Culture Briefing
June 2020
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1.1 **Key Activities and Deliverables 2020**

The following table sets out a summary of the areas for immediate action, key deliverables and work streams where a Ministerial decision may be required within the next three to six months. More detail on each of the items and actions is provided in the comprehensive Ministerial briefing document. Additionally, there may be some revision of this list in the coming weeks of the listed items and actions to ensure alignment with the new Programme for Government.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Area for action/Ministerial Decision</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Culture Policy and Supports</td>
<td>Support the re-opening of the Arts Sector, Audio-visual sector, National Cultural Institutions (NCIs) and culture sector in general in consultation with stakeholders including the Arts Council, Screen Ireland and the NCIs. Support delivery online of COVID adapted cultural events, e.g. Hot Press gigs, Great Music in Irish Houses, Courage 2, Creative Ireland initiatives etc.</td>
<td>3 months 3 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| National Development Plan         | Progress large capital projects and national cultural infrastructure capital schemes.  
- Completion of phase 2 of the National Library of Ireland redevelopment  
- Sign construction contracts at the National Archives  
- Approval of Business Case and to proceed to design phase at Crawford Art Gallery  
- Approval of Strategic Assessment Report for Chester Beatty Library  
- Commence investigative works and complete business case at the Natural History Museum  
- Commence relocation to facilitate Phase 4(a) at the National Gallery of Ireland  
- Deliver regional arts and culture infrastructure grant schemes and projects | 3 months 3 months 3 months 3 months 6 months 6 months 6 months |
| National Archives                 | Commence 20-Rule with Department of An Taoiseach, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Attorney General and Public Records Office Northern Ireland, with first transfers within 2020.                                                                                                                                       | 6 months        |
| Creative Ireland | Finalise and launch Roadmap for the Creative Industries.  
Launch National Creativity Fund II. | 3 months  
3 months |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Culture Ireland | Deliver elements of Galway 2020 programme online, notably Galway Film Fleadh (3 months) and revised Galway 2020 programme (6 months).  
Recommence showcasing of Irish artists to international presenters through Dublin Fringe Festival and Dublin Theatre Festival and Ireland Music Week programmes.  
Completion of the new capital project at the Irish Arts Centre, New York. | 6 months  
6 months  
6 months |
| Night Time Culture | Develop plan to implement the Programme for Government commitments | 6 months |
| Commemorations | Reconvene All-Party Consultation Group on Commemorations.  
Deliver overall Decade of Centenaries 2012-2023 programme for 2020, including Cork Commemorations. | 3 months  
6 months |
| National Cultural Institutions | Appoint board members to the Board of the National Concert Hall. | 3 months |
### 1.2 Programme for Government Commitments

The Programme for Government (PfG) contains detailed commitments that fall within the remit of the Culture Division. This document sets out an overview of relevant commitments and statements from the PfG.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Programme for Government - &quot;Our Shared Future&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Culture Division</td>
<td>The PfG sets out that the plan for commemorations over the next few years, which does not appear to immediately differ greatly from current policy but does include some new specified commitments:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ensure an inclusive model of commemoration planning, informed by the guidance of the Expert Advisory Group.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Request the Expert Advisory Group to examine the possibility of annual state commemorations for figures with significant positive contributions to Irish culture and heritage.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Commit to engaging with the Northern Ireland Executive on the planning and management of commemorations of a cross-community and politically sensitive nature.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Encourage local authorities to maximise engagement and facilitation with communities in developing commemorative events.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commemorations</td>
<td>The PfG also separately commits to holding a National Day of Commemoration for the COVID-19 pandemic to &quot;commemorate those we have lost, to celebrate all those who helped us survive and endure, and we will ensure that there is support for all those who feel alone or lost. &quot; It is not outlined which Department would be tasked with implementing this but it is included here given that it may come under Commemorations within DCHG.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital investment in cultural infrastructure</td>
<td>As set out at the beginning of this document, the planned review of the NDP is to be brought forward and would outline a new NDP to the period to 2031. This may impact on the capital investment plans outlined in ICLH, including the major works planned under the NCI Investment Programme, although it is intended that existing projects would not be delayed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The PfG does include a commitment to “Ensure the timely delivery of arts and culture capital investment commitments, including our National Cultural Institutions, as outlined in Project Ireland 2040.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In relation to other capital investment in creative and cultural infrastructure, the PfG indicates that an incoming government would:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>– Examine ‘Agent of Change’ initiatives, whereby existing cultural</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
spaces have to be taken into account when building is taking place.

- Support measures to increase the provision of affordable workspaces for artists and creative practitioners.
- Examine ‘meanwhile use’ legislation for vacant buildings, with a view to its potential application in Ireland.
- Ensure the timely delivery of arts and culture capital investment commitments, including our National Cultural Institutions, as outlined in *Project Ireland 2040*.

