

# Brominated flame retardants and perfluoroalkyl substances in landfill leachate from Ireland

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1 **Brominated Flame Retardants and Perfluoroalkyl Substances in**  
2 **Landfill Leachate from Ireland**

3

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11

12 **ABSTRACT**

13 Between June and November 2017, leachate samples were collected from 40 landfills  
14 across the Republic of Ireland. Concentrations of perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs),  
15 polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), and hexabromocyclodecane (HBCDD)  
16 determined in these samples were within the range previously reported in other  
17 countries. Average concentrations of PFASs exceeded those of PBDEs and HBCDD;  
18 likely due to the higher water solubility of PFASs. Log-transformed concentrations of  
19 BDEs-47, 100, 153, and 183, as well as perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA),  
20 perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA) and perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS) were  
21 significantly ( $p < 0.05$ ) higher in leachate from newer, lined landfills than in samples  
22 from unlined landfills. These higher concentrations in lined landfills are likely related  
23 to the fact that lined landfills are found to retain organic matter leading to a higher  
24 organic content of leachate from such landfills. This is evidenced by the significant  
25 ( $p < 0.05$ ) correlation between log-transformed concentrations in leachate of most of the  
26 same contaminants and those of chemical oxygen demand (COD). Concentrations of  
27 the less water-soluble, higher molecular weight BDE-209 were not correlated with  
28 leachate COD, nor landfill age or the presence of a landfill liner. This suggests that the  
29 presence of BDE-209 in landfill leachate is driven more by physical abrasion of  
30 particles and fibres from waste articles, than dissolution into the aqueous phase. The  
31 higher concentrations of some PFASs and PBDEs in leachate from lined landfills  
32 present a challenge with respect to leachate disposal, when leachate is sent to  
33 wastewater treatment plants that do not necessarily have mechanisms in place to  
34 remove or destroy these chemicals prior to discharge into the environment. Moreover,  
35 the presence of these persistent organic chemicals in leachate from unlined landfills

36 raises concerns about releases to the environment including groundwater over the  
37 lifetime of such landfills and beyond.

38

### 39 **HIGHLIGHTS**

- 40 • PFASs, PBDEs, and HBCDD detected in leachate from Irish landfills
- 41 • Average concentrations of PFASs exceed those of BFRs
- 42 • Concentrations of most PFASs and PBDEs higher in lined than in unlined landfills
- 43 • Concentrations of some PFASs and PBDEs correlated with leachate COD
- 44 • BDE-209 in leachate likely associated with abraded particles from waste articles

45

### 46 **INTRODUCTION**

47 Brominated flame retardants (BFRs) like polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) and  
48 hexabromocyclododecane (HBCDD) have found widespread application in goods and  
49 materials such as electrical and electronic equipment, as well as soft furnishings and  
50 fabrics (BiPRO, 2011). Likewise, perfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs) are widely  
51 applied to *inter alia* impart stain repellency to fabrics in both domestic and office  
52 environments (BiPRO, 2011, Miralles-Marco and Harrad, 2015). As articles containing  
53 such contaminants come to the end of their useful life, they enter the waste stream. One  
54 commonly-favoured waste disposal method has historically been landfill. While  
55 landfilling of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) has been severely  
56 restricted within the European Union (EU) since promulgation of the WEEE directive  
57 in 2003 (EC, 2003); no restrictions on landfilling of waste soft furnishings and fabrics  
58 exist, and landfills open before 2003 may contain WEEE received before this date. The  
59 presence of such material in landfill is of interest given much contains elevated

