

2011

Annual Report

Department of Arts, Heritage & the
Gaeltacht



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

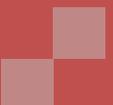


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Mission and Mandate

The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht was established on the 1st of June 2011 on foot of the reorganisation of Government Departments announced by An Taoiseach in March 2011, bringing together functions from the former Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The new Department 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 2011 to promote Irish arts and heritage abroad and will continue to build on this work in the future. 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.

Overall, the challenge in the coming years for the Department will be to build an organisation that makes a difference and that enriches the quality of life and identity of all members of our society at a difficult and challenging time.

In delivering on this broad mandate, the Department will continue to work with a wide range of individuals, groups 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 light of the mandate conferred on the Department, the following Mission Statement was adopted in 2011:

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 Annual Report for 2011 of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Department was established in June 2011 with a mandate to foster, promote and support Ireland's world-class artistic, heritage and cultural strengths, at home and abroad, and to make its own unique contribution to job creation and national recovery. These, of course, are key aims of the *Programme for Government* and considerable progress was made during 2011 across the three sectoral areas of the Department, despite the challenges which the establishment of a new department brings.

Although the Department was only established in June of last year, all sectors of the Department have provided a report on a full year's activities. We hope that reading this Annual Report will give a flavour of the Department's achievements during the year across the arts, heritage and Gaeltacht sectors.

We all recognise that our rich cultural heritage is something to be proud of and something to promote and preserve as best we can. Our national Cultural Institutions continue to attract visitors from home and abroad, and overall visitor numbers increased last year. During 2011, one of our newer Cultural Institutions, IMMA, celebrated its 20th anniversary and hosted a series of special events to mark the occasion.

Dublin Contemporary 2011 was a key milestone for the Department and was critically acclaimed. It was the largest contemporary visual art event of its kind and scale ever held in Ireland and showcased Dublin as an open, vibrant city which can attract and retain talented people.

Culture Ireland carried out the *Imagine Ireland* programme in the US during 2011, which was successful in strengthening links with the Irish diaspora, enhancing our reputation abroad and expanding the reach of Irish culture to new audiences.

On the Heritage side, promotion and maintenance of our built and natural heritage continued during 2011. A highlight was the publication of the National Biodiversity Plan in November 2011 and work will continue in 2012 to implement key actions of this report.

In the Irish language sector, work on the implementation of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language got under way. A review of the Official Languages Act 2003 commenced in November 2011, in line with the *Programme for Government*, and will be progressed during 2012.

Finally, we would like to thank all our stakeholders and staff in the Department and in bodies funded from the Department's Vote Group. We are living in challenging times but we believe that the achievements outlined in this report for 2011 can be built on and developed further for 2012.

Jimmy Deenihan T.D.
Aire

Dinny McGinley T.D.
Aire Stáit

Note from Secretary General

I am pleased to present the Annual Report 2011 for the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The Department was established on the 1st of June 2011 on foot of the reorganisation of Government Departments announced by the Taoiseach in March 2011. The new Department brings together functions from the former Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport, the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. 2011 was a challenging time, therefore, as staff from the various Departments and associated bodies worked together to create a unified Department. This has required flexibility, innovation and a partnership approach from all our stakeholders and I would like to thank all of the staff, our customers and stakeholders for their patience and co-operation during this process of change.

Despite the challenges presented by this process, work continued across all areas of the Department during 2011 and the key areas of progress across the arts, heritage and Gaeltacht sectors are set out in this Annual Report.

The publication of the Government's Public Service Reform Plan on 17 November 2011 had a significant impact on this Department. A number of amalgamations and mergers of our Cultural Institutions and associated bodies were included in the Plan, as well as a requirement to carry out four critical reviews of bodies funded from the Department's Vote Group. Work will continue in 2012 to implement these reforms in the most effective way possible.

The Public Service Reform Plan has also been of significance across other areas of the Department. In this regard, good progress has been made in the area of shared services, including the transfer by the Department of all its financial transactions to the Department of Justice and Equality's financial shared service centre in Killarney. During these challenging times, we are very conscious of having to 'do more with less'. In the context of reduced staffing resources, the Department established a number of new units to deal with priority issues and areas of work such as the Decade of Commemorations, Property Management Issues, EU Presidency Planning and a Value for Money Unit. Work will continue during 2012 to achieve our goals in these areas.

Finally, I believe we have an important job to do in this Department: to work, in an integrated way, with the Minister and Minister of State, to promote and protect Ireland's heritage and culture, to develop cultural tourism, to advance the use of Irish and to support the sustainable development of our islands. Despite the strong pressures on resources, I believe that we can build on the work achieved in 2011 and that our committed staff will continue to deliver on our aims and objectives in the years ahead.

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.

Although the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht was only established in June 2011, for the purpose of this Annual Report, relevant divisions have reported on a full year basis for each sector of 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 2011

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.

National Cultural Institutions (NCIs)

Our NCIs attracted over 3.6 million visitors during 2011, representing an increase on 2010 figures and an increase of more than 6% over similar figures for 2009. These figures allow for very favourable comparisons between our Cultural Institutions and their international counterparts.

Significant highlights during 2011 included the following:

- The first phase in a programme to upgrade the storage facilities at the **National Archives of Ireland's** Bishop Street premises began.
- The **National Museum of Ireland** recorded a very significant milestone in 2011 when it welcomed more than one million visitors across its four sites. The planned refurbishment of the Treasury exhibition in Kildare Street, which features the Fadden More Psalter, was completed and opened in June 2011 to much critical acclaim. Conservation work on the

Asgard is now complete and, following renovation works to the building where it is housed, will go on public display in August 2012.

