

National Roads Authority's

Online Traffic Data at www.nratrafficdata.ie

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NRA Conference – Westport 2014



Traffic Counting - a few of the Why's?

& it's not just to be nosey

Constant Demand for traffic data by Multiple Users

NRA/Local Authorities /EU/Consultants & Transportation Specialists/Planners/Central Statistics Office/Public & YOU?

Planning

- Traffic modelling & Analysis for Strategic Route Planning
- Economic Assessments (Pre and Post Road Project Appraisals)
- Monitor Growth Patterns used as one of many Economic Growth indicators

Road Design / Maintenance & Research

- Road and Pavement Design (AADT / 30th Highest Hour /Peak flows etc)
- Road Maintenance Planning (Life cycle expectations based on volumetric flows)
- Vehicle Kilometre Statistics (for National use and EU & international comparisons)
- Trials for new Road Materials (Life-cycle appraisal)

Road Safety / Environmental

- EU requirements to compare Accident Statistics vs Vehicle Volumes per Route Section
- Monitoring Speed trends & Analysis of Road Design Speed vs Actual Speeds
- As a guide for traffic management requirements e.g. What & when are the peak flows. When to deploy?
- Pollution Studies / Noise Studies



NRA Traffic Counting – a little history

1980s / early 90s

- approximately 55 Inductive loop counter units nationwide covering various routes and route types including Commuter / Inter-urban/ Rural / Tourist profile type routes
- Data was retrieved locally every 6/8 weeks from battery operated units
- Only 2 (two) classification levels available (6m > vehicles > 6m in length)
- Count data supplemented by Local Authority 7 Hour visual counts
- NRA Annual Publication National Roads and Traffic Flow (discontinued from 2004)

Late 1990s -2012

- In 1997 First major upgrade under the EU TAP (Technical Assistance Programme) counter volumes increase to c. 110 units nationwide
- Data retrieval automated over standard telephone lines
- Mains operated so less down time due to battery failure
- capable of classifying in excess of 7 different classes
- the number rises to c.140 by 2005 with particular emphasis on new road schemes
- NRA makes data available on NRA website Monthly ADT/Bank Holiday/% growth & % HGV Summary figures
- Daily and monthly CSV data file downloads available from website for individual sites.



NRA Traffic Counting – the latest

 2012 - NRA Contract issued for the Supply Installation Operation and Maintenance of a Traffic Monitoring System

The Purpose?

- Upgrade to new counter and communications hardware & software Aim to eliminate emerging problems with an older system & enable provision of more up to date & more in depth data
- Install new sites across the network covering routes & sections not previously covered
 AIM to have at least one counter on every National Route & fill gaps where required
- Install 6 new WIM (Weigh in Motion Sites)
 AIM to provide statistical data on loading/overloading for in house studies.
- Install renewable power sources at new sites
 AIM- two fold 1) to enable speedier site activation 2) Environmental Awareness in reducing our carbon footprint
- Install "Safe" Parking Bays & footpaths at each site
 Aim to enhance the safety of maintenance personnel attending site

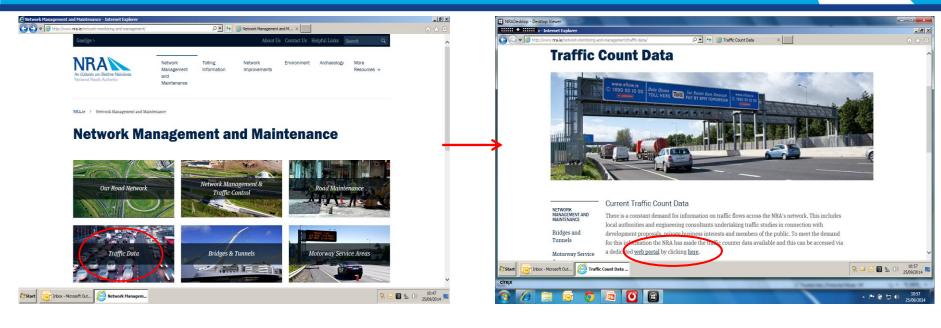


The Result

- New Dedicated Interactive traffic data website https://www.nratrafficdata.ie
- Now 270 + Traffic counters Nationwide (c.130 + new sites.)
- Data updated within days instead of quarterly
- Over 100 sections/routes previously not covered, now covered with at least one permanent Counter.
- c.14 Additional Counters on Cross border routes.
- c.45 Additional counters on western seaboard routes
- c.40 Additional counters in midland and southern counties
- additional c.50 + PPP traffic counters to be added to public website



Where to find the link on the NRA webpage?



