Introductory Briefing for Minister

Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht
Introductory Briefing

Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht

General Information

The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht oversees the protection and presentation of Ireland’s heritage and cultural assets. Our goals are to promote and protect Ireland’s heritage and culture, to advance the use of the Irish language, and to support the sustainable development of the islands

- promote and protect Ireland’s heritage and culture;
- advance the use of the Irish language;
- support the sustainable development of the islands; and
- develop cultural tourism.

While the Department’s remit covers a range of diverse areas, there are strong synergies between the work of the different Divisions. The Department has a strong economic remit and adds value to the national economy through its activities in relation to the arts, built heritage, cultural institutions, national parks and reserves.

The Department funds a number of State Bodies and Agencies with responsibilities relating to various aspects of the Department’s remit and works with these bodies and agencies to ensure a coordinated approach to fulfilling the Department’s mandate. Details of these bodies and agencies are attached at Appendix I.

The Department along with the Northern Ireland Department for Infrastructure and Department for Communities, are co-sponsors of two of the six cross-border implementation bodies established under the terms of the British-Irish Agreement Act 1999.
Staffing

The Department has a staffing complement of 623 and operates from a number of key locations as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Locations</th>
<th>Number of Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ely Place, Dublin 2</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Custom House, Dublin 1</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bishop Street, Dublin 8 (National Archives)</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joyce House, Lombard Street, Dublin 2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Buildings, Killarney</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ballina, Co. Mayo</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Na Forbaca, Co. na Gaillimhe</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Buildings, Newtown Road Wexford</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood Street, Galway</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Killarney National Park</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenveagh National Park (Donegal)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wicklow Mountain National Park</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oifig an Choimisinéara Teanga (An Spidéal)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The remaining staff are located throughout the country in smaller regional offices and national parks and reserves managed by the Department.

Oireachtas Committees – see appendix III

The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht focuses on the arts, heritage issues, the Gaeltacht and the islands. It considers and reports to the Houses of the Oireachtas on the expenditure and administration of the Department and considers the Department’s policy formation and implementation.

The Select Oireachtas Committee comprises only the Dáil Members of the Joint Oireachtas Committee. It meets to consider legislation, with the general exception of language legislation, and Estimates relating to the Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht.

Tá Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus na nOileán dírithe ar úsáid na Gaeilge mar theanga choitseann i ngach gné de shaol na hÉireann a chur chun cinn. Cuireann sé úsáid na Gaeilge chun cinn sa phobal, i gcúrsaí ealaíon, oideachais, spóirt, gnó agus polaitiúchta agus sna meáin chumarsáide. Tá an Coiste ag féachaint le rud fónta, feiceálach a dhéanamh de stádas na Gaeilge mar chéad teanga oifigiúil na hÉireann. Tá an Coiste seo ag tabhairt faoin scrúdú réamhreachtach ar Cheannteidil Bhille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) 2017 faoi láthair.
Legislation currently being drafted/prepared - See Appendix II

PROGRAMME AREAS

The Department is currently structured into five divisions as follows:

CULTURE DIVISION

Assistant Secretary, Feargal Ó Coigligh
Director Creative Ireland Programme - vacant

Section
1. Arts, Film and Investment
2. Cultural Policy & Institutions
3. Creative Ireland
4. Cultural Schemes
5. Culture Ireland, International & Education
6. National Archives

Principal Officer
Mary Nash
Kevin Lonergan
Sínead Copeland
John Kennedy
Christine Sisk
John McDonough (Director)^1

HERITAGE DIVISION

Assistant Secretary, Niall Ó Donnchú

Section
1. National Monuments
2. Built Heritage, Architectural Policy & Strategic Infrastructure
3. NPWS Strategy and Regional Operations
4. NPWS Legislation, Licensing & Property
5. NPWS Peatland Issues & Land Designation
6. NPWS Science and Biodiversity

Principal Officer
Terry Allen
(Chef Archaeologist Michael MacDonagh)
Martin Colreavy
Trevor Donnelly
John Fitzgerald
Brian Lucas
Ciaran O’Keeffe

^1 Statutorily independent but for HR and Corporate support operated within the Department fold.
GAELTACHT DIVISION

Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge / Director of Irish, Aodhán Mac Cormaic

Section                                                                 Principal Officer
1.  Irish Language Support Schemes, Official Languages Act, Irish in the EU  Micheál Ó Conaire
2.  Gaeltacht Support Schemes, Language Planning, Straitéis, Údarás na Gaeltachta Seán Mac Eoin
3.  Foras na Gaeilge, Placenames & Islands Sorcha de Brúch
4.  An Coimisinéir Teanga Ronan Ó Domhnaill

CORPORATE AFFAIRS DIVISION

Assistant Secretary, Conor Falvey

Section                                                                 Principal Officer
1.  Human Resources, Learning & Development                              Catriona Ryan
2.  Corporate Governance                                                 John Healy
3.  Corporate/Office Services                                            John Healy
4.  Finance & Evaluation Unit                                             Joe Healy
5.  ICT Unit                                                             Joe Healy
Culture - Key Priorities

Assistant Secretary - Feargal Ó Coigligh

Director of Creative Ireland Programme - vacancy

Overview

The goal of the Department’s Culture Division is to support and develop Ireland’s arts and culture thereby enriching lives through engagement in cultural activity; and to promote Ireland’s arts and culture globally. The Culture Division has 87 staff, 50 of whom are assigned to the National Archives with the remaining 37 working in four Business Units:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Unit</th>
<th>Principal Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts, Film and Investment</td>
<td>Mary Nash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Policy and Institutions</td>
<td>Kevin Lonergan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(including Creative Ireland &amp; Commemorations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture Ireland, International &amp; Education</td>
<td>Christine Sisk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Schemes</td>
<td>John Kennedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Ireland Programme</td>
<td>Sinead Copeland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Culture Division accounts for 43% of the Department’s allocation in 2017 and is responsible for overseeing much of the State’s cultural services, as well as leading on the commemorative programmes for the Decade of Centenaries. It has a current programme budget in 2017 of €122.8m and a capital programme budget of €27.6m (excluding €11.548m in capital carried over from 2016). These cultural services (and therefore funding) are, in the main, delivered through agencies and cultural institutions, including the Arts Council (€65m current funding), the Irish Film Board (€12.7m capital) and other National Cultural Institutions.

