



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*
*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

Annual Report 2015

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Mission and Mandate

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht oversees and has policy responsibility for the conservation, preservation, protection, development and presentation of Ireland's rich heritage, arts and culture. The Department is also engaged in the promotion of the Irish language, the development of the Gaeltacht and the sustainable development of island communities.

The key functions under its remit include:

- Arts, Culture, Film and Music, as well as oversight of Ireland's National Cultural Institutions;
- Ireland's Built and Natural Heritage;
- The Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands; and
- North/South Co-operation insofar as it relates to Waterways Ireland, An Foras Teanga and the wider functions of the Department.

In addition to their immense inherent value, our language, culture and heritage are a valuable amenity for business and tourism and a means of supporting economic development and presenting Ireland as an attractive destination for sustainable inward investment. Since its establishment in 2011, the Department has sought to further cultivate these assets with a view to developing and maintaining them for future generations while also building on their potential to deliver sustainable growth and employment in the wider economy.

This work continued apace in 2015. The Department has worked with all stakeholders and relevant parties, together with our public sector partners, to deliver on these objectives through the development and implementation of first class policies and programmes to preserve, protect and highlight Ireland's unique cultural, linguistic and heritage legacy.

Focal ón Aire

I am delighted to present the Annual Report of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht for 2015. The year saw the beginning of a new cycle for the Department, on foot of its revised Statement of Strategy 2015-2017. During the year, we sought to consolidate and build upon the success achieved in our first three years as a Department.

I am pleased to report that significant progress was once again delivered across our wide range of responsibilities throughout 2015.

The country's National Cultural Institutions achieved a 13% increase in visitor numbers in 2015. This followed a 10% increase in 2014 and highlights, not just the quality of the collections available at the various locations of the institutions, but also the resurgence of our tourism market.

In 2015, the Department also continued to build on its strong track record of investment in the arts with the announcement of a new €9m investment scheme for arts and culture centres under the Government's Capital Investment Framework 2016-2021. In addition, significant capital projects were progressed at the National Gallery of Ireland and the National Concert Hall. Preparations for the commencement of work on a major upgrade of the National Archives of Ireland were continued, while a €10m investment for the National Library of Ireland was announced. The completion of these projects will make a very valuable contribution to the future of these National Cultural Institutions. Significant work was also advanced on *Culture 2025*, our first ever national cultural policy, including widespread consultation and engagement across the cultural sectors.

2015 was a very significant year for film in Ireland with the release of a number of major Irish films, including *Brooklyn* and *Room*, which went on to achieve international recognition in terms of both commercial success and awards nominations. Both of these films were based on the work of Irish novelists and showcased the abilities of the Irish film industry and the capacity of our storytellers and artists to reach international audiences. The continuing depth of talent in the country is exemplified by the achievement of Benjamin Cleary, whose short film *Stutterer*, released in 2015, went on to secure not only a nomination for the Academy Awards but to win the Oscar for Best Short Film. Irish heritage also shone with the appearance of Sceilg Mhichíl in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, which opened in December 2015, bringing the rugged beauty of Ireland's west coast to world-wide audiences.

The high level of recognition for Irish artists and performers at international awards ceremonies continued in 2015. The successes at the Edinburgh Festivals in particular once again highlighted Ireland's ability to produce artists who achieve success in the international arena in numbers which far outweigh our size as a nation.

A number of significant developments took place in 2015 in relation to our stewardship of the nation's built and natural heritage, with the completion of the refurbishment of Killarney House, publication of the National Landscape Strategy, the completion of the review of section 40 of the Wildlife Acts, advancement of the Department's peatlands strategy and the launch of the KerryLIFE freshwater pearl mussel project. The publication of the *Action Plan for the Sustainable Future of the Irish Historic House in Private Ownership* was also a significant development in charting a sustainable way forward for some of our most historically significant private houses. The Department's archaeological work garnered international headlines in 2015 with the recovery of magnificent artefacts from the wreck of the *La Juliana*, a vessel from the Spanish Armada which sank over 400 years ago off Streedagh, Co. Sligo. Artefacts from the recovery operation are now lodged with the National Museum of Ireland.

The Department's implementation of the language planning process under the Gaeltacht Act 2012 continued in 2015, with notices issued in respect of a further nine Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas. In this regard, significant funding was invested by the Department in the implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language*. Support for language-centred community facilities and for the promotion of the Irish language, both inside and outside the Gaeltacht, was also maintained.

The Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme was launched in March, with the first State ceremony taking place on 1 August with a moving and evocative commemoration of the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa and the graveside oration of Padraig Pearse at Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin. The ceremony set the scene for a major year of solemn remembrance and commemoration to mark the birth of our sovereign nation.

I was pleased to visit the Somme in July and to participate in events in France and at home to remember the many Irish men and women involved in the Great War. The Department was also involved in events to mark the centenary of the Gallipoli Campaign in 2015 as part of the Decade of Centenaries.

In September 2015, the annual commemoration of the Great Famine took place in Newry, Co. Down, marking the first time that the commemoration was held in Northern Ireland. I was delighted, as an Ulsterwoman, that the event was so successful, with those attending witnessing a solemn and inclusive commemoration of all those lost through death and emigration, who hailed from communities across Ulster and the entire island of Ireland.

Finally, I would like to pass on my thanks to all the staff of the Department for their hard work and kind assistance throughout the year. Their commitment, knowledge and advice have been an invaluable support to me and to my colleagues, Ministers of State Joe McHugh and Aodhán Ó Ríordáin, in the discharge of our functions.

Heather Humphreys, T.D.,
Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Focal ón Ard-Rúnaí

In 2015, the Department embarked on a full review of our Statement of Strategy, re-examining our goals and strategies to meet the challenges facing us in the months and years ahead. The examination of our strategic environment and the carrying out of the necessary realignments of priorities and focus is invariably demanding, particularly when it takes place during a period of constrained resources and in the midst of the wider changes entailed by the Public Service Reform and Civil Service Renewal programmes.

While, the rigour imposed by such a fundamental re-appraisal of our beliefs, assumptions, planning, actions and procedures assisted us greatly in marshalling our resources for the 2016 centenary year 2015 itself proved to be a very successful year for the Department and its staff as we began to reap the benefits of the hard work and sacrifices of the last number of years. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks to our staff for their invaluable contributions over the last number of years in continuing to meet our varied responsibilities in the most challenging circumstances.

The commemoration of the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa at Glasnevin Cemetery in August marked the beginning of the largest commemorative programme in the history of the State. The planning and preparation for this commemoration and the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme saw our own staff, and colleagues in other Government Departments and State agencies, together with other interested parties, including representatives of the 2016 Relatives, come together to develop an inclusive series of events to remember this epochal year in the history of our country.

Significant progress was made in 2015 on a number of other long-term projects which will form the basis of a permanent legacy for the work undertaken by the Department and its partners. Capital projects were advanced which will add to the nation's cultural and heritage portfolio, with works underway at the seven 'Permanent Reminders' of the 2016 commemoration, including the GPO, Kilmainham Courthouse, the Military Archives, the Kevin Barry Rooms at the National Concert Hall, Richmond Barracks, *Teach an Phiarsaigh* in Ros Muc and the Tenement Museum.

Throughout 2015 we continued to work with our partners in the bodies, agencies and National Cultural Institutions funded from the Department's Vote and I thank them for their collaboration in the pursuit of our shared goals. I also wish to thank our colleagues in the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland and look forward to continuing our partnership in relation to the work of Waterways Ireland and An Foras Teanga.

While the centenary year of 2016 will be a particularly busy and challenging time for the Department, my colleagues and I look forward to working to make a valuable contribution to the centenary celebration and to the continuing promotion and conservation of our unique culture, heritage and language.

Seosamh Ó hÁghmaill
Ard-Rúnaí

Goals and Strategies

The Department is involved in a wide range of activities and service provision. For the purposes of this Annual Report, the Department's work has been grouped into four main sectors, as set out below.

The four sectors, together with the goals identified for each, are:

Arts, Culture, Music and Film

Goal 1: To promote and develop Ireland's artistic and creative strengths at home and abroad and to maximise their societal, economic and reputational value for the country.

Built and Natural Heritage

Goal 2: To conserve and manage our unique heritage for the benefit of present and future generations, as a support to economic renewal and sustainable employment and in compliance with legal obligations.

The Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands

Goal 3: To support the Irish language, to strengthen its use as the principal community language of the Gaeltacht and to assist the sustainable development of island communities.

North/South Co-operation

Goal 4: To promote North South co-operation, particularly in the context of An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland.

Progress in 2015 – Goal 1: Arts, Culture, Film and Music

To promote and develop Ireland's artistic and creative strengths at home and abroad and to maximise their societal, economic and reputational value for the country.

Strategy 1:

The development of a National Cultural Policy – '*Culture 2025*' - and a process to support the delivery of the policy in conjunction with relevant stakeholders.

Culture 2025 will be Ireland's first National Cultural Policy, setting out high-level aims for the next decade. The Department began the development of the policy with the establishment of an Expert Group in May 2015 and shortly thereafter produced a discussion document on the proposed goals and priorities of the new policy.

In order to facilitate the development of the policy, the Department held a series of local workshops to enable people across the country to have their views heard. Meetings took place in Cavan, Cork, Galway, Limerick, Kilkenny and Dublin. Over 600 people attended the consultation events and 214 written submissions were received before the closing date of 31st October 2015. *Culture 2025* will be submitted to Government for approval before publication.

Strategy 2:

The conservation and enhancement of national collections and exhibition programmes and provision of support for regional and local initiatives in collaboration with the National Cultural Institutions and other stakeholders.