In relation to Local arts Infrastructure, the PfG references Community Arts and commits to working to ensure that local authorities are sufficiently supported to allow the fulfilment of long-term strategic cultural and arts planning at a local level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural Investment (Current)</th>
<th>The PfG commits to develop innovative support schemes for small local festivals, amateur dramatics, and musicals, and to encourage the next generation of young artists by creating new bursary schemes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCI Tour</td>
<td>The PfG sets out the intention to Develop initiatives enabling the National Cultural Institutions to go on tour to towns across the country. There is no further detail on what form this could take.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Town of Culture</td>
<td>The PfG indicated an incoming government would Consider creating a new National Town of Culture competition.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Night Culture

The PfG recognises the impact that Social Distancing will have on night-time culture and outlines that an incoming Government would work with stakeholders across the sector to develop innovating approaches to enable ut t function and create a sustainable night-time economy in Ireland. The PfG includes the following commitments which would therefore likely inform the currently-ongoing co-ordination regarding a policy on Night-Time Culture:

- Establish, in the first 30 days of Government, a Night-time Economy Taskforce.
- Conduct a full review of the regulations and policy framework governing our night-time culture at national and local level, including the staggering of trading hours for pubs, late bars, clubs, and restaurants. [Not entirely within the function of DCHG but may be co-ordinated by DCHG]
- Modernise our licensing laws and application processes. [This function is not presently within DCHG]
- Support the establishment of the Night-Time Culture Mayors, proposed for Dublin and Cork, and examine the establishment of local committees to advance and improve our night-time entertainment and creative offerings in other urban areas.

### Arts Strategy/Culture 2025

The PfG sets out some principles which provide an insight into the intended Arts Strategy, which does not appear to indicate a significant departure from current position. This includes:
| Creative Ireland | The PfG commits to supporting ongoing implementation of the Creative Ireland programme and provides some further detail on intended policy, including:  
- Expand Creative Schools, ensuring that every child in Ireland has access to tuition and participation in art, music, drama, and coding.  
- Ensure that Creative Schools continues beyond the life of Creative Ireland and will work with the Department of Education to achieve this.  
- Foster further collaboration between local authorities and local arts organisations through Creative Communities.  
- Support Creative Ireland in its ‘Engaging the Public on Climate Change through the Cultural and Creative Sectors’ initiative. |
<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts Council</td>
<td>The PfG commits to continuing to financially support the work of the Arts Council and to protect the independence of the arts community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture Ireland</td>
<td>There is no reference to Culture Ireland in the PfG, however the FF manifesto stated that Culture Ireland should be restored to complete independence to strengthen its capacity to promote Irish arts and culture on the global stage. It was left unstated whether this could be an 'executive agency' housed within the Department’s Vote (similar to the National Archives) or as a body under the aegis of the Department. This should be borne in mind as the shape of the Government and it’s Departments becomes known, should the proposed government take office.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Film            | The PfG states the intention to continue implementation of the Audiovisual Action Plan and funding of Screen Ireland.  
In addition, the PfG outlines the following commitments: within the Film space:  
- Work with the relevant government departments, to ensure the full implementation of the Audiovisual Media Services Directive (AVMSD).  
- Ensure that our tax regime remains supportive and attractive, following the success of the Regional Film Development Uplift. [Section 481 not directly referenced in PfG]  
- Develop a Digital Creative Industries Roadmap. |
- Work with relevant government departments and external stakeholders to guarantee the protection of intellectual property rights and digital rights for the creative sector, and to ensure the full implementation of the new EU Copyright Directive.
- Support the development of new studio space and the upskilling of audio-visual workers.
1.3 COVID 19 Response