The Department also supports a range of smaller institutions and organisations with core funding (such as the Hunt Museum in Limerick, Siamsa Tíre, the Little Museum of Dublin, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann etc.) and operates a number of schemes of support in the cultural sector in areas not generally supported by the Arts Council.

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2 The National Cultural institutions (which are all supported by the Department) include the National Museum of Ireland, the National Gallery of Ireland, the National Library of Ireland, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Chester Beatty Library, the National Concert Hall and the Crawford Gallery in Cork.
A significant part of the Division's work entails ongoing interaction with the 7 National Cultural Institutions and the 2 funding agencies (the Arts Council and the Irish Film Board). Issues mainly revolve around the provision of funding and staffing, the appointment of Boards and Directors, and the delivery of services in accordance with Performance Delivery Agreements. The Department has advanced a number of legislative reform proposals in relation to the cultural institutions in recent years, with the National Concert Hall being placed on a statutory footing in 2016.

In recent months significant Departmental energy has been devoted to developing and implementing the *Creative Ireland Programme/Clár Éire Ildánaich*³ – a whole-of-government programme which aims to place culture and creativity at the heart of public policy in Ireland. The programme was inspired by the positive response from the public to the *Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme* where cultural expression was central to the success of the Programme. It also acts as the main vehicle to implement Culture 2025, the Department’s draft cultural policy framework which the Department developed in 2016 and submitted to then Oireachtas Joint Committee on Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs in July last year.

The Department has the lead role in delivering and co-ordinating a commemorative Programme over the Decade of Centenaries (World War I through to Civil War). This involves considerable cross-Government working with guidance to date provided by an Expert Advisory Group of historians and an All-Party Oireachtas Group. The 1916 Commemoration (and particularly Easter Weekend) marked the centrepiece of this programme last year. Key commemorations this year included the commemoration of the Battle of Messines (June), the death of Francis Ledwidge and supporting the commemoration of events in Ireland during 2017 including the death of Thomas Ashe.

A significant programme of capital works to mark the 1916 centenary, were completed last year including a new visitor centre at the GPO and projects in the National Concert Hall and Richmond Barracks. A €30m+ project to redevelop the National Gallery has just been completed and the official re-opening of the 2 wings of the Gallery, following a 6 year closure took place on 14 June. In addition, a €10m project to carry out necessary work on the National Library is about to commence. The Department is also administering a new €9m capital grants scheme over 3 years for the upgrading of existing arts and cultural centres.

³ See page 10 for further details of *Creative Ireland*
1. Arts, Film and Investment

This business unit is managing expenditure of €101.6m in 2017 (excluding capital carryover from 2016) spread across six subheads. It has responsibility for liaising with the Arts Council, Irish Film Board, National Library and National Archives.

Key deliverables include:-

- Managing grants to statutory bodies such as the Arts Council, Irish Film Board (IFB) and National Library of Ireland (NLI).
- Overseeing the completion of a consultants’ report and developing a new policy on the Irish audio-visual industry, as one of the key pillars of the Government’s Creative Ireland Programme.
- Developing an overall capital Culture and Heritage Capital Investment Plan in the context of the Government’s Mid Term Review of Capital Expenditure. This focuses on the investment needs of the National Cultural Institutions in particular and is also one of the five pillars of the Creative Ireland Programme.
- Administration of the new €9m arts and culture capital grants programme for upgrading existing arts and cultural infrastructure around the country.
- Continuing oversight and work on existing capital grants, under a number of pre-existing schemes.
- Progress on the National Cultural Institutions investment programme in the National Archives of Ireland (€8m) and National Library of Ireland (€10m).
- Legislation and policy supports to reduce the period for release of records by Government Departments from 30 years to 20 years.
- Advancing the Bank of Ireland College Green “White Box” Exhibition project, funded by Bank of Ireland, which will host a major Seamus Heaney exhibition hosted by the National Library.
- Progress Implementation of the National Genealogy Policy as approved by Government in December 2012.

2. Cultural Policy and Institutions

This business unit has responsibility for liaising with the National Museum, the Irish Museum of Modern Art, the Chester Beatty Library, the National Concert Hall and the Crawford Gallery in Cork.
Key work areas include:

- Securing appropriate funding for all relevant cultural institutions and agencies/bodies at both national and regional level.
- Progressing improvements to National Cultural Institutions infrastructure in line with capital provision.
- Continuing work on reform of legal and governance structures of National Cultural Institutions.
- Board appointments to relevant bodies.

3. Creative Ireland Programme Office and Commemorations Unit

Creative Ireland Programme

On 8 December 2016, the Creative Ireland Programme was launched as the Government’s Legacy Programme arising out of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme and as the main implementation vehicle for the priorities identified in Culture 2025/Éire Ildánaich. The Creative Ireland Programme is a high-level, 5-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, (building up to the centenary of the foundation of the State) which aims to place creativity at the centre of public policy. It is designed to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, Irish people can realise their full creative potential. The Programme is an ‘All of Government programme’ which is being led by the Department in partnership with other Government Departments and Agencies, local authorities, the third level sector, arts and culture organisations (including the National Cultural Institutions), media organisations and relevant NGOs.