- The **Irish Museum of Modern Art** (IMMA) celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2011 and hosted a series of special events to mark the occasion. An exhibition of the work of Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera: *Masterpieces of the Jacques and Natasha Gelman Collection* was also one of IMMA's highlights and successes for 2011.
- Renovation works on the Dargan and Miltown Wings of the **National Gallery of Ireland** commenced in March 2011 and will address major shortcomings in the Gallery's infrastructure. The Gallery launched an exhibition of its masterpieces in the Beit and Millennium wings which attracted significant interest.
- During the year the **National Concert Hall** delivered a high quality programme of both international and national performers. A new Director was appointed and took up his position on 5 September 2011. A new Board of the National Concert Hall was also appointed by the Minister in 2011.
- A number of informative and attractive exhibitions were held in the **National Library of Ireland** in 2011, including an exhibition of photographs of life in Ireland's Big Houses during the mid-1800s and early 1900s. Many of these had never before been seen by the public. An Taoiseach, Mr Enda Kenny, TD, accompanied by Minister Jimmy Deenihan, officiated at the hand-over of the literary papers of Irish Nobel laureate, Dr. Seamus Heaney, to the National Library of Ireland.
- The **Chester Beatty Library's** exhibition '*China through the Lens*', featuring images of China by Scottish photographer John Thomson was a resounding success. During 2011, the Library, in conjunction with Bank of America Merrill Lynch, also presented an exhibition of the art books of Henri Matisse, marking the first public display of these works in Europe. Another exhibition, '*Heroes and the Kings of Shahnama*', featured the Shahnama (Book of Kings) which is one of the great classics of world literature. The Library was awarded a *TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence* in 2011.
- The **Crawford Art Gallery's** exhibition, *Gravity*, took place between July and October 2011 and combined both historic and contemporary art. The exhibition was accompanied by dance performances and also an off-site presentation of video art. Johan Lorbeer's outdoor performance art works on Opera Lane was well received, as was Dorothy Cross' video *Stalactite*, shown at the former Beamish and Crawford brewery on South Main Street.

- In 2011 the **Irish Manuscripts Commission** received funding from the Department to produce an extensive programme of publications. In addition, the Irish Archives Resource portal was launched, which is hosted by the Commission. The website will, for the first time, enable searching of Irish archival collections across repositories.

Dublin Contemporary 2011

Dublin Contemporary 2011 was held over an 8 week period from September to October. It was the largest contemporary visual art event of its kind and scale ever held in Ireland. The project showcased excellence in Irish and international contemporary art, creating a dynamic experience of contemporary art within the specific cultural context of Dublin, thereby reinforcing the city's reputation as an open, vibrant city which attracts and retains talented people and where leading companies want to invest. The event attracted in the region of 180,000 visitors and garnered international and media attention of significant value.

Culture Night 2011

Culture Night 2011 took place on Friday 23rd September 2011. A total of 30 towns and cities throughout Ireland, including Belfast for the first time, participated in the event, making it the most extensive Culture Night to date. In Dublin alone, over 150 cultural venues participated in the 2011 event, with many staying open until 11 p.m. to showcase the best of their artistic and cultural heritage and facilities. Plans are already underway to further build on this success for 2012, including the introduction of a cultural programme as part of the St. Patrick's Festival festivities.

Genealogy

In October 2011, additional Dublin and Cork records were launched on the website www.irishgenealogy.ie as the Church Records Project.

Philanthropy

In May 2011, Minister Deenihan, on foot of a *Programme for Government* commitment, established a Working Group on Arts Funding, which reported in September 2011. Emerging from the Report of the Working Group, two basic elements which could assist in the development of philanthropy in the arts were identified:

- training in philanthropy; and
- the potential of a financial incentive from the State to encourage private sector giving.

On foot of this, two initiatives got underway during 2011:

- a capacity building programme under the auspices of the Arts Council for philanthropy in arts organisations; and

- a pilot-scheme, established by the Department, which would form an incentive to leverage funding from the private sector.

Culture Ireland

Throughout 2011, Culture Ireland continued to create and support opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present and promote their work worldwide at strategic international festivals and venues. Culture Ireland's main focus in 2011 was on the USA where, through the *Imagine Ireland* programme, over 500 events were presented across America. The objectives of the initiative were to reinvest in the unique cultural relationship between Ireland and America, strengthen links with the Irish diaspora, enhance Ireland's reputation and profile, expand the reach of Irish culture to new audiences and provide a strategic platform to promote Irish tourism, trade, investment and innovation. Over 1,200 Irish theatre-makers, musicians, singers, writers, dancers, visual artists, film-makers and architects presented their work to audiences from Alabama to Wyoming, in venues from Walt Disney Hall, Los Angeles, to the Lincoln Center, New York City, crossing over forty states. Gabriel Byrne, Ireland's Cultural Ambassador, worked closely with Culture Ireland in developing and promoting *Imagine Ireland* and his involvement included the curation of the first ever retrospective of Irish film at Museum of Modern Art, New York.

Through Culture Ireland's regular grants programme, an additional 400 events were funded, one of many highlights being the Abbey Theatre's co-production with the National Theatre of England of *Juno and the Paycock* by Sean O'Casey. In continuance of its strategy to open new opportunities for Irish artists, Culture Ireland also managed a number of strategic showcases at key global arts events, including the Edinburgh Festivals, Frankfurt Book Fair and the Venice Biennale.

Culture Ireland maintained ongoing partnerships, including with Ireland Literature Exchange, in the promotion of Irish literature worldwide, largely through the translation of Irish literature into other languages; the Irish Film Institute International, which supports a touring programme of Irish film; and Le Centre Culturel Irlandais in Paris.

Arts, Culture and Film

Building on an initiative by Minister Deenihan, a template was completed to develop an interactive approach with, and between, arts practitioners and local and national authorities, so as to inform and direct policy making for the sector, both at local and at national level.