Assessing the impacts

- The restrictions necessary to halt the spread of COVID-19 are having a devastating and unprecedented impact on the broader cultural and creative sectors, with the venues closed, the opportunities for performance sharply curtailed, and film production halted.
- The Department has been working with the Arts Council, National Cultural Institutions and Screen Ireland to assess and, where possible, mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 on the wider cultural sector, including theatres, galleries, arts centres, festivals, artists, performers and cultural workers, and on the AV industry, including live productions and AV workers.
- The National Cultural Institutions have been closed since 13 March with the consequence of a loss of revenue streams (shop, café, sponsorship, tours), inability to re-programme postponed shows/concerts with loss of box office income (National Concert Hall and Abbey Theatre), and loss of box office receipts at the NCH and Abbey Theatre.
- The Arts Council surveyed 265 cultural organisations (the prospective recipients of grants approved to date) over the period 23-27 March and the results indicated a loss of audience of 2.4m due to cancellations and a potential financial impact of €10m (€3.8m in investments in cancelled/postponed activities and loss of €6.4m in potential income from cancelled activities).
- On 7 April 2020, the Board of Galway 2020 announced that the programme of events for Galway 2020 would be contracted as a consequence of Covid-19, and also indicated that this would lead to a contraction in the team at Galway 2020, including its contract with the creative direction team at Artichoke and Creative Director Helen Marriage.
- On 7 June, the Arts Council established a short-term advisory group to identify ways to address the challenges posed by the COVID 19 emergency. That group, experts from the arts and other sectors including public health, economics and media, presented their report to the Arts Council on 19 June which recommended additional funding for enhanced commissioning schemes, increased bursary and professional development schemes, as well as recommendations around digital dissemination and adaptation of cultural spaces.
- The Department continues to monitor the cancellation and postponement of events and work with stakeholders and to work to adapt events to the current environment e.g. moving Cruinniú na nÓg online.
- Live production of television and film has ceased – high risk impacts include:
  - Challenge to ability to re-start production in 2020 given some productions have insurance exclusions due to Covid-19 and are unable to absorb losses;
  - Productions companies will be challenged to sustain the lack of cash flow from ongoing productions;
  - Freelance crew and cast have lost their jobs; and,
  - Cinemas are closed with the possible contraction of the sector.
- The COVID-19 National Income Support Scheme, composed of the Revenue Wage Subsidy, Pandemic Unemployment Payment and Enhanced Illness Benefit has cushioned the effect on incomes of workers across the economy, including the cultural sector. The Department
continues to examine the impact of the income support schemes on the sector to identify any gaps in coverage.

Mitigating the impact and supporting cultural life and well-being during the Covid-19 emergency

- On March 12, the outgoing Minister convened a meeting with the NCIs including the Abbey Theatre, the Arts Council, and Screen Ireland, and the Department implemented contingency measures by bringing forward payments to the agencies and NCIs to ensure adequate cashflow.
- Following the meeting of 12 March, the Arts Council announced a range of immediate measures in response to the public health restrictions including:
  - that it would honour all funding commitments that have been made to organisations under schemes awarded to date (Arts Council Strategic Funding, Arts Centre Funding, Arts Grant Funding and Festival Investment Scheme, Round 1);
  - that there would be no financial penalties for organisations/individuals unable to deliver key activities/key services arising from the impact of the COVID-19; and,
  - that grantees could draw down up to 90% of their funding commitment, with immediate effect to assist in honouring immediate financial commitments (with the effect that the Arts Council released over €18m to organisations).
- On 18 March, Screen Ireland announced the following measures:
  - Screen Ireland will provide 90% funding upfront on all development loans to Irish screenwriters and production companies through to 31st May 2020.
  - Existing development and production loan offers which are due to expire in the coming months will all be extended to 31st May 2020.
  - Screen Ireland will provide additional marketing and distribution support for upcoming Irish film and TV releases during this period.
  - Screen Ireland will continue to provide skills development opportunities for industry practitioners, with Screen Skills Ireland delivering some of its planned activity for 2020 online free-of-charge over the next 6-10 weeks.
- On 3 April, the outgoing Minister launched a range of measures aimed at supporting cultural life during the COVID-19 emergency, including:
  - Funding of €100,000 (matched with €100,000 from Facebook Ireland) to support the live performance of arts online under the heading #IrelandPerforms. This initiative delivered 120 online performances by artists from 28 counties across the island of Ireland. Total viewership has reached over 820,000 with reach and engagement across Britain, Europe, North America, Asia and Australia;
  - Funding of €1m for an Arts Council COVID-19 Crisis Response Award to support the creation and dissemination of new artistic work (€500,000 re-allocated from existing resources by DCHG to the Arts Council, €500,000 from existing resources within Arts Council); and,
  - Partnerships with RTÉ, TG4 and others to bring a broad range of cultural, heritage and language content to the public from archive and new sources, working with
organisations such as Druid and Other Voices. In particular the innovative Other Voices Courage Programme, which saw events live streamed and provided on digital and terrestrial tv platforms, delivered a reach of over 2.7m and live views exceeding 1m. A second iteration of this programme (Courage 2) has been allocated funding of €400,000 (19 June) and will provide further live performances from 23 July to take place in heritage sites such as Kilkenny Castle and Glenveagh National Park. It will follow a similar approach to Courage 1 in the context of live streaming and online/TV play thereafter.

– The Creative Ireland Programme is working with the Healthy Ireland (an all-of-Government public health programme organised out of the Department of Health) to roll out supports as part of an all-of-Government well-being initiative throughout the COVID-19 emergency. On 13 June, the Creative Ireland programme delivered Cruinniu na nOg, Ireland’s national day of free creative activities for children and young people. It was hosted online and within a matter of weeks had delivered 500 free events to a national and international audience in collaboration with RTÉ and all 31 local authorities.

