



An tSaotharlann Stáit
State Laboratory

State Laboratory

Annual Report 2023



Table of Contents

Introduction.....	2
Overview	3
<i>Strategic Goal 1</i>	
People and Culture	4
<i>Strategic Goal 2</i>	
Support Official Food, Feed and Fertiliser Controls	6
<i>Strategic Goal 3</i>	
Support Revenue Collection and Fraud Prevention	10
<i>Strategic Goal 4</i>	
Provide Centralised Analytical Toxicology Services to the State.....	13
<i>Strategic Goal 5</i>	
Public Health Protection Initiatives	15
<i>Strategic Goal 6</i>	
Environmental Protection and Specialised Chemical Analysis and Advice	17
Strategic Drivers.....	19
Governance	19
Technology, Processes and Infrastructure	23
Appendix I	25
Statement by the Accounting Officer on Internal Financial Control	25
Appendix II	27
Meetings Attended	27
Conferences Attended	27
Appendix III.....	28
Published Material	28
Appendix IV	29
Organisation Chart, as of 31st December 2023	29

Introduction

It is my pleasure to present this annual report detailing the work of the State Laboratory during 2023. The work of the laboratory continues to expand, with demand on resources requiring a dynamic approach to meet these demands. This response stretches across the structure of the Laboratory to ensure support of the staff, the work and, the client, in an appropriate way and with a view to continuing that support into the future. Providing an excellent service to clients is the core of what we do. Our annual Customer Satisfaction Survey indicated over 85% satisfaction with all attributes of the service clients received in 2023, namely: Quality of Service, Timeliness, Flexibility and Quality of Advice.

During the year, the Laboratory welcomed a return to in-person meetings and gradual removal of infectious disease protocols brought about by COVID-19. Learning from that period remains in place and those measures are now part of the procedures that can be deployed if required. Our legal obligation to provide a safe work environment will always remain among our most important priorities. This also meant that we could welcome tours back to the Laboratory from second and third level education institutions across the country, clients, colleagues and peers. This was a welcome re-introduction of activity and interaction to the building.

Staff changes throughout this period were significant as we welcomed many new staff and introduced new roles. We successfully addressed our vacancy challenge through a number of actions including a redesign of our graduate recruitment process and we returned to full staffing in 2023.

The State Laboratory embraces innovation in order to continuously improve, deliver best in class services and to tackle the many challenges and opportunities that arise. Developing expertise in staff and pioneering the latest technologies are essential to meet the changing requirements of clients. New instrumentation is key to ensuring that we remain at the leading edge of analytical chemistry.

This report details the work of the State Laboratory and marks key achievements from the year 2023. I extend my sincere gratitude to the staff of the Laboratory for their continued hard work throughout the period. They demonstrate a keen commitment to innovation in chemistry. Their professionalism and dedication is never in question. I thank all who have contributed to the State Laboratory throughout the year.

Barbara O'Leary

State Chemist

Overview

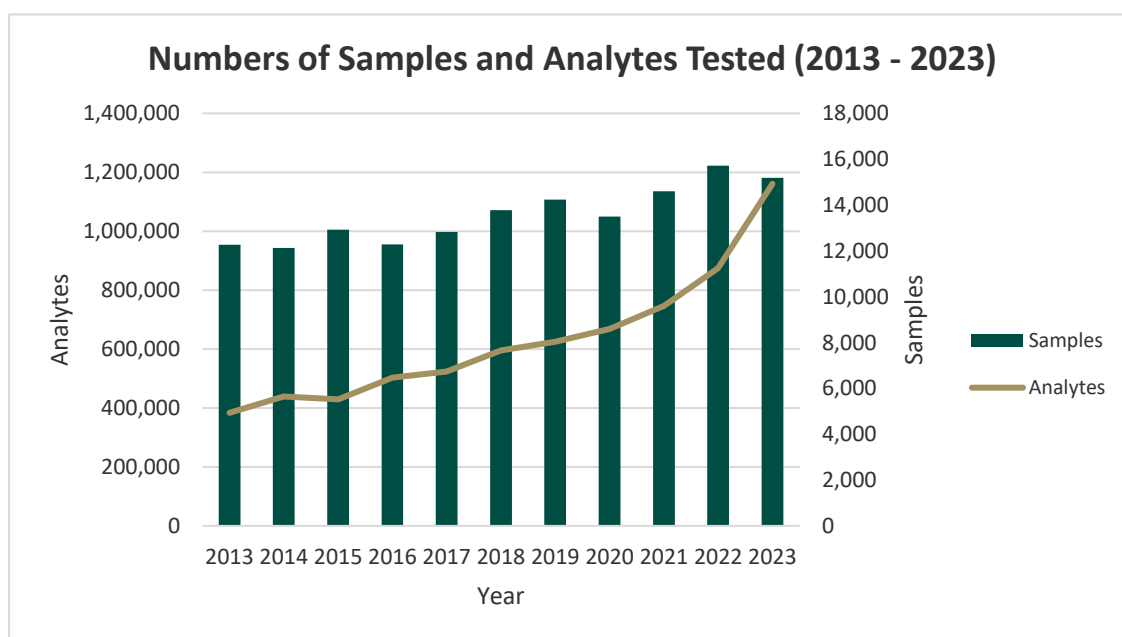
In 2023, 15,192 samples were received and tested for 1,161,023 analytes, a slight reduction in the number of samples received for analysis and a 32% increase in the number of analytes tested for compared to 2022. Analytical chemistry is a continually evolving science and staff of the Laboratory keep abreast of technological changes and take advantage of the opportunities offered by new technology to improve the quality and efficiency of the service provided to our clients. EU and Irish legislation is regularly updated to reflect technological developments and the Laboratory must continually update and improve its methods of analysis. These technological developments are the reason for the large increase in analytes tested. In 2023, new methods of analysis were developed and existing methods were extended so that 30 new tests were introduced, using a variety of analytical techniques.

The Laboratory has an important advisory function and its staff act as the Irish representatives at EU scientific committees and technical Working Groups on behalf of Revenue and the Department of Enterprise, Trade, and Employment (DETE). Laboratory staff also actively participate and represent Ireland as national experts in international bodies such as, the EU working group on methods of analysis for animal feeds, the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN), and Eurachem.

This annual report details the implementation of the State Laboratory's Strategy Statement for 2023 and highlights the Laboratory's main activities and achievements under each Strategic Goal.

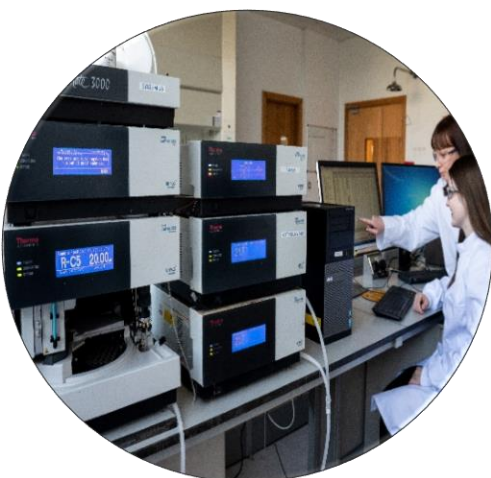
NUMBER OF SAMPLES

Strategic Goal	No. of Samples	No. of Analytes Tested For
Food, Feed and Fertilisers	5,235	74,398
Revenue Collection and Fraud Prevention	1,836	5,926
Analytical Toxicology Services	7,685	1,073,923
Public Health Protection	436	6,776
Overall Total	15,192	1,161,023



Strategic Goal 1

People and Culture



The State Laboratory recognises and values our staff as our most important asset. To succeed, the Laboratory needs the right people with the right skills and competencies, in place, at the right time. We need exceptional leaders who can champion our culture, live our values and facilitate high performance, combined with a highly talented, diverse, skilled and motivated workforce who are empowered and engaged through working in a collaborative, inclusive and supportive working environment. An inclusive, positive culture will

prevail across the Laboratory, where people treat each other with dignity and respect, and feel valued as members of the State Laboratory.

COLLABORATION

There is a demand for Laboratory-wide collaboration. This manifests as sharing of equipment, experience, knowledge and analysis of samples.

This collaboration was evident throughout the Laboratory in 2023. Staff collaborated on utilisation of instrumentation; training resources; testing streams; coordinated client service and relationship; sample plan management; and work stream redesigns between Animal Feedingstuffs, Customs and Excise, Laboratory Services, Veterinary Toxicology, Contaminants, Human Toxicology and Health sections.

Collaboration supported shared knowledge and the development of expertise, whilst optimising the procurement and utilisation of equipment.

CHANGE MANAGEMENT

There were a number of staff changes during 2023 and there was a focus on cross training of staff members across the varied areas of work in the sections. Internal restructuring occurred with movement of work in both directions between the Contaminants and Health sections.

In recent years, demand for chemistry graduates has increased, mainly due to the growth of the pharma sector in Ireland. Expertise that was previously brought into the laboratory through post-graduate qualifications and experience is now being developed on-site. Many staff in the support sections have qualifications in relevant disciplines including IT, Finance, HR, Health and Safety, and Communications. This enhances the operation of the Laboratory, providing expert support to allow the scientific staff to devote their time to chemistry.

DEVELOPING SKILLS

Staff are encouraged to engage in continuous professional development. Significant resources were invested in training in 2023, a lot of which was on the job. This was as a result of so many staff in new roles – new recruits, newly promoted and mobility changes.

Staff were involved in research projects to attain Masters Degrees. 2023 saw a return to in-person meetings, with a number of staff representing the State Laboratory at CEN, EURL and Eurachem meetings and workshops.

The State Laboratory is engaged in work with the potential to add to the knowledge of analytical

chemistry. This research work includes the use of novel or little-used techniques, method development, and new matrices. In 2023, the State Laboratory completed a further consultation process to determine the feasibility to facilitate analytical staff who wish to study for postgraduate qualifications through research related to their analytical work in the State Laboratory. A policy update will launch in 2024.

STAFFING

In 2023, there continued to be an emphasis on recruitment and filling vacancies due to the high vacancy rate in 2021 and 2022, retirements, and other staff movements that occurred during the year.

At the end of December 2023, the Laboratory had 125 staff, 124.4 Whole Time Equivalents (WTE).

A redesign of the graduate recruitment process and further utilisation of external recruitment processes were instrumental in delivering this growth, in a challenging recruitment market.

Thirty-four staff joined the Laboratory during 2023. Five Chemists Grade III, twenty Laboratory Analysts, three Higher Executive Officers, two Executive Officers, one Storekeeper, one Laboratory Attendant and two Clerical Officers were recruited following open competitions undertaken by the Public Appointments Service (PAS), Sigmar Recruitment and via the Civil Service mobility scheme.

Overall, 82% of staff have changed role in the past five years through recruitment, promotion or mobility.

2023 CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT SURVEY.

The response rate for the State Laboratory was 77%. We now have very useful data on staff experiences of working in the State Laboratory and, importantly, this strong response rate will enable management to respond to staff views and is a very good basis on which to inform strategic decisions. Results from the survey should become available in 2024.

Strategic Goal 2

Support Official Food, Feed and Fertiliser Controls



The State Laboratory is designated as Ireland's National Reference Laboratory (NRL) for parameters such as nutritional additives for use in animal feed, specific classes of veterinary drug residues in food of animal origin and contaminants such as persistent organic pollutants, mycotoxins, plant toxins and heavy metals in feed and/or food. The Laboratory's NRL role involves collaborating with European Union Reference Laboratories (EURL), participating in core working groups to improve analytical methods and testing capabilities,

providing scientific and technical assistance to the competent authorities and, where necessary, coordinating the activities of official laboratories. The State Laboratory assists with testing for The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), in partnership with the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI). National sampling and surveillance programmes are part of a system of official controls and inspections, ensuring the highest standards of food and feed safety. In 2023, the value of Irish food and drink exports was €16.3 billion. Food Vision 2030 fosters expansion of primary production and export trade. The demand for Laboratory services to analyse a variety of foods, drinks and animal feedingstuffs for a wide range of substances continues to grow.

ANIMAL FEEDINGSTUFFS

The State Laboratory is the principal laboratory responsible for feedingstuffs chemical analysis in Ireland. Samples of feed materials, feed additives, mineral mixtures and compound feeds are routinely tested to ensure that they contain the declared nutrients (protein, fat and minerals), micro-nutrients (trace elements, vitamins), ash, fibre and moisture contents and do not contain elevated levels of toxic components (heavy metals, fluorine, melamine).

In 2023, the accredited method for the analysis of melamine in infant formula and animal feedingstuffs by LC-MSMS was extended under flexible scope to include all milk-based formulations.

EU legislation specifies the list of antimicrobials that can be used in medicated feed and lays down the tolerances that apply where the composition of a medicated feed is found to deviate from the amount of an antimicrobial active substance indicated on the label. The laboratory tests feed samples for authorised veterinary medicines and coccidiostats to ensure that the correct therapeutic levels are present.

The Laboratory also tests for the presence of low levels of 14 banned or prescription only antibiotics in a range of feeds, and for carryover levels of 11 coccidiostats in rations destined for non-target species. A new LC-MSMS method to test for cross-contamination levels of authorised antibiotics in feed is to be validated in 2024.

TOXICITY

In 2023, a number of priority samples were submitted for analysis relating to suspected copper toxicity in sheep, suspected selenium toxicity in pigs and toxicity in ducks. The duck feed samples were analysed for trace elements, heavy metals, banned antibiotics, coccidiostats and authorized antibiotics at carryover levels. A feed sample was also tested for the presence of banned antibiotics and beta-agonists.

FERTILISER AND LIMESTONE

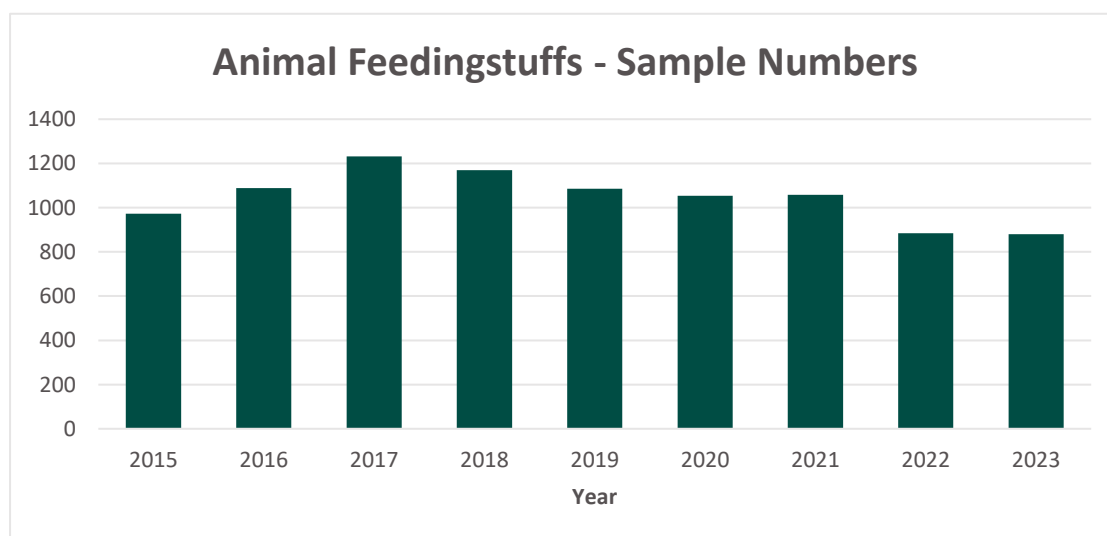
The State Laboratory is Ireland's approved laboratory for checking that fertilisers placed on the market comply with EU legislation. EU Regulation 2019/1009 covers all types of fertilisers (mineral, organic, soil improvers, growing media etc.) and sets harmonised limits for a range of contaminants, such as cadmium, in mineral fertilisers.

The Laboratory's current suite of tests covers nutrients such as nitrogen, phosphorous, potassium and sulphur and minerals such as

magnesium and sodium in mineral fertilisers. An ICP-OES method is used to measure the water-soluble trace element (K, Mg, Na, P and S) content. The validation of a new ICP-OES method for cadmium and phosphorous is expected to commence in 2024 and will possibly be extended to include other heavy metals such as arsenic, lead and mercury.

The Laboratory has also been requested to develop methods to test for fertiliser additives such as urease and nitrification inhibitors. These additives have the potential to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases (ammonia and nitrogen dioxide). The validation of a method to test for n-(n-butyl) thiophosphoric triamide (NBPT) and n-(n-propyl) thiophosphoric triamide (NPPT) commenced in 2023.

Limestone samples for new license applications were evaluated under EU legislation. This included the fineness of the liming materials and total calcium, total magnesium and TNV expressed as CaO values.



CONTAMINANTS

The official control of food and feed is performed for various departments of DAFM and for the FSAI. The Contaminants Section continued to support the Feedingstuffs Annual Inspection Plan by analysing over 250 feed samples for dioxins and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The Laboratory also provided analysis of dioxins and PCBs and analysis of perfluoroalkylated substances (PFAS) under the new European Union Contaminants Control Plan (CCP), which was introduced on 1st January 2023.

Testing was further expanded with the addition of meat, eggs, offal and, milk matrices to the PFAS by LC-MSMS method to allow compliance testing of these matrices with maximum levels introduced in January 2023. Analysis was also performed for DAFM Animal Health and Imports Policy Division for the first time in 2023, providing analysis of samples imported from third countries under the CCP.

In 2023 the validation of a method for isomers of hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDs) commenced. This will be submitted for accreditation in 2024 and it is anticipated that sample analysis will begin in Q3 2024. This is the first of two methods due to be validated for brominated flame retardants (BFRs).

Staff continued to participate in EU Reference Laboratory events including Workshops and Surveys, and are Members of Core Working Groups for PFAS and BFRs.

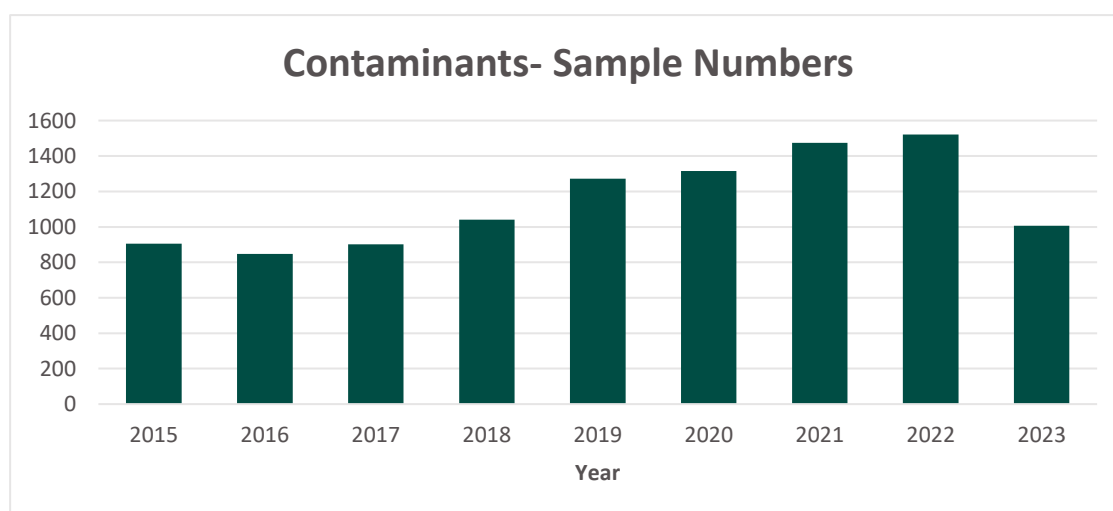
MYCOTOXINS

In 2023, samples of animal feedingstuffs for analysis of mycotoxins continued to exceed the anticipated sample numbers for the year, mainly driven by the fact that over 10% of the total sample numbers were priority samples, related to imported animal feeds.

A new LC-MSMS instrument has been purchased for use for the analysis of mycotoxins in animal feedingstuffs, and for patulin in fruit juices. This will be commissioned in early 2024.

Methods have been developed for the analysis of aflatoxin M1 in cheese (as part of a collaborative trial with other laboratories in the EURL network), and for the determination of ochratoxin A in cheese and cured meats. These will be validated in 2024.

In 2023 internal restructuring saw the move of mycotoxin analysis to the Health Section. This is reflected by lower sample numbers recorded in the Contaminants Section and corresponding increased sample numbers in the Health Section.



VETERINARY MEDICINES

The Laboratory provided ongoing support to the National Residue Control Plan by analysing over

2000 samples on behalf of the Veterinary Medicines Section within DAFM.

As part of the testing, the laboratory continued to provide an accelerated turnaround time scheme for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) in equine kidney. This work is key in supporting

Ireland's reputation as a major exporter of high quality meat and food to Europe and beyond.