The National Cultural Institutions continue to play a central role in relation to the development of and access to Irish arts and culture. During 2015 there was a 13% increase in visitor numbers, in excess of 4.5 million visitors, to institutions in receipt of funding from the Department.

The National Museum of Ireland once again hosted increased visitor numbers in 2015 with just over 1.2 million visitors across its four sites. The Museum's Collins Barracks site hosted *PALS – THE IRISH AT GALLIPOLI*, a joint initiative with ANU Productions, supported by the Department in association with the National Archives of Ireland and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. This dramatisation presented the stories of the 7th Battalion of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers during World War I. The National Museum also opened a retrospective on one of Ireland's leading fashion designers, Ib Jorgensen, whilst the permanent exhibitions at the Natural History Museum and *The Treasury* in Kildare Street continued to attract significant visitor numbers.

Culture Night 2015 celebrated its 10th year in September 2015 and was the most extensive staged in the history of the event. 37 locations across the island of Ireland participated in the annual all-island public event that celebrates culture, creativity and the arts, with additional events also held in New York, Paris and Leeds to mark the occasion.

The Department also supported the successful *Yeats 2015* initiative, a year-long national and international celebration of the life and works of Nobel Prize winning poet, William Butler Yeats. The Department allocated €500,000 towards the programme of events, which was administered by the Western Development Commission. Additional funding was also secured through philanthropic, sponsorship and membership programmes.

2015 was year four in a five year development plan in relation to the International Celebration of Irish Culture initiative, which takes place in conjunction with the St Patrick's Day Festival. The theme for the 2015 event was '*Celebrate Now*'. The celebration took place over an extended 4 day period and featured a series of special free headline events specifically programmed for the festival, in addition to a citywide Cultural Events Programme profiling the range of rich cultural events taking place throughout the city during the St. Patrick's Day Festival.

In 2015, 17 projects across the country were funded and successfully completed under the Local and Regional Museums Scheme. These included a Lusitania project in Kinsale Museum, the installation of a simulator cockpit with 2 flight stations in Foynes Flying Boat Museum, an exhibition celebrating Tipperary's sporting and entertainment heroes, and a number of commemorative events in museums across the country.

The Indexes to the Civil Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths were re-launched on the website www.irishgenealogy.ie in April 2015. The historic Indexes cover the Civil Records of Birth Records over 100 years old, the Indexes to Marriages over 75 years old and the Indexes of Death Records over 50 years old. The Indexes to the Civil Records of Irish Births, Deaths and Marriages date from 1864, with non-Roman Catholic Marriages recorded from 1845. As well as offering online access to the Indexes to the Civil Records, the website www.irishgenealogy.ie also acts as a portal to a large number of other important data sets. Work also commenced in 2015 to facilitate the addition of the historic Civil Record Images to the existing Civil Record Index data available on the site. This work is due for completion in 2016.

Strategy 3:

The continued development of the ' <i>Arts in Education</i> ' initiative.

The *Arts in Education* charter, developed by the Department and the Department of Education and Skills, continued to be successfully delivered in 2015. The Charter plays a pivotal role in promoting both Arts Education and Arts in Education through a collaborative approach across Government Departments, education agencies and arts organisations.

The Arts in Education web portal, www.artsineducation.ie, which is supported by both Departments, will provide an unprecedented opportunity for young people and all other interested groups to engage productively with the arts in education in Ireland. Both Departments are continuing to engage with stakeholders in relation to the ongoing implementation of the Charter.

Strategy 4:

The continued development of Ireland's arts and cultural infrastructure, as resources allow.
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In August 2015, the Minister launched the Arts and Culture Small Capital Grants Scheme, designed to support arts and culture organisations that operate as not-for-profit institutions across the country. In 2015, the scheme provided a total of €300,000 to provide funding of up to 70% for small capital projects with a value of €10,000 or less.

The Department also announced a new €9m investment scheme for arts and culture centres as part of the Government Capital Investment Framework 2016-2021. The scheme, which will run over the next three years, will enable the upgrading of the existing stock of arts and cultural centres around the country through refurbishment and enhancement of these facilities, as well as the development of a small number of key strategic projects.

In May 2015, the National Concert Hall held a special gala concert and exhibition to celebrate 150 years at Earlsfort Terrace and the anniversary of the opening of the Great Exhibition in 1865. In December 2015, the National Cultural Institutions (National Concert Hall) Act, 2015 was enacted, which provided for the establishment of the National Concert Hall as a statutory body.

Significant progress was made in 2015 on the major renovation project at the National Gallery of Ireland, which will provide for the renovation of the historic Dargan and Milltown wings. This work will be completed during 2016. The Gallery also held a number of exhibitions and continued its education programme during 2015.

As part of the Commemorations Programme, the Government agreed to provide funding of €8 million for the first phase in a capital development plan at the National Archives. The Office of Public Works appointed a design team to the project in 2015 with a view to construction commencing in 2016.

In October, an announcement was made of the development of a major international exhibition celebrating the life and work of Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney at the new Cultural and Heritage Centre in the Bank of Ireland's College Green complex. The development of this new Cultural and Heritage Centre by the Bank for use by the Department will deliver an exciting new visitor experience in the historic and cultural heart of Dublin. The Heaney exhibition, which will be developed by the National Library with the support of the Department, will be the first exhibition in the new Centre, which is expected to open in 2017.

In November 2015, the development of a major new capital investment plan for the National Library of Ireland's historic Kildare Street premises, to be delivered as a phased programme of works in partnership with the Office of Public Works, was announced. An allocation of €10 million is to be made available from the Department to fund the first phase of the redevelopment works for the refurbishment of the 1890s building. This will enable significant upgrading of the buildings to meet modern standards in respect of access health and safety visitor and reader facilities and the conditions in which the heritage collections are kept.

Strategy 5:

The development and promotion of the Irish film, TV and animation production sector.
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2015 was a very significant year for film in Ireland, with the release of a number of significant Irish films, including *Brooklyn* and *Room*, which went on to achieve international recognition in terms of both commercial success and awards nominations. Both of these films were based on the work of Irish novelists and showcased the abilities of the Irish film industry and the capacity of our storytellers and artists to reach international audiences. The continuing depth of talent in the country is exemplified by the achievement of Benjamin Cleary, whose short film *Stutterer*, released in 2015, went on to secure not only a nomination for the Academy Awards but to win the Oscar for Best Short Film.

The Irish Film Board again co-operated with the Department in facilitating the filming of scenes for the Star Wars film series at Sceilg Mhichíl. This was facilitated while ensuring the highest protection for the built and natural heritage of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The success of the seventh Star Wars movie, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, and the prominent position in the film enjoyed by

Seilg Mhichíl, further helped reinforce Ireland's world-class reputation as a film location.

The Department also participated in the Inter-Departmental Group on the Audio-Visual Sector, which was established to examine and report on recommendations to increase foreign and domestic investment in Ireland's film and TV sound stage studio infrastructure in the face of growing demand for audio-visual content across multiple platforms.

In July 2015, the Minister announced her intention to put legislation in place to change the name of the Irish Film Board to Screen Ireland, pointing out that the work of the Board extended far beyond the traditional realm of 'film' and encompasses the domestic and international TV sector, as well as the growing animation sector. The legislation providing for this was contained in the National Cultural Institutions (National Concert Hall) Act 2015.

Culture Ireland's ongoing relationship with the Irish Film Institute's international programme contributed to 91 film events in 2015, involving 150 titles from Irish feature, documentary, animation and short-form filmmakers, presented in 25 countries throughout the world with audience figures exceeding 37,000.

Strategy 6:

Supporting the international presence of Irish artists and developing new audiences globally, embedding culture in the Government's international promotion strategy.

In 2015, the Culture Ireland unit in the Department supported over 300 separate performances, concerts, exhibitions and showcases worldwide. These events reached an audience of over 3 million people across 50 countries, with a further 6.5 million viewers on television and other platforms. Culture Ireland investments in 2015 supported the equivalent of approximately 200 full-time jobs for Irish artists.

2015 was once again a successful year for Irish artists in terms of high profile international awards and critical recognition. At the Edinburgh Festival in August, Aoife Duffin won the Stage Acting Award for her performance in *A Girl is a Half-formed Thing* (The Corn Exchange), while the play itself won the Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award 2015 and The Scotsman Fringe First Award. Also at Edinburgh, *Underneath* (Fishamble) by Pat Kinevane was awarded the Scotsman Fringe First Award. The Stage Award for Ensemble Acting Excellence was bestowed on Donal O'Kelly and Sorcha Fox for *Little Thing, Big Thing*, which went on to win Origin's First Irish Festival Best Production Award In New York in September. Another highlight of 2015 was Druid Theatre Company's *DruidShakespeare: The History Plays*, adapted by Mark O'Rowe and directed by Garry Hynes, which played at the Lincoln Center Festival, New York City, in July 2015 to rave critical reviews.

Under the Culture Ireland 2015 showcase programme, Irish artists presented at over 20 key industry platforms, both in Ireland and internationally, all of which were attended by major promoters, producers, record labels and agents keen to invest in new and exciting acts. At Eurosonic in January, a total of 38 festivals were booked for Irish acts, while SOAK became the fourth Irish winner of the European Border Breaker Award.

Other highlights of the showcase programme included a very successful first visit to Folk Alliance in Kansas City, Missouri, and the showcasing of 12 Irish acts at *South by Southwest*, the world's leading music industry event, in Austin, Texas.