– On 16 June the outgoing Taoiseach and outgoing Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht announced €25 million in extra supports to help the Arts and Culture sector recover from the Covid19 Emergency. The funding is to include bursaries and commissions to artists and arts organisations, and resources for museums and culture workers as they prepare for the re-opening of society. A total of €20 million will be allocated to the Arts Council bringing its allocation this year to €100 million. A further €5 million was made available for other measures, including securing the future of key cultural and museum spaces and facilities throughout Ireland, and the production of high-quality digital art and on-line performances.

– On 18 June, the outgoing Minister announced funding of over €50,000 for 14 summer festivals and summer schools. Although the uptake was less than for previous years as a result of COVID 19, some organisers indicated a move towards alternative online approaches.

– The Department is also engaging with cinema operators, private venue interests, representatives of festival operators, and other others operating in the commercial cultural and entertainment sector on issues arising from the Roadmap for reopening society and business.

– Six of the Department’s National Cultural Institutions will be reopening either fully or partly to the public with effect from 29 June 2020 while the Irish Museum of Modern Art will reopen from 30 June. The six that will be reopening from 29 June are as follows:
  – The National Museum of Ireland
  – Crawford Art Gallery Cork
  – Chester Beatty Library
  – National Library of Ireland
  – National Archives
  – National Gallery of Ireland
The National Concert Hall and the Abbey Theatre will reopen at a later date.
2.1 Key Policy and Strategy Documents and Legislative Framework

The Oireachtas has conferred a number of functions, duties and powers on the Minister through legislation which are supported by a framework of policies, strategies, and action plans. This framework of legislation, policy and strategy directs and informs the work of the Division. A summary of the key legislation, policy and strategy documents for each programme area is provided in the tables below:

**Cross- Government strategy – National Development Plan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation/Policy/Strategy</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage – 2018 to 2027 (Project Ireland 2040) | A ten-year plan setting out the Government’s commitment for capital investment of almost €1.2 billion in Ireland’s culture, language and heritage. The strategy prioritises capital spending across three themes - Culture, Heritage and Language and the Islands – and 12 programme areas:  
  - €725 million for cultural infrastructure and programmes, incorporating:  
    - €460 million for our National Cultural Institutions;  
    - €265 million for a cultural and creativity investment programme;  
  - €285 million for natural and built heritage; and,  
  - €178 million for the Gaeltacht, the Irish language and the Islands. |
## Legislation/Policy/Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislation</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arts Act 2003</strong></td>
<td>Provides that the Ministers function shall be to promote the arts both inside the State and outside the State and governs the relationship with the Arts Council.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Cultural Institutions Act 1997</strong></td>
<td>Provides for the governance of the National Library, National Gallery and National Museum, and for the management of cultural objects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Cultural Institutions (National Concert Hall) Act 2015</strong></td>
<td>Provided for the establishment of the National Concert Hall as a National Cultural Institution to provide and operate the national venue for the performance, appreciation and enjoyment of music.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Irish Film Board Act 1980 (as amended)</strong></td>
<td>Provides for the governance of Screen Ireland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>National Archives Act 1986 and National Archives (Amendment) Act 2018</strong></td>
<td>Provides for the functions of the National Archives and its Director. The 2018 Act provides for the change from 30 years to 20 years for the release of State Papers.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Policy & Strategy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy &amp; Strategy</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Culture 2025</strong></td>
<td>Published in January 2020, it sets out an overarching vision and framework for our cultural future and outlining priorities for action in the period up to 2025.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Creative Ireland Programme, 2017-2022</strong></td>
<td>The all-of-Government initiative which seeks to place creativity at the centre of public policy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Audiovisual Action Plan</strong></td>
<td>An industry-wide, long-term plan to support the Department’s ambition to enable Ireland to become a global hub for the production of Film, TV drama and animation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Roadmap for the Creative Industries</strong></td>
<td>Under development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Global Ireland 2025</strong></td>
<td>The Government’s strategy for doubling the scope and impact of Ireland’s global footprint in the period ahead through a range of measure including promoting Irish arts, heritage and culture to new generations and new audiences across the world.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Policy &amp; Strategy</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language 2010-2030 and the associated Action Plan 2018-2022</strong></td>
<td>Aims to increase on an incremental basis the use and knowledge of Irish as a community language and ensure as many citizens as possible are bilingual.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cross-Government policy for Island Development</strong></td>
<td>The policy and proposed action plan is being progressed by an Interdepartmental Committee on Island Development and through public consultation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>An Integrated Strategy for the Gaeltacht and Irish-Medium Arts</strong></td>
<td>Under development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Digital Plan for the Irish Language</strong></td>
<td>Under development.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.2 Cross Government Policy and Activity

The Department is engaged in and contributes to a number of whole-of-Government and inter-Departmental initiatives and policies.

