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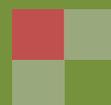
Annual Report

Department of Arts, Heritage & the
Gaeltacht



*An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta*

*Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*



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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 heritage and culture. The Department also seeks to promote the Irish language, to support the Gaeltacht and to assist 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.

The Department also has an important contribution to make to Ireland's economic recovery. There is much potential in the arts and in the cultural, heritage and creative industries to create growth and jobs. A key objective for the Department, therefore, is to maximise the economic and employment creation potential of the arts, heritage and Gaeltacht sectors. Cultural tourism also has a significant contribution to make to Ireland's economic recovery and the rebuilding of Ireland's reputation on the international stage.

The Department has been working during 2012 to promote Irish arts and heritage abroad and will continue to build on this work in the future as a key function of the Department. The Department has also been developing synergies between the arts, cultural, heritage and Gaeltacht sectors, most notably in the area of tourism product development and cultural tourism.

In delivering on its broad mandate, the Department will continue to work with a wide range of individuals, groups, agencies and other relevant stakeholders. It will continue to promote a co-ordinated and coherent approach, not only across the range of measures for which it has direct responsibility, but also with Departments and agencies whose work impacts on Ireland's rich culture, heritage and language, and on other aspects of the Department's remit.

In summary, the Department's purpose is

- to promote and support Ireland's world-class artistic and cultural strengths, at home and abroad;
- to foster, promote, conserve and present our heritage and culture, including the Irish language; and
- to support the economic and social development of our offshore islands.

The Department's Mission Statement is:

To promote and protect Ireland's heritage and culture, to develop cultural tourism, to advance the use of the Irish language, and to support the sustainable development of the islands

Focal ón Aire agus ón Aire Stáit

We are delighted to publish the 2012 Annual Report of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Department has become firmly established since the publication of its last Annual Report. In that time, it has made some important contributions to fulfilling the aims of the *Programme for Government* and helping Ireland's economic recovery. The Department continues to work towards the development of our cultural heritage, despite the various economic challenges that these current times present us with.

Ireland's cultural and creative industries play a major role in defining a positive image for Ireland at home and abroad, whilst at the same time demonstrating Ireland's dynamism, innovation and creativity. Likewise, our rich natural and built heritage contributes to Ireland's tourism product. The Department worked hard during 2012 to ensure that this product becomes an important asset for future generations.

Of course, we have to be increasingly creative and innovative in difficult financial times and 2012 saw the launch of two successful initiatives in the area of philanthropy – the Department's own *Philanthropic Leverage Initiative* and the Arts Council's complementary *RAISE Initiative*. These resulted in a boost of over €1 million for the arts, of which less than one-fifth came from the public purse, as well as the provision of professional support to selected arts organisations in the context of planning and implementing tailored fundraising programmes.

Our National Cultural Institutions continue to attract huge volumes of visitors, notwithstanding a challenging reform process, and we will continue to support and develop these institutions over the coming years to ensure that that visitor's experience is enhanced at every level. The annual Culture Night also continues to grow from strength to strength and the breadth of the 2012 event - featuring a record 34 participating locations - demonstrates how the event has grown from a relatively small-scale cultural event, staged in Dublin only, to the significant national cultural event it now is.

Promotion and maintenance of our built and natural heritage continued during 2012. The issue of bog protection and turf-cutting remains a key priority for the Department. In 2012, field staff significantly increased monitoring levels of turf-cutting in raised bogs designated as Special Areas of Conservation, which helped reduce illegal cutting from previous levels. We continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that we meet our environmental obligations, while seeking to provide solutions for all affected parties. A programme of capital works was also undertaken in 2012 at the National Parks and Nature Reserves in order to help secure the conservation of our natural heritage, to enhance visitor experiences and to improve the Irish tourism product on offer.

During 2012, some innovative new projects and initiatives were progressed in order to develop our heritage-related tourism drive. For example, a heritage-led regeneration pilot project - the *Historic Towns Initiative* - was initiated in Listowel, Youghal and Westport in the context of promoting the role which Ireland's heritage has to play in making our country an attractive destination for sustainable tourism and inward investment. Our working group on heritage tourism continued to examine and implement ways to apply the Department's archaeological expertise to the further development of heritage tourism. Our *Monuments to Visit* webpage went live on

www.archaeology.ie in September 2012, which showcases publicly-accessible national monuments, particularly lesser-known ones, providing photos and interpretive material for potential visitors.

In the Irish language sector, work on the implementation of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language continued to progress during 2012. A key achievement was the enactment of the Gaeltacht Act 2012. The Act provides for a statutory language planning process to support the Irish language both within the Gaeltacht and nationwide and also provides for amendments to the functions of Údarás na Gaeltachta. In the Gaeltacht, 689 new jobs were created and 6,933 jobs in Údarás na Gaeltachta client companies were maintained in 2012 - a creditable performance, given the ongoing economic challenges.

Finally, we would like to thank all our stakeholders and staff in the Department and in bodies funded from the Department's Vote Group. The work undertaken during 2012 has made a real difference in our society and we hope to build on this in the years ahead.

Jimmy Deenihan, T.D.
Aire

Dinny McGinley, T.D.
Aire Stáit

Note from Secretary General

I am pleased to present the 2012 Annual Report for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Following the significant reorganisation of Departmental functions in 2011, the Department is now well-established and is committed to implementing its statutory obligations and delivering on its commitments under the *Programme for Government*. We are all conscious of tighter budgets and the Department has sought to meet that challenge by working smarter and more efficiently to achieve success.

2012 was a challenging year for the Department but real progress was made in meeting our objectives. From a reform perspective, we worked closely with our colleagues in the national cultural institutions and in other relevant areas to implement an ambitious programme of reform and shared services. I would like to thank the staff, boards of management and other stakeholders for their constructive engagement throughout the process.

2012 was busy also from an EU perspective, as we laid the groundwork for the Department's role in Ireland's Presidency of the European Union in the first half of 2013 in relation to both the culture/audiovisual and heritage sectors. In addition, a Culture Programme, with national and international strands, was developed to be delivered at home and throughout the EU with the aim of showcasing Irish arts and culture to the broadest audience and to encourage further integration of European arts and culture partnerships.

Work has also been gathering momentum regarding the Decade of Commemorations, which will be an important area of work for the Department over the coming years. Both Ministers and Departmental officials will work to ensure that commemorations will be measured and reflective, and will be informed by a full acknowledgement of the complexity of historical events.

On the heritage front, the Department continued to devote considerable resources to the issue of compliance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, including the difficult issue of the cessation of turf cutting on raised bog Special Areas of Conservation. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of staff across these areas in trying to work towards finding solutions to these matters, in co-operation with the affected parties.

Work continued on advancing the objectives of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and the passing of the Gaeltacht Act 2012 by the Oireachtas was a very significant event in this regard. The Department also maintained support for the promotion of Irish across a range of programmes, in line with the 20-Year Strategy, as well as continuing to invest in support for communities on our offshore islands.

In terms of North South co-operation, the Department continued to work with relevant partners, particularly Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland, in supporting Waterways Ireland and An Foras Teanga, as well as seeking to enhance co-operation across the areas of arts, culture, commemorations, the built and natural heritage, and environmental matters.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, customers and stakeholders for their input to the achievements of 2012. I look forward to building on the success to date and capitalising on the positive economic impact the Department has made in the past year.

Seosamh Ó hÁghmaill
Secretary General

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. For each of these sectors, key policy issues arise, bringing a need for effective consultation and co-ordination, both within and beyond the Department.

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

Arts, Culture, Music and Film

- **Goal 1:** To promote and develop Ireland's world-class artistic and creative strengths at home and abroad, maximising 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 in the Gaeltacht and to assist the sustainable development of island communities.

North/South Co-operation

- **Goal 4:** To maintain, develop and foster North-South co-operation.

Progress in 2012

Goal 1: Arts, Culture, Film and Music

To promote and develop Ireland's world-class artistic and creative strengths at home and abroad, maximising their societal, economic and reputational value for the country.

Strategy 1:

To nurture and develop Irish artistic and creative talent and enhance arts access, the national cultural institutions, regional arts infrastructure and cultural tourism countrywide, in cooperation with national and local authorities and other partners.

Strategy 2:

To promote Irish arts in key territories worldwide, strengthening Ireland's global reputation and cultural profile and develop a strategy to exploit opportunities for philanthropy, sponsorship and endowment in the Irish arts and cultural sector.

Strategy 3:

To develop and promote the Irish audiovisual content creation industry.

Strategy 4:

To lead the development and delivery of the Government's commemoration programme to mark significant centenaries during the decade 2012-2022.

