025- 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025

3.2 The statistics within this report are indicative of the requests for service received by the Department within the specified period and these new demands are in addition to officers' ongoing work on existing caseloads.

**3.3 Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control**

<b>Nature of Regulatory Work</b>	<b>Number Undertaken 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>	<b>Number Undertaken 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>
Food hygiene inspections / visits	147	404
Food standards inspections / visits	91	306
Food Samples taken for analysis	micro 85; chemical 19	212 micro; 113 chemical
Food Hygiene requests for service / advice	99	278
Food Standards requests for service /advice	19	47
Response to Infectious Disease Notifications	17	70
Consumer Protection requests for service / advice	17	52
Consumer Protection inspections / visits	38	56
Consumer Protection Initiatives Undertaken	4	8
Smoke Free Inspections / Visits	109	274

3.4

Within the reporting period, the 'Food Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control' team also:

- Continued the fish sampling programme at Lough Neagh in conjunction with the Food Standards Agency.
- Continued with provision of secretariat for the Consumer Protection Northern Ireland (CPNI) regional group.
- Continued with provision of secretariat for the Northern Ireland Food Managers (NIFMG) regional group.
- Continued working with FSA on implementation of the new Food Standards Delivery Model to MUDC.
- Carried out test purchasing for Tobacco products and E-cigarettes.
- Attended specialised training event in London, relevant to processes being undertaken in MUDC.
- Along with other members of Northern Ireland Food Managers Group (NIFMG), preparation and delivery of a presentation to Northern Ireland Food Advisory Committee at the request of the Food Standards Agency.

3.5

### Health and Safety, Planning and Environment

<b>Nature of Regulatory Work</b>	<b>Number Undertaken 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>	<b>Number Undertaken 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>
Health and Safety Inspections / visits	72	216
Health and safety/licensing requests for service	100 HS 1 LC	215 HS 7 LC
RIDDOR reports received	4	13
Ongoing RIDDOR case files under investigation	19	19
Fireworks Inspections / Visits	7	7
Planning Consultations received	92	223
Planning Consultations completed	93	254
PPC Inspections/visits	19	56
Environmental Protection requests for service	381 <i>(total - not split by team)</i>	881 <i>(total - not split by team)</i>
Air Quality Diffusion Tubes changed over 30 sites	96	336

3.6

Since the previous reporting period the 'Health and Safety, Planning and Environment' team also undertook the following:

- Prepared responses to a number of EIR/ FOI requests
- Provided a technical response to a consultation on proposed updates to technical guidance for the assessment of noise emissions from onshore wind turbines, known as ETSU-R-97
- Collected and submitted samples for analysis as part of a regional radiation sampling programme
- Carried out Scoping Study of petrol stations relevant to PPC regulations
- PPC annual return submitted to DAERA
- Air quality Progress report submitted to DAERA in respect of Air Quality Grant funding
- Attended training on Plant noise/ Cosmetics safety/Sports ground safety/ In house Grow training
- Completed Notice of transfer of Enforcement responsibility from Council to HSENI for Sorting Offices in accordance with Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) (NI) Regulations 1999
- Participated in PHA led Incident Management Meetings
- Along with other members of Northern Ireland Cosmetics Group, preparation and delivery of a presentation at a Cosmetics Training Course to Environmental Health Officers working across Northern Ireland.

3.7

**Neighbourhoods and Licensing**

<b>Nature of Regulatory Work</b>	<b>Number Undertaken 16<sup>th</sup> August 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>	<b>Number Undertaken 1<sup>st</sup> April August 2025 and 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025</b>
Public Health requests for service	221	640
Environmental Protection requests for service	449( <i>total - not split by team</i> )	881( <i>total - not split by team</i> )
Private Tenancy requests for service	30	79
Licensing Requests for Service (non-dogs related)	72	108
Licensing inspections (non-dogs related)	17	21

	Complaints related to Dogs (all)	211	650
	Stray dog complaints	72	208
	Stray dogs impounded	28	79
	Investigation into dog attacks on persons	8	44
	Investigation into dog attacks on livestock	3	11
	Investigation into dog attacks on other animal	3	12
3.8	<p>Within the reporting period the 'Neighbourhoods and Licensing' team also undertook the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Odour monitoring in connection with a complex ongoing complaint investigation.</li> <li>• Continued follow up work and issue of exemption certificates for XL Bully Dogs in line with new Dangerous Dog legislation.</li> <li>• Work ongoing in line with the enforcement of the primary new legislation impacting the private rented sector in NI-Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022.</li> </ul>		
3.9	<p><b>Freedom of Information Requests</b></p> <p>The Environmental Health Service provided relevant information in relation to 42 freedom of information and environmental information requests.</p>		
3.10	<p>A further update on Councils Environmental Health Service will be brought to the Development Committee in March 2026.</p>		
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Other Considerations</b>		
<b>4.1</b>	<b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b>		
	Financial: None anticipated at this juncture.		
	Human: None anticipated at this juncture.		
	Risk Management: None anticipated at this juncture		
<b>4.2</b>	<b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b>		
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.		
	Rural Needs Implications: None anticipated at this juncture.		
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Recommendation(s)</b>		
5.1	It is recommended that Members note the contents of this report.		
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b>		
	N/ A		