ANALYSIS OF IMPORTED GOODS

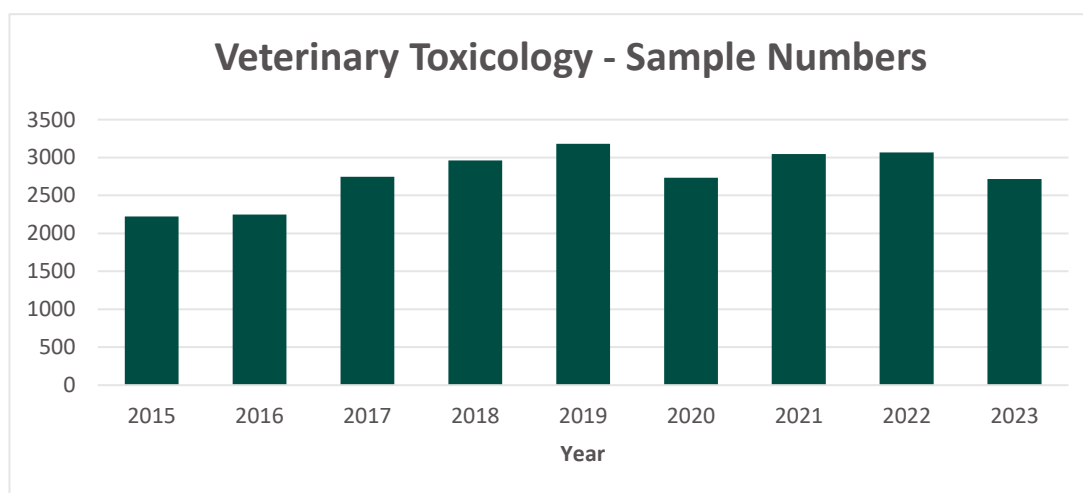
Analysis of imported goods, as mandated in the national risk based control plan for third country imports set out in Commission Delegated Regulation 2022/1644, is overseen by DAFM

Animal Health and Import Policy Division (DAFM AHIPD).

For 2023, there was a smaller number of samples received under this category however, following additional resources being allocated, this area will grow significantly from 2024 onwards due to an increased need in the level of sampling of imports to Ireland from outside the EU.

The State Laboratory will also expand the remit of testing on behalf of DAFM VMS.

The Laboratory also carried out testing on behalf of DAFM Investigations Division during 2023



Food and Feed Safety - Number of Samples Tested

Category of Sample	Samples
Veterinary Drug Residues in Food	2,719
Dioxins, Melamine, PFAS in Food	614
Mycotoxins in Food	268
Nutrients / Trace Elements in Feed	583
Mycotoxins in Feed	418
Dioxins in Feed	288
Nitrate in Vegetables	48
Fertilisers / Liming Materials	297
Totals	5,235

Strategic Goal 3

Support Revenue Collection and Fraud Prevention



The State Laboratory supports Revenue in ensuring that the correct customs duties are collected on traded goods by providing a comprehensive tariff classification advisory service and that the correct excise taxes are paid by testing samples of alcoholic beverages and fuel oils for a wide range of parameters. One of Revenue's key strategic priorities is to tackle non-compliance. The State Laboratory supports Revenue investigations into shadow economy activities, including fraud, illicit trade and smuggling, by providing expert testimony,

scientific evidence and analytical results to support court prosecutions and other enforcement activities. The State Laboratory is developing an analytical testing service to support Geographical Indication (GI) authentication of Irish whiskey to ensure that only whiskey produced in Ireland in accordance with strict technical specifications can be labelled and sold as Irish whiskey.

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE

All goods imported into or exported from the EU must be classified for Customs purposes and each separate product is assigned a particular classification code. State Laboratory staff have developed a high level of expertise in this area, which enables them to advise Revenue on chemical aspects of tariff classification of traded goods such as food, chemicals, medicaments, plastics and metal.

Of particular note, in 2023, as a direct result of Revenue Customs Division's import risk profiling of steel, five samples were identified for checks and submitted to the Laboratory for XRF analysis and tariff classification confirmation. Two of these (two separate customs import declarations) were found to be incorrectly declared. The two declarations in questions were found to be liable for anti-dumping duty (36.60%) and extra safeguard tariff (25%) and the Laboratory provided corrected tariff classification codes. This work highlights the continued ongoing specialist support (customs consultations and specific tariff classification confirmation) provided to Revenue Customs

Division in order to correctly apply special trade protection measures.

In an effort to further improve its service, the Laboratory developed and validated a new method for the determination by GC-FID of milk fat content in fat extracted from food products. This method will be key to assigning the correct tariff classification of food products, and for correct attribution of the meursing code (Implementing Regulation (EU) No 514/2011).

Another important aspect of the work is attendance at meetings of Technical Committees of both the European Union and the World Customs Organisation where issues relating to the interpretation of tariff headings and other related activities are discussed and decisions made on the classification of products.

EXCISE

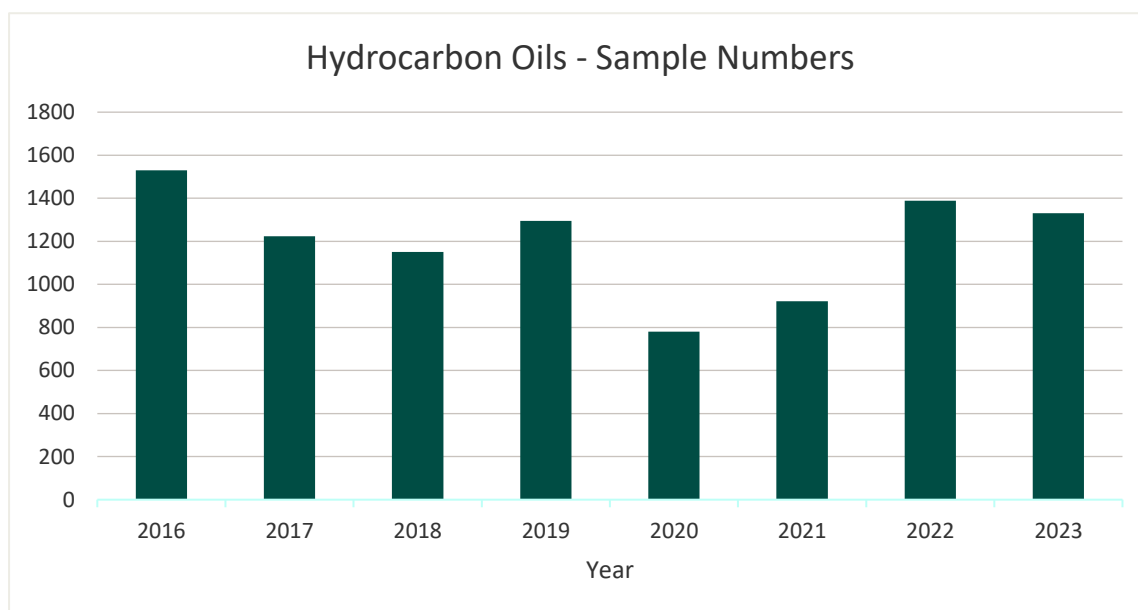
The State Laboratory provides an analytical and advisory service to Revenue in relation to mineral oils, alcoholic beverages and non-potable alcohol-containing products to assist them in determining the appropriate duties

applicable and in prosecuting fraud where attempts are made to evade such duties.

OILS

Rebated (lower-taxed) fuel for off-road use (agriculture/home heating) is marked with dyes or chemical markers so that its use for any other purpose or illegal sale can be identified. The main illicit activity in relation to mineral oil is the laundering of marked fuel to remove these

markers. This has been a persistent problem for many years and fuel laundering poses a serious threat to the Exchequer, to legitimate trade and, because of the processes used in laundering, to the environment. The laboratory supports the work of Revenue by analysing samples of the fuel seized for the presence/ absence of oil markers and, by providing analytical evidence and expert advice to facilitate court prosecutions.



NEW EUROMARKER

Under Council Directive 95/60/EC of 27 November 1995 on fiscal marking of gas oils and kerosene, all Member States must apply a common fiscal marker, referred to as the euromarker, to any gas oil (diesel) and kerosene to which a reduced rate of excise duty applies. The previous euromarker, solvent yellow 124, was the subject of a comprehensive review by the Commission and, following an evaluation of candidate replacement markers, a new euromarker was selected.

This is a patented product with the commercial name ACCUTRACE™ PLUS. It contains butoxybenzene which is the prescribed marker component. The addition of ACCUTRACE™ PLUS to Ireland's suite of fiscal markers (including Accutrace™ S10 as the joint Ireland/UK marker) will significantly enhance an already robust marking regime.

In 2023, the State Laboratory acquired a new instrument, GCxGC-TOFMS, to be able to

analyse mineral oils samples for this new euromarker. This new equipment provides an innovative technique allowing for multiple analyte classes to be combined into a single analysis saving instrument and sample preparation time, and leading to improved overall productivity and results that are of the highest quality.

With this acquisition, the State Laboratory will be in a position to offer a performant analytical capability to Revenue that will complement their planned roadside testing detection and consequently ensure that the risks posed by fuel laundering are mitigated to the greatest extent possible in both jurisdictions either side of the border with Northern Ireland.

ALCOHOLS

The excise duty payable on alcohol-containing products (such as beers, ciders, wines or spirits) is based on the alcohol content. Counterfeit

spirits are illegally produced alcoholic drinks, which are often sold to consumers as legitimate product.

Illicit trade in alcohol occurs through smuggling from countries with lower excise rates, illegally diverting untaxed alcohol onto the market, or the production of counterfeit alcohol.

The State Laboratory assists Revenue to monitor compliance, to combat excise duty fraud and the production and distribution of counterfeit spirits. Most samples are tested for alcohol

content and, where required, congener profiling and testing for authenticity indicators is carried out. A small number of samples containing non-potable alcohol are also tested for denaturants.

Revenue works in partnership with DAFM and the FSAI on the Geographical Indication Scheme for Irish Whiskey and Irish Poteen. The State Laboratory supports DAFM, as the controlling authority, in developing an analytical testing service to support GI authentication of alcoholic spirits by profiling samples, including profiling for 13 volatile alcoholic congeners by GC-MS.

Revenue Collection and Fraud Prevention - Number of Samples Tested

<i>Category of Sample</i>	<i>No. of Samples</i>
<i>Customs</i>	<i>199</i>
<i>Excise - Mineral Oils</i>	<i>1,265</i>
<i>Excise - Alcoholic Beverages</i>	<i>323</i>
<i>GI Irish Spirits</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,836</i>

Strategic Goal 4

Provide Centralised Analytical Toxicology Services to the State



The State Laboratory tests post-mortem samples for a wide range of prescription medicines and illegal drugs for the Coroners Service and the Office of the State Pathologist. Samples are routinely analysed for approximately 170 drugs. The State Laboratory provides a toxicant testing service to DAFM to support investigations into large-scale poisoning incidents on farms and to the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in relation to the illegal poisoning of wildlife, especially re-introduced birds of prey. This

involves the analysis of a wide range of toxicants and veterinary drug residues in biological samples.

TOXICANTS

The toxicants testing service for wildlife continued and the analysis was moved to a more sensitive LC-MSMS system. It is hoped to add more analytes and amend the working range of the method in 2024.

High-resolution mass spectrometry was used to test for new analytes outside the scope of the accredited method.

A review of the RAPTOR protocol between the State Laboratory, NPWS and DAFM Veterinary Laboratory Services began in 2023, aiming for all parties to provide better support for court prosecution samples. It is anticipated that this review will be completed in 2024. Staff attended a training event in May, which provided good opportunities for discussion and learning.

HUMAN TOXICOLOGY

The demand for this service has increased considerably, putting significant pressure on the Laboratory to maintain the service within the agreed turnaround times (TATs). The service provided allowed for an increase of 2-3 %, in line with expected population growth. Since 2020, the annual increase in sample numbers received

was much larger. The additional sample numbers led to a backlog and a subsequent increase in TATs. TATs increased from 93 days to 160 days in mid-2023.

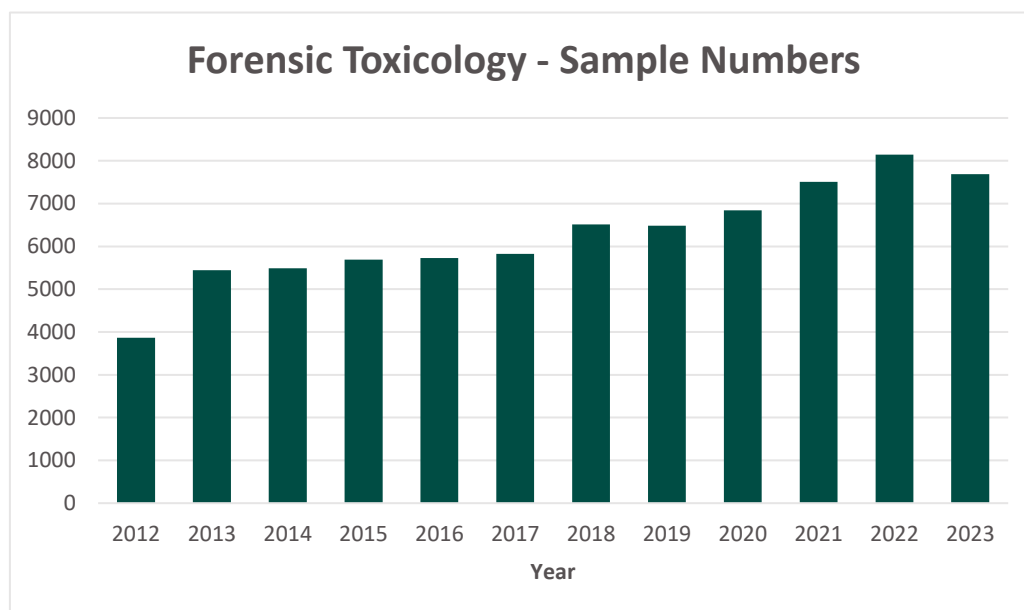
A significant redesign project commenced in February 2023 to facilitate this growth in service, whilst returning the TATs to their original times. In 2023, sanction was received for an additional 10 staff, with the new staff arriving from autumn onwards. A substantial training period was initiated, to upskill the new staff. The next phase of this process is the implementation of the new service and sectional models. This implementation phase will commence in 2024.

A new method for the analysis of BHB in blood was developed and validated in 2023. This analysis was previously outsourced and new instrumentation purchased in 2022 allowed the Laboratory to develop this expertise in-house

Several new analytes were added to the drug screening method on the High Resolution Accurate Mass LCMS (HRMS), including novel psychoactive substances (NPS) and synthetic cannabinoids, increasing the scope of analysis.

The Laboratory proactively keeps abreast of national and European drug alerts and trends, participating in many toxicology groups. The Laboratory routinely uses this information to establish and maintain a database used to screen for 'unknowns'. High-resolution mass spectrometry capabilities were further enhanced with the addition of a Thermo Exploris 120 HRLCMS in early 2023.

In December 2023, a number of non-fatal heroin overdoses were investigated by the HSE and, as a result of testing in the Laboratory in conjunction with other toxicology services, it was determined that a nitazene compound, n-pyrrolidino protonitazene was present. Nitazenes are a potent form of synthetic opioid and had not previously been identified in Ireland. A new nitazene screen has since been developed and will be added to as standards are received.



Strategic Goal 5

Public Health Protection Initiatives



The Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) protects public and animal health through the regulation of human and veterinary medicines. The Investigations Division of DAFM also works to protect consumers and the food chain by monitoring the supply and use of veterinary products on farms. The State Laboratory supports the work of both the HPRA and DAFM by testing samples of seized pharmaceutical, herbal and veterinary products for the presence of pharmaceutically active compounds and excipients. When required, staff

of the Laboratory provide expert testimony in subsequent court prosecutions.

Hemp crops can only be grown in Ireland under licence from the HPRA and there is a requirement to inspect 30% of the area sown to ensure that the tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) content of the crop does not exceed 0.3%. The State Laboratory analyses THC in hemp samples for DAFM and in cannabidiol (CBD) products seized by Revenue Customs Officers.

The State Laboratory is designated by the Department of Health as the testing laboratory for Ireland, for the purposes of carrying out testing on tobacco products as set out in EU legislation. The Laboratory analyses cigarettes for tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide. The Laboratory also supports the HSE Tobacco Control Network Support Unit by testing e-liquids and associated devices to ensure compliance with the Tobacco Product Directive (2014/40/EU).

MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Seized medicinal products are tested on behalf of HPRA and DAFM Investigations Division. Thirteen analytes were added to the scope of accreditation and two analytes were validated using non-accredited methods.

In September, the HPRA requested urgent analysis of semaglutide due a large increase in the number of counterfeit products labelled as semaglutide being seized during 2023 compared to 2022. Semaglutide is the active ingredient in the diabetes drug Ozempic® and in the weight-loss drug Wegovy®. Ozempic® is available in Ireland under prescription, Wegovy® is not yet

available in Ireland. There is no authorised version of semaglutide in powder form such as those being seized, and semaglutide is under patent with no generic versions available. Semaglutide was confirmed present in the seized sample and results were used to support a public health warning on the HPRA website. It is expected that requests for semaglutide and similar active ingredients analysis will increase in 2024.

TOBACCO

The Health Section continued to support the HSE Tobacco Control Network Support Unit through the analysis of e-liquid products for

nicotine concentration. New areas of support provided this year included the development of a new method for the determination of volume of e-liquid in disposable vaping cartridges, and the development of a GC-MS method for non-targeted analysis of flavour compounds in e-liquids. The former was employed for approx. 70% of all e-liquid samples submitted for analysis, and has been submitted for accreditation, for assessment in early 2024.

As a result of nicotine analysis in 2023, 10 samples were seen as having limits in excess of the legislative limit, set in the Tobacco Products Directive, which resulted in the issuing of 5 European Safety RAPEX alerts. Sample Numbers for e-liquids have increased year-on-year, with a further increase expected in 2024. One limitation in meeting commitments to the client in this area is the lack of clarity on what harmful substances to focus on when further developing GC-MS methods for e-liquids.

CANNABINOIDS

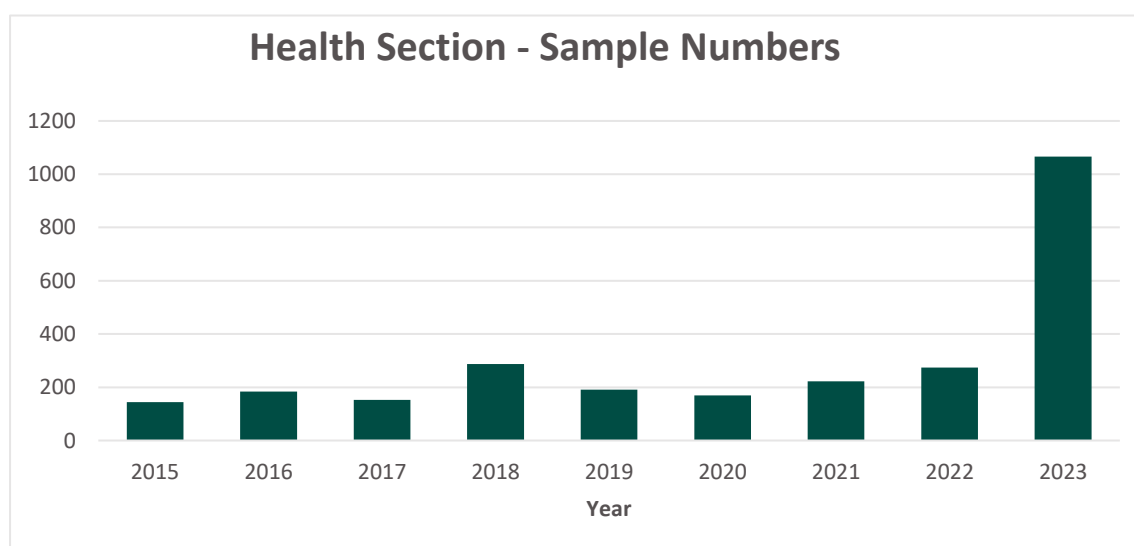
Various sample-types are received from a variety of clients (Revenue, FSAI, DAFM) for analysis of cannabinoids including, but not limited to, delta-9 THC. From Revenue alone, three times as many samples were received for

cannabinoid analysis in 2023, vs 2022. A number of these samples were found to contain delta-9 THC, in some cases in contradiction with the packaging or import documentation. Some samples required amendments to existing sample preparation processes to accommodate new sample matrices, e.g. CBD balm. To accommodate animal feed samples for which total delta-9 THC and CBD levels are going to be required, a new LC-MSMS method for the analysis of herbal/plant matrices was developed, which will be deployed for routine use in 2024.

The Laboratory also carried out analysis of total delta-9 THC and moisture in hemp crops sampled by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. The number of samples for which this was done was down on previous years, predominantly due to wet weather causing issues with crops.

MYCOTOXINS

In 2023, internal restructuring saw the move of mycotoxin samples to the Health Section. This is reflected by lower sample numbers recorded in the Contaminants Section and corresponding increased sample numbers in the Health Section.



Strategic Goal 6

Environmental Protection and Specialised Chemical Analysis and Advice



The State Laboratory has supported the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to monitor the presence of dioxins in the environment for many years by testing milk samples. Dioxins present in grass consumed by cows will concentrate in the fat content of the milk. The Laboratory tests fish samples for dioxins in support of a new biota monitoring programme in inland surface waters alongside analysis for PFAS in these samples. The State Laboratory supports the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications in

protecting the environment by performing sulphur analysis on fuel oil samples. The Laboratory supports the Department of Transport by testing marine oils for sulphur content and is part of the Oil Spill Identification Network (OSINet) at the request of the Irish Coastguard. OSINet supports its members in using oil forensic analysis to prove the origin of marine pollution by oil and as evidence for the reimbursement of the cost of response operations under governmental claims. The State Laboratory is supporting DAFM by implementing new methods of analysis to test for environmentally friendly fertiliser additives such as urease and nitrification inhibitors, which have the potential to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from fertilisers. The State Laboratory provides scientific advice supported by specialised chemical analysis to many Government Departments and public bodies with occasional requirements in a diverse range of areas including art conservation, chemical weapons and illegal waste.