The "*Creative Capital*" Report on Building Ireland's Audiovisual Creative Economy was published in 2011. The report makes recommendations to enable sustainable growth of the Audiovisual Sector over the next five years. An Inter-departmental committee was established in the Department to examine the feasibility of implementing the recommendations in the creative capital report.

The Irish Film Board (Amendment) Act 2011 was enacted and it will allow for the maximum of the aggregate amount of any investments, loans, etc. towards the cost of making films to be increased from €200m to €300m. A co-production film agreement was signed with Luxembourg.

Arts Council

The Arts Council, the State agency for funding and developing the arts, celebrated its 60th year in 2011. Its grant-in-aid from the Exchequer through the Department was €65.16 million.

In early 2011, over 300 arts organisations were offered funding of €57 million by the Council to cover their activities to March 2012. A broad range of awards were made to individual artists and arts organisations through bursaries, commissions and projects. The small festivals scheme funded over 160 festivals the length and breadth of Ireland. The Council's focus on audiences and the public continued with special funding allocated to allow 38 arts organisations and individual artists to bring their work on tour across the country.

The Council received more than 770 applications from a wide range of individual professional artists for a bursary to develop a career. A total of 152 artists, including some of Ireland's most talented and most promising writers, musicians, film-makers, visual artists and dancers received a bursary from the Arts Council in 2011. The Council also supported individual artists through other grants and schemes, most noticeably by its funding of Aosdána.

The Arts Council continued to enhance the way in which the public can engage with the arts, and, with a special grant from the Department and working in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, launched *Culturefox*. This guide represents a one-stop-shop for all festivals, exhibitions, museums and arts events happening in an area and is free to access and to download as an 'app' for a range of mobile devices.

In November 2011, an important study – *An Assessment of the Economic Impact of the Arts in Ireland* – was published. The report confirmed that the arts continue to be a major employer and contributor to Irish economic output. The arts provide significant direct and indirect employment, with Arts Council funding from the Exchequer (2010) supporting over 2,600 jobs. The employment supported by the Council generated an annual turnover of €135 million with tax revenues (in the form of PAYE/income tax, PRSI and VAT) to the Irish Exchequer of €41 million. The report also shows that the arts sector overall in Ireland supports more than 21,000 jobs and contributes more than €300 million to the Exchequer in taxation.

Commemoration of the Decade of Centenaries 2012-22

A programme of actions was initiated by the Department in late 2011 for the purpose of leading the development and delivery of the Government's commemoration programme to mark the centenaries of seminal events in the history of modern Ireland, North and South, during the decade 2012-2022. This work has had regard to the commitment in the *Programme for Government* to "*develop a cultural plan for future commemorative events such as the Centenary of the Easter Rising in 2016*". A dedicated Commemorations Unit has been established within the Department to oversee the preparations for the decade of commemorations and to support Minister Deenihan in his role as Chair of All-Party Oireachtas Consultation Group on Commemorations.

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.

Natural Heritage

National Parks and Wildlife Service

The Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service has some 230 regionally-based staff who are involved in the day-to-day management and protection of important natural heritage sites, including 6 National Parks and 78 Nature Reserves. The staff provide front-line services to farmers, landowners and other users, local authorities and, of course, the estimated 3 million people who visit State lands annually. Their operations are critical, inter alia, to helping Ireland meet its commitments towards compliance with EU Nature Directives.

The Department has a broad remit to protect Irish wildlife and natural heritage and the relevant legislative provisions allow the Minister to grant licences/permits for certain hunting and other activities within certain constraints. In 2011 over 6,900 such licences and permits were granted, which was an increase of almost 5% on the 2010 figure. The majority of licences (65%) were granted for deer hunting.

National Parks and Nature Reserves

To the greatest extent possible, the Department encourages and facilitates public access to and appropriate visitor use of the National Parks and Nature Reserves under its remit. 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 heritage properties. These natural heritage properties have traditionally been managed largely 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 national economic benefits of these properties.

Despite the challenges that the present funding climate presented, a programme of capital works was undertaken in 2011 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. The outturn for the Parks and Reserves Capital Works Programme 2011 was €2,113,118 and some 46 discrete projects were funded. Examples of these projects include upgrading facilities at visitor centres, visitor walks, capital works for health and safety purposes and removal of invasive alien species to protect vulnerable habitats.

Some of the more notable projects carried out in 2011 included the Phase 1 remedial works element of the Killarney House Restoration Project with support from Fáilte Ireland's Tourism Capital Investment Programme; the new Burren National Park Visitor Information Point at Corofin, Co Clare; the €1.8m Clara Bog Visitor Centre which was officially opened in March 2011; as well as work on a multi-phased project to construct a new pedestrian pathway from the Visitor Centre to Glenveagh Castle in Glenveagh National Park. Rhododendron clearance, which is carried out on an annual basis in Killarney, Ballycroy, Connemara and Glenveagh National Parks accounted for some €300,000, or 14% of the overall capital expenditure in 2011.

Site Designation and Protection measures

The National Parks and Wildlife Service is primarily responsible for the transposition and implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directives in this State. It is responsible also for ensuring that the requirements of various European Court Judgements against Ireland for breaches of these Directives are met.

Cessation of Turf Cutting

Under the EU Habitats Directive, each Member State is required to designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for the protection of endangered habitats and species as listed in the Directive. As part of Ireland's obligations under the Directive, 53 SACS were nominated for designation between 1997 and 2002 for the protection of Active Raised Bog, Degraded Raised Bog still capable of natural regeneration and Bog Woodland. Each of these habitats is listed in Annex I of the Directive.

On foot of European Commission infringement proceedings against Ireland as regards turf cutting in raised bog SACs, responses were issued to a Letter of Formal Notice (March 2011) and to a Reasoned Opinion (July 2011).