60 concentrations of PBDEs, HBCDD, and PFASs (Drage et al, 2018; Gallen et al, 2017).  
61 Concern about potential leaching of such contaminants from landfilled waste has been  
62 raised by a number of laboratory studies reporting on the magnitude and mechanisms  
63 of leaching of PFOS, PBDEs and HBCDDs under laboratory conditions (Allred et al.,  
64 2015, Choi et al., 2009, Danon-Schaffer et al., 2013, Kajiwara et al., 2014, Lang et al,  
65 2016; Stubbings et al., 2016a,b). While such studies illustrate the potential for leaching  
66 under real-world conditions, the number of studies of leaching of BFRs and PFASs  
67 from landfill sites is limited (Allred et al, 2014, Busch et al, 2010; Daso et al., 2013,  
68 Gallen et al., 2016, 2017, Huset et al, 2011, Kwan et al., 2013, Odusanya et al., 2009,  
69 Osako et al., 2004, Weber et al., 2011; Yan et al, 2015).  
70 Consistent with EU policy (EC, 2011), Ireland is committed to phasing out landfill as  
71 a waste disposal option. In particular, by 2020 the objective is to ensure that landfilling  
72 is limited to residual (i.e. non recyclable and non recoverable) waste. As a consequence  
73 of this, there remain in 2019, only 5 active landfills operating in Ireland. However, there  
74 will likely have been substantial past disposal in Ireland of waste containing BFRs and  
75 PFASs in a much greater number of landfills. This study tests the hypothesis that  
76 disposal of such waste to landfill will have led to significant contamination of landfill  
77 leachate in Ireland consistent with observations elsewhere (mentioned above). To do  
78 so, we report concentrations of PBDEs, HBCDD, and PFASs in samples of leachate  
79 from landfills in the Republic of Ireland.

## 80 **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

81 *Sampling* - Leachate was collected between June and November 2017 from 40  
82 municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill sites across the Republic of Ireland (Figure 1).  
83 Samples from sites without high density polyethylene (HDPE) liners (i.e. unlined sites)

84 were pumped from “boreholes” (pipes inserted into the landfill body for collection and  
85 sampling of leachate), while samples from newer state of the art sites (i.e. mixed and  
86 lined sites) were collected from on-site leachate storage tanks. At least 1 sample of  
87 leachate was collected from each landfill studied with 48 samples collected in total.  
88 Each sample consisted of 1 L leachate collected in polystyrene bottles that were pre-  
89 rinsed, in triplicate, with distilled water followed by a small aliquot of the sample to be  
90 collected. Following transfer to the laboratory, each sample was split, with one half  
91 analysed for BFRs and the other for PFASs.

92

93 *Target analytes* – The following BFRs and PFASs were targeted in this study: PBDEs  
94 28, 47, 99, 100, 153, 154, 183, and 209;  $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -HBCDD, and perfluorooctane  
95 sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorobutane sulfonate (PFBS), perfluorohexane sulfonate  
96 (PFHxS), perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), perfluoro-  
97 1-octanesulfonamide (FOSA), N-methylperfluoro-1-octanesulfonamide (MeFOSA),  
98 N-ethylperfluoro-1-octanesulfonamide (EtFOSA), 2-(N-methylperfluoro-1-  
99 octanesulfonamido)-ethanol (MeFOSE), and 2-(N-ethylperfluoro-1-  
100 octanesulfonamido)-ethanol (EtFOSE).

101

102 *Sample Extraction and Purification* - For BFRs, 500 mL aliquots of each sample were  
103 subjected to gravity filtration through pre-cleaned polyurethane foam (PUF) plugs and  
104 a glass fibre filter (GFF) using similar methods to those reported previously (Yang et  
105 al. 2014). Following this filtration, the PUF disks and GFFs for each aliquot were  
106 allowed to dry under a fume hood. PUFs and filters were loaded into a 66 mL extraction  
107 cell and spiked with known masses of internal standards (BDE-77, BDE-128,  $^{13}\text{C}_{12}$ -  
108 BDE-209,  $^{13}\text{C}_{12}$ - $\alpha$ -HBCDD,  $^{13}\text{C}_{12}$ - $\beta$ -HBCDD and  $^{13}\text{C}_{12}$ - $\gamma$ -HBCDD (Wellington

109 Laboratories)). Samples were then subjected to pressurised liquid extraction on an ASE  
110 350 (Dionex) using hexane:acetone (1:1, v/v ratio) with a rinse volume of 40 %; at a  
111 temperature of 90 °C heated over 5 min; and purged over 90 sec. Extracts were  
112 concentrated under a gentle stream of nitrogen to ca. 0.5 mL in hexane and loaded onto  
113 an ENVI-florisil (3 mL/500 mg, Sigma Aldrich) SPE cartridge. Fraction 1 was eluted  
114 with 8 mL hexane. Fraction 2 was eluted with 10 mL acetone. Fraction 1 was further  
115 cleaned up by concentrating to 1 mL and washing with 1 mL >95% concentrated  
116 sulfuric acid. Fraction 2 was concentrated to 1 mL and transferred onto an ENVI-carb  
117 (3 mL/250 mg, Sigma Aldrich) SPE cartridge. Target compounds were eluted 20 mL  
118 acetone. Eluents were concentrated to 200 µL in toluene and transferred to autosampler  
119 vials. Both fractions were recombined, concentrated to 200 µL in toluene containing  
120 known quantities of PCB-129 (Greyhound Chromatography) and d<sub>18</sub>-γ-HBCDD  
121 (Wellington Laboratories) as recovery determination standards.