AMMONIA AND GREENHOUSE GASES

The Irish Government have committed to reducing national losses of ammonia and the greenhouse gas nitrous oxide. The Animal Feedingstuffs Section are currently validating a method for the analysis of the urease inhibitors n-(n-butyl) thiophosphoric triamide (NBPT) and n-(n-propyl) thiophosphoric triamide (NPPT) which are used in urea-based fertilisers to reduce both ammonia and nitrous oxide emissions from urea

The State Laboratory provides scientific assistance to a variety of bodies responsible for the conservation of Ireland's heritage. The Animal Feedingstuffs Section has oversight of the relationship with these heritage clients, including the National Library, National Gallery and National Museum.

PERSISTANT ORGANIC POLLUTANTS

The Contaminants Section support EPA monitoring programmes for persistent organic pollutants in the environment by testing fish

samples for dioxins, PCBs and PFAS and by testing milk samples for dioxins and PCBs.

In early 2023, the Laboratory also conducted dioxins and PCB analysis as part of a study into levels of pollutants in pilot whales arranged by Atlantic Technological University (ATU) in conjunction with the Irish Whale and Dolphin Group. Blubber samples from whales that had been beached at various locations in Ireland were sent to the State Laboratory for analysis and results were provided to ATU. It is envisaged that the results will be published in the future.

PSILOCYBIN AND PSILOCIN

The Health Section received four times as many samples from Customs officers for drug analysis (other than cannabinoid analysis) in 2023 than in 2022. This has presented challenges to providing a good level of service to the client, as the requests are often for a full illicit drugs screen, rather than targeting of a specific analyte. As a result of this, varied test methods are required which represents a draw on resources and an unpredictable stream of samples to be tested with various methods. 2023 saw a marked increase in the number of samples for which analysis of psilocybin or psilocin analysis was requested.

Strategic Drivers

Governance

The State Laboratory applies the highest standards of corporate governance, risk management and safety to the operation of the Laboratory. We operate a Quality System that meets the requirements of ISO 17025, and maintain and expand the Laboratory's scope of accreditation to meet client requirements. Centralised procurement and ICT frameworks are utilised to improve efficiencies and achieve value for money. We fully meet new government requirements including plans to join the Financial Management Shared Service, new Government Accounting Standards, the Climate Action Plan, the Civil Service Renewal 2030 Strategy and Better Public Services – the Public Service Transformation 2030 Strategy. We are committed to providing a safe work environment for staff, mitigating the hazards associated with working with potentially dangerous chemicals. We collaborate with other public sector laboratories to improve efficiencies and reduce duplication of effort in the sector.

SICK LEAVE

In 2023, the Laboratory's Lost Time Rate was 3.1%. The average working days lost per fulltime employee was 7.1 days.

FLEXIBLE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

State Laboratory staff can avail of flexi-time, work sharing, parental leave, shorter working year, parents leave and blended working.

Work Life Balance Friendly Policies

<i>Scheme</i>	<i>% Staff Availing of the Scheme in 2023</i>
<i>Work-Sharing</i>	<i>3%</i>
<i>Parental Leave</i>	<i>8%</i>
<i>Career Breaks</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Shorter Working Year</i>	<i>13%</i>
<i>Parent's Leave</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Blended Working</i>	<i>63%</i>

DIVERSITY, EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

The gender breakdown for each grade in the Laboratory at the end of 2023 is shown in the table.

Gender Breakdown in the State Laboratory

Grade	Female	Male
State Chemist	1	0
Principal Chemist	2	1
Senior Chemist	5	3
Assistant Principal Officer	1	3
Chemist Grade II	12	8
Chemist	20	15
Higher Executive Officer	2	1
Administrative Officer	1	0
Senior Laboratory Analyst	6	4
Laboratory Analyst	14	8
Executive Officer	3	4
Clerical Officer	3	2
Storekeeper	0	1
Laboratory Attendant	3	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>73</i>	<i>52</i>

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

A range of scientific, technical and professional development was provided to staff in 2023. Topics covered included advanced instrumentation analysis and troubleshooting; courtroom skills; laboratory information management systems; planning and evaluating method validation; QC data and measurement uncertainty interpretation and, EURL and Eurachem workshops.

Staff attended a number of One Learning webinars on health and wellbeing. The Employee Assistance Officer was available to provide additional support to staff.

Leadership and management courses, management for inclusive workforces, project management, and leading change training were also provided.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The State Laboratory has a legal obligation to provide a safe work environment for all its staff and visitors. Managing laboratory safety correctly and mitigating the hazards associated with working with potentially dangerous chemicals is a high priority for the Laboratory's Management Board. A Principal Chemist holds the role of Safety Officer and is supported by a fulltime Health and Safety Manager and a Safety Working Group.

47 projects were progressed through the 2023 Safety Programme. Additional areas of focus included fire safety management, safety auditing, psychosocial hazards, electrical safety, ergonomic assessments and delivery of the health and safety training programmes.

QUALITY SYSTEM / ACCREDITATION

The quality of analytical work from the State Laboratory is enhanced by having a documented quality system in place and national and international acceptance of results of analyses is strengthened by the Laboratory's accreditation to ISO/IEC 17025 (General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories) by the Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB Reg. No. 146T). This is particularly so in the case of official controls of food and feed, where legislation requires accreditation, and can support successful court prosecutions.

The 2023 INAB visit was a full reassessment audit, which took place over two days in February. The Laboratory was successful in maintaining accreditation for its existing scope. At the end of 2023, the Laboratory was accredited for 61 test methods covering 705 individual analytes.

A significant amount of effort was also spent during the year progressing the required re-validation of test methods in accordance with the new legislative and performance requirements of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2021/808. Validation work was carried out on three different methods, all of which included significant improvements to the methods' detection capabilities for the substances involved. This work also involved the addition of a new analyte to one of the methods. The validation work for the three methods was completed in 2023, and the changes will be added to the laboratory's accreditation under flexible scope in early 2024. Overall, four methods were completed from the current scope of accredited test methods with ongoing work planned.

CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY

Once again, the results for the annual Customer Satisfaction Survey were very good and are shown in the table below. Comments from clients referred to the excellent service received and praised the helpful and flexible attitude of staff.

Attribute	Quality of Service	Timeliness	Quality of Advice	Flexibility
Satisfaction Rating	100%	88%	97%	100%

The Laboratory has always been conscious of recording the effectiveness of its service delivery to client departments and offices. The results of the 2023 Customer Satisfaction survey (undertaken in 2024) showed that the most important attribute of the service that the Laboratory provides continues to be Quality of Service. This reflects the fact that as a regulatory laboratory, the analytical results and advice the State Laboratory provides are used to inform important decision-making, to implement legislation and to support court prosecutions and Coroners inquests. The respondent rate of the Customer Satisfaction Survey results included in this report cover approximately 84% of the services to clients provided by the State Laboratory during 2023.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

The State Laboratory's Audit Committee is part of the Laboratory's governance framework, tasked with providing independent advice to the State Chemist (as Accounting Officer) regarding the suitability and robustness of the Laboratory's internal control systems and procedures. The Committee met three times in 2023, and reviewed the reports of the internal audits conducted during the year: Financial Reporting, Treasury and Revenue, Computer System Controls and Business Risk Management.

Review of risk management is a standing agenda item for Audit Committee meetings.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Laboratory's Risk Register was updated twice during 2023 in line with the internal Risk Management Policy. Risks are identified at sectional level during business planning meetings and these are reviewed by Senior Management and the register of risks updated accordingly.

SYSTEM OF INTERNAL FINANCIAL CONTROL

The State Chemist's Statement on Internal Financial Control (Appendix I) was submitted to the Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General along with the State Laboratory's 2023 Appropriation Account in March 2024.

The Comptroller and Auditor General's Office carried out their annual audit of the Appropriation Account and the Account was certified early with no findings.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following table summarises the State Laboratory's financial expenditure in 2023, with figures for 2022 provided for comparative purposes.

<i>Gross Expenditure</i>	<i>2023</i> <i>€000</i>	<i>2022</i> <i>€000</i>
<i>A1. Salaries, Wages & Allowances</i>	<i>7,651</i>	<i>6,516</i>
<i>A2. Travel and Subsistence</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>A3. Training and Development & Incidental Expenses</i>	<i>518</i>	<i>324</i>
<i>A4. Postal & Telecommunications Services</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>A5. Apparatus & Chemical Equipment</i>	<i>2,766</i>	<i>3,081</i>
<i>A6. Office Premises Expenses</i>	<i>2,248</i>	<i>1,711</i>
<i>A7. Consultancy Services (Internal Audit)</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>37</i>
<i>Gross Total</i>	<i>13,265</i>	<i>11,725</i>

PROMPT PAYMENTS

In 2023, the Laboratory made two late payments to the value of €155.03, which included compensation costs of €70 per late payment.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

The State Laboratory received four Freedom of Information requests in 2023; all were non-personal in nature.

PROTECTED DISCLOSURES

No protected disclosures were received in the reporting period up to 31 December 2023.

ENERGY USE STATEMENT

In 2023, the final energy consumption by the State Laboratory was as follows:

Electricity	2,581,462 kWh
Gas	2,581,593 kWh
Total	5,163,055 kWh

This is a reduction of 3.7% or 213,131 kWh on the primary energy used in 2022.

Relative to the baseline period this is an absolute energy reduction of 35%. The predicted energy performance indicator (EnPI) for 2023 is over 60% better than baseline and comfortably exceeds the 2030 public sector energy efficiency target.

The State Laboratory Climate Action Roadmap tracks our actions, performance, and opportunities relative to the 2030 public sector Green House Gas (GHG) emission targets. The Laboratory has delivered a 23% reduction on energy related CO₂ emissions since the base line period.

Technology, Processes and Infrastructure

ICT DEVELOPMENT

Significant progress was made in all areas of the ICT strategy, which focuses on innovation, cyber security, continuous service improvement, development and robust infrastructure. Significantly, there was no disruption to any operations across the organisation because of ICT related services. The overall ICT support service remained very strong and maintained an agile and responsive capability as ICT related helpdesk queries increased from 2260 in 2022 to 3137 in 2023. Significant advancements were made to facilitate long-term blended working for staff and general remote access for equipment support suppliers. All remote access has been standardised and there has been additional security measures implemented such as a firewall and VPN upgrade along with enhanced auditing capabilities. A move towards laptop devices rather than PCs was needed to facilitate blended working and a virtual desktop infrastructure built on Microsoft Remote Desktop Services was implemented to address the need to run many business applications on central infrastructure.

DISASTER RECOVERY AND PHISHING

Additional improvements were made on the organisation's disaster recover capability which included an upgrade of our backup and recovery capability at our two datacentre sites along with expanding on the remote access capability at the DR site in the event the Backweston site is unavailable. There were two successful DR tests conducted in 2023 with all core business applications and systems included in the testing. User awareness training remains a high priority and all staff are assigned cyber security training regularly. A simulated phishing exercise was run

followed by additional user awareness communications. External penetration testing was conducted and all recommendations actioned.

INNOVATION

Two half-day sessions highlighting innovations introduced by staff in the lab, took place in 2023. As part of these days, staff from different sections gave presentations on innovative approaches they progressed in their own sections and drew attention to how some of these approaches may be useful throughout the Laboratory. An event was also organised in 2023 in conjunction with Agilent Technologies highlighting new technologies being developed by them and how these might help with some of the analytical challenges we currently face in the Laboratory.

LABORATORY INFRASTRUCTURE

The Laboratory Services Section continues to work with the Facilities Management Company and the Office of Public Works to ensure the stringent facility requirements are met specific to leading edge analytical chemistry. As the service provided to clients and staff numbers continues to grow, there is a focus on ensuring the building meets current and future needs. Areas of focus in the facilities programme for 2023 included environmental controls for laboratories containing high resolution mass spectrometry instrumentation; high capacity three phase UPS business continuity improvements; fire suppression system refurbishment for fume cupboards; electrical incoming panel and power factor replacements; and additional office and laboratory fit outs.

The Laboratory manages an active annual preventative maintenance schedule and plant life cycle management programme. In 2023, the OPW tendered for the Facilities Management provision for the campus.

Appendix I

Statement by the Accounting Officer on Internal Financial Control

Responsibility for system of internal financial control

As Accounting Officer, I acknowledge my responsibility for ensuring that an effective system of internal financial control is maintained and operated by the State Laboratory.

This responsibility is exercised in the context of the resources available to me and my other obligations as State Chemist. Also, any system of internal financial control can provide only reasonable and not absolute assurance that assets are safeguarded, transactions authorised and properly recorded, and that material errors or irregularities are either prevented or would be detected in a timely manner. Maintaining the system of internal financial controls is a continuous process and the system and its effectiveness are kept under ongoing review.

Shared services

I have fulfilled my responsibilities in relation to the requirements of the service management agreement between the State Laboratory and the National Shared Services Office for the provision of payroll shared services and human resource shared services.

I rely on a letter of assurance from the Accounting Officer of the National Shared Services Office that the appropriate controls are exercised in the provision of shared services to the State Laboratory.

Financial control environment

A control environment comprising the following elements is in place.

- Financial responsibilities have been assigned at management level with corresponding accountability.
- Reporting arrangements have been established at all levels where responsibility for financial management has been assigned.
- Formal procedures have been established for reporting significant control failures and ensuring appropriate corrective action.
- There is an Audit Committee to advise me in discharging my responsibilities for the internal financial control system.
- Procedures for all key business processes have been documented.
- There are systems in place to safeguard the assets.

Administrative controls and management reporting

A framework of administrative procedures and regular management reporting is in place, including segregation of duties and a system of delegation and accountability, and in particular, that

- there is an appropriate budgeting system with an annual budget which is kept under review by senior management
- there are regular reviews by senior management of periodic and annual financial reports which indicate financial performance against forecasts
- a risk management system operates within the State Laboratory
- there are systems aimed at ensuring the security of the ICT systems
- there are appropriate capital investment control guidelines and formal project management disciplines

Internal audit and Audit Committee

The State Laboratory has an internal audit function with appropriately trained personnel, which operates in accordance with a written charter which I have approved. Its work is informed by analysis of

the financial risks to which the State Laboratory is exposed and its annual internal audit plans, approved by me, are based on this analysis. These plans aim to cover the key controls on a rolling basis over a reasonable period. The internal audit function is reviewed periodically by me and by the Audit Committee. I have put procedures in place to ensure that the reports of the internal audit function are followed up.

Procurement

The State Laboratory ensures that there is an appropriate focus on good procurement practice in the award of all contracts and that procedures are in place to ensure compliance with all relevant guidelines. Expenditure on goods and services, including the cost of contracted-in staff, amounted to a total of €5.6 million in 2023.

The State Laboratory has provided details of five non-competitive contracts in the annual return in respect of Circular 40/2002 to the Department of Public Expenditure, National Development Plan Delivery and Reform.

The State Laboratory complied with the guidelines for 2023 and did not have any non-compliant contracts.

Risk and control framework

The State Laboratory has implemented a risk management system which identifies and reports key risks and the management actions being taken to address and, to the extent possible, to mitigate those risks.

A risk register is in place which identifies the key risks facing the State Laboratory and these have been identified, evaluated and graded according to their significance. The register is reviewed and updated by the Management Board on a bi-annual basis. The outcome of these assessments is used to plan and allocate resources to ensure risks are managed to an acceptable level.

The risk register details the controls and actions needed to mitigate risks and responsibility for operation of controls assigned to specific staff.

Ongoing monitoring and review

Formal procedures have been established for monitoring control processes and control deficiencies are communicated to those responsible for taking corrective action and to management and the Management Board, where relevant, in a timely way. I confirm that key risks and related controls have been identified and processes have been put in place to monitor the operation of those key controls and report any identified deficiencies.

Review of effectiveness

The State Laboratory has procedures to monitor the effectiveness of its risk management and control procedures. The State Laboratory's monitoring and review of the effectiveness of the system of internal financial control is informed by the work of the internal and external auditors and the senior management within the State Laboratory responsible for the development and maintenance of the internal financial control framework.

Internal financial control issues

No weaknesses in internal financial control were identified in relation to 2023 that require disclosure in the appropriation account.

Barbara O'Leary
Accounting Officer
State Laboratory

11 March 2024

Appendix II

Meetings Attended

- EU meeting on the revision of Commission Regulation (EC) 152/2009, remote
- Plenary meeting of CEN Technical Committee (TC) 327 – Animal Feedingstuffs, Milan
- Plenary meeting of CEN Technical Committee (TC) 260 – Fertilisers and Liming Materials, remote
- Meetings of CEN/TC 260 WG 7 Chemical Analysis of Fertilisers, remote
- EURL Workshop – Metals and Nitrogenous Compounds in Feed, Copenhagen
- EURL Workshop – Feed Additives, Belgium
- Attendance at EURL for Halogenated Persistent Organic Pollutants Workshops
- Participation in Core Working Groups for PFAS and BFRs
- Meeting of Irish Mass Spec society (IMSS)
- Eurachem workshop (Planning and Evaluating Method Validation Studies)
- WCO SSC 38th session (Brussels): 17-20/01/2023
- 25th CLEN plenary meeting (Brussels): 09/02/2023
- 241st CCC (online): 21 and 22/03/2023
- CLEN Action 6 - Meeting on the update and enrichment of ECICS (online): 06/06/2023
- CCEI Lab matrix project group (online meetings 17/05/2023 and 23/06/2023)
- 246th CCC (Brussels): 26 - 28/06/2023
- AdCo Textiles: market Surveillance Group for Textile Reg (EC) No 1007/2011 (online): 14/09/2023
- 248th CCC (online): 04/10/2023
- 251st CCC (online): 11/12/2023
- Attendance at the EURL Workshop in Berlin in May 2023
- Attendance at the EURL Workshop in Wageningen in November 2023
- Presentation given entitled “NRL Overview” given at EURL Berlin
- Attendance at Standing Committee on Veterinary Medicinal Products in January 2023
- Meetings of the Eurachem Method Validation Working Group, Belgium
- Meetings of the Eurachem Ireland Committee
- Attendance at Eurachem General Assembly, Bern, Switzerland
- Attendance at Eurachem Executive Committee meetings, Windsor
- Attendance at European Accreditation General Assembly, Dublin

Conferences Attended

- Ensuring reliable and accurate results of analytical processes, Bern, May 2023
- Feed 2023, Milan, October 2023
- Dioxin 2023
- SETAC 2023
- 8th Worldwide Distilled Spirits Conference 2023 (Edinburgh), 09 to 11/05/2023
- 8th Seminar of European Customs Chemists (Berlin), 03 to 06/07/2023
- Eurachem Ireland Workshop, May 2023 – “Planning and Evaluating Method Validation Studies
- “Making Tobacco Endgame a Reality” – Online conference organised by HSE and WHO JATC 2, Nov 2023
- UKIAFT Meeting (London)
- Forensic Tox Labs Meeting - UCD
- ACBI Conference
- Club Health Conference (Liverpool)
- International Society for the Study of Emerging Drugs (ISSED) Conference on NPS

Appendix III

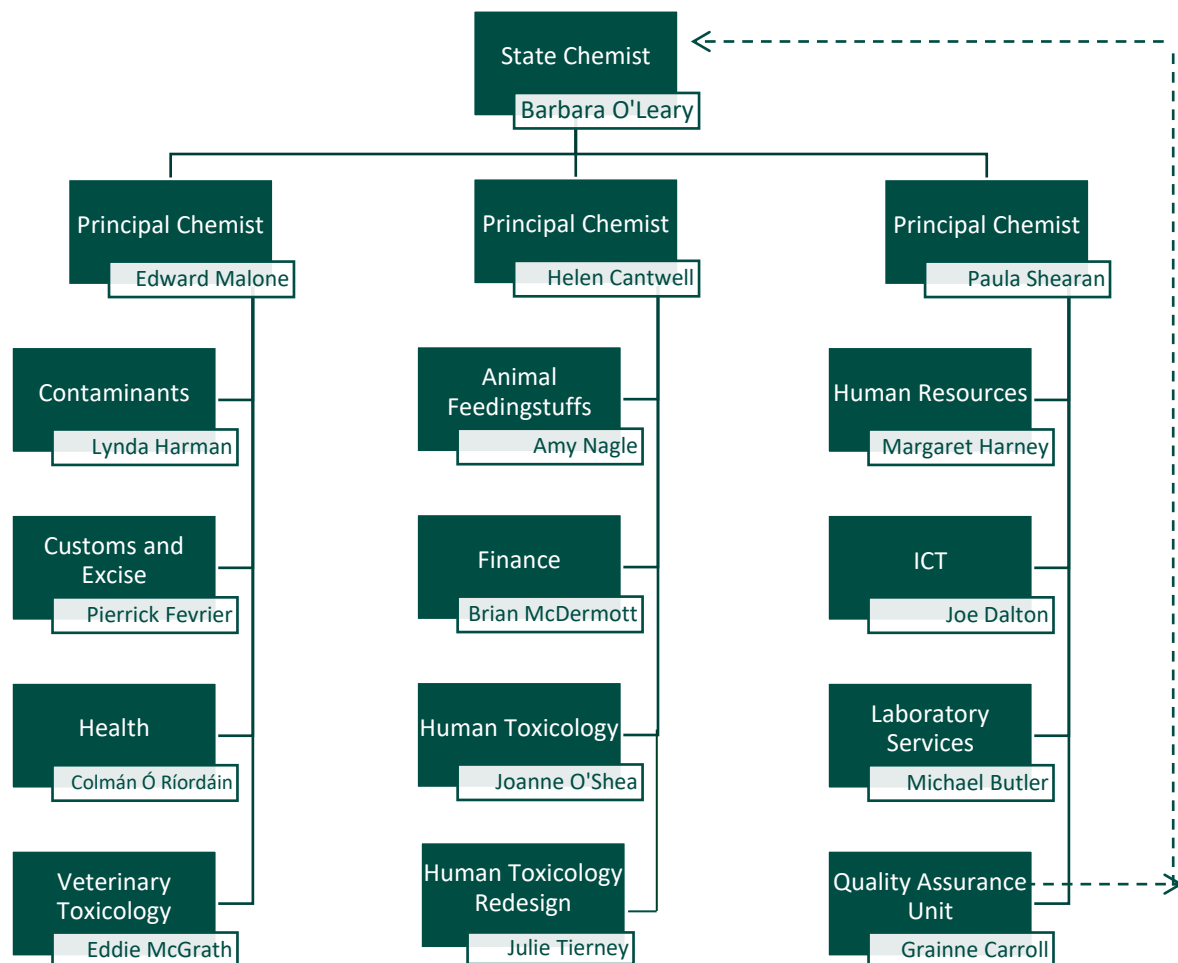
Published Material

Durand L, O'Kane A, Tierney J, Cronly M, Bennett KE, Kavanagh Y, Keenan E, Cousins G. Gabapentinoids in Ireland 2010 to 2020: An observational study of trends in gabapentinoid prescribing, law enforcement drug seizures and postmortem toxicology. *Br J Clin Pharmacol*. 2023 Dec 10

Cousins G, Durand L, O'Kane A, Tierney J, Maguire R, Stokes S, O'Reilly D, Arensman E, Bennett KE, Vázquez MO, Corcoran P, Lyons S, Kavanagh Y, Keenan E. Prescription drugs with potential for misuse: protocol for a multi-indicator analysis of supply, detection and the associated health burden in Ireland between 2010 and 2020. *BMJ Open*. 2023 Mar 2;13(3):e069665.