Against this background, a key action taken by Government was the establishment of a compensation scheme for those affected by the cessation of turf cutting on the raised bog SACs. This Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme envisaged payments of €1,000 per year, index linked, over 15 years or, where feasible, relocation of turf cutters to non-designated bogs, where they could continue to cut turf. Turf-cutters who opt to relocate to an undesignated bog would be entitled to receive either compensation or a delivery of turf for each year until their relocation bog is ready to commence turf-cutting. The cost of acquiring and preparing relocation sites would be met by the State.

Some 6,500 people were notified in writing of the terms of the scheme. Over 600 applications for compensation were received and regional clinics were held in 8 locations. By the end of 2011, the initial tranche of compensation payments had been made and a tender process for the supply of cut turf was completed. Two bog relocation projects were advanced in 2011 at Clara, Co Offaly, and Mountbellew, Co Galway.

Conscious of the need to build a shared understanding of the requirements of the Habitats Directive in relation to the protection of raised bog SACs, the Government also established the Peatlands Council under independent Chairman, Conor Skehan, to bring the various stakeholders together. The Council was also tasked with assisting Ireland in responding in a strategic way to the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, which requires Ireland to protect and conserve important peatland habitats. The Peatlands Council included representatives from the Irish Farmers Association, the Turf Cutters and Contractors Association, the Irish Peatland Conservation Council, An Taisce, Irish Rural Link and Bord na Móna.

Minister Deenihan and the Peatlands Council invited submissions in November 2011 from stakeholders, interested parties and the general public on the content and formulation of a National Peatlands Strategy to deal with long-term issues relating to the future management of Ireland's peatlands, in compliance with EU environmental obligations. The social and economic value of existing peatlands use, including domestic and commercial turf cutting and peat extraction are also to be considered as part of the Strategy. Other uses of peatlands including forestry, agriculture, windfarm development, carbon storage and sequestration, tourism and the role of bogs in flooding/drought management will also be considered.

A number of Statutory Instruments, designating and affording legal protection to 34 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and updating the transposition of the Birds and Habitats Directives into Irish law were signed during the year (details at Appendix 1). A further 23 SPAs were publicly notified during the year as well as a small extension to the Dingle Peninsula SPA (See Appendix 2).

Biodiversity

The National Biodiversity Plan 2011-16 was published in November 2011. The Plan has 102 actions and is in line with the strategic plan of the United Nations Convention on Biological

Diversity and the EU Biodiversity Strategy. Most of the actions contained in the Plan – many of which are requirements of EU Directives - relate to ongoing areas of work in a range of Departments and agencies and are envisaged to be delivered within existing resources.

The actions in the Plan cover conservation measures, not only in areas designated for nature protection but also in the countryside and the marine territory in general. They encompass biodiversity in decision-making at national and local level, the improvement of knowledge and awareness, and Ireland's contribution on the global stage.

Scientific work

Scientific reports were completed to underpin the proposal for Ireland's final tranche of marine special areas of conservation (SACs), as required under the EU Habitats Directive. In total, seven sites are proposed. Two, in the offshore area, are deepwater canyons or rock-faces with rich biodiversity. Three new sandbank sites are also being proposed, as well as a new site for harbour porpoise and a further site for bottle nosed dolphin. Pending review by the EU, this should complete Ireland's SAC list.

The Department continued to carry out baseline and monitoring surveys of habitats and species protected under the EU Nature Directives. Surveys included grassland, woodland, upland, and limestone pavement habitats. Species included bats, the marsh fritillary butterfly, the otter, the Kerry Slug and the frog. Conservation objectives were prepared for 13 coastal sites where assessment of applications for aquaculture licensing is urgently required.

Scientific staff provided advice and support in relation to a wide range of current conservation issues on raised bogs, the freshwater pearl mussel, sand dune habitats and birds. The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Farm Plan Scheme continued to support conservation farm actions by more than 650 farmers and a review of stocking rates in all commonages in the State was commenced, in co-operation with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine. A Memorandum of Understanding was also drawn up with that Department and the State Laboratory to ensure post-mortem and toxicological analysis of all birds of prey and other wildlife suspected of poison-related deaths.

National Monuments

The Archaeological Survey of Ireland rolled out a new web-based data-management application, the Integrated Monuments Database System (IMDS) which holds all data on Recorded Monuments, National Monuments in State Care, Preservation Orders and the Register of Historic Monuments. An additional 20,000 monument descriptions were uploaded to the website www.archaeology.ie with an enhanced map/search facility, using the Ordnance Survey Ireland (OSI) MapGenie web-services. Work also progressed on the transfer of material to the new archaeological archive facility in Swords.

Significant progress was made on the development of an updated online Archaeological licensing facility (e-licensing), which will provide a much improved service to the public. This is a priority project in the Department's Croke Park Action Plan and is scheduled to go-live in 2012.

The Department's Underwater Unit undertook dive survey work on a significant Spanish Armada era wreck off the coast of Rutland Island, Co. Donegal. The Drogheda Boat post-excavation work was brought to peer review stage and will be published in 2012. Work also continued on the development of the Shipwreck Inventory with a focus on the northwest of the country.

Minister Deenihan, in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and the Heritage Council, commissioned the Discovery Programme to undertake a Conservation Plan for the Hill of Tara, Co. Meath. Archaeological work to investigate the degradation of the covering of the Mound of the Hostages was completed in 2011. These excavations have resulted in the removal of a portion of the earthen mound over the passage tomb. Conservation works at the passage tomb and the restoration of the mound will begin early-2012.

Grants to both the Royal Irish Academy (€100,000 for research excavations) and the Irish National Strategic Archaeological Research (INSTAR) Programme (€50,000 for the collation/dissemination of the archaeological resource discovered through excavations over recent years) were maintained, albeit at reduced levels.

Publications in 2011 included monographs on Tintern Abbey and Trim Castle, as well as the Skellig Michael Stratigraphic Report (published online).