122

123 For PFASs, 50 mL aliquots were loaded onto Oasis WAX cartridges (6 mL/150 mg,  
124 Waters) at 1 drop/second. Samples were spiked with known quantities of internal  
125 standards (M8PFOS, M8PFOA, M8FOSA, MPFHxS, MPFNA, d-N-MeFOSA, d-N-  
126 EtFOSA (Wellington Laboratories)). The cartridges were dried under vacuum for 30  
127 minutes, and eluted with 4 mL methanol, followed by 5 mL methanol (0.1% NH<sub>4</sub>OH).  
128 Eluents were concentrated at 35 °C under a gentle stream of nitrogen to ca. 0.5 mL and  
129 loaded onto an ENVI-carb (3 mL/250 mg, Sigma Aldrich) SPE cartridge. PFAS were  
130 eluted with 2 mL methanol (0.1% NH<sub>4</sub>OH) and concentrated to 200 µL containing 10  
131 ng of MPFOS (Wellington Laboratories) and transferred to inserted LC vials.

132

133 *Instrumental Analysis*

134 PBDEs (BDEs -28, -47, -99, -100, -153, -154, -183 and -209) were analysed on a  
135 Thermo TRACE 1310 GC coupled to a Thermo ISQ MS as described in Abdallah et al.  
136 2017). HBCDDs ( $\alpha$ -,  $\beta$ - and  $\gamma$ -) were analysed on an LC-MS/MS system composed of  
137 a Shimadzu LC-20AB Prominence liquid chromatograph coupled to a ABS Sciex API  
138 2000 triple quadrupole mass spectrometer operated in negative ion mode. Full details  
139 are provided elsewhere (Abdallah et al. 2008)

140

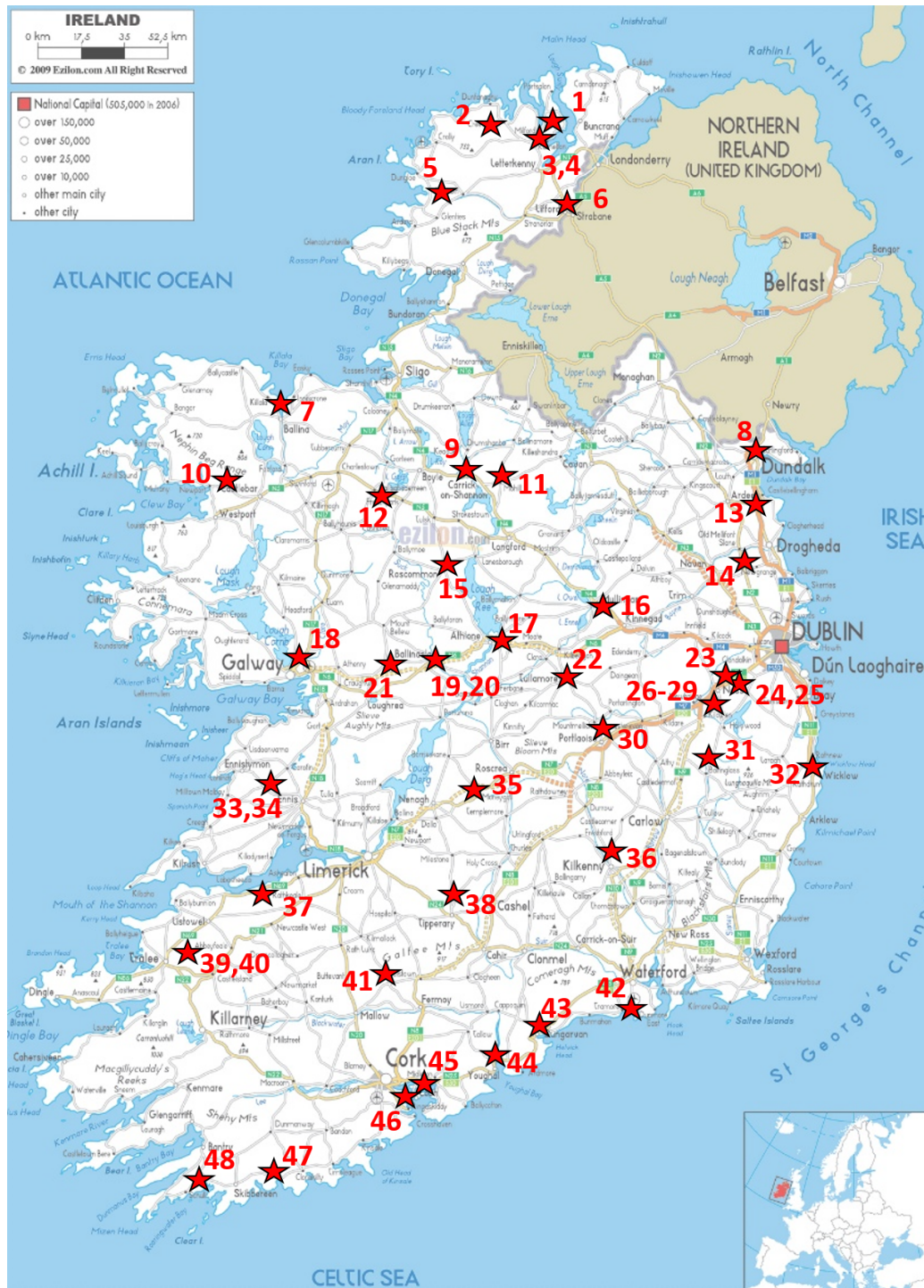
141 PFASs (PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFBS, FOSA, EtFOSA, MeFOSA, EtFOSE,  
142 MeFOSE) were analysed on a Sciex Exion HPLC coupled to a Sciex 5600+ triple TOF  
143 MS. Ten microliters of extract was injected onto a Raptor C18 column (1.8  $\mu$ m particle  
144 size, 50 mm length, 2.1 mm internal diameter, Restek). Full details of the method  
145 including acquisition parameters and HPLC conditions are provided in the supporting  
146 information.