Brexit
Since 2016, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has overseen the co-ordination of the whole-of-Government response to Brexit through the cross-Departmental coordination structures chaired by that Department. This included contingency planning for a no-deal or worst-case outcome, bringing together the detailed work being undertaken by individual Departments. This work has provided baseline scenarios for the impact of Brexit across all sectors, which is capable of being adapted as appropriate in light of developments in the EU-UK negotiations, which are now focused on the future relationship between the EU and UK.

The Withdrawal Agreement, signed in January 2020, provided for the orderly withdrawal of the UK from the EU on 31 January 2019. Key to this work is the Political Declaration agreed in 2019 between the EU and the UK, which provides the foundation for an ambitious and comprehensive future relationship.

This Division continues to participate in inter-Departmental preparations for Brexit and continues to monitor the future relationship discussions, assess the impact of potential outcomes on the Department’s sectors and, given the difficult negotiations, prepare for a hard Brexit scenario.

In the cultural field, Ireland and the UK have historically worked closely. The Department will continue to assess the potential impacts on the import and export of cultural goods between the UK and Ireland and on joint ventures with the UK in the film industry.

Project Ireland 2040 - The National Planning Framework and National Development Plan
In February 2018, the Government finalised and approved Project Ireland 2040, composed of the National Planning Framework (NPF) - a spatial strategy intended guide planning and development - and the National Development Plan, 2018-2027 (NDP) -, which set out a 10-year investment programme to underpin the development objectives of NPF. The NDP includes 10 strategic priorities to achieve the 10 national strategic outcomes (NSOs) identified by the NPF.

Table 2.1: NPF National Strategic Outcome and aligned NDP Strategic Investment Priority, 2018-2027

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>National Strategic Outcome (NSO)</th>
<th>Strategic Investment Priority</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Compact Growth</td>
<td>Housing and Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Enhanced Regional Accessibility</td>
<td>National Road Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Rural Development</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sustainable Mobility</td>
<td>Environmentally Sustainable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</td>
<td>Enterprise, Skills and Innovation Capacity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>High-Quality International Connectivity</td>
<td>Airports and Ports</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</strong></td>
<td><strong>Culture, Heritage and Sport</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient</td>
<td>Climate Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sustainable Management of Water and other</td>
<td>Water Infrastructure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health</td>
<td>Education, Health and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The resources available under the NDP have been directed to projects which are aligned with these outcomes. The NDP outlined €116 billion in capital investment by the state between 2018-2027, composed of €25 billion in planned expenditure by state-owned enterprises and €91 billion in exchequer capital expenditure.

**Global Ireland**

Global Ireland 2025 (led by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade) is the Government’s strategy for doubling the scope and impact of Ireland’s global footprint. The Department is primarily supporting this strategy through the work of Culture Ireland, particularly through the inauguration of five cultural ambassadors and support for an annual programme of Irish arts in the Irish Arts Centre, New York, London Irish Cultural Centre and Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris and to build this network of Irish cultural centres. Global Ireland also notes the importance of Ireland’s unique landscape, communities and language as part of its global offering, responsibility for which also sit within the Department’s remit.

**Future Jobs Ireland 2019**

In 2019, the Government published Future Jobs Ireland 2019 (led by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation) which seeks to prepare the State, companies and workers for future developments in terms of automation, the effect of climate change and changing work practices. The Department is at present mapping current provision, gaps and opportunities and is developing a roadmap for the support and development of the Creative Industries in accordance with the commitments given in Future Jobs Ireland 2019.
2.3 EU Engagement and Agenda

Engagement with the European Union takes place at Ministerial level through meetings of the relevant Council of the European Union configuration, at official level through attendance at Committees and Working Groups of the Council of the EU, and at a technical level through attendance at Expert Groups that inform and assist in later policy and legislative developments by the European Commission. The Department has one official posted as an attaché to the Irish Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels.

Ministerial Engagement
The Council of the EU meets in ten different ‘configurations’ covering individual policy areas. The relevant Council configuration to the Division is Education, youth, culture and sport (EYCS).

The Minister is the lead Irish Minister attending the EYCS Council meeting for culture and audiovisual issues. These meetings typically occur twice a year though the Member-State with the Presidency of the EU Council, who may from time to time, seek to convene an ‘informal’ meeting of Culture Ministers.

Policy Engagement by Officials
Officials from the Division attend the following Committees, Working Party and Groups:

- The Council of the EU Cultural Affairs Committee which covers areas of EU cultural co-operation including the Creative Europe Programme, European Capitals of Culture and the European Heritage Label;
- The European Council Audio Visual Working Party handles work related to audiovisual content (including media matters relating to the work of DCCAE);
- European Commission Creative Europe Management Committee which discusses the implementation of the Creative Europe programme;
- Open Method of Coordination Groups that examine key policy priorities arising in the Council Work Plans in greater detail and informing future areas of co-operation and support through the Creative Europe Programme; and,
- The Friends of the Presidency Group on an EU strategic approach to international cultural relations.
2.4 Project Ireland 2040 – Divisional Capital Investment Plan

*Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage*, 2018-2027 prioritises capital spending across three themes – Culture, Heritage, and Language and the Islands:
- €725 million for cultural infrastructure and programmes, incorporating:
  - €460 million for our National Cultural Institutions;
  - €265 million for a cultural and creativity investment programme;
- €285 million for natural and built heritage; and,
- €178 million for the Gaeltacht, the Irish language and the Islands.