Under Network Management Page Click Traffic Data

Historical Data still available via this page!

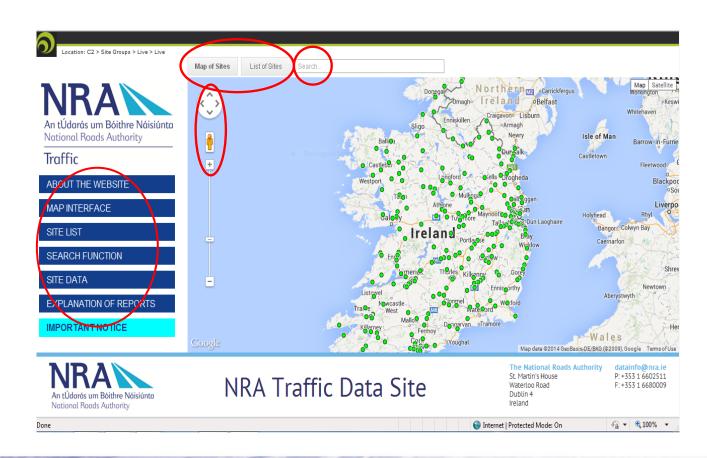
Follow the underlined link



https://www.nratrafficdata.ie the interactive map homepage

•Some of the features!

- •Dots represent the **actual** counter locations
- •Drop down Explanatory notes on LH Panel
- •View Map or Counter List options
- •Specific Search Function or zoom in to locate your chosen counter



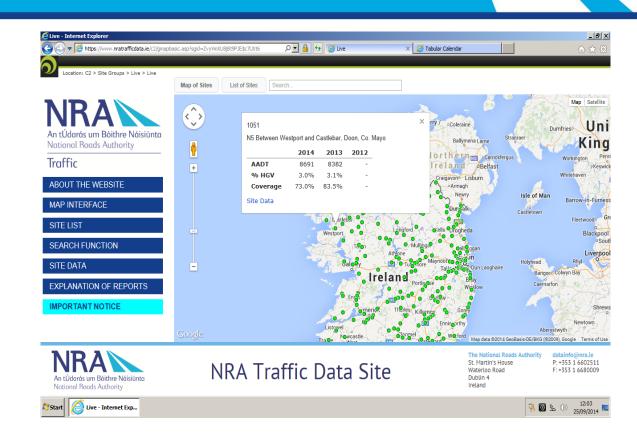


Click on a green dot......

A summary bubble appears showing

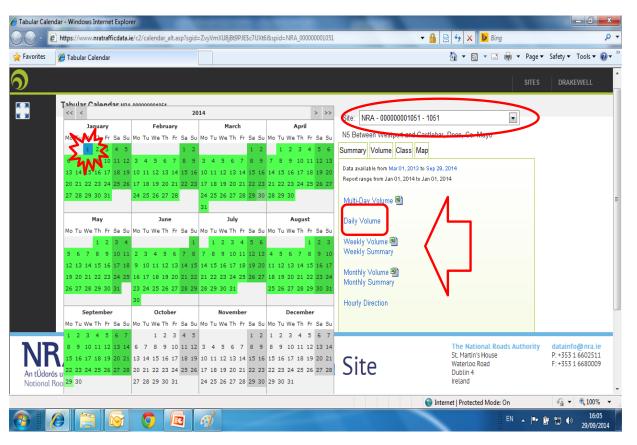
- •Site name & location
- •AADT for 2013 plus
- •Estimated AADT for 2014 based on data to date
- •% HGV for the given year
- •coverage, i.e. the proportion of the year for which data is available
- •plus a further link......

 Click on "SITE DATA" to reveal...