Built Heritage and Architectural Policy

As part of the 2011 implementation programme for the Government Policy on Architecture, a number of actions were completed. These focused on the development of a best practice manual for "Re-utilisation and consolidation in Built Heritage Planning & Urban Design"; a "Local Area Plan" best practice manual in collaboration with the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government; the development of a Draft Research Report from UCD on recommendations for research within the Built Environment; and support towards the development of a Pilot Urban Governance course in University of Limerick. The Department also published the first Annual Report 2009-2010 on delivery of actions under the Policy in February 2011.

Public submissions were invited on a National Landscape Strategy for Ireland during 2011. The Strategy will be the instrument used to comply with the European Landscape Convention. Ratification of the convention obliges Ireland to implement certain types of policy changes and objectives concerning the management, planning and protection of our landscape. 77 submissions were recorded in response to the public consultation, which are currently under consideration.

The Brú na Bóinne World Heritage Site Management Plan Steering Committee, established to develop and draft a new Brú na Bóinne Plan, held its first meeting in April 2011. The Steering Committee comprises representatives from a range of Government, local authority and heritage interests, as well as local stakeholders. A consultation paper and a draft framework document were issued inviting public submissions from local people and other interested parties as part of the preparation of a draft new Management Plan and 57 submissions were received. This will be progressed during 2012.

In compliance with statutory requirements under the National Monuments Acts, 448 Archaeological Excavation licences, 158 licences to use detection devices and 40 dive licences were issued in 2011. Ministerial Directions were issued in 2011 for archaeological works at two road projects, as well as 50 Ministerial Consents for works at National Monuments in the ownership or guardianship of the Minister or a local authority, or subject to a Preservation Order. Five rescue excavation projects at monuments in immediate danger were funded by the Department in 2011. In relation to archaeology, codes of practice were agreed with Bord na Móna and Iarnród Éireann.

Architectural Heritage

Throughout the year, the Department supported the Heritage Council, planning authorities and other built heritage stakeholders in the delivery of awareness and education programmes. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage surveys were published for Galway, County Limerick and West Cork, including recording contracts in Cork City and Suburbs, Monaghan Rural and Dublin 1. A World Heritage Site Management Plan Steering Committee with representation from government departments, State agencies and interested stakeholders was established and work commenced on drafting material for the new plan. The website www.buildingsofireland.ie was enhanced and upgraded, allowing the mapping tool to work more efficiently.

In the context of helping to stimulate economic growth and job creation by co-operating with and assisting tourism interests to promote Ireland's wealth of archaeological heritage, a Working Group was set up to develop strategies and measures to employ the Department's knowledge and expertise to improve the overall heritage experience for potential overseas visitors and on the domestic market. A project is also underway with Fáilte Ireland in relation to identification of heritage sites for its 'Destination Plans' programme. Plans were initiated in 2011 to produce material to populate a new 'Places to Visit' section of the archaeology website (www.archaeology.ie), to go-live in 2012. A series of information articles were prepared for the Farmers Journal in 2011 and these will continue to be published during 2012.

Current funding channelled through the Built Heritage and Architectural Policy area during 2011 included administration funding of €375,000 for the Irish Heritage Trust; assistance to ICOMOS Ireland and the Irish Architectural Foundation; and facilitation of a number of seminars and presentations. In addition, capital funding of some €650,000 was provided for 30 conservation projects in 2011 under the Structures at Risk Fund. With regard to Properties in State Care, funding of some €1.25m provided in 2011 enabled the OPW to carry out conservation works at the Botanic Gardens, Doneraile, the Blaskets, Chesterfield Avenue, Boyle Abbey, the Rock of Cashel and Nenagh Castle, as well as supporting the Apprenticeship Programme.

The *Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities* were reissued and two new volumes of the advice series were published: *Access: improving the accessibility of historic buildings and places*, and *The Conservation of Places of Worship*. In addition, a preliminary layout was done by the graphic designer of *'Thatch: a guide to the repair of thatched roofs'*.

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.

The 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030

The 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 was published on 21 December 2010, following cross-party support in the Houses of the Oireachtas, and implementation commenced in 2011. The Strategy promotes a holistic, integrated approach to the Irish language which is consistent with international best practice. It sets out nine areas for action, including education, the Gaeltacht, the family, public services, the media, the economy, legislation and cross-cutting initiatives.

Specific objectives set out in the Strategy include the following:

- to increase the number of people who speak Irish on a daily basis outside the education system to 250,000;
- to increase by 25% the number of people who speak Irish on a daily basis in the Gaeltacht; and
- to increase the number of people who use State services through Irish and who can access television, radio and print media through the language.

The following key actions were taken during 2011:

- the Cabinet Committee for the Irish Language and the Gaeltacht, which maintains oversight of the Strategy, was re-established under the chairmanship of An Taoiseach;
- a Strategy Unit was established in the Department to direct the planning and implementation of the Strategy;
- the 2011 implementation plan for the Strategy was published on www.ahg.gov.ie;
- High-Level Working Groups were established between the Department and a number of key stakeholders to progress various areas for action in the Strategy:
 - the Department of Education and Skills with regard to education;
 - the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform with regard to enterprise investment in the Gaeltacht; and

- Údarás na Gaeltachta and Foras na Gaeilge with regard to the modalities of implementing the Strategy.

Gaeltacht Support Schemes

Funding of €3.373m was allocated during 2011 to various organisations in the Gaeltacht which provide a range of activities and services that assist both in strengthening 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 86 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 5,163 children from all over the Gaeltacht.

Some 650 households provided accommodation to more than 23,000 teenagers while attending 47 Irish language colleges throughout the Gaeltacht under the Department's Irish Language Learners (Summer Colleges) Scheme. In addition, 1,020 adults were approved to attend specific courses in the Gaeltacht. Total expenditure by the Department on these programmes was €4.446m in 2011.

€1.344m was allocated in 2011 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 and summer colleges.

