

From the Office of the  
Minister of Agriculture,  
Environment and Rural Affairs

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1<sup>st</sup> February 2022  
AQW 28279/17-22

**To ask the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for his assessment of the reason for the reduction in the number of reported or detected river water pollution incidents in the last three decades.**

Robust data in relation to pollution incidents is available from 1995 and is presented in the following chart which shows the total number of confirmed water pollution incidents from 1995 to 2020.

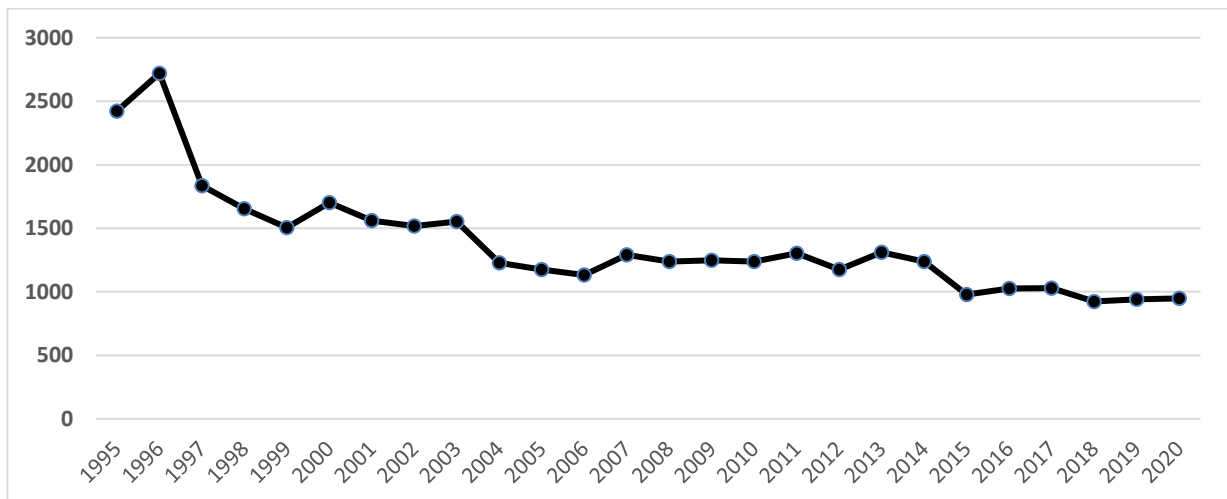


Figure 1. Confirmed Water Pollution Incidents 1995 to 2020



If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



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working, active landscape valued  
by everyone.*

It is pleasing to note an overall decline since 1995 in the number of pollution incidents confirmed. The reasons behind this reduction are varied and it is not possible to identify one particular aspect over another. DAERA undertake a number of approaches with many sectors to increase awareness of the impacts of water pollution. This coupled with the deterrent effect of proportionate enforcement against polluters both contribute to driving down the number of water pollution incidents across Northern Ireland.

The 3rd River Basin Management Plan for Northern Ireland will be published in the coming months and whilst the consultation phase is now closed, the proposed actions set out in this plan aim to drive the improvements in water quality we all aspire to see in the coming years.



**EDWIN POOTS MLA**  
**Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**



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