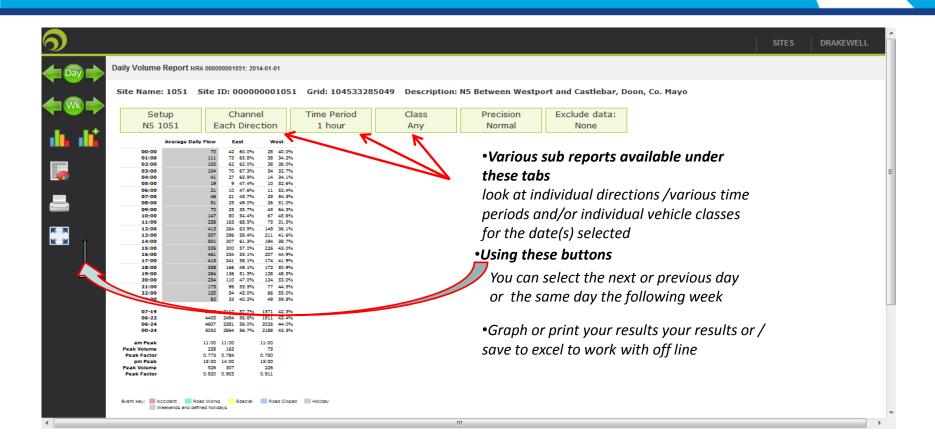
The data calendar



- •Date highlighted green = data available -
- •Any site can be chosen from the dropdown box
- •Various report types immediately available
- •1st Jan highlighted by default but you can pick any individual date or series of dates (click first date, drag & hold to end date)
- •so for example in this case if you click on Daily Volume & wait a moment you get



A daily volume report





Calendar page again!

Revert to the Calendar Page

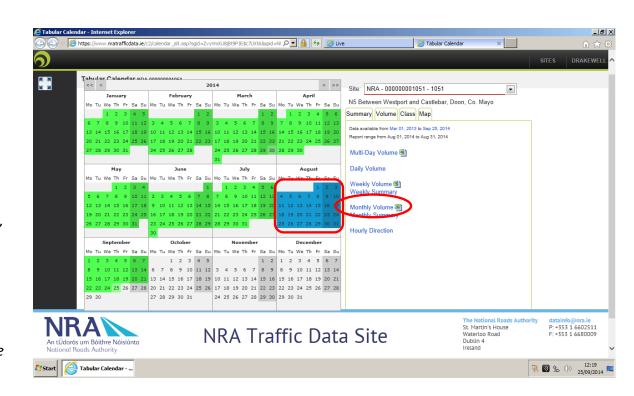
- •Each time you wish to view a different report
- •Or a report from a different site

For Multiple date selection

- e.g. one month Click on the first date, hold & drag to the last date.
- The selected period will highlight

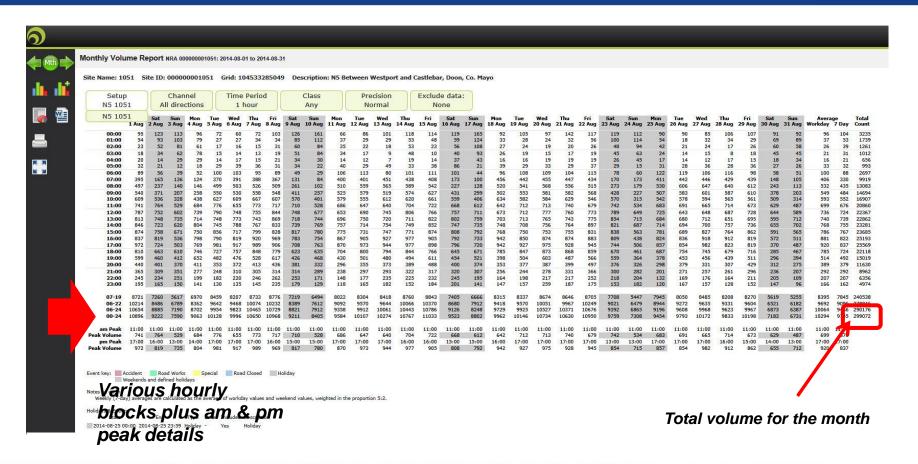
Then select your report.