The Creative Ireland programme is based on five core pillars as set out below:

Pillar 1: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child

Giving every child in Ireland access to tuition and participation in art, music, drama and coding, and fast tracking initiatives such as the Charter for Arts in Education

Pillar 2: Enabling Culture and Creativity in Every Community

The establishment of Culture Teams in each local authority tasked with developing a County Culture and Creativity Plan and the roll-out of Cruiníu na Cásca, an annual programme of arts activities and cultural reflection on Easter Monday

Pillar 3: Investing in our Cultural Infrastructure

Developing an overall five year capital strategy for the cultural and heritage sector in the context of feeding into the Mid-term Review of the Capital Programme in 2017
Pillar 4: Ireland: A Centre of Excellence in Media Production

Develop Ireland’s potential to be a global leader in the creative industries and a leading international centre for media production

Pillar 5: Unifying our Global Reputation

Maximising the impact and visibility of Ireland and Irish culture and creativity internationally including developing a national portal website for Ireland, Ireland.ie

The work of the Creative Ireland Programme is overseen by a Cross-Departmental Senior Officials Group and a Cabinet Committee.

Commemorations Unit

This business unit has responsibility for delivering the State’s response to the Decade of Centenaries (in partnership with other key Departments including D/Taoiseach, Defence, Foreign Affairs and Trade, Education and Skills etc.). The focus now is on planning for the second half of the Decade of Centenaries including, the period covering the War of Independence and Civil War. In this regard, the approach of the Department/Government is guided by the Expert Advisory Group (composed of historians) and an All-Party Group on Commemorations which is being re-established.

4. Cultural Schemes

This business unit has responsibility for supporting a number of cultural bodies nationwide which do not fall within the category of national cultural institution; supporting a number of other cultural initiatives which do not come within the remit of the Arts Council and for a number of other policy issues. This unit also has responsibility for liaising with the National Gallery of Ireland.

Key objectives include:

- Provision of funding, subject to Performance Delivery Agreements, with significant cultural bodies (outside the main National Cultural Institutions). These include the Hunt Museum Limerick, Foynes Flying Boat Museum, the Science Gallery (Trinity College), the Little Museum of Dublin, as well as Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann and Siamsa Tire, Tralee.
- Administering small budget grant schemes for North South Co-operation, Local and Regional Museums, Mobility of Collections etc.
- Operation of Tax Relief Scheme for donations (section 481).
- Developing policy on Export Licensing, the Percent for Arts Scheme, Philanthropy etc.
- Organising Culture Night in September each year in collaboration with local authorities across the island of Ireland
5. **Culture Ireland, International and Education**

Culture Ireland is a unit within the Department which is responsible for showcasing Irish culture on the international stage, primarily by funding artists to travel abroad. The unit also manages other issues in the international arena arising from our membership of the EU and UNESCO.

Key objectives include:

- Managing Culture Ireland’s grant programmes to increase high-level opportunities for Irish artists internationally.
- Presenting a year-round programme of high-quality Irish arts in areas of geographic priority, with a special focus around the St Patrick’s Day period, in cooperation with other State agencies.
- Delivering targeted global promotion of specific art-forms at key international and national showcase events to gain future opportunities for Irish artists.
- Delivering a targeted cultural programme in Britain in 2018.
- Supporting Galway local authorities in delivering the European Capital of Culture in 2020.
- Advancing Ireland’s nominations to the UNESCO representative list of intangible cultural heritage (Uilleann Piping and Hurling are the first 2 areas nominated for recognition).
- Providing input into international arts/cultural policy making.
Heritage – Key Priorities

Assistant Secretary – Niall Ó Donnchú

Overview

The goal of the Department’s Heritage Division is to conserve and manage Ireland’s unique heritage as a support to economic renewal and sustainable employment and in compliance with legal obligations, in particular EU Directives. Heritage Division works to ensure that Ireland has policies and legislation in place to meet modern requirements working in compliance with EU and international heritage obligations. The Heritage Division comprises six business units which together have 368 staff:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Unit</th>
<th>Principal Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Monuments</td>
<td>Terry Allen (Chief Archaeologist Michael MacDonagh)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built Heritage Architectural Policy &amp; Strategic Infrastructure</td>
<td>Martin Colreavy (Principal Advisor)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPWS – Strategy &amp; Regional Operations</td>
<td>Trevor Donnelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPWS – Legislation, Licensing &amp; Property</td>
<td>John FitzGerald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPWS – Peatland Issues &amp; Land Designation</td>
<td>Brian Lucas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NPWS – Science &amp; Biodiversity</td>
<td>Ciaran O’Keeffe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Heritage Division accounts for 12.4% of the Department’s allocation in 2017 and has a programme budget of €23.348m, comprising €13.828m for current expenditure and €9.52m for capital projects (excluding €2m in capital carried over from 2016). The Heritage Division also has responsibility for Waterways Ireland whose 2017 allocation amounts to €22.856m. In addition, it receives an allocation from the Environment Fund which will amount to just over €3.876m in 2017.

The Heritage Division is responsible for Ireland’s built and natural heritage, including national monuments, national parks and nature reserves. It has oversight responsibility for the Heritage Council. It is responsible for the transposition of the EU Birds and Habitats Directives into Irish law,
the designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and has key roles in relation to the Wildlife Acts and the protection, in general, of our flora and fauna.