#### 147 *Quality Control*

148 All samples were processed using procedures that have been previously validated  
149 (Harrad et al., 2010, Gallen et al. 2016). For ongoing accuracy of analysis of BFRs an  
150 aliquot of SRM-2585 (NIST) was analysed with every batch of samples (n=4). For  
151 PFAS, a MilliQ sample spiked with target compounds was also analysed with each  
152 batch of samples (n=4). All target analytes were found to be within 80-120 % of their  
153 certified or spiked values, with less than 15% relative standard deviation. Further  
154 information can be found in the Supporting Information. Four field blanks comprising  
155 distilled deionised water sampled from the same polystyrene leachate collection bottles  
156 were analysed in identical fashion to leachate samples. Concentrations of most target  
157 compounds were below detection limits in all blanks. Low concentrations of PFOA,  
158 PFHxS, PFNA, and PFBS were detected in 2, 1, 3, and 1 blanks at average



159 concentrations of 1.9, 1.0, 0.6, and 1.4 ng L<sup>-1</sup> respectively. In the majority of cases  
160 blank concentrations were less than 5% of the sample concentrations, and were  
161 therefore not corrected. In a small number of samples for PFNA (2 out of 48) and PFBS  
162 (2 out of 48), the blank concentrations were between 15-20% of the sample  
163 concentration. In these cases, the blank concentration from that particular batch of  
164 samples was subtracted from the measured concentration. Therefore, method limits of  
165 quantification were estimated based on a signal to noise (S/N) ratio of 10:1.



166

167 **Figure 1: Locations of landfills from which samples of leachate were taken in this**  
 168 **Study (Map sourced and adapted from [https://www.ezilon.com/maps/europe/ireland-](https://www.ezilon.com/maps/europe/ireland-road-maps.html)**  
 169 **[road-maps.html](https://www.ezilon.com/maps/europe/ireland-road-maps.html))**

## 170 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 171 *Concentrations of PBDEs, HBCDDs, and PFASs in Landfill Leachate from the* 172 *Republic of Ireland*

173 Table 1 summarises concentrations of selected PBDEs,  $\Sigma$ HBCDDs, and PFASs  
174 detected in leachate from Irish landfill in our study, and those from other studies. Data  
175 were acquired for PFASs, PBDEs, and HBCDDs in 48, 46, and 43 samples respectively  
176 – the numbers of samples analysed for the different compound groups varies slightly  
177 because of sample losses at different points of the extraction and purification process.  
178 A full list of concentrations of all target PBDEs, HBCDDs, and PFASs in each  
179 individual sample is provided in supporting information (Tables S1 and S2).