e.g. Monthly Volume... Wait a moment to see



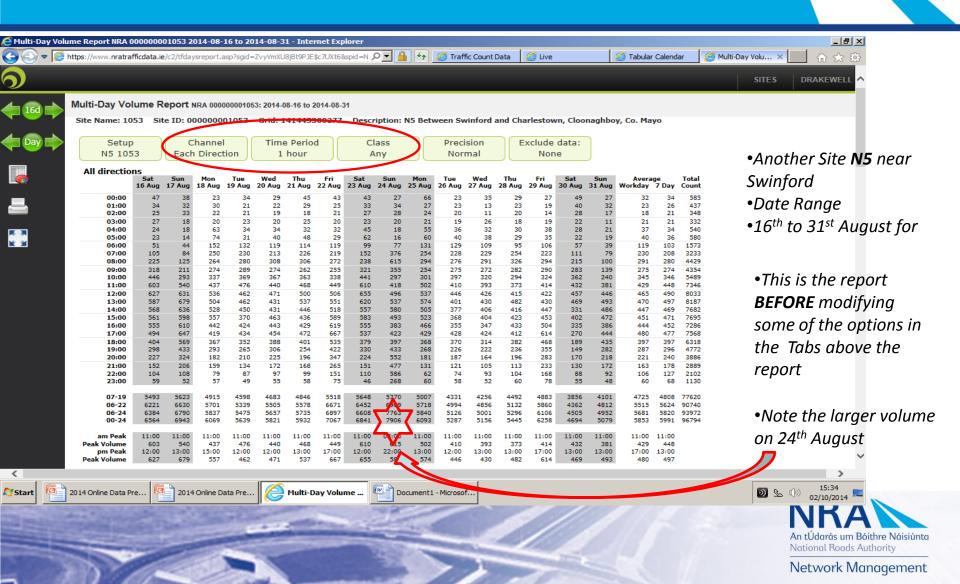


Now you get a full months figures

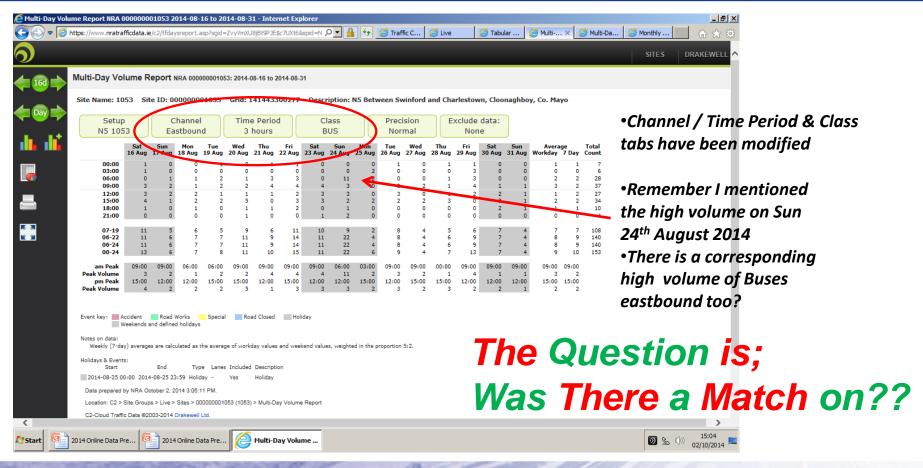




Using the tabs above the report!



Having modified the tabs...