It has a key role also in relation to heritage tourism and the presentation of the national parks, reserves, trails, and national monuments to domestic and international visitors. The national parks attract some 4 million visitors per annum and a similar number of visitors enjoy the National Monuments in state care every year. In its own right, it manages a number of prominent heritage properties and liaises closely with many of the national cultural institutions, in particular the National Museum, in regard to our natural, built and maritime heritage and activity tourism. The most significant project which is currently being managed is the proposed restoration of the National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street as a 1916 Commemorative Centre having regard to the outcome of the High Court action taken against the Minister.

The Division also has oversight responsibility in relation to Ireland’s UNESCO World Heritage sites - Skellig Michael and Brú na Bóinne. It also manages a number of ongoing EU law compliance cases under the aforementioned Directives the case relating to peatlands conservation.

The Division is also responsible for land designation and the peatlands conservation policy.

1. National Monuments Unit

The National Monuments Unit works in developing, promoting and implementing policies and legislation for the protection of archaeological heritage. It operates in close collaboration with the Office of Public Works in particular, to preserve and protect designated national monuments in the ownership of the Minister. Key activities include:

- Enactment of Monuments Bill – this proposed Bill will consolidate and update the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004, leading to a more efficient protection and archaeological licensing system.
- Archaeological Survey of Ireland – updating the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP).
- National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street – management of the proposed restoration project and related issues. The Minister’s appeal against High Court judgements that halted the project will open in the Court of Appeal on 19 December.
- Conservation of National Monuments in State Care – provide archaeological advice and input to OPW and local authorities on conservation and presentation of national monuments.
• Licensing – issue of Ministerial Consents, Directions and Licences in accordance with the National Monuments Acts, including for underwater archaeology.
• Planning – responding to development application as statutory consultee under the Planning Acts.
• Monument Protection – dealing with reports of threats or damage to monuments in accordance with the National Monuments Acts.
• As the responsible State Party, management of Ireland’s World Heritage portfolio (Ireland currently has 2 World Heritage Sites - Brú na Bóinne and Skellig Michael) and progression of WH nominations for additional sites on the Tentative List.
• Development of Heritage Ireland 2030 - a new national plan encompassing built and natural heritage.
• Provision of archaeological advice on infrastructural projects, including flood relief and solar energy.
• Provision of sectoral advice for the Department’s proposed Sectoral Climate Adaptation Plan.
• Management of the Department’s archival store of archaeological records, including photographic, survey and excavation.
• Partnering with Fáilte Ireland in the rollout of tourism investment in key heritage sites

2. **Built Heritage, Architectural Policy & Strategic Infrastructure Unit**

The responsibilities of the unit include developing, promoting and implementing policies and legislation for the protection of architectural heritage and promoting best practice in modern architecture & urban design and to promote North South co-operation, particularly in the context of continued investment and development of inland waterways via the on-going operation of Waterways Ireland

• Key policy developments and capital investment strategies include:
• Continued implementation of fiscal strategies regarding incentives for Built Heritage, including tax incentives and heritage-led regeneration or reuse policies via local authorities and other Government Departments.
• Manage continued investment of the Built Heritage €3.274m capital programme, including the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Structures at Risk Fund.
• Implementation of the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025.
• Continued support for the Irish Heritage Trust, Irish Historic Houses Association and Irish Architectural Foundation.
• Completion of National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH).
• On-going support of the Heritage Council, including its funding (voted allocation of €6.254m) and relevant board appointments and support for Waterways Ireland capital investment programme and on-going operations.
• Final stages of the Heritage Bill 2016.

3. NPWS Strategy and Regional Operations
This section oversees the management and development of the State’s 6 National Parks and 72 Nature Reserves for conservation purposes, the provision of public access and the strategic management of regional operations. The section consists of 3 distinct areas: Finance and Organisation Unit, Parks and Reserve Unit and the Regional NPWS Staff.

Key deliverables include the following:-
• Ongoing management and development of key properties at the 6 National Parks and 78 Nature Reserves (79,000 hectares). Alternative funding models for projects with a tourism focus on State lands are being pursued through the Strategic Partnership with Fáilte Ireland.
• Killarney House: This is an €10m project to develop Killarney House and Gardens as the main visitor and interpretative centre for Killarney National Park. The final phase of works to the House and Gardens is complete and the House opened officially on 4 July.
• Turf Cutting: Continue ongoing work on monitoring turf cutting issues in relation to raised bog Special Areas of Conservation.
• Muckross House: The Department will continue to work with the Trustees of Muckross House to manage and develop the property, including the carrying out of an agreed capital development programme.
• Management of resources to meet the requisite operational and policy needs: Increased funding has been provided in 2017 and a recruitment panel for Conservation Rangers (the first since 2008) is now in place. Recruitment from that panel is ongoing.

4. NPWS Legislation, Licensing & Property
The main responsibilities of this section are to:
• Advance legislative provisions to allow for de-designation of certain existing raised bog National Heritage Area (NHA) sites (as identified in the raised bog NHA Review).

• Provide guidance to public authorities on their obligations/compliance with EU Nature Directives and Irish Regulations.

• Update the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011.

• Co-ordinate built and natural heritage responses to applications referred to Minister in role as statutory consultee under Planning legislation (about 6,000 per annum) and other non-planning context (1,500 per annum).

• Issue various licences under Wildlife Acts (over 7,000, including some 4,500 deer hunting licences).

• Hare Coursing: review reports on current season and consider licences for 2018 season.