At home, close to 100 presenters visited Ireland to attend showcase events throughout the year,

such as Tradfest, the Dublin Dance Festival, the Information Toolbox at Tiger Dublin Fringe, and the International Theatre eXchange, the latter two joint initiatives between Culture Ireland and the Dublin Theatre Festival and Irish Theatre Institute. Investment in national showcases has resulted in Irish artists being selected to travel to Australia, the United States, Canada and Europe.

Ireland's exhibition at the Venice Art Biennale 2015, *Adventure: Capital*, created by Sean Lynch and curated by Woodrow Kernohan, and jointly supported by Culture Ireland and the Arts Council, was seen by over 400,000 visitors and has been selected for presentation in a number of US venues in 2016, as well as touring Ireland.

The St Patrick's Day festival period continued to represent an unequalled opportunity for Ireland to engage with the Diaspora, promote Irish culture abroad and generate trade, tourism and inward investment. In 2015, over 50 festival events supported by Culture Ireland took place across 22 countries from Australia to Mexico. Building on its growing popularity over the last few years, Moscow's Irish Week saw numerous performances by Irish musicians such as The Jeremiahs. The Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris attracted large crowds for performances by artists such as the Alan Kelly Gang and Kíla. Further afield, the Gloaming LLC performed at the historic Teatro de la Ciudad in Mexico City, marking not only St. Patrick's Day but also 40 years of diplomatic relations between Ireland and Mexico.

Through Culture Ireland's partnership with the Irish Literature Exchange, works by Irish authors were translated into over 30 foreign languages in 2015, including Russian and Turkish, while Irish publishers were represented at the London and Frankfurt Bookfairs. The Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris and the Irish Arts Centre in New York, also significant partners of Culture Ireland, again offered a rich programme of exhibitions, concerts, recitals, performances, films and events in 2015.

Strategy 7:

Leading the development and delivery of the Government's commemoration programme, with particular emphasis on *Ireland 2016*, a national and international initiative to mark the year of the 100th anniversary of the 1916 Rising.

Ireland 2016

The Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, which was launched on 31st March 2015, includes a rich diversity of programmes and events which will run throughout 2016 to commemorate the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The programme is an invitation to everyone on the island of Ireland and to the global Irish community to shape and engage in a diverse range of historical, cultural and artistic activities – all designed to facilitate reflection, commemoration, celebration, debate and analysis and an active imagining of our future.

An allocation of €4 million in current funding was made available in 2015 to support the development of the Ireland 2016 initiative. This allocation was used to engage with and support a wide range of activities and events by interested groups, including local community groups, as well as Irish language, educational and cultural projects. A capital allocation of €22 million was also provided to support a number of flagship commemorations projects.

The Department's 2016 Project Team facilitated an intensive consultation period during 2015, including active engagement with schools, universities, colleges, business and voluntary organisations, arts and culture institutions, historical societies, local authorities and representative groups – at home, and in our Diaspora around the world – to inform, to stimulate debate and

discussion, and to foster programme initiatives. This work included the progression of the capital programme for 'Permanent Reminders', which are being developed as part of the Historical Reflection Strand of the Programme.

A number of key milestones were achieved in 2015, including the following:

- The Minister hosted the first of the State ceremonial events of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme on 1 August 2015 to commemorate the centenary of the funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa in Glasnevin Cemetery. The commemoration took place in the presence of the President, Michael D. Higgins, and An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D. A significant number of State ceremonies will take place throughout 2016, and plans for each of these events were progressed during 2015.
- Work continued to develop a number of 'Permanent Reminders' capital projects as part of the Historical Reflection Strand of the Programme – see Strategy 8 below.
- The Global and Diaspora Programme was launched on 29th June 2015 and was very positively received at home and abroad.
- On 6th August 2015, the Arts Council announced 9 major arts projects to commemorate 1916.
- The National Cultural Institutions progressed a range of innovative exhibitions and projects with a number of these initiatives launched in 2015.
- The National Flag Initiative was launched on 14th September 2015, marking the commencement of the delivery by the Defence Forces of our National Flag and the Proclamation to over 3,300 national schools across the country. This initiative has been very well received by the schools and children involved. The majority of the flags were delivered in 2015.
- The Education Programme strand was launched on 22nd September 2015 for the primary, post-primary and third-level education sectors.
- Over 84 public consultation meetings were held with local communities in partnership with the local authorities all around the country, with 31 individual county plans launched on 8th October 2015, comprising over 1,800 events nationwide. €1m was allocated to facilitate these plans in 2015, with a further €3m to be made available during 2016 in partnership with IPB Insurance and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government.
- The Irish Language strand - *An Teanga Bheo* - was launched at the end of October 2015 by An Taoiseach.
- Annual anniversary events were held at Glasnevin Cemetery in 2015 to commemorate:
 - The Easter Rising (5 April). Wreaths were laid at the Sigerson monument and at the graves of Edward Hollywood and Peadar Kearney;
 - Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and Roger Casement (16 August); and
 - The 95th anniversary of execution of Kevin Barry (1 November).

In October 2015, Culture Ireland launched its international programme to commemorate the

centenary of 1916. Entitled 'Mise Éire/I Am Ireland', the programme includes over 120 separate projects encompassing 500 separate performances, concerts and exhibitions across the globe with a particular emphasis on the key territories of Great Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia.

Other Commemorations

Continuing the historic chronological timeline established in 2012, the Department continued to co-ordinate and support the programme of the Decade of Centenaries. In that regard, the All-Party Consultation Group on Commemorations chaired by Minister Humphreys met on five occasions, with a special briefing session in advance of the launch of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme. The Expert Advisory Group of Historians, chaired by Dr. Maurice Manning, met on six occasions. The Group continued to assist with historic assessment and analysis to ensure authentic representation of events.

World War I

World War 1, in particular the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli campaign of April 1915, was marked with a series of events in Ireland and at Gallipoli. President Higgins, accompanied by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Chief of Staff of the Defence Forces, attended a number of commemorative events in Gallipoli, including a major joint Commonwealth/Ireland wreath-laying and memorial service.

Over the weekend of the 25th-26th April, Government Ministers joined diplomatic representatives at the ANZAC Dawn Service at Grangegorman Military Cemetery, hosted by the Australian Embassy. Minister Humphreys participated in the Remembrance Service of Peace and Reconciliation held on 26th April at Christchurch Cathedral, organised by the New Zealand/Ireland Association, and later hosted a reception for guests in Dublin Castle. On 6th-8th October 2015, Minister of State Ó Ríordáin attended commemorative events with the Duke of Gloucester in Gallipoli on the invitation of the Somme Association.

In Ireland, the Department supported a number of activities related the Gallipoli campaign. These include:

- the Century Ireland "Gallipoli" website;
- the *Gallipoli 100 Conference* as part of the Hay Festival in Kells, Co Meath;
- a New Zealand/Ireland Association film exhibition, in association with the Irish Film Institute, and
- "*The Road to Gallipoli*" Hedge School at the National Library of Ireland on 14th April.

Other Decade of Centenary initiatives which the Department supported or facilitated included:

- the National Museum exhibition *Recovered voices: the stories of the Irish at War*, which dealt with the experiences of Irish soldiers in WW1;
- the production in Collins Barracks of a major immersive drama by ANU Productions *PALS- The Irish at Gallipoli*;
- a Hedge School on *Popular Culture and the Great War*, which took place at the National Library of Ireland; and
- a Royal Navy Lifeboats Institute *Hope in the Great War* exhibition, also at the National Library of Ireland.

The Department also continued its support for Remembrance Day services at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, and in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, as well as the ecumenical service of remembrance at the National War Memorial Gardens at Islandbridge hosted by the Royal British Legion.

On 6th November 2015, An Taoiseach, Minister Humphreys and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade announced a programme of events to mark the 100th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme to take place in 2016 in Ireland and abroad.

The annual National Famine Commemoration was held in Newry in September 2015. This was the first time that the commemoration had been staged in Northern Ireland and was a great success, attracting a large attendance and enjoying significant cross-community representation. The event was staged in conjunction with Newry and Mourne District Council, which worked closely with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to develop a diverse and vibrant programme of events staged in the weeks surrounding the formal commemoration. The event set out to highlight the impact of the Famine on all traditions and communities across Ireland and the programme of events devised by the Council, with the support of the local community, helped in maximising the reach of the commemoration to a wide audience.

Strategy 8:

Engaging with other relevant stakeholders to support the timely delivery of flagship capital commemorations projects.

A capital provision of €22 million was allocated to a number of flagship commemorations projects in order to create a long-term legacy for the 2016 commemoration programme. The 'Permanent Reminders' set out in the Government's Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme include:

- The development of the GPO *Witness History* visitor centre - an immersive, interactive experience in the heart of the GPO;
- The development of 14 Henrietta Street as a Tenement Museum, in conjunction with Dublin City Council;
- The restoration of specific parts of Richmond Barracks and the creation of an exhibition and interpretative space, in conjunction with Dublin City Council;
- The development of a cultural centre at Teach an Phiarsaigh, Ros Muc, to provide, inter alia, a experiential introduction to the Irish language and the local Gaeltacht culture and environment;
- The restoration of the Kevin Barry Rooms in the National Concert Hall; and
- The restoration and refurbishment of the Atheneum in Enniscorthy in order to allow it to be used as an important community amenity.

A project to secure the conservation and restoration of the National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street was also advanced.

Progress in 2015 – Goal 2: Built and Natural Heritage

To conserve and manage our unique heritage for the benefit of present and future generations, as a support to economic renewal and sustainable employment and in compliance with legal obligations.

Strategy 1:

Ensuring that Ireland has in place a suite of policies and legislation to meet modern requirements and in compliance with EU and international heritage obligations.