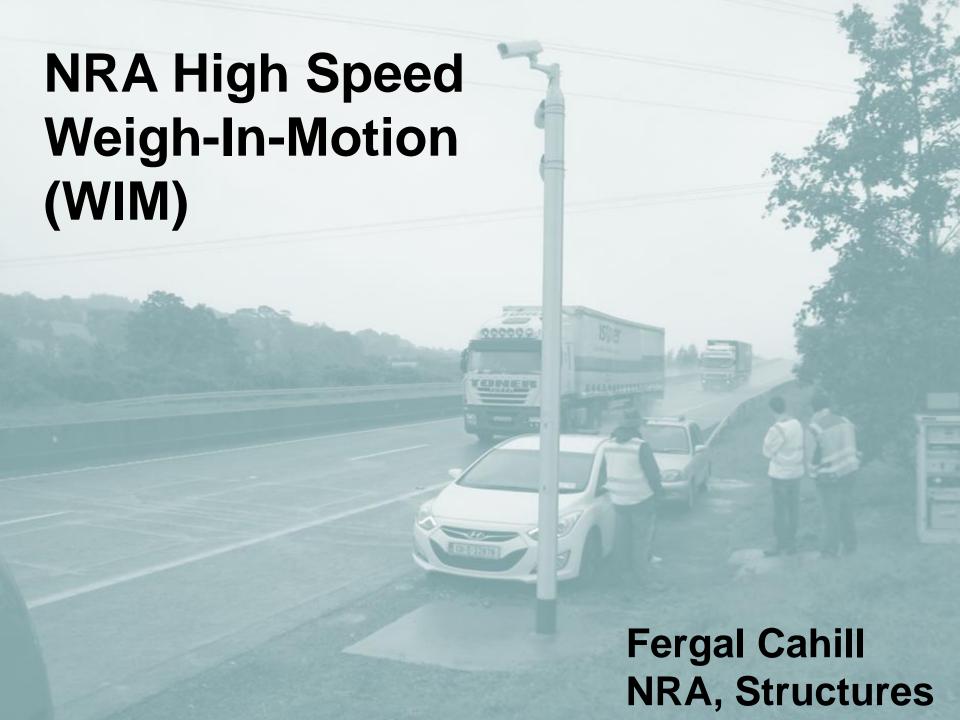
Can You help us to maintain this system? YES!

Roadside Cabinets + loop traces = shallow SENSOR CABLES/ ELECTRICAL PILLARS/BURIED CABLES

Ask your Area Engineers to Notify - Work Crews / Hedge cutters / Applicants for Road Opening Licences

If working at or near this type of equipment - USE CAUTION - if in doubt, contact the NRA





NRA High Speed Weigh-In-Motion

- What is High Speed Weigh-In-Motion (HS WIM)?
- Why do the NRA need HS WIM?
- What type of WIM system has the NRA installed?
- How are truck weights regulated in Ireland?
- What type of Data is being retrieved from the installed WIM?



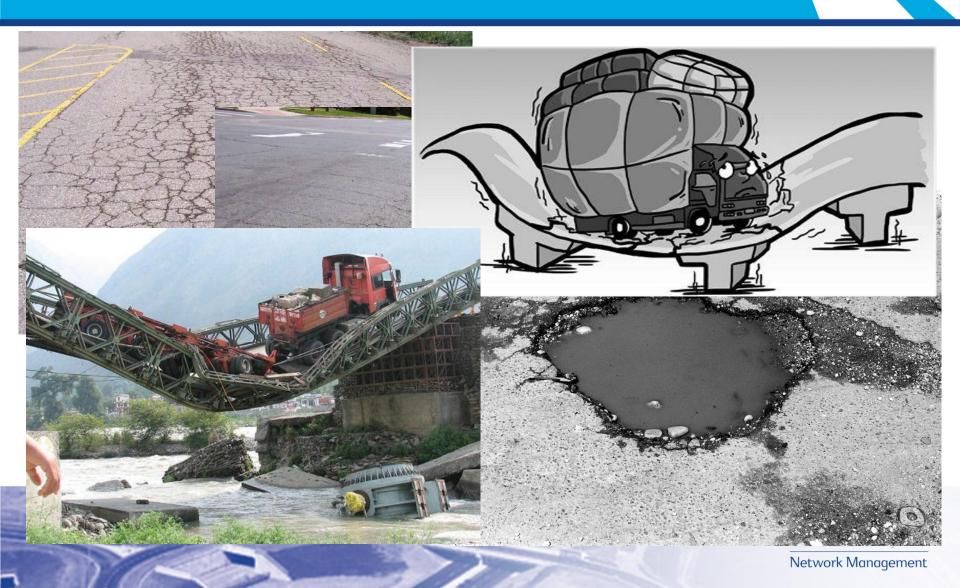
What is High Speed Weigh-In-Motion?