• Deliver the final stages of the Heritage Bill 2016, which includes provisions related to nature conservation, notably in relation to hedge cutting and burning.
5. NPWS Peatland Issues & Land Designation

The section consists of the following units: (i) Peatlands Management Unit (ii) Site Protection Unit (including administration of turf compensation scheme) (iii) Bog Relocation Support Unit and (iv) Designations Unit (including Peatlands Policy). The main responsibilities of the units are:

- Respond to the EU Reasoned Opinion regarding the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation programme and associated issues.
- Leading on the response to the EU turf-cutting infringement case which includes co-ordinating the overall response and liaising with the European Commission, as well as driving the implementation of specific measures aimed at resolving the case, including the provision of compensation/relocation and bog restoration.
- Overseeing the designation by the Minister of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) further to EU and national obligations.
- Co-ordinating the response to other EU nature infringement cases, particularly the case in relation to formal designation of SACs.

The key 2017 business issues and deliverables are:

- Finalise the National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan.
- Commence implementation of the Department’s National Peatlands Strategy actions and monitor implementation of actions by other Government Departments/State bodies. Submit first National Peatlands Strategy progress report to the Government.
- Proceed with de-designation of certain existing raised bog NHA sites (as identified in the raised bog NHA Review published in January 2014), subject to enactment of legislation.
- Proceed with designation of new NHA sites (in line with the raised bog NHA Review - January 2014).
- Continue with SAC and SPA designation programme.
- Continue to implement the Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme in respect of raised bog SAC and NHA sites in terms of making annual compensation payments, turf deliveries, and legal agreement payments.
- Move forward with the relocation element of the Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme, in particular, in terms of progressing the movement of qualifying applicants to suitable relocation sites in non-designated bogs.
- Advance the EU LIFE Raised Bog Restoration Project on the 12 raised bog SAC project sites.
6. **NPWS Science and Biodiversity**

This unit provides specialist scientific information and advice, especially with regard to our compliance obligations under the EU Habitats and Birds Directives, as well domestic legislation, development, agriculture and forestry, conservation policy and other current issues. It directly manages some of these work packages. It deals also with international Conventions, zoo licensing and licensing under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species. 2017 business issues and priorities include:

- **Key European Court Cases and Infringements:**
  - The Birds Case: Arising from a European Court judgement in 2007, work is nearing completion but includes the Hen Harrier Threat Response Plan, the completion of scientific input to the appeals process for Special Protection Areas and preparation of the management plan for corncrake in Donegal.
  - SAC Designations and Measures Case (Reasoned Opinion Stage but expected to escalate to full ECJ case): input to the designations process and the drafting/publication of Conservation Objectives for Special Areas of Conservation.
  - The Bogs Case: Provide scientific advice and support in relation to raised bog designated sites and subject to agreement, commencement of scientific survey towards peatland management on blanket bogs, following consultation with local communities.
  - The Sufficiency of SACs/SPAs Case: continue offshore survey programme with DCCAE.
  - The Pearl Mussel Case: manage Kerry LIFE project on Pearl Mussel; work on agriculture and forestry schemes with DAFM.

- **Proposed amendment to Wildlife Act** - Advice on conditions required in the regulation of burning and guidelines on hedge cutting.

- **EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species** - Prepare discussion paper for Minister, draft appropriate Regulations, including amendment to the EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 to regulate the import and sale of invasive species in compliance with EU trade rules.

- **Biodiversity** The National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 was published in October and implementation will be a focus of work in the coming years

- **Carry out assessments of the status of a wide range of habitats and species for reporting to the EU in 2019.**
Gaeilge, Gaeltacht, Islands and North-South - Key Priorities

Stiúrthóir na Gaeilge / Director of Irish– Aodhán MacCormaic

Overview
The goals of the Department’s Gaeltacht Division are to support the Irish language, to strengthen its use as the principal community language of the Gaeltacht, to assist the sustainable development of island communities and to promote North South co-operation, particularly in the context of the North South Implementation Body it co-funds - An Foras Teanga (comprising Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency). The Department funds and works closely with Údarás na Gaeltachta as the regional development agency for the Gaeltacht and Oifig an Chomisínéara Teanga, the independent statutory body that monitors the implementation of the Official Languages Act 2003. The Department also facilitates the delivery of services to Island communities, both in the Gaeltacht and outside the Gaeltacht. The Gaeltacht Division has 56 staff, 8 of whom are assigned to an Coimisinéir Teanga with the remaining staff working in the following business units:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Unit</th>
<th>Principal Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foras na Gaeilge, Ulster Scots Agency, Placenames, Island Infrastructure and Transport Services</td>
<td>Sorcha de Brúch</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The Gaeltacht Division accounts for 23% of the Department’s allocation in 2017 with a programme budget of €78.605m, comprising €13.528m for capital projects and €65.077m for current expenditure. €22.856m of this budget relates to the 2017 allocation for Waterways Ireland for whom the Heritage Division have responsibility.

Significant issues arising in the coming period include the publication of 5 year implementation plan for the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language, as well completing the consultation process with the
Department of Children and Youth Affairs and the Department of Education and Skills regarding future policy on early years education in the Gaeltacht. On the broader Irish language side, work is ongoing with the European Commission and the other main EU institutions aimed at ending the derogation on the use of the Irish language in the EU by 2022.

A number of issues are ongoing in the context of the Official Languages Act 2003, including the commencement of drafting of the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2017, the updating of the list of public bodies covered under the Act and the approval annually of up to 20-25 statutory language schemes proposed by public bodies.

Bliain na Gaeilge 2018

On 20th December in Government Buildings, An Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar T.D. will launch Bliain na Gaeilge 2018, a year-long celebration of the Irish language. The initiative will target a number of different groups – the Irish speaking and Gaeltacht communities, those with a small amount of Irish, those who have no Irish but who are favourably disposed towards the language and, finally, the Diaspora. A programme of community-led events is currently being prepared which is scheduled for launch on 20th December. A memorandum is scheduled to be brought to Government on 12th December outlining plans for the year and seeking the support of the public service for the initiative. €450,000 has been allocated from Foras na Gaeilge’s 2018 budget allocation for the initiative.