Arts, Culture and Film

Arts Council

The Arts Council is designated, under the Arts Act 2003, as the principal State agency for the promotion and development of the arts and through which State support is channelled. In 2012, the Arts Council received €63.241m in Grant-in-Aid from the Department and, in turn, provided funding to over 653 individual artists and 552 arts organisations that included performance organisations, arts venues, festivals events and resource organisation over the country. Details in this regard are available on the Arts Council website www.artscouncil.ie

Philanthropy

In 2012, a new philanthropic initiative for arts and culture organisations was launched by the Department on a pilot basis. The initiative - the *Philanthropic Leverage Initiative* - is designed to encourage philanthropic sponsorship and endowment of the arts from private sources. The initiative has provided an incentive to arts organisations to proactively seek new funding relationships with sponsors which deliver private sector financial support, thereby increasing overall funding available

to the arts. On foot of this, the arts got a boost of over €1 million in 2012, of which less than one-fifth came from the public purse. A full list of awards under this scheme can be viewed on the Department's website.

In 2012, the Arts Council's RAISE: *Building Fundraising Capacity* pilot initiative was also launched, in conjunction with the Department's Philanthropy Leverage Initiative. This is an important development in the area of philanthropic support for the arts. The Arts Council programme will provide one-to-one professional support to eight selected organisations for two years through planning and implementing a tailored fundraising programme. Eight leading Irish arts organisations are aiming to raise €10 million in private funding over the next five years as part of the new Arts Council initiative.

Regional Arts Infrastructure

In 2012, a number of significant projects were supported by the Department, including the Garage Theatre in Monaghan, Smock Alley Theatre in Dublin, the Sweeney Memorial Library in Co Clare and the Limerick City Gallery of Art in Limerick City. These projects will add to the many other capital projects that have been supported over recent years by the Department and which has resulted in a nationwide network of theatres, art galleries, exhibition spaces, cinemas and other facilities. In funding these facilities, the State is showing its commitment to providing venues for all of its citizens to enable them to access arts and cultural activities, no matter what part of the country they are residing.

Irish Film and Audiovisual Industry

Progress continued on the "*Creative Capital*" report on Building Ireland's Audiovisual Creative Economy. The report makes recommendations to enable sustainable growth of the Audiovisual Sector over the next five years. An inter-departmental committee was established in 2012, chaired by the Department, to examine the feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the report. One of the significant recommendations in the report was the extension of the Film Tax Relief Scheme, Section 481, until 2020. This was implemented in 2012 with the Minister for Finance announcing the extension of Section until the end of 2020 in his budget speech in December 2012.

Ireland showcased some exceptional talent at the 2012 Oscar ceremony. There were three nominations for "*Albert Nobbs*", a film set in Ireland, completely filmed on location in Ireland with an Irish crew and supported by the Irish Film Board. In addition, the film "*The Guard*", starring Brendan Gleeson, achieved both critical acclaim and audience success, becoming the most successful independent Irish film in Irish box office history, grossing over €4.5m.

In 2012, a co-production film agreement was signed with South Africa in May by Minister Deenihan and Mr. Paul S Mashatile, MP, the Minister for Arts and Culture in South Africa. Film co-production agreements are bilateral international agreements between the respective governments intended to facilitate film or television co-productions involving producers in each of the countries concerned and also aims to promote relationships between the participating countries. This particular Agreement aims at enhancing and facilitating co-productions between Ireland and

South Africa by entitling such bilateral co-productions to benefit from the same benefits (particularly tax incentives) as granted to national films in Ireland and South Africa.

National Cultural Institutions – Highlights during 2012

The **National Museum of Ireland** recorded a very significant milestone in 2012 when it welcomed in excess of one million visitors across its four sites. Conservation work on the Asgard sailing vessel was completed and the vessel went on public display at the Museum's Collins Barracks site in August 2012 to much critical acclaim. Significant work was also carried out during 2012 on the development and expansion of the Local and Regional Museums Programme and an expanded scheme was announced for 2013 on foot of this work.

2012 was a particularly active year for the **National Concert Hall** with attendance figures of over 322,000 patrons (compared to almost 294,000 in 2011, an increase of 9.7%) attending a record 1,017 events. The Concert Hall's flagship International Concert Series in 2012 brought wonderful orchestral playing from world-class ensembles, including the London Symphony Orchestra, the Britten Sinfonia, the Orchestre National du Capitol de Toulouse, the Royal Philharmonic and the Leipzig Gewandhaus.

In relation to the **National Gallery of Ireland**, the exhibition 'Masterpieces from the Collection' remained on display throughout 2012 and proved very popular. Other exhibitions included 'Art Surpassing Nature: Dutch Landscapes in the Age of Rembrandt and Ruisdael'; 'Jack of all Trades: Yeats'; and 'Punch' cartoons and illustrations by Irish painters. In 2012, there were almost 660,500 visitors to the Gallery, a very impressive figure considering much of the Gallery is closed for renovation work.

The **Irish Museum of Modern Art's** (IMMA) 2012 programme was based across two locations – the New Galleries at the RHK site and the premises formerly occupied by Dublin Contemporary 2011, adjacent to the National Concert Hall (NCH) at Earlsfort Terrace. The main IMMA building at the RHK was closed throughout 2012 to facilitate essential fire, maintenance and refurbishment works. Highlights of the programme at the NCH included a mid-career retrospective of Irish artist, Alice Maher; a multi-screen film installation by Neil Jordan, based on the Samuel Beckett play *Not I*; and an exhibition from IMMA's own collection inspired by the location of the exhibition in the former UCD Medical School and celebrating Dublin as the European City of Science 2012.

At the RHK, key elements included the ongoing exhibition of photography from the Bank of America collection; the Ned Kelly series by celebrated Australian artist, Sidney Nolan, who was of Irish extraction, and an ambitious project by Irish artist, Garrett Phelan, creating a live dialogue between bell ringers at both Christchurch Cathedral and St. Patrick's Cathedral on mid-summer's evening.

The first phase in a programme to upgrade the storage facilities at the **National Archives of Ireland's** Bishop Street premises was completed by OPW in 2012 with the provision of a watertight roof and additional security works to the rear of the warehouse. In addition, refurbishment works continued in the Four Courts where archives are stored also.

A number of informative and attractive exhibitions were held in the **National Library of Ireland** in 2012, including *Discover Your NLI: Particles of the Past*. The multimedia exhibition took visitors behind the scenes to view amazing never-before-seen treasures from the collections.

The **Chester Beatty Library's** exhibition '*China through the Lens*', featuring images of China by Scottish photographer, John Thomson, was a resounding success and continued into 2012. During 2012, the Library also staged an exhibition entitled 'The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter', which was also very well attended. The CBL is frequently in the Top 10 most recommended places to visit in Dublin in Trip Advisor and has in the past won European Museum of the Year.

The Crawford Art Gallery's permanent collection comprises over 2,000 works, ranging from eighteenth century Irish and European painting and sculpture, through to contemporary video installations. 2012 was a significant year for the Crawford Gallery, which took possession of 39 important pieces of Irish Art from the AIB collection during the year.

National Cultural Institutions and Public Service Reform

A Government Decision of 17th November 2011 announced a radical streamlining of State bodies, including a number of the National Cultural Institutions funded from this Department's Vote Group. This included decisions to:

- Combine the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Crawford Art Gallery and the National Gallery of Ireland, while retaining their separate identities;
- Merge the National Archives and the Irish Manuscripts Commission into the National Library, while maintaining their separate identities; and
- Examine options around shared services and the board structure of the National Museum of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland.

Additionally, decisions were taken to critically review the streamlining and shared services agenda in respect of a number of other bodies funded from this Department's Vote Group, including the Chester Beatty Library and Culture Ireland.

Following on from the publication of the Government's Reform Plan in November 2011, a Reform Office was established in 2012 in the Department to drive the reform agenda. In addition, a High-Level Reform Committee, which is chaired by the Department's Secretary General, was established to oversee the reform agenda in the Department.

Progress on the amalgamations/mergers in 2012

The Minister and officials within the Department engaged in a process of consultation with each of the relevant institutions throughout 2012. Following this period of assessment, consultation and review, the Government noted and agreed the range of reform actions to be undertaken.

The range of reforms progressed during 2012 includes:

- **Streamlining:** A streamlining of all boards and advisory councils with fewer numbers and all serving without fees;
- **Shared Services:** Practical co-operation between institutions across a wide range of services i.e. communications, procurement, security, retail service and marketing;
- **Support Services:** Making greater use of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in providing support services i.e. HR, IT, legal services and finance to some institutions so that those organisations can concentrate on offering core services to the public;
- **Recovery Agenda:** Aligning the work of relevant organisations with the broader agenda of Government which is focussed on driving investment into Ireland and rebuilding our reputation overseas;
- **Philanthropy:** Encouraging organisations to proactively attract philanthropy and fundraise nationally and internationally, to bolster the funding they receive from the taxpayer;
- **Independence:** Strengthening the programming curatorial and operational independence of Directors.