Appendix IV

Organisation Chart, as of 31st December 2023





An tSaotharlann Stáit
State Laboratory

An tSaotharlann Stáit

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2023

Clár Ábhair

Réamhrá

Forbhreathnú

Sprioc Straitéiseach 1

Daoine agus Cultúr

Sprioc Straitéiseach 2

Tacú le Rialuithe Oifigiúla Bia, Beatha agus Leasacháin

Sprioc Straitéiseach 3

Tacú le hIoncam a Bhailiú agus le Calaois a Chosc

Sprioc Straitéiseach 4

Seirbhísí Láraithe Tocsaineolaíochta Anailísí a Sholáthar don Stát

Sprioc Straitéiseach 5

Tionscnaimh um Shláinte Phoiblí a Chosaint

Sprioc Straitéiseach 6

Cosaint an Chomhshaoil agus Sainanailís agus Sainchomhairle Cheimiceach

Spreagthaí Straitéiseacha

Rialachas

Teicneolaíocht, Próisis agus Bonneagar

Aguisín I

Statement by the Accounting Officer on Internal Financial Control

Aguisín II

Cruinnithe ar Freastalaíodh orthu

Comhdhálacha ar Freastalaíodh orthu

Aguisín III

Ábhar Foilsithe

Aguisín IV

Cairt Eagraíochtúil, mar de 31 Nollaig 2023

Réamhrá

Tá sé de phléisiúr agam an tuarascáil bhliantúil seo ina mionsonraítear obair na Saotharlainne Stáit sa bhliain 2023 a chur i láthair. Bíonn obair na Saotharlainne ag leanúint ar aghaidh ag méadú, agus an t-éileamh ar acmhainní á fhágáil gur gá cur chuige dinimiciúil a ghlacadh i leith freastal ar na héilimh sin. Tá an fhreagairt sin le sonrú ar fud struchtúr na Saotharlainne chun a chinntiú go dtugtar tacaíocht don fhoireann, don obair agus do chliant ar bhealach cuí agus d'fhonn leanúint den tacaíocht sin a thabhairt as seo amach. Comhpháirt lárnach dár gcuid oibre is ea seirbhís shármhaith a sholáthar do chliant. Tugadh le fios inár Suirbhé bliantúil ar Shástacht Custaiméirí go raibh níos mó ná 85% de chliant sásta le saintréithe uile na seirbhíse a fuair siad sa bhliain 2023, eadhon: Cáilíocht na Seirbhíse, Tráthúlacht, Solúbthacht agus Cáilíocht na Comhairle.

Le linn na bliana, d'fháiltigh an tSaotharlann roimh fhilleadh ar chruinnithe i bpearsa agus roimh dheireadh a chur de réir a chéile le prótacail um ghalar tógálach a tugadh isteach de dheasca phaindéim COVID-19. Tá an fhoghlaím ón tréimhse sin i bhfeidhm fós agus tá na bearta sin mar chuid anois de na nósanna imeachta is féidir a imscaradh más gá. Beidh an oibleagáid dhlíthiúil atá orainn timpeallacht shábháilte oibre a sholáthar mar cheann de na tosaíochtaí is tábhachtaí a bheidh againn go deo. D'fhág sé sin freisin go bhféadfaimis fáilte a chur an athuair roimh thurais chun na Saotharlainne ó institiúidí oideachais dara leibhéal agus tríú leibhéal ar fud na tíre, ó chliant, ó chomhghleacaithe agus ó phiaraí. Chuireamar fáilte roimh an ngníomhaíocht agus an idirghníomhaíocht sin a bheith á dtabhairt isteach san fhoirgneamh an athuair.

Tháinig athruithe suntasacha ar an bhfoireann ar fud na tréimhse sin, de réir mar a d'fháiltíomar roimh a lán baill foirne nua agus a thugamar ról nua isteach. Thugamar aghaidh go rathúil ar ár ndúshlán folúntas a bhuí le roinnt gníomhartha a dhéanamh. Áiríodh leo sin ár bpróiseas earcaíochta céimithe a athdhearadh, agus d'fhillamar ar sholáthar foirne iomlán sa bhliain 2023.

Glacann an tSaotharlann Stáit leis an nuálaíocht chun feabhsú ar bhonn leanúnach, chun seirbhísí den chéad scoth a sholáthar agus chun tabhairt faoin ardlíon dúshlán agus deiseanna a thagann chun cinn. Is gá saineolas na foirne a fhorbairt agus leas a bhaint as na teicneolaíochtaí is déanaí chun freastal ar riachtanais athraitheacha na gcliant. Baineann ríthábhacht le hionstraimíocht nua chun a chinntiú go bhfanfaimid ar thús cadhnaíochta na ceimice anailísí.

Mionsonraítear sa tuarascáil seo obair na Saotharlainne Stáit agus sonraítear inti na príomhéachtaí sa bhliain 2023. Gabhaim buíochas ó chroí le baill foirne na Saotharlainne as a gcuid oibre dícheallaí leantaí ar fud na tréimhse. Taispeánann siad go mbíonn siad tiomanta don nuálaíocht sa cheimic. Ní bhíonn aon amhras ann faoina ngairmiúlacht agus faoina ndúthracht. Gabhaim buíochas le gach duine a rannchuidigh leis an tSaotharlann Stáit sa bhliain.

Barbara O'Leary
Ceimiceoir Stáit

Forbhreathnú

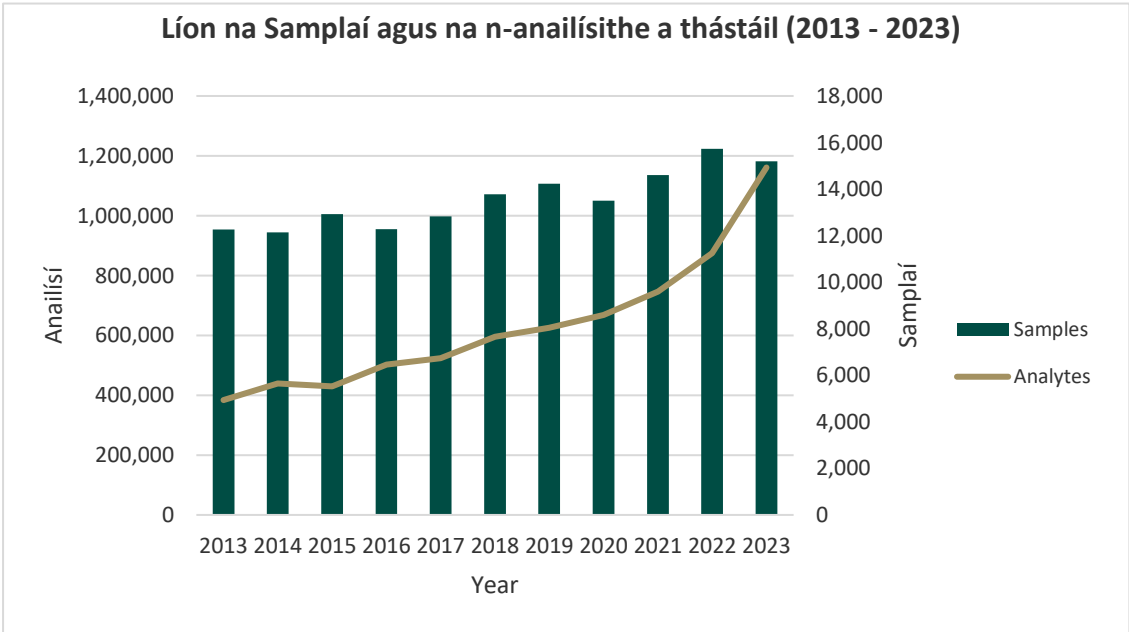
Sa bhliain 2023, rinneadh 15,192 shampla a fháil agus a thástáil le haghaidh 1,161,023 anailít. B’ionann an líon sin agus laghdú beag bídeach sa líon samplaí a fuarthas lena n-anailísiú agus b’ionann é agus méadú 32% sa líon anailítí a tástáladh sa bhliain 2022. Eolaíocht a bhíonn ag éabhlóidiú i gcónaí is ea an cheimic anailíseach. Coinníonn baill foirne na Saotharlainne iad féin ar an eolas faoi athruithe teicneolaíochta agus baineann siad leas as na deiseanna a ghabhann leis an teicneolaíocht nua chun feabhas a chur ar cháilíocht agus éifeachtúlacht na seirbhíse a sholáthraítear dár gcliaint. Nuashonraítear reachtaíocht de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh agus reachtaíocht de chuid na hÉireann ar bhonn tráthrialta chun teacht le forbairtí teicneolaíochta, agus ní mór don tSaotharlann a modhanna anailíse a nuashonrú agus a fheabhsú ar bhonn leanúnach. Is iad na forbairtí teicneolaíochta sin an chúis leis an méadú mór sa líon anailítí a tástáladh. Sa bhliain 2023, forbraíodh modhanna nua anailíse agus leathnaíodh modhanna a bhí ann cheana chun go dtabharfaí 30 tástáil nua isteach, agus teicnící anailíseacha éagsúla á n-úsáid.

Bíonn feidhm chomhairleach thábhachtach ag an tSaotharlann, agus gníomhaíonn a baill foirne mar ionadaithe d’Éirinn ag coistí comhairleacha agus Grúpaí Oibre teicniúla de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh thar ceann na gCoimisinéirí Ioncaim agus thar ceann na Roinne Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta (RGFN). Chomh maith leis sin, déanann baill foirne na Saotharlainne ionadaíocht ghníomhach d’Éirinn mar shaineolaithe náisiúnta i gcomhlachtaí idirnáisiúnta amhail grúpa oibre an Aontais Eorpaigh um modhanna anailíse le haghaidh beathaí d’ainmhithe, an Coiste Eorpach um Chaighdeánú (CEN) agus Eurachem, agus glacann siad páirt ghníomhach sna comhlachtaí sin.

Mionsonraítear sa tuarascáil bhliantúil seo cur chun feidhme an Ráitis Straitéise ón tSaotharlann Stáit don bhliain 2023 agus leagtar béim inti ar phríomhghníomhaíochtaí agus príomhéachtaí na Saotharlainne faoi gach Sprioc Straitéiseach.

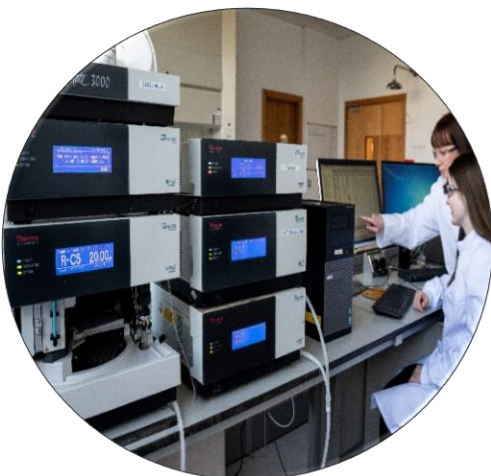
LÍON NA SAMPLAÍ

Sprioc Straitéiseach	Líon na Samplaí	Líon na n-anailísithe
Bia, beatha agus leasacháin	5,235	74,398
Bailiú loncaim agus Calaois a Chosc	1,836	5,926
Seirbhísí Tocsaineolaíochta Anailíseacha	7,685	1,073,923
Cosaint Sláinte Poiblí	436	6,776
Ionlán	15,192	1,161,023



Sprioc Straitéiseach 1

Daoine agus Cultúr



Measann an tSaotharlann Stáit go bhfuil ár mbaill foirne ar an tsócmhainn is tábhachtaí atá againn agus is mór againn iad. Chun go n-éireoidh léi, teastaíonn ón tSaotharlann na daoine cearta ag a bhfuil na scileanna agus na hinniúlachtaí cearta ag an am ceart. Teastaíonn uainn sárcheannairí ar féidir leo ár gcultúr a chur chun cinn, cloí lenár luachanna agus ardfeidhmíocht a éascú, mar aon le fórsa saothair atá an-chumasach, an-éagsúil, an-oilte agus an-inspreagtha agus a chumhachtaítear trí obair i dtimpeallacht oibre atá comhoibríoch, cuimsitheach

agus tacúil. Beidh cultúr cuimsitheach dearfach i réim ar fud na Saotharlainne, áit a gcaithfidh daoine lena chéile le dínit agus le meas agus a mbraithfidh siad go bhfuil meas orthu mar bhaill den tSaotharlann Stáit.

COMHOIBRIÚ

Bíonn éileamh ann ar chomhoibriú ar fud na Saotharlainne. Bíonn sé sin le sonrú sa chomhroinnt trealamh, taithí agus eolais agus san anailís ar shamplaí.

Ba léir an comhoibriú sin ar fud na Saotharlainne sa bhliain 2023. Bhí an comhoibriú le sonrú i réimsí amhail úsáid na hionstraimíochta; acmhainní oiliúna; sruthanna tástála; seirbhís chomhordaithe do chliaint agus caidreamh comhordaithe le cliaint; agus athdhearáí sruthanna oibre idir na rannóga seo: Beathaí d'Ainmhithe, Custam agus Mál, Seirbhís Saotharlainne, Tocsaineolaíocht Tréidliachta, Éilleáin, Tocsaineolaíocht an Duine, agus an tSláinte.

Le comhoibriú, tacaíodh le heolas comhroinnte agus le forbairt saineolais, agus an leas is fearr á bhaint as an soláthar agus úsáid á baint as trealamh.

BAINISTÍOCHT ATHRUITHE

Tharla roinnt athruithe foirne le linn na bliana 2023, agus bhí díriú ann ar oiliúint trasfheidhme a chur ar bhaill foirne sna réimsí ilchineálacha oibre sna rannóga. Tharla athstruchtúrú

inmheánach, agus obair ag gluaiseacht sa dá threo idir an Rannóg Éilleán agus an Rannóg Sláinte.

Tá méadú tagtha ar an éileamh ar chéimithe ceimice le blianta beaga anuas, go háirithe mar gheall ar an bhfás ar an earnáil cógaisíochta in Éirinn. Saineolas a tugadh isteach sa tSaotharlann roimhe seo trí cháilíochtaí agus taithí iarchéime, bíonn sé á fhorbairt ar an láithreán anois. I gcás cuid mhór ball foirne sna rannóga tacaíochta, sealbhaíonn siad cáilíochtaí i ndisciplíní ábhartha, lena n-áirítear TF, Airgeadas, Acmhainní Daonna, Sláinte agus Sábháilteacht, agus Cumarsáid. Cuireann sé sin feabhas ar oibriú na Saotharlainne, agus saintacaíocht á soláthar chun a chur ar chumas na mball foirne eolaíoch a gcuid ama ar fad a chaitheamh ar an gceimic.

SCILEANNA A FHORBAIRT

Tugtar spreagadh do bhaill foirne chun forbairt ghairmiúil leanúnach a ghabháil de láimh. Infheistíodh acmhainní suntasacha san oiliúint sa bhliain 2023, a raibh an-chuid di ina hoiliúint ag an obair. Tháinig sé sin chun cinn toisc go raibh a lán baill foirne nua ag obair i róil nua. Áiríodh leo sin earcaigh nua, baill foirne a bhí tar éis ardú

céime a ghnóthú agus athruithe soghluaisteachta.

Bhí baill foirne ag gabháil do thionscadail taighde chun Céimeanna Máistreachta a bhaint amach. Filleadh ar chruinnithe i bpearsa sa bhliain 2023, agus roinnt baill foirne ag déanamh ionadaíocht don tSaotharlann Stáit ag cruinnithe agus ceardlanna de chuid CEN, Shaotharlanna Tagartha an Aontais Eorpaigh (EURL) agus Eurachem.

Tá an tSaotharlann Stáit i mbun oibre a d'fhéadfadh cur leis an eolas ar an gceimic anailíseach.

Áirítear leis an obair thaighde sin úsáid a bhaint as teicnící atá nua nó nach mbaintear ach beagán úsáide astu, forbairt modhanna, agus maitrísí nua. Sa bhliain 2023, chuir an tSaotharlann Stáit próiseas comhairliúcháin breise i gcrích chun a shuí an bhfuil nó nach bhfuil sé indéanta cabhrú le baill foirne anailíseacha ar mian leo staidéar a dhéanamh ar cháilíochtaí iarchéime trí thaighde a bhaineann lena n-obair anailíseach sa tSaotharlann Stáit. Seolfar nuashonrú beartais sa bhliain 2024.

SOLÁTHAR FOIRNE

Sa bhliain 2023, leanadh de bhéim a leagan ar an earcaíocht agus ar fholúntais a líonadh, rud a tháinig as an ardráta folúntas a bhí ann sna blianta 2021 agus 2022, as baill foirne do dhul ar scor agus as gluaiseachtaí eile foirne a tharla sa bhliain.

Ag deireadh mhí na Nollag 2023, bhí 125 bhall foirne ag an tSaotharlann, agus an líon sin cothrom le 124.4 Coibhéis Lánaimseartha (CL).

Cuid ríthábhachtach den fhás sin a bhaint amach, rud a tharla i margadh dúshlánach earcaíochta, a bhí in athdhearadh an phróisis earcaíochta céimithe agus i dtuilleadh úsáide a bhaint as próisis earcaíochta seachtraí.

Chuaigh ceithre bhall foirne is tríocha sa tSaotharlann sa bhliain 2023. Ba iad sin cúigear Ceimiceoirí de Ghrád III, fiche Anailísí Saotharlainne, triúr Ardoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, beirt Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin, Stórtóirí amháin, Freastalaí Saotharlainne amháin agus beirt Oifigeach Cléireachais a earcaíodh trí chomórtais oscailte ar reáchtáil an tSeirbhís um Cheapacháin Phoiblí agus Sigmar Recruitment iad, ar comórtais iad a reáchtáladh trí scéim soghluaisteachta na Státseirbhíse.

Ar an iomlán, d'athraigh 82% de bhaill foirne a ról le cúig bliana anuas trí earcaíocht, trí ardú céime nó trí shoghluaisteacht.

SUIRBHÉ AR RANNPHÁIRTÍOCHT FOSTAITHE NA STÁTSEIRBHÍSE, 2023.

Ba é 77% an ráta freagartha don tSaotharlann Stáit. Tá againn anois sonraí an-úsáideach faoi eispéiris na foirne ina bheith ag obair sa tSaotharlann Stáit agus, rud ba thábhachtaí fós, beidh an lucht bainistíochta in ann leas a bhaint as an ráta freagartha láidir sin chun freagairt do thuairimí na foirne, agus é ina bhonn an-mhaith ar a bhféadfaí cinntí straitéiseacha a dhéanamh. Ba cheart go gcuirfí torthaí ón suirbhé ar fáil sa bhliain 2024.

Sprioc Straitéiseach 2

Tacú le Rialuithe Oifigiúla Bia, Beatha agus Leasacháin



Tá an tSaotharlann Stáit ainmnithe mar Shaotharlann Tagartha Náisiúnta na hÉireann do pharaiméadair amhail breiseáin chothaitheacha lena n-úsáid i mbeatha d'ainmhithe, aicmí sonracha d'iarmhair drugaí tréidliachta i mbia de thionscnamh ainmhíoch, agus éilleáin amhail truailleáin orgánacha mharthanacha, míceatocsainí, tocsainí plandaí agus miotail throma i mbeatha agus/nó i mbia. Is é atá i gceist leis an ról atá ag an tSaotharlann mar Shaotharlann Tagartha Náisiúnta ná comhoibriú le Saotharlanna Tagartha an Aontais Eorpaigh

(EURL), páirt a ghlacadh i gcroíghrúpaí oibre chun modhanna anailíseacha agus acmhainní tástála a fheabhsú, cúnamh eolaíoch agus teicniúil a thabhairt do na húdaráis inniúla agus, nuair is gá, gníomhaíochtaí de chuid saotharlann oifigiúil a chomhordú. Ag obair di i gcomhpháirt le hÚdarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann, tugann an tSaotharlann Stáit cúnamh don Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara maidir le tástáil. Seoltar cláir náisiúnta shamplála agus faireachais mar chuid de chóras rialuithe agus cigireachtaí oifigiúla, lena gcinntítear na caighdeáin is airde ó thaobh sábháilteachta bia agus beatha de. Sa bhliain 2023, b'ionann luach onnmhairí bia agus dí na hÉireann agus €16.3 billiún. Cothaítear le Fís don Bhia 2030 leathnú ar tháirgeadh príomhúil agus ar thrádáil onnmhairiúcháin. Bíonn ag méadú go fóill ar an éileamh ar na seirbhísí a sholáthraíonn an tSaotharlann i ndáil le raon éagsúil bianna, deochanna agus beathaí d'ainmhithe a anailísiú chun a shuí an bhfuil aon cheann ar bith de raon leathan substaintí iontu.