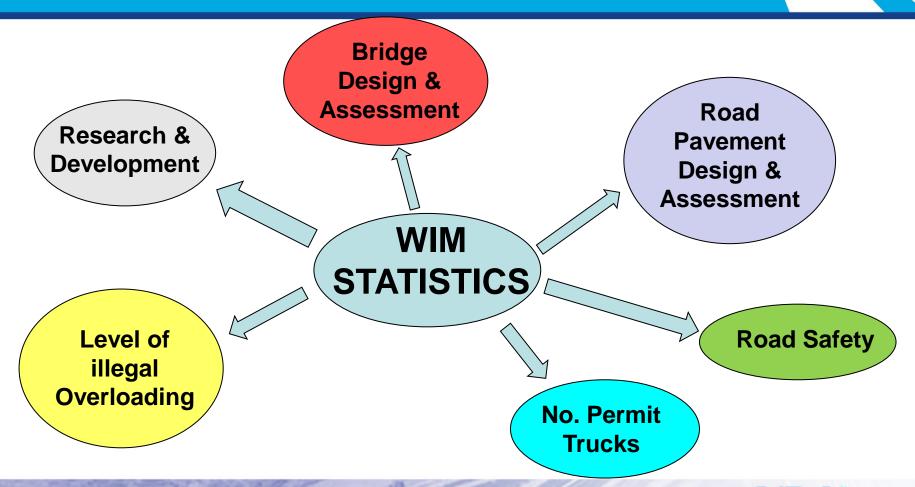
Control Cabinet



Why do the NRA need WIM data?



Why do the NRA need WIM data?





Why do the NRA need WIM data?

- We're blind The NRA have no HCV loading / overload Network Indicators
- Overloaded Trucks / Axles cause a lot of damage to Roads & Bridges
- The relationship between axle weight & pavement damage is not linear
- 4th Power Law Overloaded Axles cause exponential damage to pavements
- Initial NRA focus determine the state of truck loading on National Primary's
- Knowledge facilitates more efficient management & maintenance
- Need a couple of years of good data prior to any detailed analysis being conducted (.....only 9 months so far)



- Electro-Automation & Clonmel Enterprises JV (EACL)
 - Clonmel (Civils) & EA (Electronics & Software)
 - TDC Traffic System WIM (Drakewell)
- Supply + Installation + Operation + Maintenance (5 yrs)
- NRA Weigh-In-Motion Specifics:
 - 1) 6 Sites
 - Data Collection
 - Accuracy Class
 - 4) System Monitoring

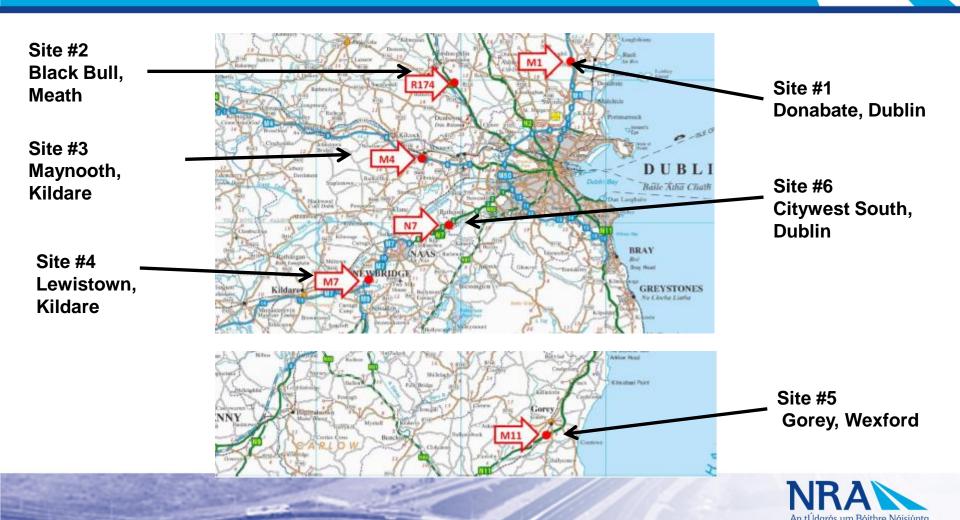


1) NRA WIM Sites (6) - Installed Q4 2012

#	County	Road	Location	Lanes
1	Dublin	M1	Donabate – between JN 4 & JN 5	2 + 2
2	Meath	R147 (Old N3)	Between Dunshaughlin & Dunboyne	2* + 2*
3	Kildare	N4	Maynooth	2 + 2
4	Kildare	M7	Lewistown – between Jn 10 & Jn 11	2 + 2
5	Wexford	N11	Gorey – between Jn 23 & Jn 24	2 + 2
6	Dublin	N7	Citywest South – between Jn 5 & Jn 6	3 + 3