Natural Heritage

Peatland Management

In 2015, the Department made significant progress, in conjunction with the Peatlands Council, on addressing the issue of the protection of Ireland's raised bog special areas of conservation (SACs) within the framework of the EU Habitats Directive. This has included intense engagement with turf cutting interests, farmers, non-governmental organisations and with the European Commission.

Development of the first *National Peatlands Strategy* continued, as did work on the finalisation of the *National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Management Plan*. This is being developed in conjunction with turf cutting interests and will implement the recommendations of the *Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area (NHA) Network*. This review provides detail on future arrangements regarding turf cutting on each of the 75 current raised bog natural heritage areas. In December 2015 the first formal designations of SACs took place with the intention of designating all sites by 2018.

Also in December 2015, Minister Humphreys announced the outcome of the Department's review of section 40 of the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012. Section 40 prohibits the cutting, grubbing, burning or destruction of vegetation, with certain exemptions, from 1 March to 31 August during the nesting and breeding season for birds and wildlife. The Minister proposed measures in the Heritage Bill to allow for managed hedge cutting and burning at certain times within the existing closed period on a pilot basis.

Science and Biodiversity

In 2015, substantial progress was made on *A Threat Response Plan for the Hen Harrier* in accordance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. The plan is being prepared by an Inter-Departmental Steering Group and with a stakeholders consultative committee, which includes farming, forestry, wind-farm and environmental NGO representatives. Both groups met on four occasions in 2015.

The Hen Harrier is at risk due to a number of factors, such as the redamation of upland open habitats for agriculture, the development of wind farms and the maturing of the large-scale forests planted in upland areas. A comprehensive habitat map set for the Hen Harrier SPA Network was also published in 2015. Two key reports were produced in 2015, on the interaction between forestry and agriculture with the Hen Harrier, while, separately, work has been ongoing with the Irish Wind Energy Association and UCC to analyse the interaction between the species in Ireland and wind farms. The fourth national survey of Hen Harriers in Ireland was undertaken in 2015, largely via volunteer networks. The survey showed some decline in the national population.

In 2015, 47 new site-specific conservation objectives (SSCOs) were published in relation to Natura sites (SACs and SPAs). To date, SSCO's have been published for 121 SACs on <http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/>. The SSCO's at such sites are considered to be an important tool to deliver the requirements of Art 6.3 of the EU Habitats Directive.

Scientific input to the implementation of the *National Peatlands Strategy* included the completion of the preparation of supporting documents to designate 12 sites as SACs, the update of the *National Raised Bog Management Plan*, the preparation of supporting documents for SSCO's for 53 sites (plus 2 proposed Bord na Móna sites) and a national workshop on Raised Bog Restoration – Building Best Practice. In addition to contributing to the final phases of a Coillte LIFE Project and carrying out a pilot survey of turbidity impacts on bogs on State lands and for a small area of bog in Connemara, the Department also secured EU funding of €3m for 12 Raised Bog LIFE+projects.

In March 2015, the Department submitted a formal response to the EU Commission's Fitness Check on the Habitats and Birds Directives, a process undertaken by the Commission to establish if the Directives remain effective.

In August 2015, the Flora Protection Order was updated by way of a statutory instrument signed by Minister Humphreys. The order was revised on foot of survey work undertaken over the last number of years, which had provided a substantial improvement in our knowledge of rare flora. The updated list of plant species protected by section 21 of the Wildlife Acts now includes an additional 55 rare mosses and liverwort species, while 8 species were delisted as they were more common than previously realised.

The KerryLIFE freshwater pearl mussel project was launched in 2015 and by year-end had achieved its target of securing the co-operation of 50 farmers who will take on farm plans aimed at improving water quality for the pearl mussel, which still occurs in large numbers in the Blackwater and Caragh Rivers. It is envisaged that more farmers in the project area will, in the coming years, be able to avail of a locally-led Agri-Environment Scheme for pearl mussels operated by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The EU Commission's pilot case concerning damage to a Sand Dune SAC in Tinneberna, Co Wexford, was closed successfully. Remediation and monitoring are continuing at this site.

The Department worked closely with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on habitat prescriptions and mapping for the roll out of the GLAS scheme. This Department's farm plan scheme also continued to operate in 2015. A new project entitled the *Results-Based Agri-Environment Pilot Scheme* commenced with Departmental input in the Shannon Callows and Co Leitrim.

Scientific monitoring of marine, lagoon and grassland habitats, bats, porpoises and dolphins, and cliff nesting seabirds continued throughout the year.

The OBSERVE programme, in collaboration with the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, made good progress in 2015. Ireland's offshore Strategic Environmental Assessments (IOSEA 1-5) and EU Habitats/Birds Directives reporting in 2013 had highlighted a further need for better data on seabirds and marine mammals to inform management and licensing of offshore activities.

A new Zoo Inspection team was appointed following a tendered procurement process and 16 zoos and animal collections were inspected in 2015. Drafting of a manual of standards for Irish Zoos was commenced and will be published in 2016.

The Interim Review of Implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016 was published. The review was carried out by the Biodiversity Working Group, comprising relevant Government Departments and agencies.

The ongoing monitoring of reintroduced eagles and red kites by the Golden Eagle Trust was again supported in 2015.

The Department commissioned Environment Systems Ltd to undertake ecosystem services mapping and assessment for a suite of prioritised ecosystem services. This project will contribute to meeting a number of targets under Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan and to progressing the EU MAES (Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystems and their Services) initiative under the EU Biodiversity Strategy (<http://biodiversity.europa.eu/maes>). It is due for completion in early 2016.

Legislation, Licensing and Property Management

In mid-2015 a package of amendments to the European Communities (Birds and Habitats) Regulations was brought forward and signed into law by the Minister. Further review of the Regulations has also identified a number of areas requiring further exploration and this work commenced in 2015 with a view to the development of further improvement in 2016.

The Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2015 included technical provisions amending the Bourn Vincent Memorial Park Act 1932 so as to ensure that functions under the Act, including title to that Park which forms the core of Killarney National Park, are clearly and securely vested in the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Built Heritage

In May 2015, the Minister published the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025. The strategy will ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and will provide a high level policy framework to achieve balance between the management, planning and protection of our landscape.

The Heritage Bill was progressed to publication stage in 2015. The Bill will be introduced to the Oireachtas in 2016 and sets out to amend the Heritage Act 1995, on foot of the Report of the Critical Review of the Heritage Council, and to make provision for the regulation of cutting and burning of vegetation. The Bill also proposes technical amendments to the Wildlife Acts and Canals Act 1986.

In May 2015, Ireland hosted the annual meeting of the European Heritage Heads Forum, which took place in May in Dublin Castle and Castletown House. Heads of heritage agencies and ministries from EU and EFTA countries attended. The theme of the meeting was *Heritage-led regeneration and consolidation – shared priorities and collaborative strategies*.

The Department also continued the delivery and review of actions under the Government Policy on Architecture implementation programme.

Archaeology

Monuments Bill

The drafting of the consolidated Monuments Bill continued in 2015, in conjunction with the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

World Heritage

The preparation of nomination material for sites on Ireland's Tentative List for World Heritage status continued in 2015 and draft technical evaluations were completed for the Burren and for the Royal Sites of Ireland proposals. A full revision of the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan was completed and a further round of consultation will be undertaken with key stakeholders prior to finalisation and submission to UNESCO. In 2015, the Department established a new grant scheme to fund directed research, which will aid in the management of our current World Heritage Sites as well as candidate sites on Ireland's Tentative List. The scheme will be administered on behalf of the Department by the Standing Committee for Archaeology of the Royal Irish Academy.

Strategy 2:

Ensuring effective implementation and, where appropriate, enforcement of heritage policies and legislation, including through third parties.

Department officials regularly meet with a wide range of public authorities and participate in numerous inter-Departmental and expert working groups. Through its participation in these groups, the Department provides significant assistance to public authorities in understanding their role with regard to natural and built heritage.

Natural Heritage

Licensing

The Department is responsible for the licensing requirements under the Wildlife Acts and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Over 7,200 licences and permits were issued by the Department for a variety of activities in 2015. The majority of the licences, some 65% (over 4,600), were issued for deer hunting.

Progress under the Turf Compensation Scheme

The Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme (CTCCS) was established in April 2011 to compensate land owners and turbary right holders affected by the restrictions on turf cutting on the 53 raised bog SACs and, subsequently, raised bog NHAs.

Considerable progress continued to be achieved during 2015, by the end of which total expenditure under the scheme had amounted to over €15.5 million. This is comprised of amounts paid in respect of annual payments, turf deliveries and once-off incentive payments. Over 400 turf cutters have been written to seeking expressions of interest in suitable relocation sites which have been identified. 49 turf cutters have been relocated to non-designated bogs, with 9 more due to begin cutting on relocation sites in 2016.

	To end-2014	To end-2015
Applications received	3,041	3,392
Payments made	6,429	8,943
Turf Deliveries	650	789
Legal Agreements returned	1,394	1,625
Once-off Payments (€500)	3,310	1,544

Enforcement of Prohibition on Turf cutting on Raised Bog SACs

In 2015, the Department continued aerial and on-the ground monitoring of turf-cutting sites in conjunction with An Garda Síochána and the Air Corps. Approximately 320 plots were cut on 24 of

the protected bogs in 2015. This represents a significant decline from 2011 levels, when it was estimated that over 1,300 plots were cut.

Filming at Sceilg Mhichíl

Filming of scenes for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* was successfully concluded after three days of filming on Sceilg Mhichíl in September 2015. Experts from the Department were involved in the licensing and supervision of the film shoot and were present throughout preparation, filming and demobilisation.