BEATHAÍ D'AINMHITHE

Is í an tSaotharlann Stáit an phríomh-shaotharlann atá freagrach as anailís cheimiceach a dhéanamh ar bheathaí d'ainmhithe in Éirinn. Déantar samplaí d'ábhair bheathaithe, de bhreiseáin bheathaithe, de mheascáin mhianracha agus de bheathaí cumaisc a thástáil go rialta chun a chinntiú go gcuimsítear iontu na cothaitheigh (próitéin, saill agus mianraí), na micreachothaitheigh (riandúile agus vitimíní) agus na méideanna fuinseoige, snáithín agus taise atá dearbhaithe agus nach gcuimsítear iontu leibhéil ardaithe comhpháirteanna tocsaineacha (miotail throma, fluairín agus mealaimín).

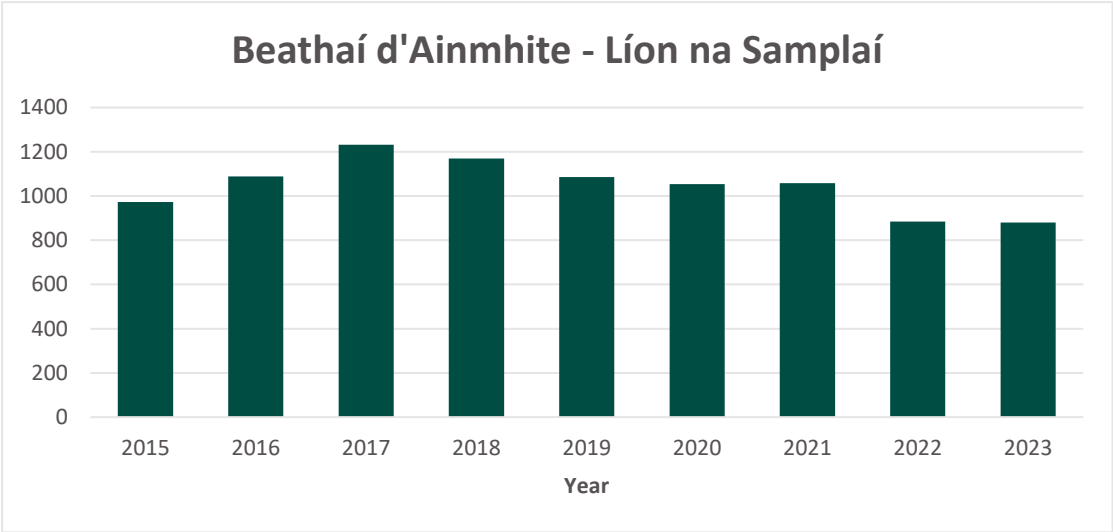
Sa bhliain 2023, leathnaíodh an modh creidiúnaithe le haghaidh mealaimín i mbainne foirmle do naíonáin agus i mbeathaí d'ainmhithe a anailísiú trí chrómataagrafaíocht leachta in éineacht le mais-speictriméadracht sraithe (LC-MSMS) faoi scóip sholúbtha chun na foirmithe bainnebhunaithe uile a chur ar áireamh.

Sonraítear i reachtaíocht de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh an liosta d'ábhair fhrithmhiocróbacha a fhéadfadh a úsáid i mbeatha íocleasaithe agus leagtar síos inti na fulaingtí a bhfuil feidhm acu i gcás go n-aimsítear go bhfuil an comhdhéanamh de bheatha íocleasaithe difriúil leis an méid de shubstaint ghníomhach fhrithmhiocróbach atá

luaite ar an lipéad. Tástálann an tSaotharlann samplaí de bheathaí le haghaidh cógais tréidliachta údaráithe agus coicideastait

LEASACHÁN AGUS AOLCHLOCH

Is í an tSaotharlann Stáit saotharlann cheadaithe na hÉireann le haghaidh a sheiceáil go bhfuil



údaráithe chun a chinntiú go mbíonn na leibhéil theiripeacha chearta i láthair iontu.

Chomh maith leis sin, tástálann an tSaotharlann an bhfuil nó nach bhfuil leibhéil ísle de 14 cinn d’antaibheathaigh atá toirmisceithe nó nach dtugtar ach ar oideas i láthair i mbeathaí éagsúla, agus tástálann sí le haghaidh leibhéil tugtha anonn de 11 choicideastat i gciondálacha atá beartaithe mar bheatha do speicis nach spriocspeicis iad. Tá bailíochtú le déanamh sa bhliain 2024 ar mhodh nua LC-MSMS chun leibhéil traséillithe antaibheathach údaráithe i mbeathaí a thástáil.

TOCSAINEACHT

Sa bhliain 2023, cuireadh roinnt samplaí tosaíochta isteach lena n-anailísiú maidir le tocsaineacht copair amhrasta i measc caorach, maidir le tocsaineacht seilíniam amhrasta i measc muc agus maidir le tocsaineacht i measc lachan. Rinneadh samplaí de bheatha lachan a anailísiú chun a shuí an raibh riandúile, miotail throma, antaibheathaigh thoirmisceithe, coicideastait agus antaibheathaigh údaráithe ag leibhéil tugtha anonn i láthair iontu. Tástáladh sampla de bheatha freisin chun a shuí an raibh antaibheathaigh thoirmisceithe agus béite-agónaithe i láthair ann.

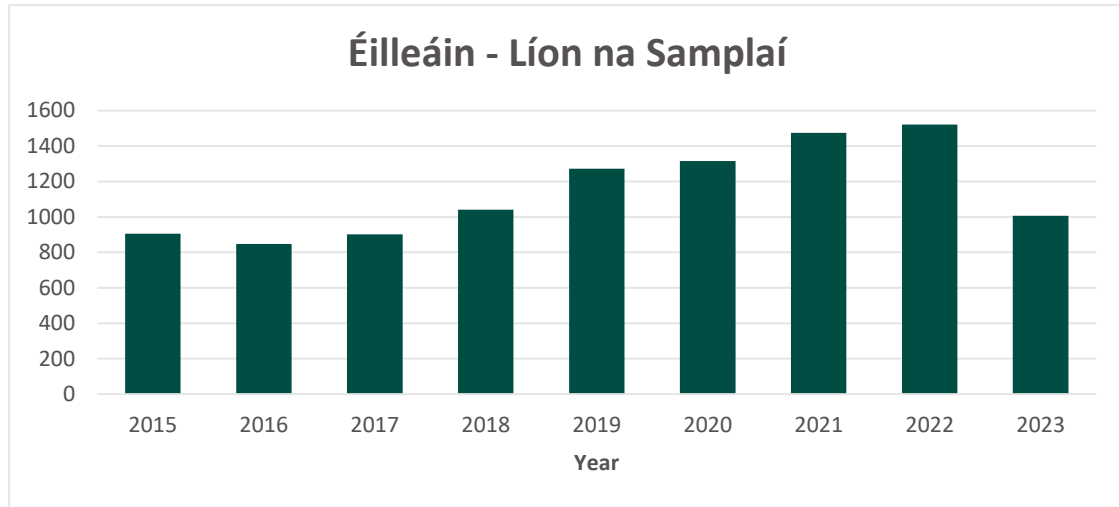
leasacháin a chuirtear ar an margadh ag comhlíonadh reachtaíocht an Aontais Eorpaigh. Cumhdaítear gach cineál leasachán (leasacháin mhianracha, leasacháin orgánacha, feabhsóirí ithreach, meáin fáis, etc.) le Rialachán (AE) 2019/1009 agus socraítear leis teorainneacha comhchuibhithe le haghaidh éilleáin éagsúla, amhail caidmiam, i leasacháin mhianracha.

Le sraith tástálacha reatha na Saotharlainne, cumhdaítear cothaithigh amhail nítrigin, fosfar, potaisiam agus sulfar agus mianraí amhail maignéisiam agus sóidiam i leasacháin mhianracha. Baintear úsáid as modh ICP-OES chun an méid riandúl uiscethuaslagtha (K, Mg, Na, P agus S) a thomhas. Táthar ag súil go gcuirfear tús sa bhliain 2024 le bailíochtú a dhéanamh ar mhodh nua ICP-OES le haghaidh caidmiam agus fosfair agus tá seans ann go leathnófar é chun miotail throma eile amhail arsanaic, luaidhe agus mearcair a chur ar áireamh.

Iarradh ar an tSaotharlann freisin modhanna a fhorbairt chun a thástáil an bhfuil breiseáin leasacháin amhail úiréais agus coscairí nítriúcháin i láthair. D’fhéadfadh go laghdódh na breiseáin sin astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa (amóinia agus dé-ocsaíd nítrigine). Cuireadh tús sa bhliain 2023 le bailíochtú a dhéanamh ar mhodh chun a thástáil an bhfuil trí-aimíd n-(n-búitil) thiafhosfarach (NBPT) agus trí-aimíd n-(n-próipil) thiafhosfarach (NPPT) i láthair.

Rinneadh meastóireacht faoi reachtaíocht an Aontais Eorpaigh ar shamplaí d'aolchloch le haghaidh iarratais ar cheadúnais nua. Áiríodh leis sin míne na n-ábhar aolta agus an méid iomlán

cailciam, maignéisiam agus TNV arna léiriú mar luachanna CaO.



ÉILLEÁIN

Déantar an rialú oifigiúil ar bhia agus ar bheatha do rannóga éagsúla den Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara (RTBM) agus d'Údarás Sábháilteachta Bia na hÉireann (ÚSBÉ). Lean an Rannóg Éilleán de thacú leis an bPlean Cigireachta Bliantúil ar Bheathaí trí anailís a dhéanamh ar níos mó ná 250 sampla beatha le haghaidh dé-ocsainí agus défheinilí polaclóirínithe (PCBanna). Chomh maith leis sin, rinne an tSaotharlann anailís ar dhé-ocsainí, ar PCBanna agus ar shubstaintí sárfhludara-ailecilithe (PFASanna) faoi Phlean Rialaithe Éilleán nua an Aontais Eorpaigh a tugadh isteach an 1 Eanáir 2023.

Leathnaíodh an tástáil tuilleadh trí mhaitrísí feola, uibheacha, conamair agus bainne a chur leis an tástáil ar PFASanna tríd an modh LC-MSMS chun tástáil comhlíontacháin ar na maitrísí sin a chumasú, agus uasleibhéil tugtha isteach i mí Eanáir 2023. Rinneadh anailís freisin don Rannán Beartais um Shláinte Ainmhithe agus Allmhairí in RTBM den chéad uair riamh sa bhliain 2023, ar lena linn a rinneadh anailís ar shamplaí a allmhairíodh ó thríú tíortha faoin bPlean Rialaithe Éilleán.

Bhí bailíochtú á dhéanamh sa bhliain 2023 ar mhodh le haghaidh isiméirí heicseabrómaiciogladóideacáin. Cuirfear an modh sin isteach lena chreidiúnú sa bhliain 2024 agus táthar ag súil go gcuirfear tús le hanailís ar

shamplaí i Ráithe 3 den bhliain 2024. Is é sin an chéad cheann de dhá mhodh atá le bailíochtú le haghaidh lasairmhoillithigh bhróimínithe (BFRanna).

Lean baill foirne de pháirt a ghlacadh in imeachtaí de chuid Shaotharlanna Tagartha an Aontais Eorpaigh, lenar áiríodh ceardlanna agus suirbhéanna, agus is comhaltaí iad de Chroí-Ghrúpaí Oibre le haghaidh PFASanna agus BFRanna

MÍCEATOCRAINÍ S

Sa bhliain 2023, b'airde fós na samplaí de bheathaí d'ainmhithe le haghaidh anailís ar mhíceatocsainí ná an líon réamh-mheasta samplaí don bhliain, agus an méid sin á bhrú chun cinn go príomha ag an bhfóras go raibh níos mó ná 10% den líon iomlán samplaí ina samplaí tosaíochta, a bhí bainteach le beathaí allmhairithe d'ainmhithe.

Ceannaíodh ionstraim nua LC-MSMS lena húsáid le haghaidh anailís a dhéanamh ar mhíceatocsainí i mbeathaí d'ainmhithe agus ar phatúilin i súnna torthaí. Coimisiúnófar an ionstraim sin i dtús na bliana 2024.

Forbraíodh modhanna le haghaidh anailís a dhéanamh ar aflatocsain M1 i gcáis (mar chuid de thriail chomhoibríoch le saotharlanna eile i líonra EURL) agus le haghaidh an méid d'ócratocsain A

i gcáis agus i bhfeolta leasaithe a shuí. Bailíochtófar iad sin sa bhliain 2024.

Sa bhliain 2023, d'fhág athstruchtúrú inmheánach gur aistríodh samplaí míceatocsainí chuig an Rannóg Sláinte. Léirítear é sin sa líon

CÓGAIS TRÉIDLIACHTA

Thug an tSaotharlann tacaíocht leanúnach don Phlean Náisiúnta um Iarmhair a Rialú trí anailís a dhéanamh ar níos mó ná 2000 sampla thar ceann an Rannáin um Chógais Tréidliachta laistigh de RTBM.

Mar chuid den tástáil, lean an tSaotharlann de scéim aga slánúcháin luathaithe a sholáthar le haghaidh drugaí frith-athlastacha neamhstéaróideacha (NSAIDanna) i nduáin eachaí. Bíonn ról ríthábhachtach ag an obair sin sa chlú ar Éirinn mar mhór-onnmhaireoir feola agus bia ardchaighdeán chuig an Eoraip agus chuig áiteanna níos faide i gcéin a chothú.

ANAILÍS AR EARRAÍ ALLMHAIRITHE

Déanann an Rannán Beartais um Shláinte Ainmhithe agus Allmhairí laistigh de RTBM

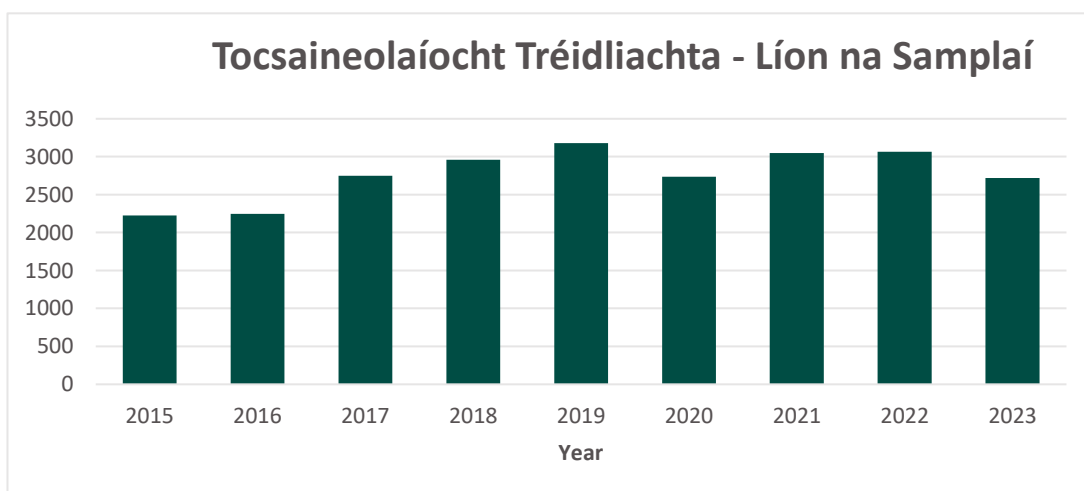
níos ísle samplaí a taifeadadh sa Rannóg Éilleán agus sa líon comhfhreagrach níos airde samplaí sa Rannóg Sláinte.

formhaoirseacht ar an anailís ar earraí allmhairithe mar a shainordaítear sa phlean rialaithe rioscabhunaithe náisiúnta d'allmhairí tríú tír atá leagtha amach i Rialachán Tarmligthe 2022/1644 ón gCoimisiún.

Don bhliain 2023, fuarthas líon níos ísle samplaí faoin gcatagóir sin. Ag teacht sna sála ar acmhainní breise a bheith á leithdháileadh, áfach, fásfaidh an réimse sin go mór ón mbliain 2024 ar aghaidh mar gheall ar ghá méadaithe i leibhéal na samplála a dhéantar ar allmhairí go hÉirinn ó áiteanna lasmuigh den Aontas Eorpach.

Leathnóidh an tSaotharlann Stáit an sainchúram tástála thar ceann an Rannáin um Chógais Tréidliachta laistigh de RTBM freisin.

Rinne an tSaotharlann tástáil thar ceann Rannán Imscrúduithe RTBM freisin sa bhliain 2023.



Sábháilteacht Bia agus Beatha – Líon na Samplaí

<i>Catagóir sampla</i>	<i>Samplaí</i>
<i>Iarmhair Drugaí Tréidliachta i mBia</i>	2,719
<i>Dé-ocsainí, Meilimín, PFAS i mBia</i>	614
<i>Míceatocsainí i mBia</i>	268
<i>Cothaithigh / Riandúile i mBeatha</i>	583
<i>Míceatocsainí i mBeathú</i>	418
<i>Dé-ocsainí i mBeathú</i>	288
<i>Níotráit i Glasraí</i>	48
<i>Leasacháin / Ábhair Aoil</i>	297
<i>Iomlán</i>	5,235

Sprioc Straitéiseach 3

Tacú le hloncam a Bhailiú agus le Calaois a Chosc



Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit leis na Coimisinéirí loncaim a chinntiú go mbailítear na dleachtanna cearta custaim ar earraí trádáilte trí sheirbhís chuimsitheach chomhairleach aicmiúcháin taraifí a sholáthar agus trína chinntiú go n-íoctar na cánacha cearta máil trí shamplaí de dheochanna alcólacha agus d'olaí breosla a thástáil in aghaidh raon leathan paraiméadar. Ceann amháin de na príomhthosaíochtaí straitéiseacha atá ag na Coimisinéirí loncaim is ea dul i ngleic le neamhchomhlíonadh.

Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit leis na Coimisinéirí loncaim tabhairt faoi chigireachtaí ar ghníomhaíochtaí scáthghilleagair – calaois, trádáil aindleathach agus smuigléireacht ina measc – trí shainfhianaise, fianaise eolaíoch agus torthaí anailíseacha a sholáthar chun tacú le hionchúisimh chúirte agus le gníomhaíochtaí forfheidhmiúcháin eile. Tá an tSaotharlann Stáit ag soláthar seirbhís tástála anailísí chun tacú le huisce beatha Éireannach a fhíordheimhniú ó thaobh Táisc Gheografaigh de chun a chinntiú nach bhféadfar ach uisce beatha a tháirgtear in Éirinn de réir diansonraíochtaí teicniúla a lipéadú agus a dhíol mar uisce beatha Éireannach.

CUSTAIM

Ní mór na hearraí uile a allmhairítear isteach san Aontas Eorpach nó a onnmhairítear amach as a bheith aicmithe chun críocha Custaim agus sanntar cód aicmiúcháin ar leith do gach táirge leithleach. D'fhorbair baill foirne na Saotharlainne Stáit ardleibhéal saineolais sa réimse sin, ar dá bharr atá siad in ann comhairle a chur ar na Coimisinéirí loncaim maidir le gnéithe ceimiceacha d'aicmiú taraifí a dhéanamh ar earraí trádáilte amhaibí, ceimiceáin, íoca leighis, plaistigh agus miotal.

Is díol suntais ar leith é gurb amhlaidh sa bhliain 2023, mar thoradh díreach ar an bpróifiliú riosca allmhairiúcháin a rinne Rannán Custaim na gCoimisinéirí loncaim ar chruach, a sainaithníodh cúig shampla le haghaidh seiceálacha agus a cuireadh faoi bhráid na Saotharlainne iad le haghaidh anailís fluaraiseachta x-ghathaí (XRF) agus le haghaidh deimhniú maidir leis an aicmiú taraifí.

Cinneadh go ndearnadh dhá cheann díobh sin (dhá dhearbhuí allmhairiúcháin custaim

leithleacha) a dhearbhuí go mícheart. Cinneadh go raibh an dá dhearbhuí i gceist faoi dhliteanas i leith dleacht frithdhumpála (36.60%) agus taraif cumhdaigh breise (25%), agus sholáthair an tSaotharlann cóid aicmiúcháin taraifí cheartaithé.

Léirítear san obair sin an tsaintacaíocht leanúnach leantach (comhairliúcháin chustaim agus deimhniú maidir le haicmiú taraifí sonracha) a thugtar do Rannán Custaim na gCoimisinéirí loncaim chun bearta cosanta trádála speisialta a chur i bhfeidhm i gceart.

Chun tuilleadh feabhais a chur ar a seirbhís, rinne an tSaotharlann forbairt agus bailíochtú ar mhodh nua le haghaidh an méid saille bainne i saill arna húscadh ó tháirgí bia a shuí trí chrómatagraíocht gháis atá cúpláilte le brath ianúcháin lasrach (GC-FID). Beidh an modh sin ina chuid dhílis den aicmiú taraifí ceart a shannadh do tháirgí bia agus de chód Meursing a thabhairt i gceart (Rialachán Cur Chun Feidhme (AE) Uimh. 514/2011).