Culture Night 2012

Culture Night 2012 took place on Friday the 21st of September. The Culture Night launch was held in Cork for the first time ever, truly demonstrating how the event has grown from a relatively small-scale cultural event, staged only in Dublin in 2006, to the significant national cultural event it now is. The 2012 event featured a record 34 participating locations, including 6 regions in Northern Ireland, encompassing over 900 venues, making it the biggest and most extensive Culture Night to date. Amongst the new locations that participated in 2012 were Limerick County, Galway County and North Tipperary.

2012 also saw the development and delivery of a GPS enabled Dublin Culture Night Smartphone/iPhone application which showcased the best of our arts, culture and creative sectors. The application was available to download free of charge in advance of Culture Night, as well as on the night itself, thereby allowing participants develop their own personal culture trails. Feedback has been positive with some 7,200 Culture Night participants using the application on the night. The application won a Silver Award in the Best Event App category at the 2012 Appy Awards.

The year 2012 was the first year of a 5 year development plan in relation to the *International Celebration of Irish Culture Initiative*. This initiative is a key component of the delivery of the commitment in the Programme for Government to expand the Culture Night initiative and to consider making it a twice yearly event. In 2012, the emphasis was on the international launch of the "International Celebration of Irish Culture" brand abroad; a series of programme activities based in existing cultural venues around the Merrion Square/Kildare Street areas of Dublin marketing the message of "I Love my City"; and using the existing St. Patrick's Festival activity to promote Ireland and its culture, both domestically and internationally.

Genealogy

The Irish genealogy website www.irishgenealogy.ie was developed further during the year with the aim of using the website as a portal for genealogical records

Culture Ireland

Critical Review

A Critical Review of Culture Ireland was carried out during 2012 following the Government Decision of 17th November 2011 on Public Service Reform. The Review found that the Culture Ireland brand should be retained and that the work of Culture Ireland in promoting Irish arts worldwide should continue, with its functions to be fully merged into the Department. A new expert advisory committee, including arts expertise as well representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the IDA, Tourism Ireland and The Ireland Funds, was established to replace the former board.

Culture Ireland Grants Scheme

The Culture Ireland Programme continued to create and support opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present and promote their work at strategic international festivals and venues. In 2012, just over 550 applicants were supported, enabling Irish artists across all art forms to present their work in over 50 countries. In addition, over 200 artists, across the spectrum of theatre, dance, music and literature, showcased their work. The Minister led two of Culture Ireland's largest and most important showcase missions in 2012 - the Association of Performing Arts Presenters Conference [APAP] in January and the annual performing arts showcase at the Edinburgh Festivals in August.

A major international tour of Druid Murphy in the USA and England in 2012, which culminated in Garry Hynes winning the Best Director award at the UK Theatre Awards, was also supported, as was Ireland's participation in the *Venice Architecture Biennale*, in partnership with the Arts Council.

Commemorations

Responsibility for centenary commemorations was transferred from the Department of the Taoiseach to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in April 2012.

The All-Party Working Group on Commemorations, chaired by Minister Jimmy Deenihan, was re-established and met on a regular basis during 2012. The Group comprises representatives of all parties in the Oireachtas and independent members and is a platform to build consensus on the nature and tone of commemorative events to be undertaken. In addition, a high level officials' group was established to co-ordinate commemorations across Departments and progress was made on the development of a 'Decade of Commemorations' website.

In 2012, an Expert Advisory Group of historians, chaired by Dr. Maurice Manning, was established to provide guidance to ensure the authenticity and balance of the commemorative programme. The focus in the area of commemorations is to prioritise events and projects that are of educational value, that can provide a lasting legacy, and that provide enhanced access to historical sites and/or primary source documents.

The programme of commemorations began with the centenary of the introduction of the third Home Rule Bill to the Westminster Parliament on 11 April 1912. This anniversary was marked by memorial lectures on John Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party, which were organised in association with Waterford City Council.

The Northern Ireland First Minister, Mr Peter Robinson, MLA, visited the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at Iveagh House in Dublin in 2012 to offer his reflections on Carson's influence on Irish unionism. The First Minister's address followed historical presentations by Professor Paul Bew and Professor Michael Laffan. In mid-April, Minister Jimmy Deenihan addressed a conference of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland at Belfast City Hall about the Ulster Covenant, the centenary of which was marked on 28th September 2012. During the year, the Department also worked with Glasnevin Trust to mark the centenary of the founding of the Labour Party with a special presentation by Mr Dick Spring.

National Famine Memorial Day

The 2012 National Famine Commemoration was held on 13th May in Drogheda, Co. Louth. An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, T.D., led the official representation at the ceremony. On that day, all those who suffered, perished or emigrated during the Great Irish Famine were remembered and honoured. The commemoration programme opened with a ceremony in which the local community was greatly involved and culminated in the formal State ceremonial event, which included raising the National Flag, military honours and wreath-laying ceremonies.

A wide range of organisations were invited to observe a minute of silent reflection at public and sporting events held on that date. Schools nationwide were also invited to participate in a minute of silent reflection at noon on Friday, 11th May 2012. A programme of local events took place in Drogheda between 28th April and 13th May to commemorate the famine. Highlights include the recreation of a soup kitchen during the famine on Thursday, 10th May, a number of famine walks, exhibitions, lectures, poetry, music and song.

In line with the practice of officially recognising the Famine both at home and abroad, a commemoration was also held in Boston, President Michael D. Higgins led the official representation at the Famine Commemoration in Boston on Saturday, 5th May 2012 with a keynote speech at Faneuil Hall, as well as participating in other associated events.

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:

To ensure that Ireland has in place a suite of policies and up-to-date legislation in compliance with EU and international heritage obligations.

Strategy 2:

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

Strategy 3:

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

Strategy 4:

To ensure that the heritage services are delivered as effectively as possible, including through third parties.

Cessation of Turf Cutting

Protecting Ireland's 53 raised bog Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) was one of the challenging issues which the Department faced over 2012. Much progress was made in terms of putting compensation systems in place and agreeing a strategic way forward with the European Commission to manage this unique resource for future generations.

Overall, some 453 plots were cut illegally on 24 of the 53 raised bog SACs in 2012. This figure represents a significant reduction on the 2011 figure when some 1,319 plots were cut. However, it is still clear that significant resistance to the cessation persists, despite continued engagement by the Department with the communities involved throughout the year, and efforts are continuing to bring all parties on board so as to **address the outstanding issues in a collaborative fashion.**

Peatlands Forum

In February 2012, Minister Deenihan announced that the Chairman of the Peatlands Council, Mr. Conor Skehan, had been asked to convene a Peatlands Forum, to give an opportunity to representatives of turf cutters on each of the affected SAC bogs to discuss with officials the best solutions for their particular bog. Mr. Justice John Quirke, a Judge in the High Court, was asked to act as independent Chair of the Forum. The Peatlands Forum was held over four days in Athlone at the end of February 2012. It allowed for a frank exchange of views and an examination of the potential solutions for each of the 53 raised bog SACs. In his report, Mr. Justice Quirke recommended the development of a national plan for the SAC raised bogs. In response, the Government decided in March to prepare a National Raised Bog SAC Strategy, which could provide some limited flexibility for a few of the most difficult bogs in full compliance with the EU Habitats Directive.

A Private Members Motion, which received all party support in Dáil Éireann in March 2012, called on the Government to, inter alia: “— *engage actively with the European Commission to seek a resolution within the terms of the Habitats Directive, and to prepare and submit a National Raised Bog Restoration Plan to the Commission as a matter of urgency*”. On foot of this motion, Minister Deenihan, with his colleague Minister Hogan, met with Commissioner Potočník in April 2012 and secured his support for the development of a National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan. The Department’s proposed approach to this plan was published in September 2012.

In November 2012, Mr Conor Skehan stepped down as chair of the Peatlands Council, and was succeeded by Mr Seamus Boland. The Council’s work on the development of a National Peatlands Strategy to deal with long-term issues relating to the future management of Ireland’s peatlands continued through 2012.

Enhanced Compensation

In addition to the preparation of the SAC Management Plan, Minister Deenihan also announced that the Government had agreed to an enhanced package of compensation under the Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme (CTCCS). Qualifying applicants would now receive €1,500 per annum, index linked, for a period of fifteen years. This was a €500 per annum increase on the previous terms. Qualifying applicants would also receive a once-off €500 payment in the first year of their participation in the scheme. Qualifying applicants who opt to relocate, where feasible, to an undesignated bog would also receive the once-off payment of €500, together with either a payment of €1,500, or a delivery of turf (15 tonnes - an increase from 10 tonnes) for each year, until their relocation bog was ready to commence turf cutting. This decision increased the value of the annuity scheme by €8,000 per applicant to a total of €23,000. A total of 2,590 applications for compensation had been received and acknowledged by the Department by end-2012. A total of 2,117 payments and 191 deliveries of turf have been made in respect of these applications. The total expenditure for 2012 under this scheme amounted to €3.4 million.