^{*} R174 – 1 driving lane & 1 bus lane in each direction





National Roads Authority

Network Management

2) Data Collection Records

Approx 2 Million records per quarter – stored on server at Dublin port

Data	Data Collection Requirements for each vehicle					
1	Unique Registration number	7	GVW			
2	Location	8	No. Of Axles & Axle Spacing's			
3	Traffic Lane / Direction	9	Wheelbase			
4	Date / Time Stamp	10	Vehicle length			
5	Speed	11	Photograph			
6	Weight per Axle (A1; A2; A3etc)	12	Vehicle Class (7)			



3) WIM System Accuracy Class – C (15)

	Enforcement		Detailed Traffic Analysis		General Traffic Evaluation		Low Cost
Accuracy Class	A (5)	B+ (7)	B (10)	C (15)	D+ (20)	D (25)	Е
GVW	5	7	10	15	20	25	> 25
Group of Axles	7	10	13	18	23	28	> 28
Single Axle	8	11	15	20	25	30	> 30
Axle of a Group	10	15	20	25	30	35	> 35

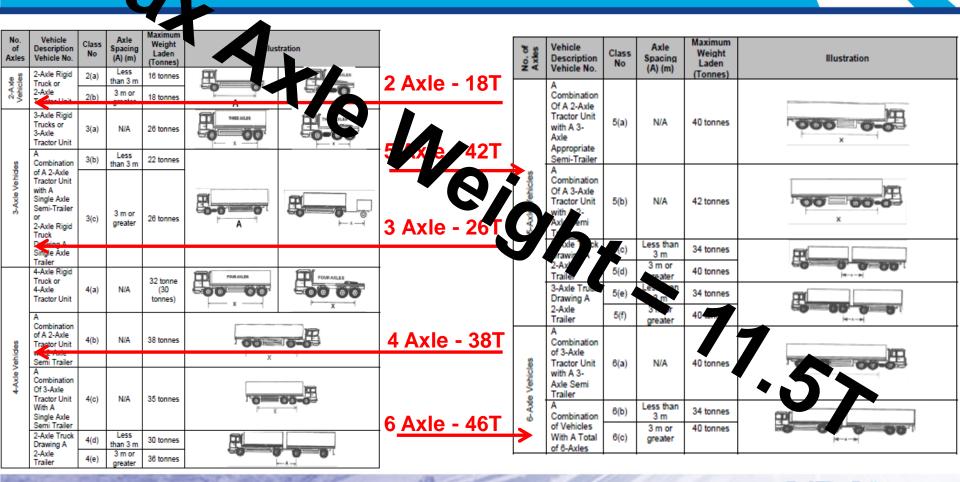


4) System Monitoring (In-Service)

- You need to hold WIMs hand!
- It's essential to verify WIM data periodically to ensure Quality
- On-Site System Checks & Calibration:
 - After installation is complete (Initial verification)
 - In-service verification 2 times / year (Jan & July)
 - Verification after any repair works to WIM
- WIM Quarterly Reports & Quality Insurance Indicators



Legal Weight Limits for Trucks





Legal Weight Limits for Trucks

Standard Truck	Permit Truck
2 to 6 axles (rigid / articulated)	6 axle +
98% of the population	2% of the population
Dominant in long span bridges	Dominant vehicle in loading events for short to medium span bridges
Mostly carrying consumer goods	Almost entirely related to the construction industry

However – some trucks that look like standard trucks are in fact permit trucks and may often be illegally overloaded trucks.