A decision to suspend the Scheme for Irish Speakers in the Gaeltacht in June 2011 was taken in the context of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language. The scheme has since been replaced by the Family Language Support Programme, a support scheme for households in the Gaeltacht who are raising their children through Irish or who wish to do so in the future.

Irish Language Support Schemes

Funding of €6.6m was provided in 2011 under the Irish Language Support Schemes to support Irish language activities outside the Gaeltacht. These activities included the following:

- €782,265 to support the teaching of Irish in 30 third-level colleges overseas, including through the Fulbright Commission and the Ireland Canada University Foundation;
- €1,961,811 to support 8 full-time third-level courses and 2 part-time courses in areas such as translation, interpretation, IT and law in Ireland;
- €249,677 to support research on Irish language placenames and the development by Fiontar in Dublin City University of a database for placenames, www.logainm.ie; and
- €179,676 in capital funding for 2 infrastructure projects.

Two Placenames Orders were signed for Gaeltacht areas and for Co. Dublin. The Irish placenames database, www.logainm.ie, was afforded recognition at UN level as a pioneer in its field.

Minister of State McGinley hosted a seminar on languages and young people in November 2011, on behalf of the British-Irish Council (BIC) and the Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity (NPLD). A presentation was made from the seminar to the BIC Ministerial meeting, which was held immediately afterwards.

The Department continued to fund and support a number of initiatives in the context of the status of the Irish language at EU level, in particular the InterActive Terminology for Europe (IATE) database project. In addition, on foot of a widespread public consultation process, a review of the official standard for the Irish language (An Caighdeán Oifigiúil) was completed in 2011.

Údarás na Gaeltachta

The overall Exchequer provision for Údarás na Gaeltachta in 2011 was €19.6m, consisting of €10.3m in respect of administration, €3.3m in respect of community, language and cultural programmes and €6m in respect of capital expenditure. At year-end, 734 new jobs were created and 7,000 full-time jobs were supported by Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Gaeltacht.

In 2011, the Government decided that Údarás na Gaeltachta would be responsible for the delivery of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language in the Gaeltacht. Discussions were initiated with an tÚdarás regarding the language planning areas in which language plans are to be prepared at community level for each Gaeltacht area, in line with the approach envisaged under the proposed Gaeltacht Bill 2012. Work continued on the preparation of the legislation during the year.

Official Languages Act 2003

The process of implementing the Official Languages Act on a phased basis continued in 2011. By the end of 2011, a total of 105 inaugural and second language schemes covering 191 public bodies had been published. Furthermore, by the end of 2011, 28 draft inaugural schemes and 72 additional second schemes were in the course of preparation.

In November 2011, the Department commenced a review of the Official Languages Act, in line with the commitment in the *Programme for Government 2011-2016*. The review included consultation with key stakeholders, including An Coimisinéir Teanga, Government Departments and other public bodies, as well as Irish language and Gaeltacht organisations and the public in general. The Department received circa 1,400 survey responses and 260 submissions from interested parties during its public consultation process on the review which ended on 31 January 2012. Analysis of the recommendations received will be completed as part of the review process in 2012.

Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga

On 17 November 2011, as part of the Government's Public Service Reform Plan, it was announced that the Government had decided to amalgamate the functions of the Office of An Coimisinéir Teanga with the Office of the Ombudsman and that the amalgamation would be progressed in the context of the review of the Official Languages Act.

Offshore Islands

A total of €3.55m was spent on capital works on the offshore islands in 2011. These included the completion of major pier improvements at Cill Rónáin pier on Árainn and the implementation of specific island work programmes, in co-operation with the relevant local authorities and local communities.

Current expenditure of €5.93m was incurred in 2011 in providing passenger, cargo, air and bus link services for the inhabited offshore islands under 23 contracts administered by the Department. These contracts ensure the provision of regular access for island communities to the mainland at an affordable cost to island residents.

During 2011, the Department continued to support island communities by promoting and co-ordinating Government policies in respect of island communities, and engaging directly with key community and development interests.

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.

The Department is committed to supporting the two North/South bodies under its remit and to assisting them in carrying out their functions in the context of both the Good Friday and St. Andrew's Agreements. Waterways Ireland and An Foras Teanga (comprising Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch/the Ulster-Scots Agency) are co-sponsored with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (DCAL) in Northern Ireland.

Waterways Ireland

In 2011 the Department provided funding of €30.3m to Waterways Ireland. Two North/South Ministerial Council meetings on the Inland Waterways Sector took place in 2011 on 7 July 2011 and 12 October 2011.

The main outputs achieved during the year included:

- Continued satisfactory progress in the Waterways Ireland maintenance programme, keeping over 99% of the navigable waterways open and available for navigation from April to October.
- The ongoing development of the waterways facilities with the provision of 862 metres of additional moorings,
- Waterways Ireland's programme of capital works continued during the year. Works included re-commissioning of the Royal Canal and dredging works on the Royal Canal and the Shannon navigation
- Work progressed on the project to reopen the Ulster Canal from Upper Lough Erne and Clones. Planning applications were lodged with Monaghan County Council, Clones Town Council and Cavan County Council on the 25 October and with the Department of the Environment Planning Service Northern Ireland on the 28 October.
- 63 events to promote awareness of the waterways across all navigations were sponsored during 2011 and publications completed during the year included a 'What's On 2011' Guide and 'Bringing Your Boat to Ireland'.

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 during 2011. A number of successful “Discover Days”, involving local communities highlighting local amenities, were facilitated. Waterways Ireland also hosted a successful meeting of the Waterways Forward INTERREG IVC Project in Dublin and Enniskillen attended by representatives from 17 organisations from 11 EU countries, as well as Norway and Serbia.