Gné thábhachtach eile den obair is ea freastal ar chruinnithe de chuid Coistí Teicniúla de chuid an Aontais Eorpaigh agus na hEagraíochta Domhanda Custaim ar lena linn a phléitear saincheistanna a bhaineann le léiriú ceanteideal taraife agus gníomhaíochtaí gaolmhara eile agus a dhéantar cinntí ar aicmiú táirgí.

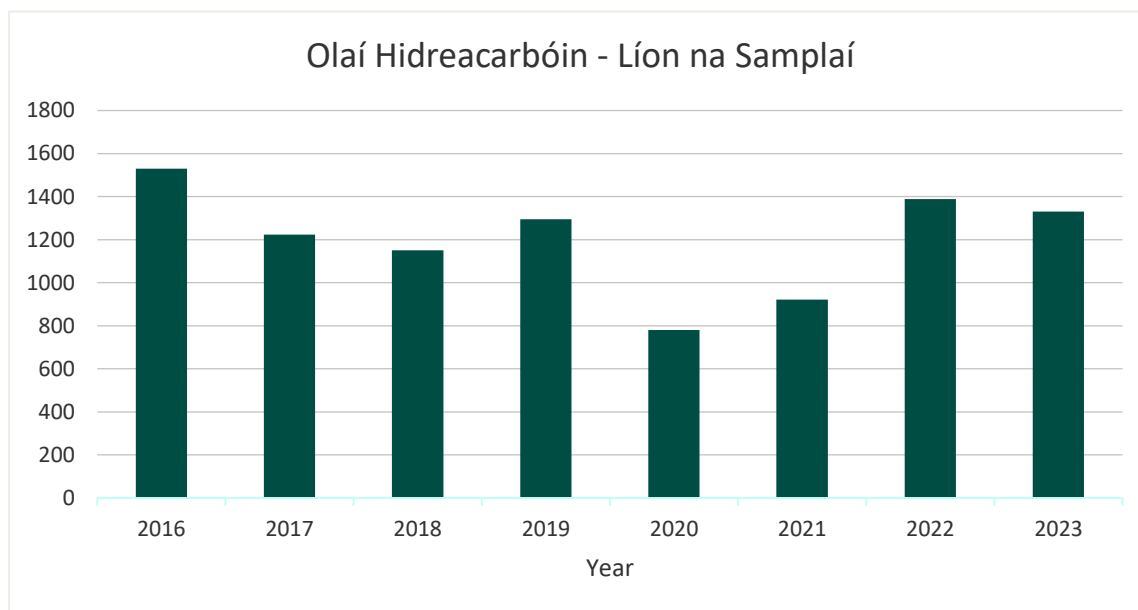
MÁL

Soláthraíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit seirbhís anailíseach agus chomhairleach do na Coimisinéirí loncaim maidir le holaí mianracha, le deochanna meisciúla agus le táirgí a bhfuil alcól neamh-inólta iontu chun cabhrú leo na dleachtanna cuí is infheidhme a dhéanamh amach agus calaois a ionchúiseamh i gcás go ndéantar iarracht dleachtanna den sórt sin a sheachaint.

OLAÍ

Marcáiltear breosla faoi lacáiste (ar a ngearrtar méid níos ísle cánach) le haghaidh úsáid eisbhóthair le ruaimeanna nó le marcóirí ceimiceacha chun gur féidir a úsáid chun aon chríche eile nó a dhíol neamhdhleathach a shainaithint. Is í an phríomhghníomhaíocht aindleathach a bhaineann le hola mhianrach ná breosla marcáilte a sciúradh chun na marcóirí sin a bhaint. Tá sé sin ina fhadhb mharthanach le lear blianta anuas agus bíonn an sciúradh breosla ina bhagairt thromchúiseach ar an Státchiste, ar an trádáil dhlísteach agus, de dheasca na bpróiseas a úsáidtear sa sciúradh, ar an gcomhshaol.

Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann le hobair na gCoimisinéirí loncaim trí anailís a dhéanamh ar shamplaí den bhreosla a urghabhatar chun a shuí an bhfuil marcóirí ola i láthair iontu nó nach bhfuil agus trí fhianaise anailíseach agus comhairle shaineolaíoch a sholáthar chun ionchúisimh chúirte a éascú.



Eoramharcóir Nua

Faoi Threoir 95/60/CE ón gComhairle an 27 Samhain 1995 maidir le marcáil fhioscach gás-olaí agus ceirisín, ní mór do na Ballstáit uile marcóirí fioscach coiteann, dá ngairtear an t-eoramharcóir, a chur i bhfeidhm maidir le haon ghás-ola (díosal) agus le ceirisín a bhfuil ráta laghdaithe dleachta máil i bhfeidhm maidir leis nó léi. Maidir leis an t-eoramharcóir roimhe, eadhon buí tuaslagach 124, bhí sé ina ábhar d'athbhreithniú cuimsitheach ag an gCoimisiún

agus, tar éis meastóireacht a rinneadh ar mharcóirí ionaid ab iarrthóirí, roghnaíodh eoramharcóir nua.

Is táirge faoi phaitinn é an t-eoramharcóir nua, agus an t-ainm tráchtála ACCUTRACE™ PLUS air. Tá bútocsaibeinséin ann, arb í an chomhpháirt marcóra fhorordaithe í.

Is é an toradh a bheidh ar ACCUTRACE™ PLUS a chur le sraith marcóirí fioscacha na hÉireann (lena n-áirítear Accutrace™ S10 mar chómharcóir na hÉireann/na Ríochta Aontaithe)

na go mbeiseofar go mór córas marcála atá láidir cheana féin.

Sa bhliain 2023, fuair an tSaotharlann Stáit ionstraim nua, eadhon GCxGC-TOFMS, mar éadail chun go mbeadh sí in ann samplaí d'olaí mianracha a anailísiú le haghaidh an eoramharcóra nua sin. Leis an trealamh nua sin, tugtar teicníc nuálach lenar féidir roinnt aicmí anailítí a chomhcheangal ina n-anailís aonair, rud a shábhálann am nuair atáthar ag ullmhú ionstraimí agus samplaí agus rud is cúis le feabhas ar an táirgiúlacht fhoriomlán agus le torthaí atá ar an gcaighdeán is airde. A bhfuil leis an éadail sin, beidh an tSaotharlann Stáit in ann acmhainn anailíseach fheidhmiúil a thairiscint do na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim, ar inniúlacht í lena gcomhlánófar a mbrath tástála beartaithe cois bóthair agus, mar thoradh air sin, lena gcinnteofar go maolófar a mhéid is mó is féidir sa dá dhlínse ar an dá thaobh den teorainn le Tuaisceart Éireann na rioscaí a ghabhann leis an sciúradh breosla.

ALCÓIL

Is bunaithe ar an méid alcóil atá an dleacht mháil is iníoctha ar tháirgí a bhfuil alcól iontu (amhail beoracha, leanna úll, fionta nó biotáillí). Is é is biotáillí góchumtha ann ná deochanna meisciúla a tháirgtear go neamhdhleathach, ar deochanna

iad a dhíoltar le tomhaltóirí mar tháirge dlisteanach ina lán cásanna.

Tarlaíonn trádáil aindleathach in alcól trí smuigléireacht ó thíortha a bhfuil rátaí máil níos ísle acu, rud a atreoraíonn alcól nach bhfuil aon cháin gearrtha air isteach sa mhargadh, nó trí alcól góchumtha a tháirgeadh.

Cabhraíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit leis na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim faireachán a dhéanamh ar chomhlíonadh agus cabhraíonn sí leo freisin calaois dleachta máil agus táirgeadh agus dáileadh biotáillí góchumtha a chomhrac. Tástáiltear an chuid is mó de shamplaí chun a méid alcóil a shuí agus, i gcás gur gá, déantar próifiliú comhaicmeach agus tástáil chun a shuí an bhfuil táscairí údarachta i láthair.

Tástáiltear líon beag samplaí a bhfuil alcól neamh-inólta iontu chun a shuí an bhfuil dínádúróirí i láthair iontu.

Oibríonn na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim i gcomhpháirt le RTBM agus le ÚSBÉ freisin ar an Scéim um Thásca Geografacha d'Uisce Beatha Éireannach agus Poitín Éireannach. Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit le RTBM, mar údarás rialaithe, maidir le seirbhís tástála anailísí a fhorbairt chun tacú le fíordheimhniú tasc geografach a dhéanamh ar bhiotáillí alcólacha trí shamplaí a phróifiliú, lena n-áirítear próifiliú a dhéanamh ar 13 chomhaicmeach alcólacha sho-ghalaithe trí chrómatagrafaíocht gháis le mais-speictriméadracht (GC-MS).

Bailiú Ioncaim agus Cosc Calaoise-
Líon na Samplaí

Catagóir sampla	Samplaí
Custaim	199
Máil – Ola Mianraí	1,265
Máil – Deochanna Alcólacha	323
Thásca Geografacha d'Uisce Beatha Éireannach agus Poitín	49
Iomlán	1,836

Sprioc Straitéiseach 4

Seirbhísí Láraithe Tocsaineolaíochta Anailísí a Sholáthar don Stát



Tástálann an tSaotharlann Stáit samplaí iarbháis don tSeirbhís Cróinéara agus d'Oifig an Phaiteolaí Stáit chun a shuí an bhfuil aon cheann ar bith de raon leathan cógas ar oideas agus drugaí neamhdhleathacha iontu. Anailísítear samplaí go rialta do thart ar 170 druga. Soláthraíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit seirbhís tástála tocsainí don Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara chun tacú le himscrúduithe ar theagmhais nimhithe mórsála ar fheirmeacha. Soláthraíonn sí an tseirbhís chéanna don tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra i

ndáil le nimhiú neamhdhleathach fiadhúlra, go háirithe éin chreiche a tugadh isteach an athuair. Mar chuid den obair sin, déantar anailís ar shamplaí bitheolaíochta chun a shuí an bhfuil aon cheann ar bith de raon leathan tocsainí agus iarmhar drugaí tréidliachta le fáil iontu.

SUBSTAINTÍ TOCSAINEACHA

Leanadh den tseirbhís tástála substaintí tocsaineacha agus aistríodh an anailís chuig córas LC-MSMS atá níos íogaire. Táthar dóchasach go gcuirfear tuilleadh anailítí leis agus go leasófar raon oibre an mhodha sa bhliain 2024.

Baineadh úsáid as mais-speictriméadracht ardtaifigh chun a thástáil, lasmuigh de scóip an mhodha chreidiúnaithe, an raibh anailítí nua ann.

Cuireadh tús sa bhliain 2023 le hathbhreithniú ar an bprótacal RAPTOR idir an tSaotharlann Stáit, an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra agus Seirbhísí Saotharlainne Tréidliachta RTBM, agus é mar aidhm leis go dtabharfadh na páirtithe uile tacaíocht níos fearr le haghaidh samplaí ionchúisimh cúirte. D'fhreastail baill foirne ar imeacht oiliúna i mí na Bealtaine, rud a bhí ina dheis mhaith le haghaidh plé agus foghlaim freisin. Táthar ag súil go gcuirfear an t-athbhreithniú sin i gcrích sa bhliain 2024.

TOCSAINEOLAÍOCHT AN DUINE

Tá méadú as cuimse tagtha ar an éileamh ar an tseirbhís seo, rud atá ag cur brú suntasach ar an tSaotharlann an tseirbhís a sholáthar laistigh de na hagaí slánúcháin comhaontaithe fós. Leis an tseirbhís a soláthraíodh, tugadh lamháltas do mhéadú idir 2% agus 3% sna hagaí slánúcháin, ar aon dul leis an bhfás ionchais faoin daonra. Ón mbliain 2020 i leith, tá an méadú bliantúil sa líon samplaí a bhítear ag fáil i bhfad níos mó.

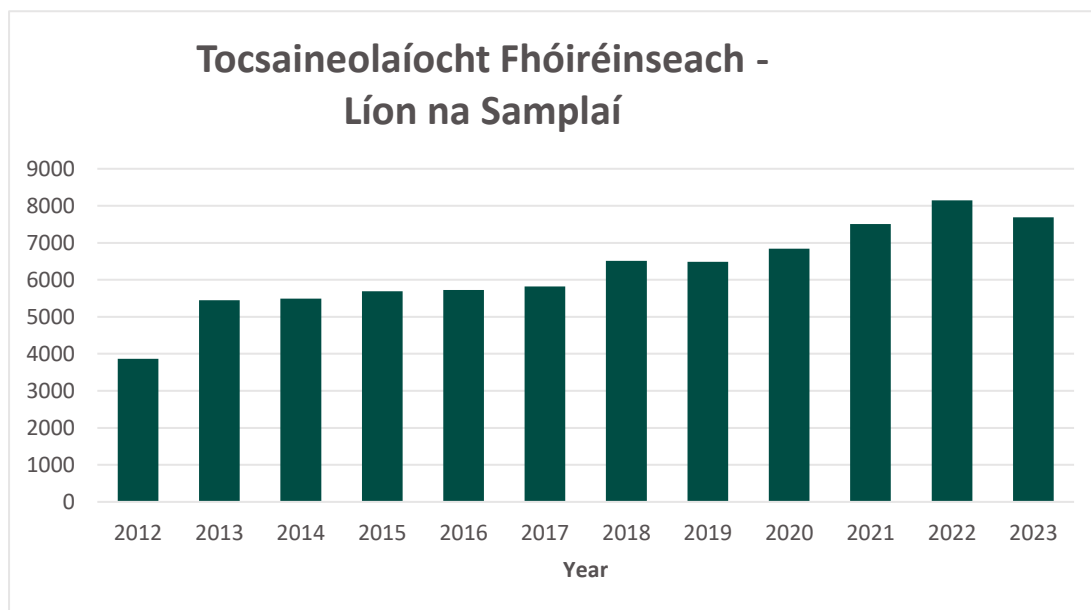
Cuireadh roinnt anailítí nua leis an modh scagthástála drugaí ar an LCMS um Mais Chruinn Ardtaifigh (HRMS), lenar áiríodh substaintí sícighníomhacha nua (NPSanna) agus cannaibionóidigh shintéiseacha, agus scóip na hanailíse á méadú dá réir.

Coinníonn an tSaotharlann í féin ar an eolas go réamhghníomhach faoi fholáirimh agus treochtaí náisiúnta agus Eorpacha maidir le drugaí, agus páirt á glacadh aici ina lán grúpaí tocsaineolaíochta. Baineann an tSaotharlann úsáid as an bhfaisnéis sin ar bhonn rialta chun bunachar sonraí a úsáidtear chun a scagthástáil an bhfuil 'substaintí anaithnide' i láthair a bhunú

agus a choimeád. Breisíodh acmhainní mais-speictriméadrachta ardaifigh tuilleadh nuair a cuireadh córas HRLCMS Thermo Exploris 120 leis sa chuid tosaigh den bhliain 2023.

I mí na Nollag 2023, d'imscrúdaigh Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte (FSS) roinnt ródháileoga hearóine neamh-mharfacha agus, mar thoradh ar thástáil sa tSaotharlann i

gcomhar le seirbhísí tocsaineolaíochta eile, cinneadh go raibh comhdhúil níotaiséine, eadhon n-pioróilidini-prótainíotaiséine, i láthair. Is é is níotaiséiní ann ná cineál cumhachtach ópóidigh shintéisigh agus níor sainaithníodh riamh in Éirinn iad. Forbraíodh scagthástáil nua níotaiséine ón uair sin i leith agus cuirfear léi de réir mar a fhaightear caighdeáin.



Sprioc Straitéiseach 5

Tionscnaimh um Shláinte Phoiblí a Chosaint



Déanann an tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte sláinte phoiblí agus sláinte ainmhithe a chosaint trí chógaís dhaonna agus tréidliachta a rialáil. Oibríonn Rannán Imscrúduithe na Roinne Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara chun tomhaltóirí agus an biashlabhra a chosaint freisin trí fhaireachán a dhéanamh ar sholáthar agus úsáid táirgí tréidliachta ar fheirmeacha. Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit leis an Údarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte agus leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara araon trí tháirgí urghafa cógaísíochta, luibhe agus tréidliachta a thástáil chun a shuí an

bhfuil aon chomhdhúile gníomhacha cógaísíochta nó aon támhshubstaintí iontu. Tugann baill foirne na Saotharlainne sainfhianaise in ionchúisimh chúirte ina dhiaidh sin, nuair is gá.

Ní fhéadfar barra cnáibe a shaothrú in Éirinn ach amháin faoi cheadúnas ón Údarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte, agus tá ceanglas ann cigireacht a dhéanamh ar 30% den limistéar ina bhfuil siad curtha chun a chinntiú nach mó méid teitrihidreacannaibionóil (THC) an bhairr ná 0.3%. Déanann an tSaotharlann Stáit anailís ar an méid THC i samplaí cnáibe don Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara agus déanann sí anailís ar an méid THC i dtáirgí cannaibidé-óil (CBD) a urghabhann Oifigigh Chustaim na gCoimisinéirí Ioncaim.

Tá an tSaotharlann Stáit ainmnithe ag an Roinn Sláinte mar shaotharlann tástála d'Éirinn chun tástáil a dhéanamh ar tháirgí tobac, mar atá leagtha amach i reachtaíocht an Aontais Eorpaigh. Déanann an tSaotharlann anailís ar an méid tarra, nicitín agus aonocsaíde carbóin i dtoitíní. Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann leis an Aonad Tacaíochta Líonraí Rialaithe Tobac in FSS freisin trí leachtanna toitín leictreonaigh agus gléasanna gaolmhara a thástáil chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíonann siad an Treoir um Tháirgí Tobac (Treoir 2014/40/AE).

TÁIRGÍ ÍOCSHLÁINTE

Déantar táirgí íocshláinte urghafa a thástáil thar ceann an Údaráis Rialála Táirgí Sláinte agus Rannán Imscrúduithe RTBM. Cuireadh trí anailít déag le scóip an chreidiúnaithe, agus bailíochtaíodh dhá anailít trí mhodhanna neamhchreidiúnaithe a úsáid.

I mí Mheán Fómhair, d'iarr an tÚdarás Rialála Táirgí Sláinte anailís phráinneach ar

sheimeaglúitíd mar gheall ar mhéadú mór sa líon táirgí góchumtha a raibh seimeaglúitíd ar an lipéad acu agus a bhí á n-urghabháil sa bhliain 2023 i gcomparáid leis an mbliain 2022. Is í seimeaglúitíd an comhábhar gníomhach sa druga diaibéitis Ozempic® agus sa druga caillte meáchan Wegovy®. Tá Ozempic® ar fáil in Éirinn faoi oideas. Níl Wegovy® ar fáil in Éirinn go fóill. Ní ann d'aon leagan údaráithe de sheimeaglúitíd i riocht púdair amhail iad sin a

bhíonn á n-urghabháil. Ina theannta sin, tá seimeaghlúitíd faoi phaitinn agus níl aon leaganacha cineálacha di ar fáil. Deimhníodh go raibh seimeaghlúitíd i láthair sa sampla urghafa agus baineadh úsáid as na torthaí chun tacú le rabhadh sláinte poiblí ar shuíomh Gréasáin an Údaráis Rialála Táirgí Sláinte. Táthar ag súil go dtiocfaidh méadú sa bhliain 2024 ar an líon iarrataí go ndéanfaí anailís ar sheimeaghlúitíd agus ar chomhábhair ghníomhacha chosúla.

TOBAC

Lean an Rannóg Sláinte de thacú leis an Aonad Tacaíochta Líonraí Rialaithe Tobac in FSS trí anailís a dhéanamh ar tháirgí leachta toitín leictreonaigh ó thaobh na tiúchana nicitín de. Ar na réimsí nua de thacaíocht a tugadh i mbliana bhí modh nua a fhorbairt le haghaidh an méid leachta toitín leictreonaigh i gcartúis vápála indiúscartha a shuí, agus modh GC-MS a fhorbairt le haghaidh anailís neamh-spríodchírthe ar chomhdhúile blais i leachtanna toitín leictreonaigh. Baineadh úsáid as an gcéad mhodh sin le haghaidh thart ar 70% de na samplaí de leachtanna toitín leictreonaigh a cuireadh isteach lena n-anailísiú. Cuireadh an modh sin isteach lena chreidiúnú agus tá sé le measúnú sa chuid tosaigh den bhliain 2024. Mar thoradh ar anailís nicitín sa bhliain 2023, measadh go raibh ag deich sampla teorainneacha a bhí os cionn na teorann reachtaí a socraíodh sa Treoir um Tháirgí Tobac. Dá thoradh sin, eisíodh cúig fholáireamh Eorpacha sláinte faoin gcóras mear rabhaidh um tháirgí contúirteacha seachas bia (RAPEX). Tá an líon samplaí le haghaidh leachtanna toitín leictreonaigh ag méadú ó bhliain go bliain, agus táthar ag súil le méadú eile sa bhliain 2024. Srian amháin atá ar ghealltanais don chliant sa réimse sin a chomhlíonadh is ea an easpa soiléire maidir le cé na substaintí dochracha ar cheart díriú orthu nuair atáthar ag déanamh tuilleadh forbartha ar mhodhanna GC-MS le haghaidh leachtanna toitín leictreonaigh.