180 As evidenced by the wide range of concentrations detected, our data reveal substantial  
181 inter-landfill variation in concentrations of our target BFRs and PFASs detected in  
182 leachate from Irish landfills.

183 Concentrations detected in this study of leachate from Irish landfills are at the low end  
184 of the range of those reported elsewhere in the world for PBDEs and are within the  
185 range of those reported previously for PFASs (Table 1). To our knowledge, our study  
186 is only the fourth report of HBCDD in landfill leachate worldwide and the first in  
187 Europe. Concentrations in our study are similar to those reported previously in  
188 Australia (Gallen et al, 2016), Japan (Suzuki and Hasegawa, 2006), and South Africa  
189 (Olunkunle and Okonkwo, 2015).

190

### 191 **Predominant BFRs and PFASs in Irish Landfill Leachate**

192 Likely due to their greater aqueous solubility, concentrations of PFASs generally  
193 exceed those of PBDEs and HBCDD, with the median  $\Sigma$ PFAS: $\Sigma$ BFR ratio being 300  
194 (in samples where all compounds were measured). The predominant PBDEs in our  
195 samples were as follows: BDE-209 (arithmetic mean expressed as a percentage of the  
196 arithmetic mean of  $\Sigma$ PBDEs = 51 %), BDE-47 (22 %  $\Sigma$ PBDEs), and BDE-99 (14 %  
197  $\Sigma$ PBDEs).

198 With respect to PFASs, the predominant compounds were: PFBS (arithmetic mean =  
199 1100 ng L<sup>-1</sup>) > PFOA (790 ng L<sup>-1</sup>) > PFOS (270 ng L<sup>-1</sup>) > PFHxS (200 ng L<sup>-1</sup>) > PFNA  
200 (30 ng L<sup>-1</sup>). Other target PFASs i.e. FOSA, MeFOSA, EtFOSA, MeFOSE, and EtFOSE  
201 were detected rarely if at all.

202 For HBCDDs, while the arithmetic mean concentrations of  $\alpha$ - and  $\gamma$ -HBCDD were  
203 similar (1.9 and 2.0 ng/L),  $\gamma$ -HBCDD was detected more frequently (detection  
204 frequency of 58% c.f. 23% for  $\alpha$ -HBCDD). The generally higher abundance of the  $\gamma$ -  
205 diastereomer likely reflects the presence in our studied landfills of HBCDD-treated  
206 waste such as expanded polystyrene (EPS) building insulation foam, as the  $\gamma$ -  
207 diastereomer predominates ( $\alpha$ : $\gamma$  ratio <0.14) in the commercial HBCDD formulation  
208 used to flame retard such foam (Peled et al, 1995), and also predominates in Irish  
209 polystyrene packaging and building insulation foam (Abdallah et al, 2018).

210

## 211 **Factors influencing concentrations of PBDEs, HBCDD, and PFASs in landfill** 212 **leachate.**

### 213 *The presence or absence of a landfill liner*

214 To prevent landfill leachate contaminating the surrounding environment including  
215 groundwater; modern landfills are constructed with an impervious HDPE liner. This  
216 contrasts with older landfills that are unlined. Moreover, some landfills operational

