

### Submission

Submitter:	
Submission Title:	Submission
Submission Reference No.:	S011017
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### Application

Applicant:	Arrow Group Limited
Reg. No.:	P0812-02

See below for Submission details.

Attachments are displayed on the following page(s).



Achara

please find enclosed submission re  
review of the Arrow Group Naas IPPC  
licence. My understanding is that my  
private details can be kept private  
at this point and that is my wish.  
Any issue please contact me at the  
above mobile number. Thank you.

MSE Le Mans



Environmental Protection Agency

20 MAR 2023

I understand the review of the Arrow Group licence is considered to be a new licence – Is the EPA satisfied that emissions from the facility activities will comply with what will be set out in the new licence and not contravene any of the requirements of Section 83(5) of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 – As the Arrow Group have not been compliant with the conditions of their current licence and an agent in the EPA was ‘satisfied’ on the previous licence application that they would be compliant with the emissions set on – will the same happen this time? or will there be accountability both in the EPA and the Arrow Group if they continue to breach the set limits?

Prior to issuing/decision on new licence – will the EPA take into consideration the number of non-compliances and complaints received re this facility. They are top of your (EPA’s) very own priority list and have remained continuously since its introduction.

Who within the EPA either singularly or collectively will be responsible for reviewing this licence – and ultimately responsible for the monitoring going forward?

The current licence appears to be open ended (until this review) with conditions and limitations on emissions on paper – but in reality these conditions meant very little as the Arrow Group continue to operate regardless stating works (abatement) in progress or to be completed etc. and at the same time denying that they were non-compliant!

Will there be an Environment Impact Assessment conducted prior to this licence being issued? If not why not? The current licence was issued without an Environmental Impact Assessment – leading to decades of air and noise pollution. I would deem it necessary and responsible and transparent to help prevent nuisance and pollution to neighbouring businesses and residential estates.

How many actual non-compliances have been recorded since the current licence was issued to the Arrow Group? Is this number of non-compliances deemed acceptable to the EPA?

The initial fee paid for the licence by the Arrow Group to the EPA in 2008 was €21162 – what is the current fee? What fee is proposed for the new licence? And will it reflect the amount of auditing/monitoring etc. carried out by the Agency in its attempts to bring this facility into compliance – or is the hard pressed tax payer of Ireland contributing to same?

Did the Arrow Group submit an (EMP) Environmental Management Programme to the EPA within the 12 month timeframe of the licence issue? And annually thereafter? If yes – was it deemed suitable? And will this requirement continue and be enforced in this new licence?

Environmental Liability Risk Assessment. Has the ELRA been completed and reviewed every 3 years as per licence conditions? And will this be a condition of the new licence?

The Arrow Group submits a yearly report to the EPA – included is a noise monitoring report. How is it that their reports showed compliance – when they were clearly exceeding the limits of their licence – and why was this not questioned? When one looks at all the abatement for noise and odour that has been put in place in this facility in recent years and now we are told it is near compliance – what were we suffering in terms of noise and air pollution that was never recorded! – how can we trust that this licence and methods will be any different if these procedures continue – it is in my opinion self-policing and not acceptable.

What will the consequences be for future non-compliances? To date the EPA has taken the Arrow Group to the District Court on 3 separate occasions. All the cases have been watered down (dropped). The Enforcement section of the EPA recommended prosecution of said offences – which were later withdrawn by the legal representatives of the EPA for unknown reasons. The District Court Judge – Judge Zaidan commented in Court that he is limited in what he can do eg. small fines, and told the EPA that they have it in their remit to deal with the Arrow Group and not to come back to him. Will the EPA consider bringing the Arrow Group Directors/Management to the circuit court, where the fines and implications are more substantial if they remain non-compliant in the future? If not what will be the consequences for non compliance with the new licence? Can it be revoked?