Science and Biodiversity

In 2015, the Department partnered with the Golden Eagle Trust, the Irish Raptor Study Group and BirdWatch Ireland to complete the Irish Hen Harrier Survey. Ongoing monitoring of the status of habitats and species, as required under Article 17 and Article 12 of the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, respectively, continued.

In 2015, over 500 permits and certificates were issued for species covered by the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES).

Built Heritage

In 2015, the Department issued 511 Ministerial Recommendations for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures for Counties Donegal (304) and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (207), while in relation to section 482 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, the Department made 1 determination and carried out 8 spot checks.

The Department also provided input to the planning process for plans and projects with the potential to impact on protected built heritage.

Work also continued in 2015 on promoting the Architectural Heritage Policy Guidelines. Two new volumes in the Advice Series were published – *Thatch- a guide to the repair of thatched roofs* and *Paving – the conservation of historic ground surfaces*.

Archaeology

The Department continued to carry out its functions under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Investigations were carried out in respect of 120 reports of threat or damage to monuments, while 269 notifications of intention to carry out work at or near monuments were examined. The Department funded 8 rescue excavations and 2 other rescue projects received funding towards post-excavation analysis to assist in publication.

Licences, Consents, Approvals and Directions issued in 2015

Archaeological Excavation licences	561
Extensions to excavations licences	93
Consents to use detection devices	152
Dive survey licences	67
Approvals and responses to variations to existing Ministerial Consents	91
Ministerial Directions for archaeological works on road projects	5

The Department continued the ongoing maintenance of the statutory list of recorded monuments,

and completed work on the mapping, file-management, and data components for counties Roscommon (7,139 items) and Tipperary South (5,473 items). An additional 1,613 records were added to the Archaeological Survey of Ireland database during the year, bringing the record total at end-2015 to 153,467.

Strategy 3:

Working with other State and non-State entities to ensure that the most appropriate structures are in place to deliver built and natural heritage services.

Heritage Division

The Department continued the rollout of the eReferrals Project, which seeks to provide an electronic mechanism for the referral of planning applications from planning authorities to the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in her role as a statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Roll-out of the system to Clare County Council was commenced in 2015 and will be followed by other planning authorities in 2016.

Science and Biodiversity

In January 2015, the Interim Review of Implementation of the National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016 was published, which found that of the 102 Actions, 24 were implemented while 67 are ongoing. The Department worked closely with colleagues in the Customs Service and Plant Health section of the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine towards the implementation of the 2015 EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species. This Regulation seeks to protect native biodiversity and ecosystem services, as well as to minimise and mitigate the human health or economic impacts of these species.

Licensing

The Department continued to increase its level of engagement with other authorities in order to fulfil its role as a prescribed body or a statutory consultee in the planning process and other consent processes.

Property Information

Work continued on development of an electronic property information database for nature conservation land in the ownership of the Minister. By the end of the year, data from almost 900 of an estimated total of 1,600 relevant files was included on the database. This project, which began in 2014, requires the populating of the database with data harvested from the Department's official hardcopy acquisition files and cross-referenced with records held by the Land Registry.

Built Heritage

The development of appropriate and targeted fiscal incentives, including capital investment programmes, for built heritage areas in tandem with the Department of Finance (Living City Initiative) and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (ERDF Designated Urban Grants Scheme and LEADER programme) continued throughout the year.

Over €1 m was allocated in capital funding for conservation projects in 2015, including the following:

- Funding of €0.624m was allocated to 26 properties under the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF), which was reintroduced in 2015. The fund, which is administered through the local authorities, enables conservation works to take place on protected heritage structures in both private and public ownership which are deemed to be at significant risk of deterioration.; and
- Some €0.35m was allocated to the Office of Public Works for the conservation and presentation of national monuments and historic properties in State care. Conservation works were undertaken at Garnish Island, the Garden of Remembrance, Derrynane, St. Enda's Park and the Blaskets. National Monuments projects were also funded at Kilmainham Gaol, Tara and Carlingford Castle.

In 2015, the National Architects-in-Schools Initiative provided students with first-hand experience of the design process, presenting an opportunity to use design thinking and innovation under the guidance of an architect or architecture graduate. The initiative was co-funded by the Department, the Department of Education and Skills and the Arts Council, and was delivered by the Irish Architecture Foundation. A draft action plan for traditional building skills and conservation education was also brought to an advanced stage in consultation with the Department of Education and Skills.

The Department also worked with partners to host conferences on:

- *Regeneration & reuse – challenges & opportunities* at the Digital Hub, Dublin, in May 2015. The Conference aimed at continuing the process of identifying and then collaboratively addressing blockages to the successful regeneration of historic buildings, with a particular focus on urban regeneration; and
- *Historic Places – Living City Spaces* at the Mansion House, Dublin, in October 2015, where the focus was on case studies on design quality and the re-use of historic buildings.

The Department continued to support planning authorities, the Heritage Council and other built heritage stakeholders in the delivery of their awareness and educational programmes. Work also continued on ensuring that the administrative framework for the management and protection of historic assets nationally is in place, in co-operation with local authorities, relevant state agencies and key stakeholders.

Archaeology

In December 2015, the Department published a report in the Journal of Irish Archaeology on the excavations carried out on the mound at Newgrange in the late 1980s during conservation works.

Strategy 4:

Promoting greater appreciation and understanding of Ireland's rich heritage as a valuable amenity for business, community development, farming and tourism and as a means of presenting Ireland as an attractive destination for sustainable inward investment.

In furtherance of its work in promoting Ireland's built and natural heritage and informing the public of best practice in terms of the management of these resources, the Department exhibited at many festivals and events, most notably the National Ploughing Championships, the BT Young Scientist Exhibition and the Tullamore Show.

National Parks

Visitor numbers at our National Parks exceeded 1 million in 2015. Investment under the capital programme in National Parks in 2015 was €1.513 million. This comprised 30 discrete projects including €249,000 for the Killarney House project (South West Region), €53,000 for the resurfacing of trails in the Mid-West Region, and €67,000 for reinstatement works to the pathway at Glenveagh Castle (North West Region).

Killarney House

Work continued on the major refurbishment programme for Killarney House and its ornamental grounds and gardens. This project involves collaboration between the Department, the Office of Public Works and Fáilte Ireland, which has committed funding of €5.2 million under its Tourism Capital Investment Programme. Construction work was substantively completed by year-end and the landscaping of the grounds and ornamental gardens was considerably advanced, with work on the interpretation/exhibition phase commenced. The House is being developed as the main visitor and interpretative centre for Killarney National Park, highlighting the beauty and interpreting the richness and significance of the Park's landscapes, habitats, flora and fauna, as well as telling the story of human interaction with the Park over the centuries. These amenities will be open to the public on a phased basis throughout 2016.

Diamond Hill

In late 2015, the Department commenced essential health and safety maintenance work on the Diamond Walk route in Connemara National Park. Approximately 200,000 people visit Connemara National Park annually and most of these visit at least part of the Diamond Walk. This restorative work includes remediating subsidence and the general maintenance works necessary to make the walkway safer for the general public.

Srahduggan land purchase

In 2015, the Department purchased lands at Srahduggan (Ballycroy), Co. Mayo, at a cost of €220,000. This strategic land acquisition is part of the Department's plans to facilitate and safeguard public access to Ballycroy National Park, where an enhanced trails development programme is planned. This forms part of our commitment to improving the visitor offering at our properties and is also part of the Department's contribution to the collaborative project with Fáilte Ireland and the National Trails Office in connection with the development of signature experiences on the Wild Atlantic Way.

Rhododendron Clearance

Rhododendron clearance is carried out on an annual basis in Killarney, Ballycroy, Connemara and Glenveagh National Parks. In many places, Rhododendron has replaced native shrub and grows in dense thickets, excluding native vegetation and limiting natural tree regeneration. Annual funding is required in this programme in order to safeguard the investment over decades in controlling this alien species and in protecting some of Ireland's most important pristine native woods.

Wild Nephin

In 2015, as part of the initial phase of the Wild Nephin Wilderness project, improved visitors facilities, including a viewing platform, picnic tables, and a new car park to facilitate enhanced visitor access, were provided. This long-term project is being delivered in collaboration with Coillte. The development of the Wild Nephin Wilderness area on lands adjacent to Ballycroy National Park will create a self-sustaining ecosystem providing an authentic 'wilderness experience' for visitors.

Built Heritage

The Department published surveys of the architecture of Counties Donegal (partial), Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (Phase 1) and Dublin City (partial). In addition, *An Introduction to the Architectural Heritage of Dublin North City* and associated survey was published in December 2015. The Department's Buildings of Ireland website, www.buildingsofireland.ie, had more than 250,000 unique visitors and more than 1.25m page views in 2015.

Archaeology

In 2015, the Department continued to provide archaeological advice and assistance, as required, to the Office of Public Works in relation to the day-to-day management of national monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister and continued to provide information through its archaeological heritage website www.archaeology.ie.

In 2015, the Department's archaeological staff also undertook survey and recovery dives on underwater sites at Streedagh Strand, Co. Sligo. Streedagh is the location where three ships of the Spanish Armada of 1588 are known to have been wrecked and, during the course of the work, the site of one of the wrecks, *La Juliana*, was re-located. In the course of the survey nine bronze cannon were identified, as well as nine gun-carriage wheels, the frame of another gun-carriage, two anchors, Iberian pottery, a large sheet- bronze cauldron with residue of tar or pitch still in it, a large number of iron and stone cannon balls, a substantial amount of structural timbers from the wreck and a spread of stone that may include original ballast material. Together with the three other guns previously recovered from the site in the 1980s, these cannon, now held in the National Museum of Ireland, represent the most complete collection of bronze guns recovered from any Spanish Armada ship to date.