An Foras Teanga

The overall Exchequer funding provision for An Foras Teanga in 2011 was €16.6m. By the end of 2011, significant progress had been achieved by An Foras Teanga in advancing its strategic objectives. During 2011:

- Two North/South Ministerial Council meetings were held for An Foras Teanga.
- The external review of Áis (Foras na Gaeilge's book distribution service) was completed.
- The review of the core funded Irish language bodies was progressed by Foras na Gaeilge.
- The review of the Ulster-Scots Agency's Financial Assistance Scheme was completed.
- Some 377 organisations and festivals received support from Foras na Gaeilge.
- Some 342 organisations received support from the Ulster-Scots Agency.
- 10 joint projects were supported by Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency.

General

The Department remains committed to exploring ways of increasing the level of North/South co-operation across the full range of activities for which it has responsibility and to broadening contact with all relevant organisations and groups in Northern Ireland. In addition to co-operation in the language and waterways sectors, further areas of active co-operation were explored during 2011, including islands development, commemoration programme development, arts, culture, music and film collaboration, and co-operation in relation to built and natural heritage.

Corporate Matters

Freedom of Information

From its establishment on 1 June 2011 until the end of 2011, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht received 27 requests under the Freedom of Information Acts 1997 and 2003. Of these 3 were granted, 10 were part-granted, and 4 were refused. A total of 2 applications were withdrawn or handled outside of the FOI Act, and no cases were transferred to another body. 8 cases remained live at the end of the year. The categories of requesters during 2011 were as follows:

Journalists	12
Business/Interest Groups	7
Others	<u>8</u>
Total	27

The bodies funded from the Department's Vote Group, which were subject to FOI at the end of 2011, are:

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

National Famine Memorial Day

The 2011 National Famine Commemoration was held on 10th September in Clones, County Monaghan, in the presence of the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese. On that day, all those who suffered, perished and 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 the National flag and 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, 9th September.

In line with the practice of officially recognising the Famine both at home and abroad, a commemoration was also held at The Great Famine Memorial in Liverpool in the grounds of St. Luke's Church, Leece Street, Liverpool, which had been unveiled by President McAleese in 1998. This commemoration took place on 16th October 2011 and was attended by Minister Deenihan and the Mayor of Liverpool. The ceremony was attended by many of the Irish diaspora living in Liverpool. The Minister also took the opportunity to attend the Liverpool Irish Festival and attended a performance entitled "*Comings and Goings*" – a series of dramatic scenes illustrating the wave of migration from Ireland to Liverpool which began with the potato famine of 1845-62 and continued with departures to America, South Africa and Australia throughout the 19th century.

As part of the 2011 National Famine Commemoration programme, a seminar was held in the National Library of Ireland on 13th October, entitled '*From the Irish Famine to Post Modern Hunger in the 21st Century*'.

Further information about the National Famine Commemoration can be found on the Department's website; <http://www.ahg.gov.ie/en/NationalFamineCommemoration2012/>.

Appendix 1

Statutory Instruments prepared in respect of the functions which transferred in March 2011 to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht are set out below:

S.I. No.	Title	Description	RIA (Yes / No)	Reason for not preparing RIA
140	Tourism and Sport (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions)	Transfers departmental administration and Ministerial functions relating to Tourism and Sport to Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.	No	No significant impacts identified.
217	Tourism and Sport (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions)(No.2)	Transfers departmental administration and Ministerial functions relating to Tourism and Sport to Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport.	No	No significant impacts identified.
220	Tourism, Culture and Sport (Alteration of Name of Department and Title of Minister) Order 2011.	Changes the name of the Department from Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	No	No significant impacts identified.
195	Inland Waterways and Waterways Ireland (Transfer of Departmental, Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2011	Transfers departmental administration and Ministerial functions relating to Inland Waterways, Waterways Ireland, promoting and supporting North/South co-operation in relation to inland waterways.	No	No significant impacts identified.
164	Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Islands (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) Order 2011)	Transfers departmental administration and Ministerial functions relating to the Irish language, Gaeltacht and the Islands to the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport	No	No significant impacts identified.
216	Irish Language, Gaeltacht and the Islands (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions) (No.2)	Transfers departmental administration and Ministerial functions relating to the Irish language, Gaeltacht and the Islands to the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport	No	No significant impacts identified.
192	Heritage (Transfer of Departmental Administration and Ministerial Functions)	Transfers the departmental administration and Ministerial functions in relation to Heritage	No	No significant impacts

	Order 2011. (Signed 19 April 2011; came into effect 02 May 2011)	from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.		identified.
427	Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (Delegation of Ministerial Functions) Order 2011	Provides for the delegation of functions relating to the Irish Language, Gaeltacht and Islands by the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the Minister of State with special responsibility for Gaeltacht Affairs.	No	No significant impacts identified.
285	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area 004025)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to the Malahide Estuary Special Protection Area in County Dublin.	No	No significant impacts identified.
286	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Tramore Back Strand Special Protection Area 004027)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Tramore Back Strand Special Protection Area in County Waterford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
287	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Derravaragh Special Protection Area 004043)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Derravaragh Special Protection Area in County Westmeath.	No	No significant impacts identified.
288	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Gara Special Protection Area 004048)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Gara Special Protection Area in Counties Roscommon and Sligo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
289	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Arrow Special Protection Area 004050)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Arrow Special Protection Area in Counties Roscommon and Sligo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
290	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Sheelin Special Protection Area 004065)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Sheelin Special Protection Area in Counties Cavan, Meath and Westmeath.	No	No significant impacts identified.
291	European Communities	Designates and affords legal	No	No significant