Relocation

Some 766 of applicants under the CTCCS have expressed an interest in relocation to non-designated bogs. Arrangements for the relocation of turf cutters to non-designated bogs have been

finalised, or have been well advanced, for groups from 4 raised bog SACs. Out of the remaining 49 raised bog SACs, potential relocation sites have been identified for a further 31 SACs and work is ongoing on investigating these sites. Relocation of turf cutters to non-designated bogs is a very complex process, in terms of investigating suitable sites for turf quality and quantity, the infrastructure/drainage works required, establishing the number who can be accommodated on the site, the cost and feasibility of land purchase or lease, and possible planning and Environmental Impact Assessment requirements. Accordingly, it will only be possible to bring this process to a conclusion over time in respect of all the relocation sites.

Monitoring

Monitoring and surveillance of the bogs was carried out throughout the year by Department officials, often in conjunction with the An Garda Síochána. Both ground and air patrols were carried out, with some 70 monitoring flights being undertaken using the Air Corps and privately hired planes. Plot owners and turf cutting contractors, where identified, were warned verbally and by letter of the consequences of unauthorised cutting. The Gardaí are leading criminal investigations in relation to unauthorised turf cutting and files were referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Site Designations

Some 33 Statutory Instruments, completing the formal designation process and affording legal protection to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds, were signed into law during the year (details at Appendix 1). This means the formal designation process was concluded for some 133 sites, in our network of 153 SPA sites, by the end of 2012.

In addition, to meet Ireland's obligations under the EU Habitats Directive, six new marine sites were proposed for designation as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) just before the end of 2012. These six sites will protect a range of habitats and species, including sandbanks, deep sea coral reefs, dolphins off the Atlantic coast and harbour porpoises found in Dublin Bay. Notification of these proposals was published in the local and national media and sent directly to c. 3,000 marine licence holders and other stakeholders.

These sites, along with our SPAs, are part of a European network of nature conservation sites known as Natura 2000, which was established with the aim of preserving our rich natural heritage for future generations.

National Parks and Nature Reserves

The Department facilitates to the greatest extent, public access to, and appropriate visitor use of, the State-owned National Parks and Nature Reserves. Such access and use must, of course, be consistent with the ethos of the Parks as natural places of peace and tranquillity set in scenic landscapes, as well as being compatible with the conservation and biodiversity considerations that are of necessity associated with the management of natural heritage assets. Traditionally, natural heritage assets have been managed primarily for conservation and education purposes. However, more recently, and particularly having regard to the priorities set out in the *Programme for*

Government, there has been an increased focus on the tourism potential and associated economic benefits of these assets.

In 2012, a programme of capital works was undertaken at the National Parks and Nature Reserves in order to secure the conservation of our natural heritage, to enhance visitor experiences, and to improve the Irish tourism product on offer. A total of €1.78m was expended on over 30 capital projects in this area. Examples of these projects include upgrading facilities at visitor centres and trails, capital works for health and safety purposes and removal of invasive alien species to protect vulnerable habitats.

Significant projects carried out in 2012 include:

- Phase I and Phase II works associated with the Killarney House Restoration Project. These works were required to safeguard the structural integrity and to create the optimal internal layout of the House in preparation for the full restoration works.
- The final phase of a project to construct a new pedestrian pathway from the Visitor Centre to Glenveagh Castle in the Glenveagh National Park was completed. This new pathway provides visitors with a safer route separated from the bus traffic and affords enhanced views of Glenveagh.
- The new Burren National Park Visitor Information Point was also opened in 2012, providing information and an introductory level of interpretation for visitors to the Burren National Park.

Rhododendron and scrub clearance, which is carried out annually in Killarney, Ballycroy, Connemara and Glenveagh National Parks, accounted for €280,000 or approximately 16% of the Parks and Reserves capital expenditure in 2012.

Licensing

The Department is responsible for the licensing requirements under the Wildlife Acts and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. In 2012 almost 7,300 licences and permits were issued by the Department for a variety of activities, which was an increase of almost 5% on the number of licences issued in 2011 – see Table. The majority of licences, almost two thirds (over 4,600), were granted for deer hunting.

Details	Licences issued in 2011	Licences issued in 2012	Diff between 2011 & 2012
Protection of Flora	11	5	-6
Protection of Wild Birds and Wild Animals	161	356	195
Film/Photograph Wild Birds/Animals	128	113	-15
Retain Injured Birds and animals	33	30	-3

Pen-reared Birds	79	71	-8
Deer Hunting	4,501	4,648	147
Hunt over State Foreshore/Lakes	780	819	39
Ringling/Marking protected Wild Birds/Animals	108	120	12
Birds of prey: Possession	173	192	19
Engage in Falconry	181	190	9
Serious damage caused by Protected Wild Birds/Animals	538	425	-113
Wildlife Dealers	64	55	-9
Derogations	109	138	29
Other licences	83	113	30
Totals	6,949	7,275	326

Science and Biodiversity

During 2012, the Department continued to focus on compliance with the EU Habitats and Birds Directives and a particular success was the closure of case C-183/05, concerning species requiring strict protection under the Habitats Directive.

In the context of the ECJ case against Ireland on overgrazing of hills (C-117/00), which was closed some years ago, conditional on Ireland continuing to take measures to restore damaged habitats and to monitor recovery, a review was completed of appropriate stocking densities for sheep across Irish commonages. This work was led by the Department.

ALREADY COVERED Following consultation with relevant Government Departments and agencies, and other interested sectors, Ireland's Prioritised Action Framework for Natura 2000 was submitted to the European Commission in December 2012.

Scientific monitoring, as required under Article 11 of the Habitats Directive, was an important element of work in 2012. The resulting assessments of EU protected habitats and species in Ireland are now available online at <http://www.npws.ie/news/name,14906,en.html> and a status report will be published in 2013.

Work continued in 2012 on the endangered freshwater pearl mussel. Ireland is believed to hold 42% of the EU population of this species. A particular focus of work was assisting Mayo County Council in the design and execution of bridge repair works at the Bundorragha River, one of the most important rivers for the species.

The Birds Case C418/04 is multi-stranded, and good progress was made in all aspects. Legal transposition issues had been comprehensively addressed through the Birds and Natural Habitats regulations of 2011. The scientific basis for SPA designations was completed, and work carried out

in regard to sites for breeding Dunlin commenced, as required by the European Commission, Detailed, science-based conservation objectives (a legal requirement) were produced for 28 sites around the State (<http://www.npws.ie/protectedsites/conservationmanagementplanning/conservationobjectives/>).

Regular contact was maintained with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the European Commission, in regard to aquaculture and fishing licence appropriate assessments. The corncrake conservation strategy was expanded in line with observations received from the Commission.

National Monuments

The Attorney General's Office commenced formal drafting of the Monuments Bill in May 2012 and it is expected that this work will be completed by the end of 2013. The Bill will consolidate and update the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, along with some related enactments and will provide a more effective, efficient and transparent regime for the recording and protection of monuments and the regulation of archaeological activity generally.

The European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Demolition of National Monuments) Regulations 2012 (S.I. No. 249 of 2012) were signed by the Minister in July 2012.

In compliance with statutory requirements under the National Monuments Acts, 431 Archaeological Excavation licences, 143 licences to use detection devices and 37 dive licences were issued in 2012.

A total of 44 Ministerial consents in relation to works at national monuments were issued. Ministerial Directions were issued for archaeological works at two road projects, the A062 Kilkenny Central Access Scheme and the A063 Coonagh to Knockalisheen Road.

For two monuments in immediate danger, rescue excavation projects were funded by the Department, in addition to one survey project. During 2012, 107 reports received regarding threat or damage monuments were investigated. Three successful prosecutions were finalised in 2012 in relation to damage to a monument under the National Monuments Acts.

Of 5,149 referrals to the Minister on foot of the Planning and Development Acts, archaeological mitigation measures were recommended in 727 cases to address the impacts of development on the archaeological resource. Recommendations to the relevant Local Authority or to An Bord Pleanála for refusal of planning permission accounted for 14 cases, or 0.25% of referrals.

Throughout the year, the Working Group on Heritage Tourism continued to examine and implement ways to apply the Department's archaeological expertise to the further development of heritage tourism. The *Monuments to Visit* webpage went live on www.archaeology.ie in September 2012 and showcases publicly-accessible national monuments, particularly lesser-known ones, providing photos and interpretive material for potential visitors.