With regard to the islands, the key issues will be the progression of planning for marine works on Inis Oírr and Inis Meáin and addressing future transport needs for Toraigh island including both the ferry service and the pier at Machaire Rabhartaigh on the mainland, and the resolution of service level issues regarding the Aran Islands’ PSO air contract.

1. Irish Language Policy and the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030

Key priorities include:

- Continue implementation of the 20-Year Strategy through a range of Irish language support schemes.
- Publish in Q1 2018 the main strategic priorities for the five year period from 2018 in order to advance the implementation of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030.
- Progress projects and initiatives, including the text to speech synthesis project Abair.ie, digitisation projects in UCD and the RIA and the LEX programme for the provision of terminology for EU institutions.
• Continue funding 3rd level Irish language courses at home and abroad aimed at providing graduates for the institutions of the EU and at increasing Ireland’s global footprint in line with Government policy.

• End the derogation on the use of the Irish Language in the EU by end 2021: Maintain and enhance cooperative structures with EU institutions for the implementation of Council Regulation 2015/2264.

• Publish a Digital Plan for the Irish Language in Q1 2018.

• Establish a shared translation service for the civil service.

2. Official Languages Act 2003

Key priorities include:

• Delivery annually of 20 – 25 language schemes proposed by public bodies.

• Promote the recruitment of increased numbers of Irish speakers to the public service.

• Update by Regulation the First Schedule of the Official Languages Act 2003 listing all public bodies under its remit.

• Continue drafting of the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2017.

3. Gaeltacht and Islands

Key priorities in respect of the Gaeltacht are as follows:

• Continue to progress the implementation of the language planning process under Acht na Gaeltachta 2012, while recognising the need for increased funding for this demand-led statutory process over the coming years.

• Further support and develop the Gaeltacht summer colleges in cooperation with their umbrella body CONCOS and the Department of Education and Skills.

• Assist with the development of community facilities in the Gaeltacht with the aim of maintaining and strengthening the Irish language as the spoken language of the community there.

• Underpin the role of Gaeltacht organisations involved in strengthening the use of the Irish language.

• The appointment of a new board of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

• Review the operation of Scéim na gCuntóirí Teanga in cooperation with the Department of Education and Skills.

• Endeavour to ensure best practice as regards governance in Údarás na Gaeltachta.

• Continue the work of the Inter-Agency Task Force aimed at stemming population decline in Gaeltacht Ulbh Ráthaigh and improving the social and economic prospects of the region.
Key priorities in respect of the *Islands* are as follows:

- Co-ordinate Government policy in relation to the islands.
- Progress the implementation of the 5-year AranLIFE project (2014-2017) being funded under the EU’s LiFE programme.
- Continue to ensure adequate infrastructure and all year round transport services to and from our offshore islands.
- Progress planning for marine works on Inis Oírr and Inis Meáin and at Machaire Rabhartaigh on the mainland serving Toraigh Island.
- Addressing transport needs for Toraigh island including both the ferry service and the pier at Machaire Rabhartaigh on the mainland.
- Decide on the future use of airstrips at Cleggan and Inishbofin, Co. Galway.
- Provide funding and monitor the provision of community services on non-Gaeltacht offshore islands.

4. **North-South Co-operation**

An Foras Teanga is the North South Language Body, comprising Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency. Key priorities in this area include:

- Ensure continued oversight and governance of the two agencies through monitoring committee meetings and NSMC sectoral meetings, when recommenced.
- Completion of new English-Irish dictionary project
- Development of a number of schemes/initiatives to be advanced by Foras na Gaeilge - Scéim Phobail Ghaeilge, Líonraí Gaeilge and Bailte Seirbhísí Gaeltachta.
- Development and launch of the *Hairtlan* project by the Ulster-Scots Agency.
Corporate Division - Key Priorities

Assistant Secretary – Conor Falvey

Overview
The Corporate Division comprises the Offices of the Minister, Ministers of State and the Secretary-General and three business units, each headed by a Principal Officer: Corporate Governance & Services; Finance, Evaluation & ICT; and HR.

There are 112 staff in the area, accounting for some 14% of the Department's staff total, operating across three business units:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business Unit</th>
<th>Principal Officer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Governance &amp; Services, Press Office</td>
<td>John Healy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance, Evaluation &amp; ICT</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HR, Learning &amp; Development (incl. Internal Audit, Legal Advisor &amp; Ministers Offices)</td>
<td>Catriona Ryan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Corporate Division is responsible for the Department’s Administration Budget – almost €40m in 2017, equivalent to almost 11% of the Department's gross voted allocation of €368.422m. 83% of the Department’s administration costs, some €33.265m, are in respect of salaries, while the balance of €6.68m is for ICT, accommodation, post and telecommunications, travel & subsistence, training and other overheads.

Much of Corporate Division's work is providing supports that are essential for the day-to-day running of the Department. These supports facilitate the delivery of services to the public and other external stakeholders by staff in other areas of the Department. While the main objective in 2017 is to continue to provide those supports, each area also has a number of key objectives designed to deliver improvements in the Department’s internal arrangements and advance whole-of-government initiatives in areas such as implementing the Civil Service Renewal Plan.