	(Conservation of Wild Birds (Ballysadare Bay Special Protection Area 004129)) Regulations 2011.	protection to Ballysadare Bay Special Protection Area in County Sligo.		impacts identified.
292	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Croan Turlough Special Protection Area 004139)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Croan Turlough Special Protection Area in County Roscommon.	No	No significant impacts identified.
293	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Cahore Marshes Special Protection Area 004143)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Cahore Marshes Special Protection Area in County Wexford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
294	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Durnesh Lough Special Protection Area 004145)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Durnesh Lough Special Protection Area in County Donegal.	No	No significant impacts identified.
295	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Donegal Bay Special Protection Area 004151)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Donegal Bay Special Protection Area in County Donegal.	No	No significant impacts identified.
296	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Courtmacsherry Bay Special Protection Area 004219)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Courtmacsherry Bay Special Protection Area in County Cork.	No	No significant impacts identified.
297	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Illaunnaon Special Protection Area 004221)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Illaunnaon Special Protection Area in County Galway.	No	No significant impacts identified.
298	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (The Murrough Special Protection Area 004186)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to The Murrough Special Protection Area in County Wicklow.	No	No significant impacts identified.
340	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Carra Special Protection Area 004051))	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Carra Special Protection Area in County Mayo.	No	No significant impacts identified.

	Regulations 2011.			
341	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Foyle Special Protection Area 004087)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Foyle Special Protection Area in County Donegal.	No	No significant impacts identified.
376	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area 004035)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Cummeen Strand Special Protection Area in County Sligo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
522	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Protection Area 004036)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Killala Bay/Moy Estuary Special Protection Area in Counties Mayo and Sligo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
533	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (The Raven Special Protection Area 004019)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to The Raven Special Protection Area in County Wexford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
534	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Inishmurray Special Protection Area 004068)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Inishmurray Special Protection Area in County Sligo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
546	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Stabannan-Braganstown Special Protection Area 004091)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Stabannan-Braganstown Special Protection Area in County Louth.	No	No significant impacts identified.
558	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Mid-Waterford Coast Special Protection Area 004193)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Mid-Waterford Coast Special Protection Area in County Waterford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
587	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Slievefelim to Silvermines Special Protection Area 004165)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Slievefelim to Silvermines Special Protection Area in Counties Limerick and Tipperary.	No	No significant impacts identified.
588	European Communities	Designates and affords legal	No	No significant

	(Conservation of Wild Birds (Inishkea Islands Special Protection Area 004004)) Regulations 2011.	protection to Inishkea Islands Special Protection Area in County Mayo.		impacts identified.
589	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Four Roads Turlough Special Protection Area 004140)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Four Roads Turlough Special Protection Area in County Roscommon.	No	No significant impacts identified.
590	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Conn and Lough Cullin Special Protection Area 004228)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Conn and Lough Cullin Special Protection Area in County Mayo.	No	No significant impacts identified.
591	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Loop Head Special Protection Area 004119)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Loop Head Special Protection Area in County Clare.	No	No significant impacts identified.
592	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Bannow Bay Special Protection Area 004033)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Bannow Bay Special Protection Area in County Wexford.	No	No significant impacts identified.
617	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Slieve Beagh Special Protection Area 004167)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Slieve Beagh Special Protection Area in County Monaghan.	No	No significant impacts identified.
618	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Ennell Special Protection Area 004044)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Ennell Special Protection Area in County Westmeath.	No	No significant impacts identified.
626	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area 004080)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Boyne Estuary Special Protection Area in Counties Louth and Meath.	No	No significant impacts identified.
627	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains Special	Designates and affords legal protection to Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains Special	No	No significant impacts

	Musheramore Mountains Special Protection Area (004162)) Regulations 2011.	Protection Area in County Cork.		identified.
633	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (Lough Nillan Bog Special Protection Area 004110)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to Lough Nillan Bog Special Protection Area in County Donegal.	No	No significant impacts identified.
652	European Communities (Conservation of Wild Birds (River Little Brosna Callows Special Protection Area 004086)) Regulations 2011.	Designates and affords legal protection to River Little Brosna Callows Special Protection Area in Counties Offaly and Tipperary.	No	No significant impacts identified.
477	European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (Signed and came into effect 21 September 2011)	These Regulations are a consolidated and revised transposition of the Habitats Regulations 1997 to 2005. They address the requirements of certain ECJ Judgments and long-outstanding Reasoned Opinions of the Commission. The Regulations strengthen the protection afforded to flora, fauna and habitats under the EC Birds and Habitats Directives. The Regulations also help to increase legal clarity and avoid unnecessary bureaucracy in relation to the means available to agencies of the State in preserving wildlife and nature.	Yes	N/A

Appendix 2

23 SPA sites were advertised for designation in 2011, together with a designated extension of one further site. These designations came after the establishment of the new Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on 02 June 2011

Code	Site	County / Counties
004013	Drumcliff Bay	Sligo
004014	Rockabill	Dublin
004037	Blacksod Bay / Broadhaven	Mayo
004042	Lough Corrib	Galway
004058	Lough Derg [Shannon]	Clare, Galway, Tipperary
004064	Lough Ree	Longford, Roscommon, Westmeath
004073	Tory Island	Donegal
004077	River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries	Clare, Kerry, Limerick
004078	Carlingford Lough	Louth
004083	Inishbofin, Inishdooney, Inishbeg	Donegal
004123	Slyne Head to Ardmore Point Islands	Galway
004125	Magharee Islands	Kerry
004129	Falcarragh to Meenlaragh	Donegal
004146	Malin Head	Donegal
004148	Fanad Head	Donegal
004153	Dingle Peninsula Extension	Kerry
004181	Connemara Bog Complex	Galway
004188	Tralee Bay Complex	Kerry
004227	Mullet Peninsula	Mayo
004230	West Donegal Islands	Donegal
004231	Inishbofin, Omey, Turbot Island	Galway
004232	River Boyne and River Blackwater	Cavan, Louth, Meath, Westmeath
004233	River Nore	Laois / Kilkenny
004234	Ballintemple and Ballygilgan	Sligo

Appendix 3

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 Ghaeltacht

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 4

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