A system was developed in 2012 between the Department and the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, in consultation with Local Action Groups, to address the funding of heritage projects under the Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (RDP). The system was designed on foot of LEADER funds being made available for the first time under the RDP for well-designed and appropriate heritage projects relating to:

- Monuments and places protected under the National Monuments Acts;
- Protected structures and architectural conservation areas listed under the Planning and Development Act 2000;
- Protected nature conservation sites;
- Protected species of flora and fauna and their key habitats; and
- Other nature conservation sites and biodiversity areas.

Under the new system, all such heritage projects are reviewed by the Department to ensure that statutory requirements which apply to protected sites are adhered to and that best practice standards for all works affecting heritage are maintained. The system provides a structured and efficient regime for carrying out this assessment and for the provision of advice on individual projects, while helping to ensure that appropriate projects receive funding promptly.

Grants to both the Royal Irish Academy (€100,000) and the INSTAR Programme (€55,000) were made in 2012.

Online Archaeological licensing facility

An online licensing system (e-licensing) has been developed which will provide a much improved service to the public and also offer increased efficiencies. This system went live in 2012.

Archaeological Archive

Work progressed in 2012 on the transfer of material to the new archaeological archive facility in Swords.

Publications

Assisted publications included the following:

- *Warships, U-Boats and Liners* was published in November 2012.
- *Trim Castle Excavations 1995-1998* was published in February 2012, as was the ***Skellig Michael, Co. Kerry - The Monastery and South Peak Archaeological Stratigraphic Report.***
- **A series of 12 articles relating to our archaeological heritage were published in the Irish Farmers Journal from January – March 2012.**
- The results of the six published volumes of the *Survey of the Megalithic Tombs of Ireland* (814 monuments) were uploaded to the web and the volumes made available as PDF downloads.
- **Archaeology in the Classroom: Time in Transition was re-launched in May 2012.**

- Two Codes of Practice were published by the Department in August 2012:
 - a revised Code between the Department and Iarnród Éireann; and
 - a new Code agreed between the Department, the National Museum of Ireland and Bord na Móna.

Archaeological Survey of Ireland

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland continued the on-going maintenance of the statutory list of recorded monuments and completed work on the mapping, file management and data components for counties Longford and Wicklow (5,780 records) as a pilot project in preparation for potential reissue of the Record of Monuments and Places. Considerable progress was achieved in the on-going data-management and resolution of inherited data-legacy issues across the 27 county datasets (e.g. the list of townlands for Co. Cork was upgraded to conform with other county lists).

To further support third-party developments in the provision of information on monuments, including heritage tourism derived products, an additional 4,800 descriptions were uploaded to the website (www.archaeology.ie) and enhancements made to the public map/search facility.

A contract to update the statutory records with monuments discovered in the course of an aerial photography project was completed. A grant in support of the 'Ogham in 3D' project being undertaken by the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies (School of Celtic Studies) facilitated the complementary recording of stones designated as National Monuments. This work feeds into both the statutory maintenance of the record and the on-going conservation programmes being undertaken by the Department.

Underwater Archaeology

A series of historically invaluable underwater archaeological surveys and excavations was carried out in 2012, including:

- A further season of dive survey and excavation on a significant late 16th-early 17th Century wreck off Rutland Island, Co. Donegal.
- Detailed surveys on two 17th Century wrecks off Broadhaven and Belmullet in Co. Mayo, one of which is a recorded Dutch East Indiaman.
- A survey in Lough Oughter Co. Cavan focused on Clogh Oughter Castle and a number of dugout boats in the lake, which range in date from the Bronze Age to the 17th Century AD.
- Assessing and sampling the “Butter Boat” on Streedagh Strand, Co Sligo, for dendro-dating as part of a re-assessment of the location of three Spanish Armada shipwrecks known to have been lost there in 1588.
- Bringing the Drogheda Boat post -excavation work to an advanced draft stage.
- The investigation of an early 17th century shipwreck discovered during the laying of an outfall pipe off Schull in West Cork, in support of Cork Co. Council.

Work continued on the development of the Shipwreck Inventory, the development of the shipwreck database and GIS-related mapping of known wreck sites. Dives on the wreck of the Lusitania continued to be monitored and a memorandum of understanding with the owner of the wreck was

progressed. Liaison continued with the Naval Service in relation to the methodology to be employed in neutralising the potential danger posed to divers by unexploded mines on the wreck of the WWI U-boat UC42 just outside Cork Harbour.

Built Heritage and Architectural Policy

In 2012, the Department continued to deliver on actions outlined under the *Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015* along with implementation of the overall programme.

The Department published a guidance manual of case studies in re-use of historic buildings: *Shaping the Future: Case Studies in adaptation and reuse in Historic Urban Environments*. Funding was also provided for a number of projects under the *Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015* implementation programme (See Appendix 2).

Capital Programmes and Initiatives

Emergency funding was provided for urgent works to structures protected under the Planning and Development Acts, which were in immediate danger of deterioration. Funding was provided to the Office of Public Works for maintenance of national monuments and historic buildings in State ownership. The Heritage Council was also funded as regards its operational and heritage programmes and funding for the Irish Heritage Trust provided.

A heritage-led re-generation pilot project, the *Historic Towns Initiative*, was initiated in Listowel, Youghal and Westport. This pilot project was initiated in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, The Heritage Council and the three town councils, and will run through to 2014. This initiative has been undertaken in the context of promoting the role which Ireland's heritage has to play in making our country an attractive destination for sustainable tourism and inward investment. Each town has set up a local Historic Towns Initiative working group consisting of representatives of local government, community groups and other stakeholders. The local groups are responsible for drawing up a vision for their town with specific objectives supported by a clear action plan. The first projects identified in the action plans will commence in summer 2013.

A built heritage fiscal strategy was developed to focus on alternative mechanisms for indirect investment in our historic built environment, which included the development with the Department of Finance of a pilot-based approach for an urban area-based relief scheme for those areas of specific architectural heritage interest in our Historic City core areas.

Planning and Statutory Functions

5,149 Planning applications referred to the Minister as a statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Acts were reviewed and recommendations were made, as appropriate. Notifications of works to recorded monuments and applications for Ministerial Consent were reviewed and recommendations made, as appropriate. Input was made as appropriate to Development Plans and Strategic Infrastructural Projects. 91 LEADER Development Applications related to the built heritage were reviewed and recommendations made, as appropriate.

Work continued on the Architectural Heritage Policy Guidance and Advice Series, the National Landscape Strategy and on energy efficiency regulations as they affect historic buildings.

Critical Review of the Heritage Council and the Irish Heritage Trust

Following a Government Decision of 17th November 2011 regarding the amalgamation and merger of State bodies under the Public Service Reform programme, a decision was made to initiate a critical review of the Heritage Council. A report was concluded in 2012 which recommended the development of a streamlined Heritage Council. The implementation of this recommendation will be concluded in 2013.

A review of The Irish Heritage Trust was developed in 2012. The review recommendations concluded that the Trust should continue to be supported by the Department but that its mandate as renewed and revised should be based on agreed, realistic and transparent objectives for the organisation which will be completed in 2013.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

Ministerial recommendations under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) were issued for Cork City and suburbs during the year. Fieldwork in relation to the Inventory was completed for counties Cavan and Monaghan. Inventories for these counties and for the balance of Counties Donegal and Mayo, will be published in 2013. This will mark the completion of the initial phase of the NIAH outside of Dublin City and Dún Laoghaire/Rathdown.

Throughout the year, the the following initiatives were also progressed:

- The online www.buildingsofireland.ie mapping tool was enhanced and upgraded to provide a better service.
- The Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Steering Committee with representation from government departments, state agencies and interested stakeholders was established. Work commenced on drafting material for the new plan.
- The website www.worldheritageireland.ie was further developed.

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:

To implement the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030.

Strategy 2:

To facilitate the delivery of services to island communities.

20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030

Implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030* continued during 2012. The Cabinet Committee on the Irish Language and the Gaeltacht maintained oversight of progress on the Strategy during 2012. Various areas for action in the Strategy were progressed under the operational structures established by the Department with key stakeholders in other Departments and agencies, particularly under the Inter-Departmental Group which coordinates the implementation of the Strategy.

During 2012, priority was given by the Department to legislative matters, specifically the Gaeltacht Act 2012 and the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission (Amendment) Act 2013. The enactment of the Gaeltacht Act in July 2012 was particularly significant. For the first time since 1956, the need for a new definition for the Gaeltacht was provided for in the Gaeltacht Act, which is based on linguistic criteria instead of on geographic areas as had been the position to date. Under the Act, language planning at community level is central to the new definition of the Gaeltacht. Areas located outside the existing statutory Gaeltacht will be given the opportunity to achieve statutory recognition as Irish Language Networks or as Gaeltacht Service Towns, subject to fulfilling particular criteria.