217 before the use of such liners continued operations but were required to retrospectively  
218 fit new waste cells with HDPE liners; such landfills are categorised here as “mixed”.  
219 While other factors, such as the mass of BFRs and PFASs present in a landfill, will  
220 exert an important influence on concentrations of these contaminants in leachate; we  
221 hypothesised that concentrations of BFRs and PFASs in leachate from lined landfills  
222 would exceed those in leachate from unlined landfills – as the liners are designed to  
223 retain such contaminants within the landfill, and prevent their leaching into the  
224 environment. To test this hypothesis, we compared log-transformed concentrations of  
225 individual contaminants in unlined landfills with those in lined landfills using a t-test.  
226 This (see Table 2) revealed concentrations of the following contaminants to be  
227 significantly higher ( $p < 0.05$ ) in leachate from lined than unlined landfills: PFOA,  
228 PFNA, PFBS, BDE-47, BDE-100, BDE-153, BDE-183, and  $\Sigma$ PBDEs.  
229 While we hypothesised that concentrations in “mixed” landfills would be intermediate  
230 to those in their lined and unlined counterparts; the data on the lined or unlined status  
231 of our landfills was only considered fully reliable for those landfills categorised here as  
232 either lined ( $n=15$ ) or unlined ( $n=17$ ). As we could not definitively categorise the  
233 remaining 16 landfills, we did not include these in our statistical evaluation of the  
234 influence of landfill lining. However, as Table 2 shows, for many contaminants  
235 (specifically: PFOA, PFHxS, PFNA, PFBS, and BDE-47) our data showed leachate  
236 from these “mixed” landfills to contain median concentrations that were lower than in  
237 leachate from lined and greater than those in leachate from unlined landfills.

238

#### 239 *Period during which landfill was operational*

240 We examined possible linear correlations between log-transformed concentrations of  
241 PFASs and BFRs in landfill leachate and the year the landfill opened and closed

242 (assumed as 2019 for landfills still open), as well as the number of years for which the  
243 landfill was open. There were no significant correlations between concentrations and  
244 the length of time the landfill was open. However, the year of landfill closure displayed  
245 a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) positive linear correlation with concentrations in leachate of:  
246 PFOA ( $R = 0.38$ ), PFNA ( $R = 0.57$ ), PFBS ( $R = 0.56$ ), BDE-47 ( $R = 0.38$ ), BDE-100  
247 ( $R = 0.33$ ), BDE-99 ( $R = 0.33$ ), BDE-153 ( $R = 0.40$ ), and BDE-183 ( $R = 0.36$ ). These  
248 correlations are likely to be due to the increase in use of these chemicals between 1980-  
249 2000 (Gallen et al. 2016, Gallen et al. 2017). Given that products containing these  
250 chemicals, would have a lifetime in-use of anywhere from 5-20 years, it is likely that  
251 those landfills closing later are likely to receive greater quantities of waste containing  
252 these particular chemicals. Similar significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) positive linear correlations were  
253 also detected between leachate concentrations and the year of landfill opening for:  
254 PFNA ( $R = 0.30$ ) and PFBS ( $R = 0.31$ ). PFNA and PFBS have mostly been used as  
255 replacements for PFOA and PFOS respectively since their restrictions, meaning that  
256 they have been used more intensively in recent years (Loughran & Managahas, 2019).  
257 This potentially explains why they also display positive correlations with landfills that  
258 have opened more recently as such landfills are likely to have received greater  
259 quantities of waste containing PFNA and PFBS. Our finding that newer leachate from  
260 newer landfills contains higher concentrations of some PFASs and BFRs, is consistent  
261 with that of Gallen et al (2017), who reported leachate from operating landfills in  
262 Australia to contain higher concentrations of PFASs than leachate from closed landfills.

263

#### 264 *Leachate pH and Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)*

265 While we did not measure parameters other than BFR and PFAS concentrations in  
266 leachate in this study, we were able to access from an on-line repository managed by

267 the Environmental Protection Agency of Ireland (EPA), data obtained during routine  
268 leachate monitoring by the landfill operators of both pH and COD (EPA, 2019). A  
269 minimum of one measurement per landfill was obtained and where more than one  
270 measurement was available, the average value was used. In most instances these  
271 measurements were made during 2018, but in a few cases they were taken earlier than  
272 this, with the exact dates provided in supporting information (Table S3). Using these  
273 data, we examined linear correlations between log-transformed concentrations of  
274 individual BFRs and PFASs and both pH and COD.