Project Ireland 2040 – Cultural Investment Programme

There are two strands to the Cultural Investment Programme under the Department’s sectoral plan under Project Ireland 2040:
- An investment of €460 million for our National Cultural Institutions;
- An investment of €265 million for a cultural and creativity investment programme.

Over 2018-2027, €460 million will be invested in the National Cultural Institutions (NCIs), including a €40 million allocation for the ongoing maintenance and upgrade of the NCIs (see section 3.7). *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage* outlines indicative investment allocations for capital works at each National Cultural Institution to contribute to the total project costs. It also sets out the expectation that the NCIs will contribute 10% to 15% of the total project costs from their own generated income including philanthropy.

The cultural and creativity investment programme (€265 million) is closely aligned with the cultural infrastructure, creative communities and creative industries pillars of the Creative Ireland Programme:
- €200 million will be invested in the Audiovisual sector as part of the overall investment in the creative industries under the Creative Ireland Programme. This will be delivered through Screen Ireland (see sections 3.7 and 3.8).
- A €40 million programme investing in cultural infrastructure across all regions supports the development and upgrading of regional arts centres, theatres, regional museums, galleries, archives, multi-use facilities, artist studios along with the Decade of Centenaries commemoration programme (section 3.13). This is currently being advanced through:
  - continued delivery of projects under the €9m Arts and Cultural Capital Scheme (2016 – 2018);
  - support for projects which received grant approval under the €4.7m Cultural Capital Scheme (2019-2022). Applications under the scheme are currently undergoing a stage 1 – eligibility review, following which, eligible applications will be considered by an assessment panel and a recommendation will be made to the Minister;
– ongoing operation of the annual Regional Museum Exhibit Scheme;
– ongoing operation of the annual Music Capital Scheme;
– support for the Decade of Centenaries.

– A €15 million investment in the development and delivery of Galway 2020, European Capital of Culture (section 3.4).
– A €10 million national digitisation investment programme will see significant national collections digitised over the course of the plan supporting the conservation, preservation and dissemination of these valuable cultural artefacts. This is currently being advanced through:
  – support for the Beyond 2022 project led by Trinity College Dublin to digitise and restore archival material lost in the July 1922 destruction of the Public Record Office; and,
  – a €2.4m digitisation initiative which is enabling the National Cultural Institutions and organisations with collections of national significance to provide access to and safeguard their collections.

**Indicative allocations to NCIs and cultural and creativity investment programme, 2018-2027**

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<td>€0.9m</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<td>€26.1m</td>
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3.1 Culture Division: Organisation and Responsibilities

The Culture Division comprises four business units led by officials at the Principal Officer grade:

- Arts, Film and Investment;
- Cultural Policy & Institutions and Commemorations;
- Culture Ireland and International; and
- Cultural Schemes.

The Culture Division also includes the Creative Ireland Programme Office, led by a Director and including a Principal Officer. The National Archives fall within the Culture Division’s remit, led by the Director of the National Archives. The statutory role of the National Archives is set out in the National Archives Act 1986, as amended by the National Archives (Amendment) Act 2018.
Arts, Film and Investment Unit

Principal Officer: Mary Nash
Staff: 11.5 Officials
Location: Killarney, Co. Kerry
Contact: mary.nash@chg.gov.ie
(064) 662 7327

Responsibilities:

- Developing policy in relation to arts, culture and music;
- Funding and oversight of the Arts Council, Screen Ireland, National Archives and National Library;
- Provision of appropriate support to Screen Ireland in the development of an indigenous film industry, including training initiatives;
- Developing, monitoring and evaluating an integrated policy for the sustainable development of the Irish film industry including tax-based incentives;
- Policy and oversight of arts and cultural capital investments including Project Ireland 2040’s NCI Programme and regional grant schemes e.g. the recently launched Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022;
- Responsibility for policies on National Genealogy Policy;
- Capital funding in the Arts and Culture Sector;
- Copyright Policy;
- Implementation of 20 Year Rule in relation to National Archives;
- International co-production treaties;
- Audiovisual Action Plan, Section 481 Tax Incentives;
- Implementation of EU and Council of Europe on matters relating to culture and film; and
- Digitisation Policy and participation at European and Member State Expert Group on Digitisation.
Cultural Policy & Institutions and Commemorations

Principal Officer: Kevin Lonergan
Staff: 14 Officials
Location: Killarney, Co. Kerry & Lombard Street, Dublin 2
Contact: kevin.lonergan@chg.gov.ie
(064) 662 7397
(01) 675 5636