In addition to amendments to Údarás na Gaeltachta's functions, the Gaeltacht Act 2012 gives statutory effect to the implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030* by Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Gaeltacht. It also provides for a significant reduction in the number of members on the board of Údarás na Gaeltachta and dispenses with the requirement for elections to the board.

The Houses of the Oireachtas Commission (Amendment) Bill 2012 proceeded through the Houses of the Oireachtas, with all Seanad stages and the Dáil second stage being completed in 2012. The Bill, which was enacted in February 2013 as the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission (Amendment) Act 2013, provides for an expansion of the role of the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission in relation to the translation of legislation (to include both primary and secondary

legislation). The Act also provides for the publication and periodic review of the Official Standard for Irish by the Houses of the Oireachtas Commission.

Gaeltacht Support Schemes

Funding of €3.139m was allocated during 2012 to various organisations in the Gaeltacht which provide a range of activities and services that assist both in supporting the Irish language in the Gaeltacht and in the practical implementation of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language*. Organisations which received funding included Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge, Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne Teo., Muintearas Teo., and An Gaelacadamh Teo. Funding was also provided for the Irish Language Assistants Scheme under which over 80 language assistants were employed in 97 Gaeltacht schools and which was managed on behalf of the Department by Muintearas and Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne. In addition, 180 approved summer camps provided activities for over 5,000 children in the Gaeltacht.

The Family Language Support Programme was launched in April 2012 to support families in the Gaeltacht who are raising their children through Irish or who wish to raise their children through Irish. Under the programme, the Department initiated the provision of a support pack for parents which contains practical information on raising children through Irish, in addition to educational material for children. In addition, a short video on language awareness was developed which was made available online.

Funding of €4.051m was allocated during 2012 to the Irish Language Learners Scheme. Some 649 households provided accommodation to 23,840 Irish language learners while attending 48 Irish language colleges.

€1.439m was allocated in 2012 in the form of capital grants for various community and language facilities in the Gaeltacht, including construction or renovation grants for community halls, pre-schools, summer colleges and sports facilities.

Irish Language Support Schemes

Funding of some €4.6m was allocated in 2012 to support a range of Irish language organisations and initiatives outside the Gaeltacht. Among the organisations and initiatives supported were:

- 11 Irish language organisations (including Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Gnó Mhaigh Eo, Gael Taca, Spleodar and Raidió Rí Rá) received approximately €1.04m;
- The provision of specialist third-level courses in Irish (8 full-time and 4 short courses) in various universities and institutions in Ireland, at a cost of approximately €1.68m;
- The teaching of Irish in 38 universities overseas under the auspices of the Fulbright Commission, the Ireland Canada University Foundation and other universities, at a cost of approximately €0.7m;
- Various terminology, translation, placenames and other research projects in Fiontar DCU, UCD and TCD, at a cost of approximately €0.96m; and
- The capital refurbishment of the national Irish language theatre, Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, at a cost of €189,000.

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Funding is provided to Údarás na Gaeltachta to help develop the Gaeltacht economy for the purposes of encouraging the preservation and expansion of Irish as the principal community language of the region. To this end, Údarás promotes employment and enterprise in the Gaeltacht through the development of local natural resources, the enhancement of skills and entrepreneurial abilities, in addition to the attraction of investment to the Gaeltacht. It also promotes and supports community development initiatives and a wide range of language and cultural schemes. Údarás na Gaeltachta is also the body responsible for the delivery of the *20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030* in the Gaeltacht.

The overall Exchequer provision for Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2012 was €19.082m. At year-end, there were 6,933 full-time equivalent jobs in Údarás client companies in the Gaeltacht.

Official Languages Act 2003

The process of implementing the Official Languages Act 2003 continued in 2012. During the year, 9 language schemes were confirmed. By the end of 2012, a total of 108 inaugural and second language schemes covering 194 public bodies had been confirmed.

As part of the review of the Official Languages Act 2003, analysis of the submissions received during a public consultation process was completed. It is intended to publish draft Heads of the Bill in 2013 to provide for amendments to the Act arising from the review. The submissions received through the public consultation process will be published on the Department's website in conjunction with the draft Heads of the Bill.

An Coimisinéir Teanga

The Government's *Public Service Reform Plan*, published in November 2011, included a decision to merge the functions of An Coimisinéir Teanga with the Ombudsman's Office. This decision is being progressed in the context of the review of the Official Languages Act 2003.

Following a period of assessment, consultation and review, the Government considered the progress made in October 2012, and noted and agreed the range of reform actions to be undertaken under the *Public Service Reform Plan*.

The actions now being progressed with regard to An Coimisinéir Teanga are as follows:

- The Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga to merge with the Office of the Ombudsman.
- The statutory powers and functions of An Coimisinéir Teanga under the Official Languages Act 2003 to transfer to the Ombudsman and be delegated to An Coimisinéir Teanga under the amending legislation.
- An Coimisinéir Teanga to continue to be statutorily appointed and exercise independent powers under the Official Languages Act 2003 and to also continue to be based in the Gaeltacht.

The Placenames Commission

The term of office of the Placenames Commission, which operated with a membership of 17, ended in October 2012. In the context of the *Public Service Reform Plan*, the Commission is to be replaced with an expert committee with a membership of between 7 and 10 members, operating on a *pro bono* basis. The new expert committee will be established on an administrative basis in 2013, with any required legislative amendments to be made under the proposed Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2013.

The Islands

Recognising their unique importance from the cultural, linguistic and heritage perspectives, the Department continued to support communities on the offshore islands during 2012.

€6.1m was provided in 2012 to 24 transport services to 20 offshore islands. 8 new contracts were agreed during the year, which will ensure continued regular access to the mainland for the island communities in question.

In addition to transport services, the Department also supported a BA in Visual Arts on Sherkin Island, which is being delivered in association with Dublin Institute of Technology.

During the year, the Department continued to support island communities in other ways, including through:

- the expenditure of some €0.78m on capital works on the islands;
- the carrying out of essential minor works on the islands;
- the promotion and co-ordination of Government policy in relation to island communities; and
- direct interactions with key community and development stakeholders on the islands.

Goal 4: North-South Co-operation

To maintain, develop and foster North/South co-operation.

Strategy 1:

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

Strategy 2:

To promote North/South co-operation in other areas of activity within the Department's remit.

Waterways Ireland

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

Three North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) meetings in Inland Waterways sectoral format took place in 2012 on 14 February 2012, 9 July 2012 and 12 December 2012.

In 2012, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht provided funding amounting to €27.1m to Waterways Ireland. The main outputs achieved during the year included continued progress on the maintenance programme, which ensured 99% of the navigable waterways were open and available for navigation from April to October.

Waterways Ireland's programme of capital works continued during the year. Works included:

- Dredging works on the Grand Canal;
- The Lough Key Marina was officially opened on 6 September 2012, which included 541m of moorings on the Shannon Navigation; and
- The provision of additional moorings totalling 721m (IRL 591m, NI 130m).

Cavan County Council granted planning permission for the Ulster Canal restoration project in December 2011. Discussions continued through 2012 on the applications submitted to Monaghan County Council, Clones Town Council and the Department of the Environment Planning Service NI. A planning application was resubmitted to Clones Town Council on 21 December 2012.

Waterways Ireland continued its promotional work to raise awareness and encourage use of the waterways through its sponsorship programme. 99 events were sponsored during 2012 across the navigations. Examples of events sponsored were the Docklands Festival (Grand Canal), Tri Athlone (Shannon), St Patrick's Day Enniskillen (Erne), River Fest Coleraine (Lr Bann), Éigse Carlow (Barrow) and Phizzfest Dublin (Royal Canal). A number of other smaller community events were also sponsored in 2012.

Waterways Ireland won a prestigious Public Sector Award at the Docklands Business Forum Awards on 29 November 2012. The Award was given in recognition of Waterways Ireland's commitment to preserving, promoting and developing the Grand Canal Dock as a public resource to be used and enjoyed. The Award also acknowledges Waterways Ireland's partnership with the Dockland Business Forum in promoting Dublin's Docklands as a great place to visit and enjoy.

Publications completed during the year included:

- The 'What's On 2012' Guide;
- "A Taste of the Waterways", 2012 edition;
- "Guide to the Barrow"; and
- "Good Boating Guide".

The Lakelands and Inland Waterways initiative, a joint project between Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Northern Ireland Tourist Board, Fermanagh Tourism, Tourism Ireland and Shannon Development in relation to a marketing campaign for the Erne Shannon system from Belleek to Limerick, continued in 2012.