275 Gallen et al (2017) reported that log-transformed concentrations of PFASs (including  
276 PFOA, PFNA, PFOS, and PFHxS) in Australian landfill leachate were associated with  
277 increased pH. Similar analysis of our data, revealed a significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) positive  
278 linear relationship between leachate pH and log-transformed concentrations of PFOA  
279 ( $R = 0.38$ ) and PFNA ( $R = 0.40$ ), but no such correlations with any of our target BFRs.  
280 The reason why some PFASs have a positive linear relationship with pH but not  
281 PBDEs, is likely a result of repulsive electrostatic interactions with the anionic  
282 functional group head on some PFASs (Gallen et al, 2017), which is absent for PBDEs  
283 and HBCDDs. Gallen et al (2017) also reported that higher concentrations of PFASs in  
284 leachate were associated with higher concentrations of total organic carbon. In our  
285 study, significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) positive linear correlations were detected between COD and  
286 concentrations of the following compounds: PFNA ( $R = 0.33$ ), PFBS ( $R = 0.37$ ), BDE-  
287 47 ( $R = 0.53$ ), BDE-99 ( $R = 0.51$ ), BDE-100 ( $R = 0.52$ ), BDE-153 ( $R = 0.46$ ), BDE-154  
288 ( $R = 0.37$ ) and  $\Sigma$ PBDEs ( $R = 0.44$ ). As discussed below, COD is significantly higher in  
289 leachate from newer, lined landfills, which as discussed earlier also display  
290 significantly elevated concentrations of many of our target contaminants. It is  
291 noticeable that COD does not correlate with leachate concentrations of the higher

292 molecular weight BDEs -183, and -209. This may be due to their lower water solubility  
293 (World Health Organization & International Programme on Chemical Safety, 1994;  
294 Tittlemeier et al. 2002), which means their migration to leachate may occur to a greater  
295 extent via physical abrasion of polymer/fabric particles and fibres - which has been  
296 shown to occur under laboratory conditions for HBCDD-containing insulation foam  
297 (Stubbings and Harrad, 2019) and - which would not be related to the organic matter  
298 content of the leachate and thus its COD concentration. For the PFASs, association with  
299 dissolved organic matter is less likely than for BFRs, and thus the correlation between  
300 COD and PFBS may suggest more recent use of PFBS than the other PFASs targeted  
301 here (Loughran & Managahas, 2019). This is because as discussed below, COD is  
302 significantly higher in leachate from newer, lined landfills, which also display  
303 significantly elevated concentrations of PFBS. Moreover, close inspection of our data  
304 for PFBS, shows the correlation is driven largely by a single sample in which PFBS  
305 was detected at  $17,000 \text{ ng L}^{-1}$ , ~15 times the arithmetic mean for all samples. Removal  
306 of this sample as an outlier, renders the correlation insignificant ( $R=0.28$ ;  $p>0.05$ ).

307

## 308 **CONCLUSIONS**

309 Our data represent an important contribution to the international database on the  
310 presence of PFASs and BFRs in landfill leachate. We reveal that leachate from newer  
311 landfills fitted with impervious liners contain significantly higher concentrations of  
312 some PFASs and BFRs. Consistent with previous observations for landfill leachate  
313 from the Republic of Ireland (Brennan et al, 2016), t-test comparison of COD in lined  
314 and unlined landfills showed COD to be significantly greater in leachate from newer,  
315 lined landfills. Given COD was significantly positively correlated with log-transformed



316 leachate concentrations of 6 of our target contaminants, it appears that such higher  
317 concentrations of COD in lined landfill leachate (presumably due to less dilution than  
318 in unlined landfills), provides a plausible at least partial explanation for the higher  
319 concentrations of some PBDEs and PFASs in leachate from newer, lined landfills.  
320 Finally, it is important to note that while the higher contaminant levels on leachate from  
321 lined landfills presents a challenge in treatment and disposal of the leachate (note that  
322 in Ireland all lined and mixed landfills are required to send their leachate off-site for  
323 treatment), our data also raises concern about the environmental fate of PFASs and  
324 BFRs present in leachate from those unlined landfills that do not send their leachate for  
325 treatment.

326

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457 **Table 1: Summary of Concentrations (ng L<sup>-1</sup>) of Selected BFRs and PFAS in Landfill Leachate from Ireland and Comparison with**  
 458 **Arithmetic Mean Concentrations in Selected Other Studies**