Any transfer of functions involving this Department that may be required by the Government will, of course, become the key priority activity for the Division.
The key priorities for Corporate Division in 2017 are:

**Corporate Governance & Services, Press Office**
- Coordinate response to Brexit including preparation of Adaptive Sectoral Plan.
- Prepare a new Departmental Statement of Strategy for the period 2017-2020 for submission to Minister as required.
- Monitor progress in implementing the *Programme for Government*.
- Review Risk Management Policy and implement enhanced arrangements.
- Continue to develop Health & Safety Policies and arrangements across the Department.
- Further improve the recording and management of the Department's assets.
- Oversee implementation of new Records Management Policies.
- Coordinate and oversee preparations to ensure compliance with General Data Protection Regulation due to come into effect in May 2018.
- Coordinate and oversee preparations to ensure compliance with Children First Legislation.
- Oversee compliance with revised Code of Practice for Governance of State Bodies.
- Organise the 2017 National and International Famine Commemorations.

**Finance, Evaluation and ICT**
- Monitor and manage the Department's 2017 expenditure, as well as the annual Estimates and Budget process.
- Coordinate Department's input to Current and Capital Expenditure Review processes.
- Continue to contribute to the development of the Financial Management Shared Service (FMSS) and commence preparatory work for migration to the FMSS in Q1 2019.
- Further embedding of evaluation, through Quality Approval Process.
- Continued oversight of procurement functions, with particular reference to use of Office of Government Procurement frameworks.
- Migrate Heritage Division ICT services from D/ECLG to integrated D/AHG network.
- Progress implementing new document management system based on SharePoint.
- Implement ePQ and eSubmissions system.
HR, Learning & Development

- Provide a robust HR function which supports the Department's business and provides relevant HR support and advice to bodies under the aegis of the Department.
- Manage delegated sanction/staffing control framework arrangements for State Agencies under the aegis of the Department.
- Implement the Civil Service Renewal Plan, including implementation of action plan in response to employee engagement survey, a new internal communications architecture, new performance management system, departmental mobility policy and developing a gender balance action plan for the Department.
- Implement Workforce Plan to maintain key capabilities in the context of delegated authority in staffing matters and related financial targets.
- Implement a Training Strategy to develop key skills, develop staff and build the Department's capacity.
- Act as State Boards Liaison officer for appointments, through the Public Appointments Service, to Boards under the aegis of the Department.
### APPENDIX I

State Bodies and Agencies under the remit of the Department

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme area</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>2017 allocation €000s</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Current</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme A: Arts, Culture &amp; Film</td>
<td>Irish Museum of Modern Art</td>
<td>4,748</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chester Beatty Library</td>
<td>2,346</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Concert Hall</td>
<td>2,449</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Crawford Gallery</td>
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<td>Arts Council</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Museum of Ireland</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Library of Ireland</td>
<td>6,815</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Irish Film Board</td>
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<td></td>
<td>National Gallery of Ireland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programme B: Heritage</td>
<td>Heritage Council</td>
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<td>Irish Heritage Trust</td>
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<td>Programmes C&amp;D: Irish Language, Gaeltacht &amp; Islands, North South Cooperation</td>
<td>Údarás na Gaeltachta</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Foras Teanga</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Waterways Ireland</td>
<td>20,179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX II

Legislation currently under development or proposed – November 2017

1) Arts, Film and Investment

Title of Legislation: National Archives (Amendment) Bill 2017

Purpose: To amend the time period from 30 years to 20 years after which Departmental records have to be transferred to the National Archives.

Current Status: Passed Second Stage in the Dáil.

Next step (incl Date): scheduled for Committee Stage in Joint Committee on 7 December 2017

Key contact in Dept: Sharon Barry AP

2) National Monuments

Title of Legislation: Monuments and Archaeological Heritage Bill

Purpose: To repeal all existing National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and certain related legislation (some going back to the 19th century) and replace with single modern Act, key elements of which are as follows –

- Establishment of a single Register of Monuments in place of current multiple systems for protecting monuments;
- Provision for first time for automatic interim protection of newly discovered archaeological monuments;
- Replacement of current multiple and overlapping systems of licences and consents with single integrated licensing system with measures included to ensure transparency and fairness;
- Strengthening of enforcement procedures, including provision for first time of civil enforcement procedures;
- Provision of a clear legal basis for the role of Commissioners of Public Works in regard to management of national monuments in State care and clarification of relationship between the Commissioners and the Minister;
- Provision of clearer powers to manage national monuments in State care, in particular through the making of bye-laws;
- Placing of World Heritage Sites on a clear legal footing under Irish law;
- Provision of measures to allow Ireland to ratify key international conventions relating to protection of underwater cultural heritage and illicit dealing in cultural objects;
- In general, removal of a range of anomalies and gaps in existing legislation and provision of a modern and coherent legislative framework which can be accessed in one Act rather than in a series of Acts which have been subject to multiple amendments.
**Current Status:** Heads of Bill approved by Government in April 2010. Drafting commenced in 2012. First draft of all substantive parts completed autumn 2014. Drafting delayed in 2015 to 2016 but recommenced late 2016. A full draft Bill has recently been completed by Parliamentary Counsel and is expected to be circulated to other Departments for comment in January or February 2018.

**Next step (incl Date):** Unless consultation with other Departments raises any significant policy or other issues it is anticipated that the draft Bill would be submitted to Government in the second half of 2018 for approval to initiate in the Oireachtas and, if approved by Government, sent to the relevant Oireachtas committee for pre-legislative scrutiny.