CANNAIBIONÓIDIGH

Is ilchineálach atá cineálacha samplaí le haghaidh anailís a dhéanamh ar channaibionóidigh (lena n-áirítear deilte-9-teitrihidreacannaibionól, ach gan a bheith teoranta dó) ó chliant éagsúla (na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim, ÚSBÉ, RTBM). Ó na

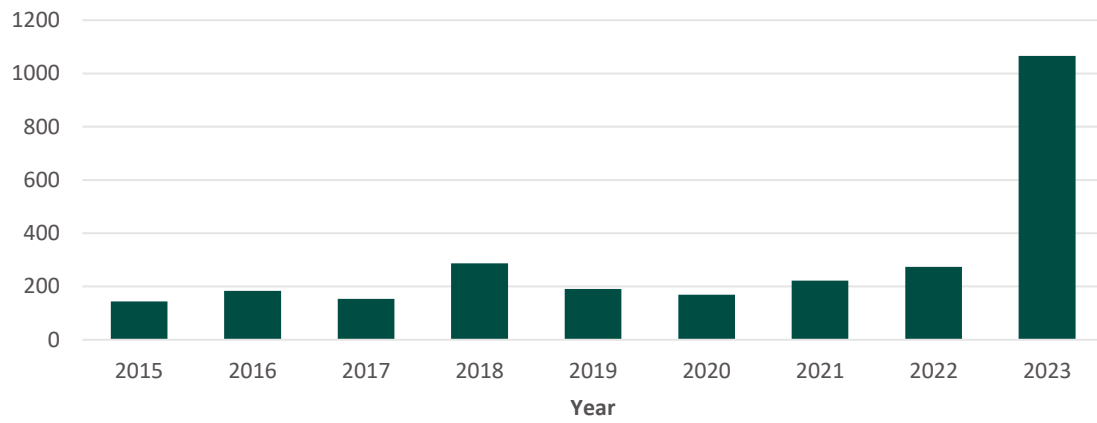
Coimisinéirí Ioncaim agus uathu sin amháin, b'amhlaidh sa bhliain 2023 a fuarthas trí oiread an lín samplaí a fuarthas le haghaidh anailís cannaibionóideach sa bhliain 2022. Aimsíodh go raibh deilte-9-teitrihidreacannaibionól le fáil i roinnt de na samplaí sin. I roinnt cásanna, tháinig sé sin salach ar a raibh sa phacáistiú nó sa doiciméadacht allmhairiúcháin. I gcás roinnt samplaí, ba ghá leasuithe a dhéanamh ar phróisis shamplacha ullmhúcháin a bhí ann cheana chun freastal ar mhaitrisí samplacha nua, e.g., balsam CBD. Chun freastal ar shamplaí de bheathaí d'ainmhithe a bhfuil leibhéil iomlána deilte-9-teitrihidreacannaibionól agus CBD le bheith ag teastáil ina leith, forbraíodh modh nua LC-MSMS le haghaidh maitrisí luibhe/planda a anailísiú. Imscarfar an modh nua sin lena ghnáthúsáid sa bhliain 2024.

Chomh maith leis sin, rinne an tSaotharlann anailís ar na leibhéil iomlána deilte-9-teitrihidreacannaibionól agus taise i mbarra cnáibe ar shampláil an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara iad. Bhí laghdú ann, i gcomparáid le blianta roimhe sin, sa líon samplaí a ndearnadh é sin ina leith. Tháinig sé sin chun cinn go príomha toisc go raibh fadhbanna ann le barra de dheasca aimsir fhliuch.

MÍCEATOCRAINÍ

Sa bhliain 2023, d'fhág athstruchtúrú inmheánach gur aistríodh samplaí míceatocsainí chuig an Rannóg Sláinte. Léirítear é sin sa líon níos ísle samplaí a taifeadadh sa Rannóg Éilleán agus sa líon comhfhreagrach níos airde samplaí sa Rannóg Sláinte.

Alt Sláinte - Líon na Samplaí



Sprioc Straitéiseach 6

Cosaint an Chomhshaoil agus Sainanailís agus Sainchomhairle Cheimiceach



Le blianta fada anuas, tá an tSaotharlann Stáit ag tacú leis an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil faireachán a dhéanamh ar na dé-ocsainí atá le fáil sa chomhshaoil trí shamplaí bainne a thástáil. Is i méid saille an bhainne a chomhchruinneoidh aon dé-ocsainí atá i láthair san fhéar a itheann ba. Tástálann an tSaotharlann samplaí éisc chun a shuí an bhfuil aon dé-ocsainí iontu chun tacú le clár nua faireacháin bithraí in uiscí dromchla intíre. Déanann sí anailís ar na samplaí sin freisin chun a shuí an bhfuil aon substaintí sárfhluarailcile

agus polafluorailcile (PFASanna) iontu. Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit leis an Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide an comhshaoil a chosaint trí anailís sulfair a dhéanamh ar shamplaí d'ola bhreosla. Tacaíonn an tSaotharlann leis an Roinn Iompair trí olaí muirí a thástáil chun a shuí an bhfuil aon sulfar iontu agus tá sí ina cuid den Líonra um Dhoirteadh Ola a Shainaitheint (OSINet), arna iarraidh sin do Gharda Cósta na hÉireann. Tacaíonn OSINet lena chuid ball anailís fhóiréinseach ola a úsáid chun tionscnamh truaillithe mhuirí a chruthú de réir ola agus mar fhianaise le haghaidh an costas ar oibríochtaí freagartha a aisíoc faoi éilimh rialtais. Tá an tSaotharlann Stáit ag tacú leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara trí chur chun feidhme a dhéanamh ar mhodhanna nua anailíse le haghaidh tástáil i gcomhair breiseáin leasacháin atá neamhdhíobhálach don chomhshaoil, amhail coscairí úiréáise agus coscairí nítriginiúcháin, a bhfuil acmhainneacht acu laghdú a dhéanamh ar astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó leasacháin. Soláthraíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit comhairle eolaíoch, atá bunaithe ar shainanailís cheimiceach, do chuid mhór Ranna Rialtais agus comhlachtaí poiblí a mbíonn riachtanais ócáideacha acu i raon éagsúil réimsí, lena n-áirítear caomhantas ealaíne, airm cheimiceacha agus dramhaíl neamhdhleathach.

AMÓINIA AGUS GÁIS CHEAPHTHA TEASA

Ghabh Rialtas na hÉireann air féin caillteanais náisiúnta amóinia agus caillteanais náisiúnta ocsaíde nítriúla, ar gás ceaptha teasa í, a laghdú. I láthair na huaire, tá forbairt á déanamh ag an Rannóg um Beathaí d'Ainmhithe ar mhodh le haghaidh anailís a dhéanamh ar thrí-aimíd n-(n-búitil) thiafhosfarach (NBPT) agus ar thrí-aimíd

n-(n-próipil) thiafhosfarach (NPPT), ar coscairí úiréáise iad a úsáidtear i leasacháin úirébhunaithe chun astaíochtaí amóinia agus astaíochtaí ocsaíde nítriúla araon ó úiré a laghdú.

Tugann an tSaotharlann Stáit cúnamh eolaíoch do roinnt comhlachtaí a bhfuil freagracht orthu as oidhreacht na hÉireann a chaomhnú. Déanann an Rannóg um Beathaí d'Ainmhithe formhaoirseacht ar an gcaidreamh leis na cliaint

oidhreacht sin, lena n-áirítear an Leabharlann Náisiúnta, an Dánlann Náisiúnta agus an tArd-Mhúsaem.

TRUAILLEÁIN ORGÁNACHA MHARTHANACHA

Tacaíonn an Rannóg Éilleán leis na cláir atá ar bun ag an nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil chun faireachán a dhéanamh ar thruailleáin orgánacha mharthanacha sa chomhshaol trí shamplaí éisc a thástáil chun a shuí an bhfuil dé-ocsainí, PCBanna agus PFASanna i láthair iontu agus trí shamplaí bainne a thástáil chun a shuí an bhfuil dé-ocsainí agus PCBanna i láthair iontu.

Sa chuid tosaigh den bhliain 2023, rinne an tSaotharlann anailís ar dhé-ocsainí agus ar PCBanna mar chuid de staidéar ar leibhéil truailleán i bpiolótaigh, ar staidéar é a d'eagraigh Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta an Atlantaigh (ATU) i gcomhar le Grúpa Míolta Móra agus Deilfeanna na hÉireann. Samplaí blonaige ó mhíolta móra a

triomaíodh i láithreacha éagsúla in Éirinn, seoladh iad chuig an tSaotharlann Stáit lena n-anailísiú, agus tugadh na torthaí do ATU. Tá sé beartaithe go bhfoilseofar na torthaí sa todhchaí.

SILICÍBIN AGUS SILICIN

Sa bhliain 2023, fuair an Rannóg Sláinte ó oifigigh Chustaim ceithre oiread an lín samplaí le haghaidh anailís drugaí (seachas anailís cannaibionóideach) a fuarthas sa bhliain 2022. D'eascair dúshlán as sin maidir le dea-leibhéal seirbhíse a sholáthar don chliant, ós rud é go mbaineann formhór na n-iarrataí sin le scagthástáil iomlán drugaí aindleathacha, in ionad spriocdhíriú ar anailít ar leith. Mar thoradh air sin, teastaíonn modhanna ilchineálacha tástála, rud atá dian ar acmhainní agus a fhágann gur gá sruth dothuartha samplaí a thástáil trí mhodhanna éagsúla a úsáid. Sa bhliain 2023, bhí méadú suntasach ann sa líon samplaí ar iarradh anailís ar shilicíbin nó ar shilicín ina leith.

Spreagthaí Straitéiseacha

Rialachas

Déanann an tSaotharlann Stáit na caighdeáin is airde ó thaobh rialachais chorparáidigh, bainistíochta riosca agus sábháilteachta de a chur i bhfeidhm le linn an tSaotharlann a oibriú. Oibrímid Córas Cáilíochta lena gcomhlíontar ceanglais ISO 17025, agus raon creidiúnúcháin na Saotharlainne a chothabháil agus a leathnú chun freastal ar na riachtanais atá ag cliaint. Baintear úsáid as creataí láraithe soláthair agus TFC chun éifeachtúlachtaí a fheabhsú agus chun luach ar airgead a bhaint amach. Comhlíonaimid ceanglais nua rialtais ina n-iomláine, lena n-áirítear pleananna chun dul isteach sa tSeirbhís Chomhroinnte Bainistíochta Airgeadais, na Caighdeáin Chuntasaíochta nua ón Rialtas, an Plean Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide, Straitéis Athnuachana na Státseirbhíse 2030, agus Seirbhísí Poiblí Níos Fearr – Straitéis Claochlaithe na Seirbhíse Poiblí 2030. Bímid tiomanta do thimpeallacht shábháilte oibre a sholáthar do bhaill foirne, áit a maolaítear na guaiseacha a bhaineann le hobair le ceimiceáin a d'fhéadfadh a bheith contúirteach. Comhoibrímid le saotharlanna eile earnála poiblí chun éifeachtúlachtaí a fheabhsú agus chun dúbailt saothair a laghdú san earnáil.

SAOIRE BHREOITEACHTA

Sa bhliain 2023, b'ionann Ráta Aga Dhíomhaoin na Saotharlainne agus 3.1%. Ba é 7.1 lá an meánlíon laethanta a cailleadh in aghaidh an fhostaí lánaimseartha.

SOCRUITHE OIBRE SOLÚBTHA

Is féidir le baill foirne na Saotharlainne Stáit leas a bhaint as fleisc-am, as comhroinnt oibre, as saoire do thuismitheoirí, as bliain oibre níos giorra, as saoire thuismitheora agus as obair chumaisc.

Beartais a Thacaíonn le Cothromaíocht Oibre Saoil

Scéim	% Foireann a bhaineann leas as an scéim 2023
Comhroinnt Oibre	3%
Saoire Thuismitheoirí	8%
Sosanna Gairme	2%
Bliain Oibre Níos Giorra	13%
Fágann Tuismitheoirí	2%
Obair Chumasc	63%

ÉAGSÚLACHT, COMHIONANNAS AGUS CUIMSIÚ

Léirítear sa tábla an miondealú inscne le haghaidh gach gráid sa tSaotharlann ag deireadh na bliana 2023.

Miondealú Inscne sa tSaotharlann Stáit

<i>Grád</i>	<i>Baineann</i>	<i>Fireannach</i>
<i>Ceimiceoir Stáit</i>	1	0
<i>Príomh-Cheimiceoir</i>	2	1
<i>Poitigéir Sinsearach</i>	5	3
<i>Príomhoifigeach Cúnta</i>	1	3
<i>Poitigéir Grád II</i>	12	8
<i>Poitigéir</i>	20	15
<i>Ardoifigeach Feidhmiúcháin</i>	2	1
<i>Oifigeach Riaracháin</i>	1	0
<i>Anailísí Saotharlainne Sinsearach</i>	6	4
<i>Anailísí Saotharlainne</i>	14	8
<i>Oifigeach Feidhmiúcháin</i>	3	4
<i>Oifigeach Cléireachais</i>	3	2
<i>Coimeádaí Stór</i>	0	1
<i>Comhghafach Saotharlainne</i>	3	2
<i>Iomlán</i>	73	52

FOGHLAIM AGUS FORBAIRT

Soláthraíodh éagsúlacht forbartha eolaíche, teicniúla agus gairmiúla do bhaill foirne sa bhliain 2023. Ar na topaicí a clúdaíodh bhí ardanailís ar ionstraimíocht agus fabhtcheartú; scileanna seomra cúirte; córais bainistíochta faisnéise saotharlainne; bailíochtú modhanna a phleanáil agus a mheas; sonraí rialaithe cáilíochta agus léiriú éiginnteachtaí tomhais, agus ceardlanna EURL agus Eurachem.

D'fhreastail baill foirne ar roinnt seimineáir Ghréasáin One Learning ar pléadh sláinte agus folláine lena linn. Bhí an tOifigeach Cuidithe Fostaithe ar fáil chun tacaíocht bhreise a sholáthar do bhaill foirne.

Soláthraíodh freisin cúrsaí ceannaireachta agus bainistíochta, oiliúint i mbainistíocht le haghaidh fórsaí oibre cuimsitheacha, oiliúint i mbainistíocht tionscadal, agus oiliúint in athruithe a threorú.

SLÁINTE AGUS SÁBHÁILTEACHT

Tá oibleagáid dhlíthiúil ar an tSaotharlann Stáit timpeallacht shábháilte oibre a sholáthar do gach duine dá baill foirne agus dá cuairteoirí. Príomhthosaíocht atá ag Bord Bainistíochta na Saotharlainne is ea sábháilteacht saotharlainne a bhainistiú i gceart agus na guaiseacha a bhaineann lena bheith ag obair le ceimiceáin a d'fhéadfadh a bheith contúirteach a mhaolú. Tá an ról mar

Oifigeach Sábháilteachta ag Príomh-Cheimiceoir agus tacaíonn Bainisteoir Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta lánaimseartha agus Grúpa Oibre Sábháilteachta leis.

Rinneadh dul chun cinn ar 47 dtionscadal trí Chlár Sábháilteachta na bliana 2023. Ar na réimsí breise ar díriodh orthu bhí bainistíocht sábháilteachta ar dhóiteán, iniúcháireacht sábháilteachta, guaiseacha síceasóisialta, sábháilteacht leictreach, measúnuithe eirgeanamaíocha, agus soláthar na gclár oiliúna sláinte agus sábháilteachta.

CÓRAS CÁILÍOCHTA / CREIDIÚNÚ

Breisítear cáilíocht na hoibre anailísí ón tSaotharlann Stáit trí chóras cáilíochta doiciméadaithe a bheith i bhfeidhm aici, agus neartaítear an glacadh náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta le torthaí ar anailísí le creidiúnú na Leabharlainne de réir chaighdeán ISO/IEC 17025 (Ceanglais ghinearálta maidir le hinniúlacht saotharlann tástála agus calabrúcháin) ó Bhord Náisiúnta na hÉireann um Chreidiúnú (INAB) (Uimh. Thagartha INAB: 146T). Tá sé sin amhlaidh go háirithe i gcás rialuithe oifigiúla ar bhia agus ar bheatha, áit a gceanglaítear creidiúnú leis an reachtaíocht, agus is féidir leis tacú le hionchúisimh rathúla chúirte.

Ba é a bhí sa chuairt ó INAB sa bhliain 2023 ná iniúchadh athmheasúnaithe iomlán, a cuireadh ar siúl thar dhá lá i mí Feabhra. D'éirigh leis an tSaotharlann creidiúnú a chothabháil le haghaidh a scóipe reatha. Ag deireadh na bliana 2023, bhí an tSaotharlann creidiúnaithe le haghaidh 61 mhodh tástála lenar cumhdaíodh 705 anailít aonair.

Cuireadh méid mór dua isteach sa bhliain freisin chun dul chun cinn a dhéanamh ar an athbhailíochtú riachtanach modhanna tástála de réir cheanglais reachtacha agus feidhmíochta nua Rialachán Cur Chun Feidhme (AE) 2021/808 ón gCoimisiún. Rinneadh obair bailíochtaithe ar thrí mhodh dhifriúla, ar áiríodh le gach ceann díobh feabhsuithe suntasacha ar acmhainní braite na modhanna le haghaidh na substaintí lenar bhain. Rud eile a bhí i gceist leis an obair sin ba ea anailít nua a chur le ceann amháin de na modhanna. Cuireadh an obair bailíochtaithe le haghaidh na dtrí mhodh i gcrích sa bhliain 2023, agus cuirfear na hathruithe le creidiúnú na saotharlainne faoi scóip sholúbtha sa chuid tosaigh den bhliain 2024. Ar an iomlán, cuireadh ceithre mhodh i gcrích ó scóip reatha na modhanna tástála creidiúnaithe, agus tá sé beartaithe obair leanúnach a dhéanamh ina leith.

SUIRBHÉ AR SHÁSTACHT CUSTAIMÉIRÍ

Arís, bhí na torthaí don Suirbhé bliantúil ar Shástacht Custaiméirí an-mhaith. Taispeántar iad sa tábla thíos. Sna nótaí tráchta ó chliaint, rinneadh tagairt don tseirbhís shármhaith a fuarthas agus moladh dearcadh cabhrach solúbtha na foirne.

Tréith	Cáilíocht Seirbhíse	Tráthúlacht	Cáilíocht na Comhairle	Solúbthacht
Rátáil Sásaimh	100%	88%	97%	100%

Aithníonn an tSaotharlann i gcónaí an tábhacht a bhaineann le héifeachtacht a soláthair seirbhíse do ranna agus oifigí is cliaint a thaifeadadh. Léiríodh i dtorthaí an tSuirbhé ar Shástacht Custaiméirí don bhliain 2023 (rud ar tugadh faoi sa bhliain 2024) gurb í Cáilíocht na Seirbhíse an tsaintréith is tábhachtaí fós den tseirbhís a sholáthraíonn an tSaotharlann. Tá sé sin ag teacht leis an bhfíoras gurb amhlaidh, mar shaotharlann rialála, a bhaintear úsáid as na torthaí anailíseacha agus an chomhairle a sholáthraíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit chun eolas a dhéanamh do chinnteoireacht thábhachtach, chun reachtaíocht a chur chun feidhme, agus chun tacú le hionchúisimh chúirte agus le hionchoisní

cróinéirí. I ráta freagraithe thorthaí an tSuirbhé ar Shástacht Custaiméirí atá ar áireamh sa tuarascáil, cumhdaítear thart ar 84% de na seirbhísí do chliaint ar sholáthair an tSaotharlann Stáit iad sa bhliain 2023.

COISTE INIÚCHÓIREACHTA

Tá Coiste Iniúcháireachta na Saotharlainne Stáit mar chuid de chreat rialachais na Saotharlainne, agus é de chúram air comhairle neamhspleách a sholáthar don Cheimiceoir Stáit (mar Oifigeach Cuntasaíochta) maidir le hoiriúnacht agus láidreacht chórais rialaithe inmheánaigh agus nósanna imeachta rialaithe inmheánaigh na Saotharlainne.

Tháinig an Coiste le chéile trí huaire sa bhliain 2023, agus d'athbhreithnigh sé na tuarascálacha ar na hiniúchtaí inmheánacha a rinneadh sa bhliain: Tuairisciú Airgeadais, an Státchiste agus na Coimisinéirí Ioncaim, Rialuithe Ríomhchórais, agus Bainistíocht Riosca Gnó.

Buanmhír ar an gclár oibre do chruinnithe an Choiste Iniúcháireachta is ea bainistíocht riosca a athbhreithniú.

BAINISTÍOCHT RIOSCA

Nuashonraíodh Clár Rioscaí na Saotharlainne dhá uair sa bhliain 2023, ar aon dul leis an mBeartas Bainistíochta Riosca inmheánach. Sainithnítear rioscaí ar leibhéal na rannóige le linn cruinnithe pleanála gnó. Déanann an lucht ardbhainistíochta athbhreithniú orthu sin agus nuashonraítear an clár rioscaí dá réir.

CÓRAS RIALAITHE INMHEÁNAIGH AIRGEADAIS

Cuireadh an Ráiteas faoi Rialú Inmheánach Airgeadais ón gCeimiceoir Stáit (Aguisín I) faoi bhráid Oifig an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste i dteannta Chuntas Leithreasa na Saotharlainne Stáit don bhliain 2023 i mí an Mhárta 2024.

Rinne Oifig an Ard-Reachtair Cuntas agus Ciste an t-iniúchadh bliantúil uaithi ar an gCuntas Leithreasa as an láithreán go príomha. Deimhníodh an Cuntas go luath, agus ní dhearnadh aon fhionnachtana.

FAISNÉIS AIRGEADAIS

Achoimrítear sa tábla seo a leanas caiteachas airgeadais na Saotharlainne Stáit sa bhliain 2023, agus tugtar na figiúirí don bhliain 2022 chun críocha comparáide.