Science and Biodiversity

In 2015, the Department supported and promoted National Biodiversity Week and the Green Schools Programme, as well as a range of scientific and general publications. Grant assistance was also afforded to the Natural Capital Forum.

The KerryLIFE project was formally launched and is working with farmers and forestry for the conservation of the freshwater pearl mussel. The Department also continued its inputs to AranLIFE and the expansion of the Burren Farming for Conservation Programme, and contributed to a new Results-Based Agri-Environment Pilot Scheme in the Shannon Callows and Co Leitrim.

Strategy and Regional Operations

In conjunction with Fáilte Ireland and the National Trails Office, a Trail Audit, Visitor Experience Audit & Digital Audit was completed in 2015. The Department also commenced targeted upgrade works along a number of trails.

An inter-agency group on outdoor recreation, chaired by the Department and including in-house representatives from the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Monuments Service, as well as representatives from Waterways Ireland, Coillte, Bord na Móna and the Office of Public Works, has also been set up to drive co-ordination of investment, management and regulation across agencies.

Strategy 5:

Ensuring that heritage services are delivered to the Department's customers as effectively as possible, including through the Heritage Council and other third parties.

Built Heritage

The Department engaged with local authorities, the Heritage Council, heritage organisations and the Office of Public Works to monitor expenditure in relation to funding allocated to conservation projects under various grant schemes.

The *Action Plan for the Sustainable Future of the Irish Historic House in Private Ownership* was published by the Department at the end of November 2015. The plan's focus is on supporting the sustainable future for the Irish country house in private ownership through the better targeting and co-ordination of existing supports with a view to helping these houses become vibrant centres for local rural development.

Heritage Council

The Department continued its funding of the Heritage Council and also worked throughout 2015 to continue the implementation of recommendations arising from the Heritage Council Review. Among the highlights of the Council's activities was a successful staging of *Heritage Week* with over 1,800 events taking place around the country and a very popular community grant scheme with funding assistance of €547,000 offered to 197 heritage projects nationwide.

Science and Biodiversity

The Department worked closely with the Heritage Council on High Nature Value Farming outreach and continued its role as main funder of the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Strategy 6:

Working closely with other Departments and agencies to achieve synergies and work more efficiently to achieve our goals.
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Peatlands

In 2015, the Peatlands Strategy Implementation Group was established to bring all relevant Departments and State entities together to implement the strategy.

Science and Biodiversity

The Department worked with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in 2015 to improve the targeting of measures for GLAS, the national agri-environment scheme that will run until 2020. The Department also continued to work with the Environmental Protection Agency in relation to areas of common concern.

Built Heritage

The Department convened the Historic Houses Steering Group in connection with the *Action Plan for the Sustainable Future of the Irish Historic House in Private Ownership*. The Department also supported the Irish Architecture Foundation in the delivery of their awareness and educational programme through architects in schools programme.

Archaeology

Standard Operating Procedures relating to works carried out by the Office of Public Works at national monuments in State care were agreed in 2015.

Progress in 2015 – Goal 3: The Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands

To support the Irish language, to strengthen its use as the principal community language of the Gaeltacht and to assist the sustainable development of island communities.

Strategy 1:

Implementing the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030*.

The Department has overarching responsibility for the co-ordination of the implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language* in co-operation with a wide range of key stakeholders. In 2015, the Department has continued to progress implementation of the Strategy and in December hosted an Open Policy Debate under the auspices of the Civil Service Renewal Plan. Meetings were held in Indreabhán, Co. Galway, Killarney, Co. Kerry and Gaoth Dobhair, Co. Donegal in order to ensure that representatives of Gaeltacht communities had every opportunity to input into the process. The Department published a discussion document which highlighted particular strategic issues in order to give focus to the consultation process and invited submissions on the discussion paper. Arising from the consultation process held under this debate, it is envisaged that the main strategic priorities for the five year period from 2016 will be identified and published.

In December 2015 the relevant Government Departments published their five-year progress reports on the implementation of the *Strategy*.

An allocation of €0.551 million was provided in the Department's Vote for the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language* in 2015. This funding was used to fund additional activities which support the implementation of the Strategy and the language planning process, including:

- Funding of €260,000 was provided to community based organisations selected by Údarás na Gaeltachta to prepare and implement language plans under the Gaeltacht Act 2012;
- €99,000 was provided to 8 pre-school services in the Gaeltacht under the Department's Pre-School and After-School Services Scheme. These grants are intended to support the network of crèches and pre-schools operating through Irish in the Gaeltacht;
- Annual funding of €40,000 over a 3-year period was provided to Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta to develop their services for parents raising children through Irish in the Gaeltacht. Some 1,102 language support packs were also distributed in Gaeltacht areas.

Funding of €148,000 was also provided for a number of projects aimed at promoting the Irish language in the digital age. These included the development of a machine translation system, the development of a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) in the Irish Language and Irish Traditional Culture, the establishment of the new *TechSpace as Gaeilge* Scheme and the development of a *Digital Plan for the Irish Language*.

In 2015, the Placenames Branch completed its research on the place names of counties Sligo and Laois and continued to research the place names of Kildare, Wicklow, Cavan, Clare and Kerry. The Placenames Committee met on four occasions in 2015.

Strategy 2:

Implementing the language planning process, in conjunction with Údarás na Gaeltachta and Foras na Gaeilge, under the Gaeltacht Act 2012.

The language planning process continued to be implemented during 2015. Notices were made in accordance with the provisions of section 7(3) of the Act in respect of a further 9 Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas and organisations were selected to undertake the preparation and implementation of language plans in respect of each area. Following a selection process, Foras na Gaeilge selected 3 areas for consideration as Irish Language Networks.

The increased allocation to of €0.551 million in 2015 enabled the Department to further advance a range of measures and initiatives aimed at underpinning both the implementation of the Strategy and the language planning process. Funding of €200,000 was provided to Údarás na Gaeltachta to assist community-based organisations to prepare language plans under the Gaeltacht Act 2012.

A Geographical Information System (GIS) was developed by the Department, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, to further support the implementation of the language planning process and an updated version of the Language Planning Guidelines, first published in December 2014, was re-issued in December 2015.

Strategy 3:

Implementing the Official Languages Act 2003, including active and positive engagement with An Coimisinéir Teanga.

The review of the Official Languages Act was completed in 2015. While an Official Languages (Amendment) Bill was brought to the final stages of drafting, it was not published before year-end.

During 2015, a total of 21 language schemes were confirmed, including 9 inaugural, 9 second and 3 third schemes. By the end of 2015, there were 108 schemes in force, covering a total of 115 public bodies. All schemes are available on the website of An Coimisinéir Teanga at www.coimisineir.ie.

Funding to the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga, an independent statutory office responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Official Languages Act, was increased by 18% to €670,000 in 2015.

Strategy 4:

Ensuring that the structures and schemes are in place to support the Irish language inside and outside of the Gaeltacht.

Under the Irish Language Support Schemes, €3.692 million in funding was provided to a broad range of Irish language organisations and initiatives. This included current and capital grants paid to various Irish language organisations operating outside the Gaeltacht, including Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Gnó Mhaigh Eo, Gael Taca, Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, An Cumann Scoil drámaíochta and Raidió Rí-Rá. Other projects included the followig:

- €1.048 million for projects in the digital humanities and terminology sectors. These include Dúchas.ie, logainm.ie and abair.ie, in addition to the LEX project which provides Irish language terminology for the European Union;
- €1.016 million for projects in the business and arts sectors;
- €0.979 million to support twelve 3rd level courses in Ireland under the Advanced Irish Language Skills Initiative;
- €0.553 million to support the teaching of Irish in 41 international universities, including 15 universities under the auspices of the Fulbright Commission and 6 under the auspices of the Ireland Canada University Foundation; and
- €95,000 for two capital projects at Coláiste na bhFiann's headquarters in Co. Meath and Conradh na Gaeilge's headquarters at Harcourt Street, Dublin.

Capital Expenditure

In 2015, €1.433 million in capital funding was spent in the form of grants for facilities in the Gaeltacht providing practical support to the core objective of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language*. Projects included the refurbishment/construction of a range of facilities, naíonraí, community halls, playing fields and summer colleges, as well as grants for equipment.

Current Expenditure

In 2015, €6.113 million in current funding was spent on a range of activities, measures, services and schemes supporting the strengthening of Irish as a community and household language in the Gaeltacht.

Funding provided by the Department also facilitated 24,020 learners in attending 50 Irish Colleges in the Gaeltacht and 3 long-established colleges outside the Gaeltacht. Support was provided for Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge's 3 locations in Gaeltacht areas - Gaoth Dobhair, An Cheathrú Rua and Carna.

The Department also supported the employment of 112 Language Assistants in 109 Gaeltacht schools, as well as classes teaching football and hurling skills and physical exercise in Gaeltacht schools under the *Scéim Oiliúna Peile agus Iománaíochta sa Ghaeltacht*. Support was also provided for the holding of 209 Summer Camps in Gaeltacht areas, attended by 6,325 young people, while An Gaelacadamh and An Crann Óg also ran music classes in Irish with assistance from the Department.

Strategy 5:

Supporting Údarás na Gaeltachta as the regional development agency for the Gaeltacht.

The overall Exchequer allocation for Údarás na Gaeltachta, the regional authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht, was €18.485 million in 2015.

At year-end, total employment in Údarás client companies stood at 7,869, of which 7,268 were full-time jobs and 601 were part-time jobs. Údarás client companies created 533 new full-time jobs during 2015. When job losses in 2015, the lowest on record for the Gaeltacht, are taken into consideration, there was a net increase of 215 jobs overall, the highest net increase since 2005.