**Key contact in Dept:** Terry Allen, Principal Officer National Monuments Service.

3) **Built Heritage**

**Title of Legislation:** Heritage Bill

**Purpose:** To amend certain sections of the Heritage Act 1995 arising from the Report of the Critical Review of the Heritage Council concluded in June 2012 and approved by Government in 2013. The Bill also amends the Canals Act 1986 in order to provide enabling provisions in primary legislation to allow the making of bye-laws for the regulation of boating on the canals. This is being done on the basis of legal advice received with a view to ensuring that such bye-laws will be legally robust. The Bill also makes provision for the regulation of cutting or burning of vegetation, as provided for in Government Decision No. S140/98/01/0001 and provides for clarification of the powers of authorised officers under the Wildlife Acts.

**Current Status:** Passed Second Stage in the Dáil.

**Next step (incl Date):** Was scheduled for Committee Stage on 29 November and was postponed by the Committee in order for them to meet with interest groups. Awaiting new date from the Committee.

**Key contact in Dept:** Ciara Carberry

4) **Gaeilge agus Gaeltacht**

**Title of Legislation:** Official Languages (Amendment) Bill 2017

**Purpose:** The proposed Bill will give effect to amendments arising from the review of the Official Languages Act 2003, in addition to amendments required arising from the abolition of the Placenames Commission, as provided for in the Public Service Reform Plan of 2011. Central elements of this Bill are the manner in which Irish language speakers are recruited to the public service and the power provided to the Minister for Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht to specify by Regulation the manner in which Irish language speakers who are successful in Public Appointments Service (PAS) recruitment competitions are allocated to public bodies. Another significant element of the Bill is the replacement of the existing language scheme regime by the introduction of language standards for each government sector, with higher standards to be achieved by sectors with greater interaction with the public.
Current Status: Government approval received 30th May for the drafting of the Bill. General Scheme and Draft Heads of Bill published 2nd June.

Next step: A parliamentary draftsperson has been assigned by the office of the Attorney General and work has now commenced on the drafting of the Bill, in accordance with the draft scheme published, subject to further discussion with other Departments and legal consideration by the Office of the Attorney General. The Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands commenced pre-legislative scrutiny of the Bill on the 7th November.

Key contacts in Dept: Triona Ni Mhathuna / Micheál Ó Conaire / Aodhán Mac Cormaic

5) Corporate Governance

Title of Legislation: National Famine Commemoration Day Bill 2017

Purpose: Private Members Bill proposing to for the establishment of a National Famine Commemoration Day and related matters.

Current Status: The bill passed second stage in February 2017.

Next step (incl Date): Committee Stage date to be confirmed.

Key contact in Dept: John Healy

Secondary Legislation

1. Peatland Issues and Land Designation Section

Title of Legislation: European Communities (Raised Bog European Sites Co-existence Scheme) Regulations 2017

Purpose: To move applications for consent for turf cutting for domestic use on raised bog Special Areas of Conservation in accordance with article 6.3 or article 6.4 out of the planning system to an alternative consent system operated by the Minister (these draft regulations arise in response to a commitment in the Programme for a Partnership Government (2016)).

Current Status: Draft regulations with Department’s Legal Advisor for review

Next step (incl Date): Subject to and once the observations of the Department’s Legal Advisor have been received it is intended to forward the draft regulations to the Minister for approval
(in principle) before sending to the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel for drafting. It is estimated that the draft regulations will be forwarded to the Minister in early 2018.

**Key contact in Dept:** Brian Lucas

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**2. NPWS Science & Biodiversity**

**Title of Legislation:** European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2017

**Purpose:** To implement EU Regulation 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species

**Current Status:** Draft Regulations are at advanced stage

**Next step (incl Date):** Finalise draft regs and seek advice from Legal Advisor on issues identified

**Key contact in Dept:** Alan Moore

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**3. NPWS Science & Biodiversity**

**Title of Legislation:** European Union (Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing) Regulations 2017

**Purpose:** To implement EU Regulation 511/2014 on the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing

**Current Status:** Draft Regulations are at early drafting stage

**Next step (incl Date):** Consultation with other Departments and relevant stakeholders

**Key contact in Dept:** Alan Moore
**APPENDIX III**

**Membership of Oireachtas Committees**

**Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht**

*Cathaoirleach:* Peadar Tóibín, TD (SF)

*Leas Cathaoirleach:* Michael Collins TD (RIG)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deputies (Dáil Select Committee)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seán Canny TD</td>
<td>Independent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Collins</td>
<td>RIG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Danny Healy Rae</td>
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<tr>
<td>Martin Heydon</td>
<td>Fine Gael</td>
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<td>Éamon Ó Cúiv</td>
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<td>Niamh Smyth</td>
<td>Fianna Fáil</td>
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<td>Peadar Tóibín</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
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<td><strong>Senators (Joint Committee)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maura Hopkins</td>
<td>Fine Gael</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marie-Louise O’Donnell</td>
<td>(Neamhspleách – Independent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aodhán Ó Riordáin</td>
<td>Labour Party</td>
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<td>Fintan Warfield</td>
<td>Sinn Féin</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltacha agus na nÓileán**

*Cathaoirleach:* Caítriona Ni Chonghaile TD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Comhailte</th>
<th>Páirtí</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teachtá:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Caítriona Ni Chonghaile</td>
<td>Neamhspleách</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pat The Cope Ó Gallachóir</td>
<td>Fianna Fáil</td>
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<td>Breandán Ó Griffin TD</td>
<td>Fine Gael</td>
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<td>Aindrias Ó Muimhneacháin</td>
<td>Fianna Fáil</td>
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<td>Fearghus Ó Dubhda</td>
<td>Fine Gael</td>
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<td>Brid Nic Gabhann</td>
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<tr>
<td>An Seanadóir Trevor Ó Clochartaigh</td>
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<td>Neamhspleách</td>
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