Caiteachas Comhlán	2023 €000	2022 €000
A1. Tuarastail, Pá & Liúntaiss	7,651	6,516
A2. Taisteal & Cothú	20	9
A3. Oiliúint agus Forbairt & Costais Theagmhais	518	324
A4. Seirbhísí Poist & Teileachumarsáide	39	47
A5. Gaireas & Trealamh Ceimieach	2,766	3,081
A6. Costais Áitribh Oifige	2,248	1,711
A7. Seirbhísí Comhairliúcháin (Iniúchadh Inmheánach)	23	37
Iomlán Comhlán	13,265	11,725

ÍOCAÍOCHTAÍ PRASA

Sa bhliain 2023, rinne an tSaotharlann dhá íocaíocht dhéanacha dar luach €155.03. Áiríodh leo sin costais chúitimh ab ionann agus €70 in aghaidh na híocaíochta déanaí.

SAORÁIL FAISNÉISE

Fuair an tSaotharlann Stáit ceithre iarraidh Saorála Faisnéise sa bhliain 2023. B'iarrataí neamhphearsanta iad gach ceann díobh.

NOCHTADH COSANTA

Ní bhfuarthas aon nochtaí cosanta sa tréimhse tuairiscithe suas go dtí an 31 Nollaig 2023.

RÁITEAS FAOI ÚSÁID FUINNIMH

Sa bhliain 2023, bhí olltomhaltas fuinnimh na Saotharlainne Stáit mar a leanas:

Leictreachas	2,581,462 kWh
Gás	2,581,593 kWh
Iomlán	5,163,055 kWh

Is ionann é sin agus laghdú 4.5%, nó 245,888 kWh, ar an úsáid iomlán fuinnimh sa bhliain 2022.

I gcoibhneas leis an tréimhse bhonnlíne, is dearbhlaghdú fuinnimh 35% é sin. Tá an táscaire feidhmíochta fuinnimh tuartha don bhliain 2023 níos mó ná 60% níos fearr ná an bhonnlíne agus tá sé i bhfad níos mó ná sprioc éifeachtúlachta fuinnimh na hearnála poiblí don bhliain 2030.

Leis an Treochlár um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide ón tSaotharlann Stáit, rianaítear ár ngníomhartha, ár bhfeidhmíocht agus ár ndeiseanna i gcoibhneas le spriocanna astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa na hearnála poiblí don bhliain 2030. Sholáthair an tSaotharlann laghdú 23% in astaíochtaí CO₂ a bhaineann le fuinneamh ón tréimhse bhonnlíne i leith.

Teicneolaíocht, Próisis agus Bonneagar

FORBAIRT TFC

Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach i ngach réimse den straitéis TFC, rud ina ndírítear ar nuálaíocht, ar chibearshlándaíl, ar fheabhsú leanúnach seirbhíse, ar fhorbairt agus ar bhonneagar láidir. Rud suntasach, ní raibh aon chur isteach ann ar aon oibríochtaí san eagraíocht mar gheall ar sheirbhísí a bhaineann le TFC. Bhí an tseirbhís tacaíochta fhoriomlán TFC an-láidir fós agus choinnigh sí acmhainn shofhreaigrúil fhreagrúil ar bun de réir mar a tháinig méadú ar an líon ceisteanna deisce cabhrach a bhaineann le TFC ó 2260 ceist sa bhliain 2022 go 3137 gceist sa bhliain 2023. Rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach chun obair chumaisc fhadtéarmach do bhaill foirne agus cianrochtain ghinearálta do sholáthraithe tacaíochta trealaimh a éascú. Caighdeánaíodh an chianrochtain ar fad agus cuireadh bearta slándála breise chun feidhme, amhail balla dóiteáin agus uasghrádú VPN, mar aon le hacmhainní iniúchóireachta breisithe. Ba ghá aistriú chuig gléasanna ríomhaire glúine in ionad ríomhairí pearsanta chun obair chumaisc a éascú agus rinneadh bonneagar deisce fíorúla a tógadh ar Microsoft Remote Desktop Services a chur chun feidhme chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar an ngá lena lán feidhmchláir gnó a rith ar bhonneagar lárnach.

ATHSHLÁNÚ Ó THUBAISTE AGUS FIOSCAIREACHT

Rinneadh feabhsuithe breise ar acmhainn na heagraíochta chun athshlánú ó thubaiste. Áiríodh leo sin ár n-acmhainn chúltaca agus athshlánúcháin ag an dá láithreán ionad sonraí atá againn a uasghrádú, agus cur leis an acmhainn cianrochtana ag an láithreán um athshlánú ó thubaiste i gcás nach mbeadh fáil ar an láithreán i mBacastún. Ba ann do dhá thástáil rathúla um athshlánú ó thubaiste sa bhliain 2023. Bhí gach croí-fheidhmchlár gnó agus gach ríomhchóras ar áireamh sna tástálacha. Ardtosaíocht fós is ea oiliúint i bhfeasacht úsáideora, agus sanntar oiliúint cibearshlándaíla do gach ball foirne ar bhonn rialta. Reáchtáladh cleachtadh fioscaireachta ionsamhlaithe, agus seoladh cumarsáidí breise feasachta úsáideora ina dhiaidh sin. Seoladh tástáil treá líonra sheachtraigh agus cuireadh na moltaí uile i ngníomh.

NUÁLAÍOCHT

Cuireadh ar siúl sa bhliain 2023 dhá sheisiún leathlae inar leagadh béim ar nuálaíochtaí a thug baill foirne sa tsaotharlann isteach. Mar chuid de na laethanta sin, thug baill foirne ó rannóga difriúla láithreoiríochtaí ar chineálacha nuálacha cur chuige a ndearna siad dul chun cinn orthu ina rannóg féin agus tharraing siad aird ar conas a d'fhéadfadh roinnt de na cineálacha cur chuige sin a bheith úsáideach ar fud na Saotharlainne. Chomh maith leis sin, eagraíodh imeacht sa bhliain 2023 i gcomhar le Agilent Technologies inar leagadh béim ar na teicneolaíochtaí nua atá á bhforbairt ag an gcuideachta sin agus ar conas a d'fhéadfadh siad cabhrú le roinnt de na dúshláin anailíseacha a mbímid ag dul i ngleic leo faoi láthair sa tSaotharlann.

BONNEAGAR SAOTHARLAINNE

Leanann an Rannóg Seirbhísí Saotharlainne de bheith ag obair leis an gCuideachta Bainistíochta Saoráidí agus le hOifig na nOibreacha Poiblí chun a chinntiú go gcomhlíontar na ceanglais dhiana saoráide atá sonrach do cheimic anailíseach cheannródaíoch. De réir mar a leanann an tseirbhís a sholáthraítear do chliant agus an líon ball foirne ar aghaidh ag fás, tá díriú ann ar a chinntiú go bhfreastalóidh an foirgneamh ar na riachtanais atá ann san am i láthair agus ar na riachtanais a bheidh ann san am atá le teacht. Ar na réimsí ar díriodh orthu sa chlár saoráidí don bhliain 2023 bhí rialuithe comhshaoil do shaotharlanna a bhfuil ionstraimíocht speictriméadrachta maise ardaifigh

iontu, feabhsuithe leanúnachais gnó maidir le córas UPS trí chéim ardacmhainne, athchóiriú an chórais múchta dóiteáin le haghaidh múch-chófraí, athsholáthairtí painéal leictreach isteach agus fachtóirí cumhachta, agus feistithe oifige agus saotharlainne breise.

Bainistíonn an tSaotharlann sceideal bliantúil gníomhach cothabhála coiscthe agus clár bainistíochta saolré gléasra. Sa bhliain 2023, lorg Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí tairiscintí le haghaidh Bainistíocht Saoráidí a sholáthar don champas.

Aguisín I

Ráiteas ón Oifigeach Cuntasaíochta faoi Rialú Inmheánach Airgeadais

Freagracht as an gcóras rialaithe inmheánaigh airgeadais

Mar Oifigeach Cuntasaíochta, aithním an fhreagracht atá orm a chinntiú go mbíonn córas éifeachtach rialaithe inmheánaigh airgeadais á chothabháil agus á fheidhmiú ag an tSaotharlann Stáit.

Déantar an fhreagracht sin a chleachtadh i gcomhthéacs na n-acmhainní a bhíonn ar fáil dom agus i gcomhthéacs mo chuid oibleagáidí eile mar Cheimiceoir Stáit. Ina theannta sin, ní fhéadfaidh aon chóras rialaithe inmheánaigh airgeadais ach dearbhú réasúnach seachas dearbhú iomlán a thabhairt go gcumhdaítear sócmhainní, go n-údaítear idirbhearta agus go dtaifeadtar iad go cuí, agus go ndéantar earráidí nó mírialtachtaí ábhartha a chosc nó go mbraithfí in am trátha iad. Is próiseas leanúnach é an córas rialaithe inmheánaigh airgeadais a chothabháil agus coinnítear an córas agus a éifeachtacht faoi athbhreithniú leanúnach.

Seirbhísí comhroinnte

Chomhlíon mé mo chuid freagrachtaí i ndáil le ceanglais an chomhaontaithe bainistíochta seirbhísí idir an tSaotharlann Stáit agus an Oifig Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Comhroinnte maidir le seirbhísí comhroinnte párolla agus seirbhísí comhroinnte acmhainní daonna a sholáthar.

Bím ag brath ar litir dearbhaithe ó Oifigeach Cuntasaíochta na hOifige Náisiúnta um Sheirbhísí Comhroinnte á rá go bhfuil na rialuithe cuí i bhfeidhm agus seirbhísí comhroinnte á soláthar don tSaotharlann Stáit.

Timpeallacht rialaithe airgeadais

Tá timpeallacht rialaithe i bhfeidhm a bhfuil na gnéithe seo a leanas mar chuid di.

- Sannadh freagrachtaí airgeadais ar leibhéal bainistíochta le cuntasacht chomhfhreagrach.
- Bunaíodh socruithe tuairiscithe ar gach leibhéal ar ar sannadh freagracht as bainistíocht airgeadais.
- Bunaíodh nósanna imeachta foirmiúla chun teipeanna suntasacha rialaithe a thuairisciú agus chun gníomhaíocht cheartaitheach chuí a chinntiú.
- Tá Coiste Iniúcháireachta ann chun comhairle a chur orm maidir le comhlíonadh mo chuid freagrachtaí i ndáil leis an gcóras rialaithe inmheánaigh airgeadais.
- Taifeadadh nósanna imeachta le haghaidh gach príomhphróisis gnó.
- Tá córais i bhfeidhm chun na sócmhainní a chosaint.

Rialuithe riaracháin agus tuairisciú bainistíochta

Tá creat um nósanna imeachta riaracháin agus tuairisciú tráthrialta bainistíochta i bhfeidhm, lena n-áirítear deighilt dualgas agus córas tarmलगin agus cuntasachta agus, go háirithe,

- Tá córas buiséadaithe cuí ann lena ngabhann buiséad bliantúil a bhíonn faoi athbhreithniú ag an lucht ardbhainistíochta,
- Déanann an lucht ardbhainistíochta athbhreithnithe tráthrialta ar thuarascálacha airgeadais tréimhsiúla agus bliantúla ina léirítear feidhmíocht airgeadais in aghaidh réamh-mheastachán, feidhmíonn córas bainistíochta riosca laistigh den tSaotharlann Stáit
- Tá córais ann atá dírithe ar shlándáil na gcóras TFC a chinntiú
- Tá treoirlínte cuí rialaithe infheistíochta caipitil chomh maith le disciplíní foirmiúla bainistíochta tionscadail ann

Iniúchadh inmheánach agus Coiste Iniúcháireachta

Tá feidhm iniúcháireachta inmheánaí ag an tSaotharlann Stáit le pearsanra atá oile go cuí, ar feidhm í a fheidhmíonn de réir cairt scríofa atá ceadaithe agam. Treoraíonn anailís ar na rioscaí airgeadais a bhfuil

an tSaotharlann Stáit nochta dóibh a cuid oibre agus bíonn a pleananna bliantúla iniúchóireachta inmheánaí, a bhíonn á gceadú agamsa, bunaithe ar an anailís sin. Tá sé mar aidhm leis na pleananna sin na príomhrialuithe a chumhdach ar bhonn rollach thar thréimhse réasúnach. I gcomhar leis an gCoiste Iniúchóireachta, déanaim athbhreithniú tréimhsiúil ar an bhfeidhm iniúchóireachta inmheánaí. Tá nósanna imeachta curtha i bhfeidhm agam lena chinntiú go ndéantar gníomhaíocht leantach de bhun thuarascálacha na feidhme iniúchóireachta inmheánaí.

Soláthar

Cinntíonn an tSaotharlann Stáit go bhfuil béim chuí ann ar an dea-chleachtas soláthair i ndámhachtain gach conartha agus go bhfuil nósanna imeachta i bhfeidhm lena chinntiú go gcomhlíonfar na treoirlínte ábhartha uile. B'ionann agus €5.6 milliún san iomlán sa bhliain 2023 an caiteachas ar earraí agus seirbhísí, lenar áiríodh costas na mball foirne a conraíodh isteach.

Thug an tSaotharlann Stáit mionsonraí faoi chúig chonradh neamhiomaíocha sa tuairisceán bliantúil i dtaca le Ciorclán 40/2002 chuig an Roinn Caiteachais Phoiblí, Seachadta ar an bPlean Forbartha Náisiúnta, agus Athchóirithe.

Chomhlíon an tSaotharlann Stáit na treoirlínte don bhliain 2023 agus ní raibh aon chonarthaí neamhchomhlíontacha aici.

Creat riosca agus rialaithe

Tá córas bainistíochta riosca curtha i bhfeidhm ag an tSaotharlann Stáit lena ndéantar sainaithint agus tuairisciú ar phríomhrioscaí agus ar na gníomhartha bainistíochta a dhéantar chun aghaidh a thabhairt orthu agus, a oiread agus is féidir, na rioscaí sin a mhaolú.

Tá clár rioscaí i bhfeidhm lena sainaithnítear na príomhrioscaí a bhíonn roimh an tSaotharlann Stáit agus rinneadh iad sin a shainaithint, a mheas agus a ghrádú de réir a shuntasáí atá siad. Déanann an Bord Bainistíochta athbhreithniú agus uasdátú ar an gclár ar bhonn leathbhliantúil. Úsáidtear toradh na measúnachtaí sin chun acmhainní a phleanáil agus a leithdháileadh lena chinntiú go mbainistíofar rioscaí de réir leibhéal inghlactha.

Mionsonraítear sa chlár rioscaí na rialuithe agus na gníomhartha a theastaíonn chun maolú a dhéanamh ar rioscaí agus an fhreagracht a leagtar ar bhaill foirne shonracha as rialuithe a oibriú.

Monatóireacht agus athbhreithniú leanúnach

Bunaíodh nósanna imeachta foirmiúla chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar phróisis rialaithe agus cuirtear easnaimh rialaithe in iúl go tráthúil dóibh siúd atá freagrach as gníomhaíocht cheartaitheach a dhéanamh, don lucht bainistíochta agus don Bhord Bainistíochta, nuair is iomchuí. Deimhním gur sainaithníodh príomhrioscaí agus rialuithe gaolmhara agus gur cuireadh próisis i bhfeidhm chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar fheidhmiú na bpríomhrialuithe sin agus chun aon easnaimh a shainaithnítear a thuairisciú.

Athbhreithniú ar éifeachtacht

Tá nósanna imeachta ag an tSaotharlann Stáit chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éifeachtacht a nósanna imeachta um bainistíocht riosca agus rialú. Bíonn faireachán agus athbhreithniú na Saotharlainne Stáit ar éifeachtacht an chórais rialaithe inmheánaigh airgeadais á dtreorú ag obair na n-iniúcháirí inmheánacha agus seachtracha agus an lucht ardbhainistíochta laistigh den tSaotharlann Stáit atá freagrach as an gcreat rialaithe inmheánaigh airgeadais a fhorbairt agus a chothabháil.

Saincheisteanna maidir le rialú inmheánach airgeadais

Níor sainaithníodh aon laigí ar rialú inmheánach airgeadais i ndáil leis an mbliain 2023 ar gá iad a nochtheadh sa chuntas leithreasa.

Barbara O'Leary

Oifigeach Cuntasaíochta State Laboratory

11 Márta 2024

Aguisín II

Cruinnithe ar Freastalaíodh orthu

- Cruinniú Aontais Eorpaigh maidir leis an athbhreithniú ar Rialachán (CE) 152/2009 ón gCoimisiún, cianda
- Cruinniú iomlánach de chuid Choiste Teicniúil CEN 327 – Beathaí d'Ainmhithe, Milano
- Cruinniú iomlánach de chuid Choiste Teicniúil CEN 260 – Leasacháin agus Ábhair Aolta, cianda
- Cruinnithe de chuid Ghrúpa Oibre 7 de chuid Choiste Teicniúil CEN 260 – Anailís Cheimiceach ar Leasacháin, cianda
- Ceardlann de chuid EURL – Miotail agus Comhdhúile Nítrigineacha i mBeatha, Cóbanhávan
- Ceardlann de chuid EURL – Breiseáin Bheathaithe, an Bheilg
- Freastal ar EURL le haghaidh Ceardlanna um Thruailléin Orgánacha Mharthanacha
- Rannpháirtíocht i gCroí-Ghrúpaí Oibre le haghaidh PFASanna agus BFRanna
- Cruinniú de chuid Chumann na hÉireann um Mais-Speictriméadracht (IMSS)
- Ceardlann de chuid Eurachem (Staidéir Bailíochtaithe Modhanna a Phleanáil agus a Mheas)
- An 38ú seisiún SSC de chuid WCO (an Bhruiséil): 17-20/01/2023
- An 25ú cruinniú iomlánach de chuid CLEN (an Bhruiséil): 09/02/2023
- An 241ú CCC (ar líne): 21/03/2023 agus 22/03/2023
- Gníomh 6 de chuid CLEN – Cruinniú ar ECICS a nuashonrú agus a shaibhriú (ar líne): 06/06/2023
- Grúpa tionscadal mairísí saotharlainne CCEI (cruinnithe ar líne an 17/05/2023 agus an 23/06/2023)
- An 246ú CCC (an Bhruiséil): 26/06/2023 - 28/06/2023
- Teicstílí AdCo: Grúpa Faireachais margaidh do Rialachán (CE) Uimh. 1007/2011 maidir le Teicstílí (ar líne): 14/09/2023
- An 248ú CCC (ar líne): 04/10/2023
- An 251ú CCC (ar líne): 11/12/2023
- Freastal ar Cheardlann EURL i mBeirlín i mí na Bealtaine 2023
- Freastal ar Cheardlann EURL in Wageningen i mí na Samhna 2023
- Láithreoireacht dar teideal “NRL Overview” a tugadh ag EURL, Beirlín
- Freastal ar an mBuanchoiste ar Tháirgí Íocshláinte Tréidliachta i mí Eanáir 2023
- Cruinnithe de chuid Ghrúpa Oibre Eurachem um Bailíochtú Modhanna, an Bheilg
- Cruinnithe de chuid Choiste Eurachem Ireland
- Freastal ar Olltíonól Ginearálta Eurachem, Beirn, an Eilvéis
- Freastal ar chruinnithe de chuid Choiste Feidhmiúcháin Eurachem, Windsor
- Freastal ar Olltíonól Ginearálta European Accreditation, Baile Átha Cliath

Comhdhálacha ar Freastalaíodh orthu

- Torthaí iontaofa cruinne ar phróisis anailíseacha a chinntiú, Beirn, Bealtaine 2023
- Feed 2023, Milano, Deireadh Fómhair 2023
- Dioxin 2023
- SETAC 2023
- An 8ú Comhdháil Biotáillí Driogtha Domhanda 2023 (Dún Éideann), an 09/05/2023 go dtí an 11/05/2023
- An 8ú Seimineár de Cheimiceoirí Custaim Eorpacha (Beirlín), an 03/07/2023 go dtí an 06/07/2023
- Ceardlann Eurachem Ireland, Bealtaine 2023 – “Staidéir Bailíochtaithe Modhanna a Phleanáil agus a Mheas”
- “Making Tobacco Endgame a Reality” – Comhdháil ar líne a d’eagraigh FSS agus Comhghníomh um Rialú Tobac 2 de chuid na hEagraíochta Domhanda Sláinte, Samhain 2023
- Cruinniú UKIAFT (Londain)
- Cruinniú na Saotharlann Tocsaineolaíochta Fóiréinsí – COBÁC
- Comhdháil ACBI
- Comhdháil Club Health (Learpholl)
- Comhdháil an Chumainn Idirnáisiúnta don Staidéar ar Dhrugaí Éiritheacha (ISSD) maidir le Substaintí Sícihníomhacha Nua

Aguisín III

Ábhar Foilsithe

Durand L, O'Kane A, Tierney J, Cronly M, Bennett KE, Kavanagh Y, Keenan E, Cousins G. Gabapentinoids in Ireland 2010 to 2020: An observational study of trends in gabapentinoid prescribing, law enforcement drug seizures and postmortem toxicology. Br J Clin Pharmacol. 2023 Dec 10

Cousins G, Durand L, O'Kane A, Tierney J, Maguire R, Stokes S, O'Reilly D, Arensman E, Bennett KE, Vázquez MO, Corcoran P, Lyons S, Kavanagh Y, Keenan E. Prescription drugs with potential for misuse: protocol for a multi-indicator analysis of supply, detection and the associated health burden in Ireland between 2010 and 2020. BMJ Open. 2023 Mar 2;13(3):e069665.

Aguisín IV

Cairt Eagraíochtúil, mar de 31 Nollaig 2023