Waterways Ireland also launched an Education Programme in late 2012. This programme will be an invaluable teaching resource for schools across the island of Ireland.

The final meeting of the Waterways Forward INTERREG IVC Project took place in Paris from 6-8 November 2012. Representatives from 17 organisations (including Waterways Ireland) from 11 EU countries plus Norway and Serbia were in attendance. Following this, a meeting took place between the lead partners and senior EU officials to discuss the outcomes of the project and the way forward.

An Foras Teanga

An Foras Teanga is the North/South Implementation Body responsible for promoting both the Irish language and the Ulster-Scots language and culture throughout the island of Ireland. There are two separate Agencies under the auspices of this Body, Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch.

The following key ministerial priorities were set for Foras na Gaeilge for 2012:

- Implementing the review of core funding of certain voluntary Irish language organisations;
- Progressing delivery of the online version of the new English/Irish dictionary;
- Implementing the recommendations arising out of the review of the book distribution service, Áis;
- Increasing effective learning and acquisition of Irish through the promotion of teaching of Irish and teaching through Irish; and progressing the development of new terminology; and

- Increasing the use of Irish by supporting Irish language groups and by providing opportunities for young people to use Irish, in addition to fostering reading, writing and publishing through Irish.

The following key ministerial priorities were set for the Ulster-Scots Agency in 2012:

- Providing support to communities engaged in Ulster-Scots activities and development of infrastructure and capacity in Ulster-Scots communities;
- Delivering access to and appreciation of Ulster-Scots culture and heritage by expanding the range of opportunities for people to enjoy and participate in Ulster-Scots cultural activities; development of tourism products and opportunities based on Ulster-Scots heritage and culture and commemoration of important anniversaries relevant to Ulster-Scots;
- Promoting education and language development by increasing tuition in Ulster-Scots culture across the education sector; making progress towards obtaining formal recognition of Ulster-Scots traditions within the school curriculum and supporting the development of the Ulster-Scots language; and
- Progressing organisational development and improved customer service by improving the standards of service to customers, strengthening governance and accountability within the Agency and supporting the continued professional development of Agency staff.

By the end of 2012, significant progress had been achieved by An Foras Teanga in regard to these priorities. Three NSMC sectoral meetings were held in language sectoral format on 14 February 2012, 9 July 2012 and 12 December 2012.

Funding is provided to An Foras Teanga from this Department and the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland (DCAL). Foras na Gaeilge is co-funded on the basis of 75% from this Department and 25% from DCAL, while Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch is co-funded on the basis of 25% from this Department and 75% from DCAL. During 2012, total funding of €15.397m was provided by this Department to An Foras Teanga, including ringfenced funding of €1.259m for Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge (supporting reading, writing and publishing initiatives in the Irish language) and €144,331 for Colmcille (a tripartite initiative to promote the Irish and Scots Gaelic languages).

More detailed information is available on the following websites:

- www.forasnagaeilge.ie (Foras na Gaeilge) and
- www.ulsterscotsagency.com (Ulster-Scots Agency).

North South Co-operation

In addition to the language and inland waterways sectors, formal and informal engagement continued to explore ways of deepening and enhancing north south co-operation across the areas of arts, culture, museums, galleries and commemorations, as well as in built and natural heritage, and environmental matters. Areas of activity included engagement on programme development for the planning of commemorations and funding for collaborations between museums on either side of the

border. In addition, the 2012 Culture Night initiative included participation by 6 regions in Northern Ireland.

Corporate Matters

EU Presidency Planning

During 2012, an EU Planning Unit was established in the Department and work commenced on the planning of an EU Presidency Programme covering important issues across the sectors within the Department's remit. Preparation of a Culture Programme, to demonstrate Ireland's rich and varied culture and heritage, commenced during 2012 and the Department has worked closely with the National Cultural Institutions and Arts Council in this regard. The Department also worked with other Government Departments, particularly the Department of the Taoiseach, to ensure coherence and consistency with the overall Presidency.

Reform Office

The Reform Office, which was established in the Department in 2011, continued to drive the Government's Public Service Reform Plan and monitor progress by the Department in terms of meeting its commitments set out in the Department's Croke Park Action Plan and Integrated Reform Plan. In addition, a High-Level Reform Committee, chaired by the Department's Secretary General, was established to oversee the reform agenda in the Department.

The focus in 2012 was on the rationalisation and critical review of a number of bodies funded from the Department's Vote Group and work continues in this regard.

A key element of the Government's reform programme is to enhance and improve corporate governance structures. In this regard, detailed Service Level Agreements were developed by the Department in consultation with the bodies.

Staffing

The Department and the bodies funded from its Vote Group commenced work on Workforce Planning Framework Action Plans and submitted these to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in 2012. These plans will ensure that the Department will have "the right people in the right place at the right time" in order to achieve its business goals and inform its strategies regarding deployment, recruitment, promotion, secondment and transfer of staff, along with training and development needs.

The Department continued to deliver services against a background of reduced financial and staffing resources in 2012. Staff numbers were at 577 at end 2012, which is 27 staff below the Department's ECF target. The Department will continue to work with the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform to reduce staffing numbers across the Department over the coming period.

During 2012, the Department continued to upskill staff in order to ensure that they have the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours required for the achievement of our business objectives. Some €223,286 was spent on training and development in 2012.

Freedom of Information

Between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2012, the Department received 122 requests under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997-2003. The Department also carried in 12 live requests from the previous year, giving a total of 134 requests. Of these, 29 were granted, 48 were part-granted and 12 were refused. A total of 34 applications were withdrawn or handled outside of the FOI Act and 2 cases were transferred to another body. 9 cases remained live at the end of the year.

The categories of requesters during 2012 were as follows:

Journalists	62
Business/Interest Groups	21
Oireachtas	2
Staff	4
Client	9
Others	<u>24</u>
Total	122

The bodies and other entities under the aegis of the Department, which were subject to FOI at the end of 2012, are:

- Arts Council
- Chester Beatty Library
- Coimisiún Logainmneacha
- Heritage Council
- Irish Film Board
- Irish Manuscripts Commission
- Irish Museum of Modern Art
- National Archives of Ireland
- National Concert Hall
- National Gallery of Ireland
- National Library of Ireland
- National Museum of Ireland
- Údarás na Gaeltachta

Customer Service

The Department is committed to providing a high-quality, efficient and effective service to its customers. During 2012, the Department's *Customer Service Action Plan 2012–2014* and associated *Customer Charter* was published. These documents reaffirm our commitment to deliver high quality services to all our customers and outlines 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 we will implement the Charter commitments and review/report on our performance in this regard.

Appendix 1

DAHG Legislative Activity in 2012

No.	Title	Description	RIA (Yes / No)	Reason for not preparing RIA
395	S.I. No. 395/2012 — Placenames (County Cork) Order 2012	Placenames Order	No	No significant impacts identified
34	The Gaeltacht Act 2012	The Act provides for a statutory language planning process to support the Irish language both within the Gaeltacht and nationwide and provides for amendments to the board and functions of Údarás na Gaeltachta.	No	No significant impacts identified
503	National Archives Fees Order 2012	The Order updated the fees chargeable by the archives for services provided to the public.	No	No significant impacts identified
249	The European Union (Environmental Impact Assessment of Proposed Demolition of National Monuments) Regulations 2012	The regulations amend the National Monuments Acts to require the carrying out of an environmental impact assessment where a decision to grant consent under section 14(2)(a) of National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended), or to issue directions under section 14A(4)(d) of the National Monuments Act 1930 (as amended), would result in the demolition of a national monument.	No	No significant impacts identified
402	Wildlife (Wild Birds)(Open Seasons)(Amendment) Order 2012	Order removed the Curlew as a huntable species of wild bird from the Open Season list	No	No significant impacts identified
398	Wildlife (Wild Mammals)(Open Seasons)(Amendment) Order 2012	- Order provided for the exclusion of the hunting of female and antlerless Red Deer in Co Kerry	No	No significant impacts identified
29	Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2012	This Act made provision for an extension of the hunting licence provisions of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2010, which allow a hunter who is in possession of a Firearm Certificate for a shotgun to shoot wild birds and hares during the Open Seasons	No	No significant impacts identified
40	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Drumcliff Bay Special Protection Area 004013)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Drumcliff Bay Special Protection Area in County Sligo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
41	European Communities	Designates and affords legal protection to	No	No significant

	(Conservation of Wild Bird (Middle Shannon Callows Special Protection Area 004096)) Regulations 2012.	the Middle Shannon Callows Special Protection Area in Counties Galway, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary and Westmeath.		impacts identified.
94	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Rockabill Special Protection Area 004014)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Rockabill Special Protection Area in County Dublin.	No	No significant impacts identified.
83	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Slieve Aughty Mountains Special Protection Area 004168)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Slieve Aughty Mountains Special Protection Area in Counties Clare and Galway.	No	No significant impacts identified.
84	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Mask Special Protection Area 004062)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Lough Mask Special Protection Area in Counties Galway and Mayo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
117	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Corofin Wetlands Special Protection Area 004220)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Corofin Wetlands Special Protection Area in County Clare.	No	No significant impacts identified.
140	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (River Nanny Estuary & Shore Special Protection Area 004158)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the River Nanny Estuary & Shore Special Protection Area in County Meath.	No	No significant impacts identified.
139	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Magharee Islands Special Protection Area 004125)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Magharee Islands Special Protection Area in County Kerry.	No	No significant impacts identified.
194	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Wexford Harbour & Slobs Special Protection Area 004076)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Wexford Harbour & Slobs Special Protection Area in County Wexford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
191	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Blackwater Callows Special Protection Area 004094)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Special Protection Area in Counties Cork and Waterford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
192	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (High Island, Inishark &	Designates and affords legal protection to the High Island, Inishark & Davilaun Special Protection Area in County	No	No significant impacts identified.