Legal Weight Limits for Trucks







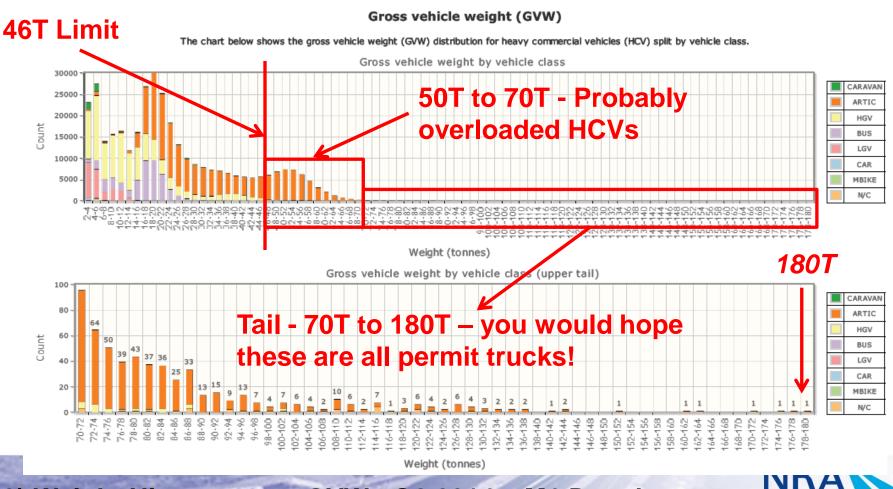
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- 2 Million HCV records per quarter (6 sites)
- Data Visualisation Collecting enormous amounts of data is pointless unless we can utilise in a meaningful manner
- So Key Statistics are extracted each quarter and compared to trends over previous quarters
- An important feature of these reports is the inclusion of "Quality Assurance Indicators" to check that the WIM system is measuring correctly



NRA Quarterly WIM Reports – Statistics Provided								
1	Site Summary		8	Average no. Of HCV / day Graph				
2	Events		9	Vehicle Classification Pie Chart				
3	Weight Histograms: - Gross Vehicle Weights (GVW) - Individual Axle Weights - Tandem Axle Weights - Tridem Axle Weights		10	Exceedance Limit Tables: -Trucks exceeding weight limits - Axles exceeding legal limits				
4	No. of Axles Histogram		11	Photos of 5 Heaviest / 5 Longest HCVs				
5	Mean Max Weekly GVW Graph	•	12	Flow Variation by time of day Graph				
6	Mean Max Daily Axle Weight Grap	h	13	Speed Distribution Table				
7	No. of Equivalent Standard Axles Graph		14	Quality Assurance Indicator Graphs: -Steer Axles on 5 axle trucks -Mean Weekly Truck Weight				

-Last Axle spacing on 5 axle truck



3) Weight Histograms - GVW - Q2 2014 - M1 Donabate

An tÚdarás um Bóithre Náisiúnta National Roads Authority

Network Management



3) Weight Histograms – Individual Axle Weights – Q2 2014 – M1 Donabate



10% Overload of 4 Axle Vehicles

20% Overload of 5 Axle Vehicles

Trucks exceeding weight limits

The table below shows the number and percentage of trucks (rigid and articulated) exceeding gross vehicle weight legal limits.

Truck legal limit	2 axles and GVW > 18.0 tonnes	3 axles and GVW > 26.0 tonnes	4 axles and GVW > 38.0 tonnes	5 axles and TVW > 42.0 tonnes	6+ axles and GVW > 44.0 tonnes
Nº trucks	4314	2786	4301	19387	32282
Percentage of truck category exceeding	2.5%	20.1%	9.9%	19.5%	63.7%

20% Overload of 3 Axle Vehicles

Axles exceeding legal limit

The table below shows the number of axles exceeding the legal limit of 11.5 tonnes. The table also shows the number of trucks (rigid and articulated) and the number of buses/coaches that have at least one axle that exceeds this limit.

	Number	Percentage	
Axles exceeding limit	79037	6.00%	
Trucks with an axie exceeding limit	48528	12.80%	
Buses with an axle exceeding limit	15158	30.42%	

80,000 Axles > 11.5T in this 3 month period

10) Exceedance Limit Tables - Q2 2014 - M1 Donabate







Any queries, contact:

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