	<b>BDE-47</b>	<b>BDE-99</b>	<b>BDE-154</b>	<b>BDE-153</b>	<b>BDE-183</b>	<b>BDE-209</b>	<b>ΣBDEs</b>	<b>α-HBCDD</b>	<b>γ-HBCDD</b>	<b>ΣHBCDD</b>	<b>PFOA</b>	<b>PFOS</b>	<b>PFNA</b>	<b>PFBS</b>	<b>FOSA</b>	<b>PFHxS</b>
<b>Minimum (This Study)</b>	<0.1	<0.3	<0.4	<0.4	<0.4	<1.0	<1.0	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	9.0	<0.1	0.61	<0.1	<0.2	<0.1
<b>Median (This Study)</b>	<0.1	<0.3	<0.4	<0.4	<0.4	3.4	6.5	<0.2	0.69	1.0	230	83	7.6	79	<0.2	34
<b>Arithmetic Mean (This Study)</b>	9.6	6.0	0.93	1.3	0.89	22	43	1.9	2.0	4.1	790	270	30	1100	2.3	200
<b>Maximum (This Study)</b>	140	58	14	22	11	220	400	37	16	43	11000	7400	250	17000	65	2600
<b>Detection Frequency (%)<sup>a</sup></b>	57	20	24	33	37	59	85	23	58	65	100	94	100	85	23	79
<b>Australia (Gallen at al, 2016)</b>	43	54	9.1	15	12	18	170	0.7	0.6	1.8	450	310	17	250	-	380
<b>Japan (Suzuki and</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<2	4.2	6.2	-	-	-	-	-	-

<b>Hasegawa, 2006)</b>																
<b>South Africa (Olokunle and Okonkwo, 2015)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.024	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>South Africa (Daso et al, 2013)</b>	230	220	62	880	480	950	2600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Canada (Li et al, 2012)</b>	16	33	-	-	3	85	170	-	-	-	440	280	-	-	8.0	-
<b>USA (Huset et al, 2011)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	660	110	23	570	1.7	340
<b>Germany (Busch et al, 2010)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	150	31	7.3	220	2.8	22
<b>China (Yan et al, 2015)</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	49000	2700	150	15000	-	130

459 <sup>a</sup>only those BFRs/PFAS with detection frequency  $\geq 20\%$  shown

460 <sup>b</sup>for the purposes of calculating descriptive statistics, “not detects” replaced by  $df \times LOD$ , where  $df$  = the fractional detection frequency and  $LOD$

461 = the detection limit

462



463 **Table 2: Comparison of Concentrations (ng L<sup>-1</sup>) of Selected BFRs and PFAS in Leachate from Lined, Unlined, and “Mixed” Irish Landfills**

Landfill Type		BDE -47	BDE -99	BDE -154	BDE -153	BDE -183	BDE -209	ΣBDEs	α-HBCD	γ-HBCD	ΣHBCD	PFOA	PFO S	PFNA	PFBS	FOSA	PFHxS
Unlined (PBDE n=17, HBCD n=16, PFAS n=18)	Median	<0.1	<0.3	<0.4	<0.4	<0.4	<1.0	2.2	<0.2	0.21	0.97	92	84	3.4	11	<0.2	12
	Arithmetic Mean	1.2	1.1	0.97	0.19	0.22	22	28	0.48	2.1	2.7	860	97	6.7	20	0.35	32
	Standard Deviation	3.0	2.7	3.4	0.13	0.14	57	66	1.0	4.2	4.3	2700	93	8.3	30	0.86	39
Mixed (PBDE n=15, HBCD n=12, PFAS n=15)	Median	<0.1	<0.3	<0.4	<0.4	<0.4	15	22	<0.2	<0.2	<0.2	180	44	7.1	110	<0.2	37
	Arithmetic Mean	0.03	2.0	0.35	0.6	0.42	20	25	1.4	0.89	2.5	380	510	27	740	1.6	270
	Standard Deviation	0.06	4.7	0.52	0.8	0.52	26	27	3.4	1.8	6.2	400	1800	43	1800	3.6	690
Lined (PBDE n=14,	Median	2.5	<0.3	<0.4	<0.4	0.4	3.9	26	<0.2	1.3	1.9	590	140	26	500	<0.2	89
	Arithmetic Mean	28	16	1.5	3.2	2.2	21	80	1.6	2.2	4.0	1200	200	60	2600	5.4	330

<b>HBCD D n= 14, PFAS n=15)</b>	<b>Standard Deviation</b>	46	23	3.0	6.1	3.7	34	120	3.7	2.9	6.6	1400	270	69	4500	17	610
	<b>P value*</b>	0.015	0.092	0.383	0.03	0.013	0.343	0.05	0.667	0.182	0.231	0.004	0.502	<0.00 1	<0.00 1	0.179	0.19

464 \*p value for t-test comparison of concentrations in leachate from unlined and lined landfills