



Press Release

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Litter survey shows heavily littered areas are cleaning up ... at last

But IBAL warns of litter in Dublin City Centre during peak tourist season

The latest survey by the Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) alliance shows previous litter blackspots in Dublin and Cork to be improving, but Dublin City Centre slipping in the ranking of 40 towns and cities across the country. The Capital is now deemed “littered” near the foot of the table.

The survey showed another improvement in cleanliness levels overall, with 75% of areas as least as Clean as European Norms. Killarney was judged the cleanest town, followed by Dungarvan and Tralee. The An Taisce report lauded Killarney’s win as “a fitting result for a town which is at the heart of our tourism product. It is the continuous attention to detail which puts Killarney at the top of the league.”

Connecting roads between 34 towns were assessed and found to be less littered than last year. However, much of the Monaghan-Cavan road was heavily littered and ‘created a very poor impression’ while dumping spoiled the Tallaght to Lucan route.

For the first time, no towns were branded as ‘blackspots’ or ‘seriously littered’. “The most striking aspect of this survey is the improvement in neglected urban areas such as Dublin’s North Inner City and Cork’s Farranree,” says Conor Horgan of IBAL. Both areas have improved from ‘litter blackspot’ to ‘littered’ status this time round.

“The work of Dublin and Cork City Council is bearing fruit in these areas,” continues Horgan. “While ‘littered’ status is clearly not good enough, we are seeing evidence that when a local authority concentrates its efforts on a problem area, it can bring about results. This could be a turning point, as for years these neglected urban areas showed no improvement whatsoever.”

The report praised Dublin’s North Inner City “which, if progress continues, will soon be Clean to European Norms. Sites such as Irvine Terrace and Store Street were not just clear of litter but carefully presented and maintained. The North Circular Road, Portland Row and Seville Place seem much cleaner than in the past.” However, the former Small Business Centre in Gardiner Street was in a “shocking state” and Spencer Dock suffered from ‘huge amounts of litter’.

While tourist towns like Killarney, Tralee and Kilkenny performed well, visitors to Dublin City Centre encountered more litter than previously, with even high footfall areas such as Grafton Street and O’Connell Street slipping to “moderately littered”. The An Taisce report slammed the Manor Street /Brunswick Street/Church Street area as “a litter blackspot, as was a site on Capel Street.”

“The great majority of tourist towns again showed their best side to tourists this summer,” comments Horgan. “Unfortunately, for Ireland to project a clean image, we need our Capital City to be free of litter, and this year we are seeing a deterioration in cleanliness levels in Dublin City Centre, and indeed several roads around Dublin Airport, where most of our visitors enter the country.”

The survey, carried out by An Taisce on behalf of IBAL, showed sweet papers, cigarette butts, fast food wrappers and chewing gum were the most common forms of litter. Dog fouling, while not as prevalent, continues to be a source of public concern, according to IBAL. “Where special bins are used to collect dog waste, they need to be emptied in tandem with demand. Otherwise they become unhygienic eyesores, as is the case with many recycling facilities,” says Horgan.

1 in 10 shopping centres were litter blackspots, among them Mulvoy Park in Galway, where shrubbery was “choked with heavy levels of all manner of food related litter” and both the Arcadia Retail Park and Diskin Centre in Athlone which was described as “seriously neglected and abused” and “in a dreadful state”.

“It is not always easy to identify where responsibility lies for littered sites in a town, but in the case of shopping centre car parks the local authority just needs to enforce the law with the landowner,” says Horgan. “Until we see more prosecutions of this nature there will be no real deterrent for offenders.”

2015 IBAL ANTI-LITTER LEAGUE - ROUND 1

Ranking	Town	Classification
1	Killarney	Cleaner than European Norms
2	Dungarvan	Cleaner than European Norms
T3	Tralee	Cleaner than European Norms
T3	Roscommon	Cleaner than European Norms
5	Waterford City	Cleaner than European Norms
T6	Kilkenny	Cleaner than European Norms
T6	Longford	Cleaner than European Norms
8	Dun Laoghaire	Cleaner than European Norms
9	Cavan	Cleaner than European Norms
10	Tullamore	Cleaner than European Norms
11	Wexford	Cleaner than European Norms
T12	Fermoy	Cleaner than European Norms
T12	Naas	Cleaner than European Norms
14	Newbridge	Cleaner than European Norms
15	Carlow	Cleaner than European Norms
16	Swords	Cleaner than European Norms
17	Limerick City	Clean to European Norms
18	Clonmel	Clean to European Norms
19	Castlebar	Clean to European Norms
20	Drogheda	Clean to European Norms
T21	Maynooth	Clean to European Norms
T21	Wicklow	Clean to European Norms
23	Mullingar	Clean to European Norms
24	Ennis	Clean to European Norms

T25	Navan	Clean to European Norms
T25	Sligo	Clean to European Norms
27	Letterkenny	Clean to European Norms
28	Dundalk	Clean to European Norms
29	Thomondgate/ Garryowen (Limerick City)	Clean to European Norms
30	Cork City	Clean to European Norms
31	Tallaght	Moderately littered
32	Midleton	Moderately littered
33	Galway City	Moderately littered
34	Monaghan	Moderately littered
35	Dublin Airport Environs	Moderately littered
36	Portlaoise	Littered
37	Dublin North Inner City	Littered
38	Athlone	Littered
39	Dublin City	Littered
40	Farranree (Cork City)	Littered

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