	Davilaun Special Protection Area 004144)) Regulations 2012.	Galway.		
193	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (River Nore Special Protection Area 004125)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the River Nore Special Protection Area in Counties Kilkenny and Laois .	No	No significant impacts identified.
184	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Slieve Bloom Mountains Special Protection Area 004160)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Slieve Bloom Mountains Special Protection Area in Counties Laois and Offaly.	No	No significant impacts identified.
178	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Tacumshin Lake Special Protection Area 004092)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Tacumshin Lake Special Protection Area in County Wexford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
177	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands Special Protection Area 004159)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands Special Protection Area in County Galway.	No	No significant impacts identified.
185	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Howth Head Cost Special Protection Area 004113)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Howth Head Coast Special Protection Area in County Dublin.	No	No significant impacts identified.
244	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Castlemaine Harbour Special Protection Area 004029)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Castlemaine Harbour Special Protection Area in County Kerry.	No	No significant impacts identified.
261	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Trawbreaga Bay Special Protection Area 004034)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Trawbreaga Bay Special Protection Area in County Donegal.	No	No significant impacts identified.
310	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area 004026)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to Dundalk Bay Special Protection Area in County Louth.	No	No significant impacts identified.
311	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Rahasane Turlough Special Protection Area 004089)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Rahasane Turlough Special Protection Area in County Galway.	No	No significant impacts identified.

397	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (River Suck Callows Special Protection Area 004097)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the River Suck Callows Special Protection Area in Counties Galway and Roscommon.	No	No significant impacts identified.
455	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Corrib Special Protection Area 004042)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Lough Corrib Special Protection Area in Counties Galway and Mayo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
456	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Ree Special Protection Area 004064)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Lough Ree Special Protection Area in County Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath.	No	No significant impacts identified.
462	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area 004232)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the River Boyne and River Blackwater Special Protection Area in Counties Cavan, Louth.	No	No significant impacts identified.
463	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Ballintemple and Ballygilgan Special Protection Area 004234)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Ballintemple and Ballygilgan Special Protection Area in County Sligo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
464	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Carlingford Lough Special Protection Area 004078)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Carlingford Lough Special Protection Area in County Louth.	No	No significant impacts identified.
480	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Dingle Peninsula Special Protection Area 004153)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Dingle Peninsula Special Protection Area in County Kerry.	No	No significant impacts identified.
590	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area 004028)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area in Counties Cork and Waterford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
591	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Special Protection Area 004161)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Stacks to Mullaghareirk Mountains, West Limerick Special Protection Area in Counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick	No	No significant impacts identified.
	European Communities	Designates and affords legal protection to	No	No significant

585	(Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Oughter Special Protection Area 004049)) Regulations 2012.	the Lough Oughter Special Protection Area in County Cavan.		impacts identified.
586	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Wicklow Mountains Special Protection Area 004040)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Wicklow Mountains Special Protection Area in Counties Dublin and Wicklow.	No	No significant impacts identified.
587	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Beara Peninsula Special Protection Area 004155)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Beara Peninsula Special Protection Area in County Cork.	No	No significant impacts identified.
592	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Swilly Special Protection Area 004075)) Regulations 2012.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Lough Swilly Special Protection Area in County Donegal.	No	No significant impacts identified.

Appendix 2

6 Marine SAC sites were advertised for designation in 2012.

Code	Site
002953	The Blackwater Bank
002998	The West Connacht Coast
002999	Hempton's Turbot Bank
003000	Rockabill to Dalkey Island
003001	Porcupine Bank Canyon
003002	South East Rockall Bank

Appendix 3

Government Policy on Architecture 2009-2015: Direct Grant Aid Awards 2012		
Applicant /Project Promoter	Project Name:	Grant Awarded
Europa Nostra	Entopia project: Our Places in Europe	€10,000.00
Irish Architectural Archive	Noel Moffet Centenary Exhibition	€4,000.00
The Digital Hub	The Digital Hub Campus Strategy: Development of a Historic Area Regeneration Plan.	€20,000.00
Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland	Irish Architecture Internationalisation Strategy in association with Enterprise Ireland	€20,000.00
Mayo County Council	Design and Construction of Architectural Installation- Spirit of Place Sculpture, Inishturk Island	€20,000.00

Appendix 4

Programme for Government Commitments

The commitments referred to here, in respect of the *Programme for Government 2011*, 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 to 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.

Peat

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 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 5

Agencies and Bodies funded from the Department's Vote Group

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, D2
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, D2
Irish Museum of Modern Art	www.modernart.ie	Irish Museum of Modern Art Royal Hospital Kilmainham, D8
National Archives	www.nationalarchives.ie	The National Archives Bishop Street, D8
National Concert Hall	www.nch.ie	National Concert Hall Earlsfort Terrace, D2
National Gallery of Ireland	www.nationalgallery.ie	National Gallery of Ireland Merrion Square West, D2
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, D7

Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch	www.ulsterscotsagency.com	Ulster-Scots Agency 68-72 Great Victoria Street Belfast Co. Antrim BT2 7BB 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 6

Expenditure in 2012

SUBHEAD	EXPENDITURE IN 2012	OUTTURN
		€'000
	ADMINISTRATION	
X.1	Salaries, Wages and Allowances	30,513
X.2	Travel and Subsistence	1,236
X.3	Training and Development and Incidental Expenses	491
X.4	Postal and Telecommunications Services	552
X.5	Office Equipment and External IT Services	972
X.6	Office Premises Expenses	718
X.7	Consultancy Services and Value for Money and Policy Reviews	47
X.8	EU Presidency	270
	TOTAL	34,799
	ARTS, CULTURE & FILM	
A.1	Administration - Pay	4,985
A.2	Administration - Non-Pay	906
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	1,548
A.5	General Expenses of the Irish Museum of Modern Arts, Chester Beatty Library, National Concert Hall and the Crawford Gallery (Grant-in-Aid)	11,870
A.6	Regional Museums, Galleries, Cultural Centres and Projects	4,164
A.7	Cultural Infrastructure and Development	6,367
A.8	Culture Ireland	3,560
A.9	An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Part Funded by National Lottery) (Grant-in-Aid)	63,241
A.10	General Expenses of the National Museum of Ireland (Grant-in-Aid)	12,585
A.11	General Expenses of the National Library of Ireland (Grant-in-Aid)	7,120
A.12	Irish Film Board (Grant-in-Aid)	15,690
A.13	EU Presidency - Cultural Programme	999
	TOTAL	133,075
	HERITAGE	

B.1	Administration - Pay	22,376
B.2	Administration - Non-Pay	2,288
B.3	Grant for An Chomhairle Oidhreachta (Heritage Council)	4,811
B.4	Built Heritage	2,827
B.5	Natural Heritage (National Parks and Wildlife Service)	13,316
B.6	Irish Heritage Trust	373
	TOTAL	45,991
	GAELTACHT	
C.1	Administration - Pay	3,256
C.2	Administration - Non-Pay	787
C.3	Gaeltacht Support Schemes	8,789
C.4	Irish Language Support Schemes (Part Funded by National Lottery)	4,612
C.5	An Coimisinéir Teanga	607
C.6	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Administration	9,871
C.7	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Current Programme Expenditure	3,273
C.8	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Grants for Projects and Capital Expenditure on Premises	5,938
C.9	Islands	6,879
	TOTAL	44,012
	NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION	
D.1	Administration - Pay	166
D.2	Administration - Non-Pay	35
D.3	An Foras Teanga	15,397
D.4	Waterways Ireland	27,099
	TOTAL	42,697
	GROSS TOTAL	265,775