Údarás na Gaeltachta also administers a range of social employment schemes, which are funded by the Department of Social Protection and play an important role in providing work experience and training for Gaeltacht communities. In 2015, more than 1,000 participants were involved in 47 such schemes throughout the Gaeltacht.

Strategy 6:

Facilitating the delivery of services to island communities.

The Department assumed responsibility for funding of the non-Gaeltacht Islands from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in May 2015. Funding was maintained at the 2014 level of €6.544 million for delivery of services to island communities in 2015. The construction of a helipad on Toraigh, County Donegal, funded by the Department was substantially completed in 2015 and support was also provided for a number of smaller island infrastructure projects.

The Department supported transport services for 19 offshore islands. Due to uncertainty in relation to the availability of a mainland airport, the tender process for an Aran Islands Public Service Obligation air service was terminated and an interim contract for the period 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016 was put in place to allow for a new tender process to be undertaken in 2016. Eight ferry service agreements were put in place or renewed in 2015.

The AranLIFE project is a demonstration project operating on the three Aran Islands over a 4 year period from 2014-2017. It seeks to develop and demonstrate the best conservation management practices of local farmers on the designated Natura 2000 sites of the three islands (protected habitats for flora and fauna of European importance).

The project focuses on farming activities on the islands within the Natura designated sites, harnessing local farming knowledge and experience with the scientific expertise of other project partners to overcome some of the challenges of island farming and to improve the conservation status of the designated sites. The project is core-funded under the EU's LIFE programme and works commenced during the year in 67 participant farms.

Strategy 7:

Working with relevant Departments, agencies and other stakeholders to achieve our goals.

The Department continues to work with a range of Irish language organisations and initiatives and has provided a number of funding streams to support their work. The Department also works closely with agencies under its aegis to advance the promotion of the Irish language and to support people who live and work in the Gaeltacht.

In promoting the AranLIFE project, the Department worked with the EU LIFE Nature programme and a wide range of other agencies and stakeholders, including the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Galway County Council, Teagasc and Fáilte Ireland.

Progress in 2015 – Goal 4: North-South Co-operation

To promote North South co-operation, particularly in the context of An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland.

Strategy 1:

Continued engagement in support of An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland, the two North/South Implementation Bodies funded jointly by this Department.

Two sectoral meetings of the North-South Ministerial Council (NSMC) were held in 2015 in relation to An Foras Teanga and Waterways.

An Foras Teanga (comprising Foras na Gaeilge and The Ulster-Scots Agency/Tha Boord o Ulster-Scotch) is co-sponsored by the Department in conjunction with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) in Northern Ireland. Foras na Gaeilge carries out all of the designated responsibilities regarding the Irish language, including facilitating and promoting the development of Irish in the public and private arena. The Ulster-Scots Agency has responsibility for the development of the Ulster-Scots language, including the promotion of greater awareness and the use of the language and of Ulster-Scots cultural issues.

The NSMC approved the following key ministerial priorities for Foras na Gaeilge in 2015:

- Monitoring and support of the new funding arrangements in order to achieve strategic objectives in the areas of education, language use and development of networks, in addition to language awareness and representation;
- Launch of the Irish Language Community Scheme (Scéim Phobail Gaeilge) 2015-17 and implementation of the language planning process for Irish Language Networks (Líonraí Gaeilge) and Gaeltacht Service Towns, as appropriate; and
- Completion of the online comprehensive new English-Irish Dictionary and publication of the analysis of the results of a major attitudinal survey on the Irish language.

The NSMC approved the following key ministerial priorities for The Ulster-Scots Agency in 2015:

- Promotion generally through the Discover Ulster-Scots web portal, launch of a Hairtlan area, touring exhibitions, public events and publications;
- Raising awareness in the education sector through the Ulster-Scots Flagship Schools programme, after-school clubs, music and dance tuition and workshops; and
- Provision of support in the community through summer schools, festivals, delivery of talks and capacity building programmes.

By the end of 2015, significant progress had been achieved by An Foras Teanga in regard to these priorities.

Funding is provided to An Foras Teanga from this Department and DCAL in accordance with budgets approved by the NSMC. Foras na Gaeilge is co-funded on the basis of 75% from this Department and 25% from DCAL while The Ulster-Scots Agency is co-funded on the basis of 25% from this Department and 75% from DCAL. During 2015, total funding of €13.469m was provided by this Department to An Foras Teanga, including ringfenced funding of €1.105m for Clár na Leabhar

Gaeilge (supporting reading, writing and publishing initiatives in the Irish language) and €0.114m for Colmille (a tripartite initiative to promote the Irish and Scots Gaelic languages).

More detailed information is available on the websites www.forasnagaeilge.ie (Foras na Gaeilge) and www.ulsterscotsagency.com (The Ulster-Scots Agency).

Strategy 2:

Pursuing opportunities with partners in Northern Ireland to enhance co-operation across other areas within this Department's remit, including arts, culture, heritage and commemorations.

In addition to the language and inland waterways sectors, other areas of cross border co-operation included work on the planning of commemorations, collaborations between museums on either side of the border, participation by a number of projects in Northern Ireland in Culture Night, as well as engagement on built and natural heritage, and environmental matters.

Strategy 3:

Working with Waterways Ireland to improve waterways infrastructure in both jurisdictions.

This Department, together with the DCAL in Northern Ireland and the NSMC supports and funds Waterways Ireland in the management, maintenance, development and restoration of the inland waterways.

In 2015, this Department provided funding to Waterways Ireland amounting to €24.451 million. The main outputs achieved during the year included the following:

- Ongoing maintenance to ensure that over 95% of the waterways remained navigable throughout the 2015 boating season (April to October);
- Concentration of capital works on critical infrastructural repairs, including bank strengthening along the Grand Canal and bridge repairs throughout the navigational network. The completed works programme also included the replacement of lock gates at Tarmonbarry on the Shannon Navigation, repairs to the wall at Bagenalstown Lock on the Barrow Navigation, stabilisation of masonry structures at Shannon Harbour on the Grand Canal, and refurbishment of Young Store along the Grand Canal at Tullamore. On the Lower Bann Navigation, lock gates were fabricated for both Toome and Portna, while on the Erne System, 149 of floating moorings were replaced at Galloon and Knockninny;
- Development works carried out through third party funding included a 14 km stretch of towpath upgrade along the Royal Canal between Coolnahay 26th Lock to the Westmeath/Longford county boundary and a 1 km section west of Longford county boundary to Quinn's Bridge. On the Grand Canal, a 4 km stretch was completed from Hazelhatch to Arddough and a 1 km section completed from Edenderry to Rathmore Bridge;
- Commencement of the restoration of the Ulster Canal to extend the navigation from Upper Lough Erne to Castle Saunderson, with final designs nearing completion and a dredging contract put in place at the River Finn to establish adequate navigation depth;

- Sponsorship by Waterways Ireland of 98 of the 168 events held on the waterways. More than 197,000 people are estimated to have attended these events, which generated an estimated €7.9 million for the local economy;
- Increased private boat usage with an additional 534 new vessel registrations recorded;
- Further growth in recreational activity with over 100,000 visitors recorded on the navigations in the Shannon Blueway area during the April-October period, with many businesses established to service the demand from Blueway visitors. The Shannon Blueway won the Lakelands & Inland Waterways 'Sport Tourism Innovation award' at the Shannon Airport Tourism European Summit in 2015, 'Best Tourism Initiative' at the Local Authority Members Association awards, and was nominated for 'Best Outdoor Escape' by Outsider magazine;
- Production of trail guides under the themes of Food, Culture & Heritage, Arts & Crafts and Outdoor Activity.

The Lakelands and Inland Waterways Programme continued through collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Tourism Ireland, Fermanagh Lakeland Tourism and the various local authorities along the Shannon Navigation, Shannon-Erne and Erne System. In 2015, €400,000 was invested in collaborative marketing and product development within the Lakelands region. Activities included:

- A review of the Fáilte Ireland and Tourism Ireland Discover Ireland websites;
- Production of an Activity Map for Lough Ree, Lough Allen & Lough Derg;
- Spring and Autumn Promotional Campaigns;
- Event development such as the World Pairs;
- Business Development Supports; and
- Completion of the Lakeland Treasures App: Lough Derg section and development of a consolidated App to include Lough Ree, Lough Derg and the North Shannon.

Projects supported under the Schools Education Programme enabled over 2,600 students from 74 schools to gain an understanding of the waterways. In addition, during Engineers Week, 670 students from 24 schools visited the waterways, engaged in learning activities with engineering staff and visited the Waterways Ireland Archive in Enniskillen. Other projects included Heritage Week, City Canals and Biodiversity Week.

Corporate Matters

Human Resources

There were 548 whole-time equivalent staff in the Department at end-2015, compared to 561 at end-2014.

The Department is committed to the ongoing training and development of its staff, to ensure they continue to have the workplace knowledge, skills and behaviours required to maintain organisational performance and achieve business objectives and also the necessary health and safety training. Some €256,000 was spent on training and development in 2015.

Information Technology

September 2015 saw the launch of the Department's new website. The site was developed by a cross-functional team and is firmly focused on facilitating the user in accessing information about the Department and its services. The site has proved very popular with users and has attracted significantly increased traffic since its launch.

The fully bilingual site was nominated for an award at the 2016 Ireland eGovernment Awards as was *The Placenames Database of Ireland (logainm.ie)* developed by Fiontar, DCU and the Placenames Branch of the Department.