I am aware of the noise/odour abatement works that have been completed by the Arrow Group at their facility in Naas – none of it would have been carried out without the years of complaints and endured pollution at neighbouring residents and businesses. The legal representatives of Arrow Group are always quick to inform the Judge in Court of these works and the expenses incurred, however they never disclose to the Court the tens of millions of euros they have received in grants from the European Union and the Irish Government (tax payers monies). The Arrow Group have shown no regard for the environment surrounding their facility from the outset. As with all companies profits are the driving force, here however profits cannot be at the expense of the local environment. The protectors of the environment being the EPA must use their powers to revoke a licence that is continually being breached thus affecting profits of said company and in turn would focus the Arrow Groups energies into resolving the ongoing pollution with the current EPA inspector. The Arrow Group has constantly dismissed, deflected and ignored complaints and concerns raised by residents over the years and has neglected its corporate responsibility in allowing the company to continuously be in breach of its licence.

Inspectors in the EPA have worked tirelessly with the residents in an attempt to bring this facility into compliance – it has been and continues to be distressing/frustrating and terribly slow process – the pollution from the Arrow Group has continued for such a long period – it's now in its 3<sup>rd</sup> decade! – an extraordinarily length of time.

I personally have sought the help of 50 plus different individuals over the years from the Arrow Group/Queally's, The Eastern Health Board, Naas Town Council, Kildare County Council, Local Politicians (1 since deceased), The Environmental Protection Agency and to date no one person or state agency are either able or willing to resolve this pollution issue with any success.

The EPA inspectors who have worked on this facility have found it very challenging and are no longer involved but the pollution remains despite all their workload.

I would respectfully ask – indeed plead that the EPA assess and consider a much firmer licence when reviewing this facility and if granted ensure it is strong enough legally to deal with this company and to be able to revoke/cancel said licence if they continue to pollute our environment. This pollution is unacceptable in 2023 and is causing undue stress and ill health/sleep deprivation. We are not just complainants – we are men, women and children – Irish Citizens entitled to live and breathe fresh air and live in peace.

Laura Burke's (Director of EPA) address to HSE on Environmental Health and Wellbeing resonated with me when she said – policy makers in Europe and beyond acknowledge a strong connection between health/wellbeing and the Environment. We need to be protected against poor air quality and excessive noise as it is harmful to human health. We are currently experiencing noise pollution and disturbance from the Arrow Group Facility in our home. The noise and vibration emanating from the site is unacceptable and as yet not resolved. The health implication of all of this may never be truly known.

The following is a list of people I have sought help from:

**THE EASTERN HEALTH BOARD**

EITHNE HUNT

PAUL HARRINGTON

ROBBIE

**NAAS TOWN COUNCIL/KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL**

BRIAN MCGRATH

MAURA MCIVOR

PAT AUNGIER

MARY GLENNON

ALGELA MARSHALL

MICHAEL HOLLIGAN

GERRY GREHAN

DECLAN KIERANE

J. BOLAND

T. MCDONNELL

DEBORAH

JOSH HANIGAN

KEN KAVANCGH

AILISH NOLAN

**COUCILLORS AND TD'S**

CELINE BRACKEN (RIP)

EMMET STAGG

JAMES LAWLESS

CATHERING MURPHY

**ARROW GROUP**

KIERAN MURRAY

PETER EARLY

RICHARD MCNALLY

LARRY MURRIN

PETER O'CONNELL

MARK CURTIS

CATHAL QUEALLY

PETER O'CONNOR

ANNE-MARIE

IVOR QUEALLY

EILISH CROWLEY

KIERAN CUNNINGHAM

CELINE MAQUIRE

MARIA WARD

MARCUS FLOOD

ERIC DALTON

**EPA**

MARY KELLY

MARY FRANCES ROCHFORD

JULETTE MCCARTHY

DAVID MATTHEWS

BREEGE ROONEY

JACINTA LONGWORTH

DAVID SMYTH

ANTHEA SOUTHEY

ANDY COX

MARIAN LAMBERT

NOEL BYRNE

CORMAC MAC GEARAILT

IRENE DOYLE

BRENDAN KISSANE

BRIAN MEANEY

SANDRA GLEESON

LISA MAHER

SINEAD DOYLE

55 individuals that I can remember dealing with in this regard!

I respectfully implore the EPA Directors and Board to be stringent in the review of the Arrow Group Licence and confident that they can enforce the licence going forward.