Responsibilities:

- Funding and oversight of the National Concert Hall, National Gallery, National Museum, Chester Beatty Library, IMMA and the Crawford Gallery;
- Transferring National Symphony Orchestra from RTÉ to National Concert Hall;
- Furthering the development of National Cultural Policy, Culture 2025;
- Developing and improving the quality and effectiveness of the mechanisms to assist in the regional growth and development of the cultural sector;
- Leading and co-ordinating the planning of commemorative events connected with the Decade of Centenaries 2012 to 2023; and,
- Organising commemoration events in the cultural sector relating to other relevant anniversaries.
Culture Ireland, International and Education

Principal Officer: Christine Sisk
Staff: 8 Officials, 1 Contractor
Location: Kildare St., Dublin 2
Contact: christine.sisk@cultureireland.gov.ie
(01) 631 3927

Responsibilities:
- Leading on the delivery of the cultural aspects of Global Ireland 2025 (the Government’s strategy for increasing the impact of Ireland’s global footprint);
- Promoting Irish arts worldwide including through investment in cultural venues including the New York Irish Arts Centre and the London Irish Centre;
- Creating new global opportunities for Irish artists and companies by showcasing their work to international programmers at strategic international festivals and global marketplace’s including the Edinburgh Festivals and the Venice Biennales;
- Supporting the presentation of outstanding Irish creative work to international audiences worldwide;
- Fulfilling Ireland’s obligations at EU level, including Council of Culture Ministers, Cultural Affairs Committee and Open Method of Communication (OMC) groups;
- Supporting Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture;
- Matters relating to UNESCO, including implementation of the Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage, City of Literature and City of Film, Memory of the World Register; and,
- Representation from Ireland on the British Irish Council Creative Industries Work Sector.
Cultural Schemes

Principal Officer: John Kennedy
Staff: 5 Officials
Location: Kildare St., Dublin 2 and Killarney, Co. Kerry
Contact: john.kennedy@chg.gov.ie
(01) 631 3918

Responsibilities:

- Funding and oversight of the National Gallery of Ireland;
- Development of philanthropy (including s.1003 scheme for incentivised donations);
- Licensing controls and regulation of import and export of cultural goods;
- Per cent for Art scheme;
- Night time culture policy and practice;
- Small scale local festivals and summer schools scheme;
- Funding for specialist regional and local museums;
- Development of projects which enhance Ireland’s cultural patrimony;
- Annual subvention to Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann; and,
Creative Ireland Programme Office

**Director:** Tania Banotti  
**Principal Officer:** Eamonn Kelly  
**Staff:** 10 Officials  

**Location:** Kildare St., Dublin 2 & Lombard St., Dublin 2  
**Contact:**  
- tania.banotti@chg.gov.ie  
- (01) 631 3988  
- eamonn.kelly@chg.gov.ie  
- (01) 675 5639

**Responsibilities:**

- Developing, co-ordinating and delivery of the Creative Ireland Programme which is a 5 year all-of-government initiative to place creativity at the heart of public policy including:
- Driving the implementation of the Creative Youth Plan to enable the creative potential of every child with partners across 400 + schools, pilot ETBs, and a range of organisations working in and out of school settings;
- Supporting the culture and creativity teams established in 31 local authorities to implement Creative Communities;
- Developing the first ever Roadmap for the Creative Industries in Ireland;
- Delivery of a citizen engagement programme including providing imaginative and impactful communications about the initiatives supported by the Government of Ireland in the area of creativity, wellbeing and climate action; and
- Partnerships for delivery of key elements of the Creative Ireland Programme with the Department of Education and Skills, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation and agencies including the Arts Council, Heritage Council etc.
3.2 Details of Culture Expenditure

The 2020 REV allocation for the Culture programme area is €217.9m - €178.2 in gross current expenditure and €39.7m in gross capital expenditure. In addition to this, €3m in culture capital expenditure in 2019 has been carried over to 2020. This funding makes an important contribution to stimulating creativity and protecting jobs across the country. Ireland’s cultural and creative industries also play a major role in defining a positive image for Ireland abroad.

The five main expenditure areas for the programme, accounting for over 95% of the direct programme expenditure, are as follows:

- Support for the Arts Council which accounts for 48% (€100m) of direct programme allocation – this includes €20m to facilitate new bursaries and commissions, supports for freelance artists and collaborative projects on foot of the Covid-19 crisis;

- Support for the National Cultural Institutions which accounts for 20% (or €40.6m) of direct programme allocation;

- Funding for Screen Ireland which accounts for some 10% (€21m) of total direct programme allocation and is increased by €1 million in 2020;

- Funding of €14.8m for Regional Museums, Galleries, Cultural Centres and projects, including over €6m for Creative Ireland and €5m for Covid-19 measures including securing the future of key cultural and museum spaces and facilities throughout the country and the production of high-quality digital art and on-line performances;

- Funding of €9.5m for Cultural Infrastructure and Development, implementation of Department’s 10 year capital plan ‘Investing in our Culture, Language & Heritage 2018-2027’ under Project Ireland 2040, the National Development Plan. This allocation will be augmented by a €3m capital carryover.