Customer Service

The Department is committed to providing a high-quality, efficient and effective service to its customers. In 2015, some 482 customer queries were submitted by email to our dedicated customer service mailbox customer.service@ahg.gov.ie

The Department's *Customer Service Action Plan* and *Customer Service Charter* are available on the Department's website at <http://www.ahg.gov.ie/en/AboutUs/CustomerService/>

These documents reaffirm our commitment to delivering high quality services to all our customers and outline the standards of service that customers can expect to receive when they interact with us by phone, in writing or in person. The Action Plan identifies how the Department will implement the Charter commitments and review/report on its performance level in this regard.

Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment

Between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015, the Department received 163 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Of the 163 requests, 53 were granted in full, 62 were part-granted and 25 were refused. A total of 23 applications were withdrawn or handled outside of the FOI Act.

Between 1 January 2015 and 31 December 2015, the Department received 41 requests under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations. Of the 41 requests, 20 were granted in full, 8 were part-granted and 9 were refused. A total of 4 applications were withdrawn or handled

outside of AIE regulations.

Evaluation

Over the course of 2015, the Department's Evaluation Unit provided research, evaluation and advice services to the Department. The role of the Unit is considered critical for both the Department's compliance with the public spending code and, more generally, in order to foster a departmental culture of evaluation so that decisions on policy and programmes are evidence-based, have clear objectives, and are subject to rigorous appraisal, monitoring and evaluation. Activity in 2015 saw the delivery of the Value for Money and Policy Review of the Arts Council, part of the Government's 3-year evaluation programme; the introduction and delivery of a new quality assurance process under the public spending code, culminating with the publication of the 2014 QAP report; and the drafting of a comprehensive *ex post* evaluation of the Limerick City of Culture initiative. The Unit also delivered a number of training sessions on the public spending code, as well as providing advice on compliance with the code and best-practice in evaluation across the Department.

Appendix 1 – Programme for Government – Commitments relating to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

The commitments referred to here, in respect of the *Programme for Government 2011-2016*, are ones for which the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has lead responsibility.

Arts, Culture and Sport

We will make strategic policy formulation the primary function of the Department, with line agencies and bodies responsible for policy implementation.

We will encourage the Arts Council to continue to dedicate resources to touring in order to protect the State's investment in regional arts infrastructure around the country and to bring cultural tourism opportunities to towns and villages across the country.

We will work with stakeholders in the arts community to develop new proposals aimed at building private support of the arts in Ireland exploring philanthropic, sponsorship or endowment fund opportunities.

We will make the Culture Night Initiative a twice yearly event, and introduce a National Lottery Funding Anniversary Day, whereby all facilities which have received funding from the National Lottery will open their doors to the public free of charge.

We will also review the opening times of our national cultural institutions.

We will develop a cultural plan for future commemorative events such as the Centenary of the Easter Rising in 2016.

We will promote genealogical tourism by updating the National Cultural Institutions Act in relation to the Genealogical Office to put it on a proper statutory footing, modernise its operations and enable publication of the 1926 census to stimulate genealogy tourism.

We will also explore philanthropic opportunities for the development of a national archives and genealogy quarter, providing easy access to archives and tapping into an area of cultural tourism which is of huge interest to the vast Irish Diaspora.

We will encourage greater cooperation between local authorities to provide assistance where possible for local authorities currently lacking a local authority Arts Officer due to recruitment restrictions and to cooperate in developing cultural tourism opportunities.

We will seek to capture some public good from NAMA by identifying buildings that have no commercial potential and which might be suitable as local facilities for art and culture.

Responsibility for policy-making will revert to the Department, while agencies will be accountable for implementing policy, assessing outcomes and value for money.

An Ghaeilge agus an Gaeltacht

We will support the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and will deliver on the achievable goals and targets proposed.

Gaeltacht regions will benefit from the jobs action plan outlined in this document. Under our proposals, we will deliver new job creation prospects to Gaeltacht regions. We will invest in energy, broadband and water infrastructure, creating the modern infrastructure needed to attract and support new businesses and jobs. We will also strongly support the potential for jobs in tourism and marine activities. We will continue to support the Irish language broadcasting and arts sector.

We will review the Official Languages Act to ensure expenditure on the language is best targeted towards the development of the language and that obligations are imposed appropriately in response to demand from citizens.

We will review current investment and funding programmes that benefit Irish language organisations in order to achieve visible value for money for citizens and tangible outcomes on a transparent basis.

Natural Heritage

We will allow an exemption for domestic turf cutting on 75 natural heritage area sites subject to the introduction of an agreed national code of environmental practices.

We will establish an independent mediation between all relevant stakeholders with the specific objective of facilitating resolution to 55 special area of conservation designated bogs.

We will establish an independent mediation to resolve outstanding issues associated with turf cutting on blanket bogs.

Appendix 2: Agencies and Bodies funded from the Department's Vote

Body	Website	Address
An Coimisinéir Teanga	www.coimisineir.ie	An Coimisinéir Teanga An Spidéal Co. na Gaillimhe
Arts Council	www.artscouncil.ie	The Arts Council 70 Merrion Square Dublin 2
Chester Beatty Library	www.cbl.ie	Chester Beatty Library Dublin Castle Dublin 2
Crawford Gallery	www.crawfordartgallery.com	Crawford Gallery Emmet Place Cork
Foras na Gaeilge	www.gaeilge.ie www.forasnagaeilge.ie	Foras na Gaeilge 7 Merrion Square Dublin 2
Heritage Council	www.heritagecouncil.ie	Heritage Council Áras na hOidhreachta Church Lane Kilkenny
Irish Film Board	www.irishfilmboard.ie	Irish Film Board Queensgate 23 Dock Road Galway
Irish Manuscripts Commission	www.irishmanuscripts.ie	Irish Manuscripts Commission 45 Merrion Square Dublin 2
Irish Museum of Modern Art	www.modemart.ie	Irish Museum of Modern Art Royal Hospital Military Road Kilmainham Dublin 8
National Archives of Ireland	www.nationalarchives.ie	The National Archives Bishop Street Dublin 8
National Concert Hall	www.nch.ie	National Concert Hall Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
National Gallery of Ireland	www.nationalgallery.ie	National Gallery of Ireland Merrion Square West Dublin 2
National Library of Ireland	www.nli.ie	National Library of Ireland Kildare Street Dublin 2
National Museum of Ireland	www.museum.ie	National Museum of Ireland Collins Barracks Benburb Street

		Dublin 7
Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch (Ulster-Scots Agency)	www.ulsterscotsagency.com	The Ulster-Scots Agency The Corn Exchange Belfast BT1 2LG Northern Ireland
Údarás na Gaeltachta	www.udaras.ie	Údarás na Gaeltachta Na Forbacha Co. na Gaillimhe
Waterways Ireland	www.waterwaysireland.org	Waterways Ireland 2 Sligo Road Enniskillen Co. Fermanagh BT74 7JY Northern Ireland

Appendix 3:

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Expenditure in 2015

SUBHEAD	EXPENDITURE IN 2015	OUTTURN
		€'000
	ADMINISTRATION	
X.1	Salaries, Wages and Allowances	30,076
X.2	Travel and Subsistence	1,024
X.3	Training and Development and Incidental Expenses	646
X.4	Postal and Telecommunications Services	453
X.5	Office Equipment and External IT Services	1,897
X.6	Office Premises Expenses	632
X.7	Consultancy Services and Value for Money and Policy Reviews	34
	TOTAL	34,762
	ARTS, CULTURE & FILM	
A.1	Administration – Pay	5,866
A.2	Administration - Non-Pay	1,030
A.3	Payments to match resources generated by the National Archives	40
A.4	General Expenses of the National Archives and National Archives Advisory Council	1,304
A.5	General Expenses of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Chester Beatty Library, National Concert Hall and the Crawford Gallery	10,858
A.6	Regional Museums, Galleries, Cultural Centres and Projects	3,143
A.7	Cultural Infrastructure and Development	11,475
A.8	Culture Ireland	2,500
A.9	An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Part Funded by National Lottery)	58,593
A.10	General Expenses of the National Museum of Ireland	12,304
A.11	General Expenses of the National Library of Ireland	7,075
A.12	Irish Film Board	14,512
A.13	General Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland	7,757
A.14	National City of Culture	383
A.15	Decade of Centenaries 1912-1922	13,405
A.16	Cork Event Centre	1,000
A.17	EXPO Milano	0
	TOTAL	151,245
	HERITAGE	
B.1	Administration – Pay	19,775
B.2	Administration - Non-Pay	2,629
B.3	Grant of An Chomhairle Oidreacht	4,743

	(Heritage Council) (part funded by National Lottery)	
B.4	Built Heritage	2,316
B.5	Natural Heritage	13,522
	(National Parks and Wildlife Service)	
B.6	Irish Heritage Trust	324
B.7	Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme	0
B.8	Peatlands Restoration	520
	TOTAL	43,829
GAELTACHT		
C.1	Administration – Pay	3,286
C.2	Administration - Non-Pay	613
C.3	Gaeltacht Support Schemes	7,549
C.4	Irish Language Support Schemes	3,692
	(Part Funded by National Lottery)	
C.5	An Coimisinéir Teanga	669
C.6	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Administration	8,798
C.7	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Current Programme Expenditure	3,000
C.8	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Grants for Projects and Capital Expenditure on Premises	6,687
C.9	Islands	6,541
C.10	20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language - 2010-2030	546
C.11	Decade of Centenaries - Teach an Phiarsaigh	1,000
	TOTAL	42,381
NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION		
D.1	Administration – Pay	1,149
D.2	Administration - Non-Pay	414
D.3	An Foras Teanga	13,468
D.4	Waterways Ireland	24,451
	TOTAL	39,482
	GROSS TOTAL	276,937