A breakdown of the programme allocation is presented in chart 2.
Chart 3.1  Breakdown of the Culture Programme Allocation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>Capital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decade of Centenaries</td>
<td>€2m</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Culture Ireland</td>
<td>€4.6m</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European City of Culture</td>
<td></td>
<td>€7.1m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Infrastructure</td>
<td></td>
<td>€9.5m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td>€9.9m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Museums, Galleries etc.</td>
<td></td>
<td>€14.8m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Ireland</td>
<td></td>
<td>€21m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Cultural Institutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>€48.9m</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts Council</td>
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<td>€100m</td>
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</table>

Current and Capital allocations.
Culture 2025 is the Department’s recently published national cultural policy framework which sets the direction for Government policy across the cultural sector, including the arts, the Irish language and the creative, heritage and Audiovisual sectors. The policy framework is aligned and works in tandem with a range of current Government initiatives including the Creative Ireland Programme, the Audiovisual Action Plan, the 20-year Strategy for the Irish Language, Global Ireland 2025 and the National Biodiversity Action Plan. It is also supported by the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 capital investment plan.

The fundamental purpose of Culture 2025 is to ensure a unified and coherent approach to cultural policy across government and to the planning and provision across the cultural sector.

Three fundamental principles govern Culture 2025:

- Recognising the value of culture and creativity to the individual and society
- Supporting creative practice and cultural participation
- Cherishing our cultural heritage

These principles, and their potential to influence every aspect of our lives, will shape Government cultural policy throughout the lifespan of Culture 2025. Accordingly, Culture 2025 identifies sectoral goals and specific areas of focus across these three headings.

The policy is also underpinned by certain key values. They are:

- The intrinsic value of culture
- The value of arts, culture and heritage to our lives and our communities
- The right of everyone to participate in the cultural and creative life of the nation
- The value of creativity to individual and collective wellbeing
- The importance of the Irish language, our cultural heritage, folklore, games, music and the uniqueness of our Gaeltacht areas.
- The value of cultural diversity, informed by the many traditions and social backgrounds that constitute contemporary Ireland
- The value of culture as a means of fostering a more sustainable future for Ireland, including through economic, environmental and social policy
- The value of culture in presenting Ireland to the world
The policy sets out a range of actions to deliver measures in accordance with the principles and values set out in the policy (a list of the Action Points is appended). Delivery of these measures will be driven by the Department, the National Cultural Institutions, Arts Council, and Departmental programmes including the Creative Ireland Programme, Culture Ireland and ongoing investment in arts activities and infrastructure across Ireland.

Key actions contained within *Culture 2025* include:

- Increasing access to and participation in the arts and boosting our creative industries;
- Working collaboratively to enable the creative potential of every child and young person;
- Investing in our Gaeltacht and supporting the Irish language;
- Supporting traditional culture and securing global recognition for unique Irish cultural traditions;
- And protecting and promoting Ireland’s natural habitats and biodiversity.

The cultural policy is underpinned by a commitment to increase resources for culture, to support Irish culture on the world stage, and to improve funding structures for investment in national and local services.
3.4 Creative Ireland Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsible Business Unit</th>
<th>Creative Ireland</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Officer</td>
<td>Eamonn Kelly</td>
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<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
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<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:eamonn.kelly@chg.gov.ie">eamonn.kelly@chg.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
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**Overview**

In 2016, the Government approved a new, 5-year, all-of-Government initiative entitled Clár Éire Ildánach/Creative Ireland Programme. This programme was established as a legacy project arising from the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme and as the main implementation vehicle for national cultural policy priorities set out in Culture 2025. The Programme is based around five pillars:

I. Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child;

II. Enabling Creativity in Every Community;

III. Investing in our Creative and Cultural Infrastructure;

IV. Ireland as a Centre of Excellence in Audiovisual Production; and

V. Unifying our Global Reputation.

The underlying proposition is that participation in cultural and creative activity promotes individual, community and national wellbeing. The Programme seeks to support each citizen - whether individually or collectively - to realise their full creative potential, by encouraging, facilitating and supporting collaboration. To this end, and under the guiding principles of creativity, collaboration and transformation, the Programme aims to:

- promote understanding and appreciation of the value of creativity in all its forms;
- engage and influence decision-makers to embed creativity across public policy; and,
- support participation in creative activities and grow the creative industries.

The Creative Ireland Programme works with and is supported through co-funding from, various Departments and agencies to make progress within each pillar. Investments are focused on supporting direct engagement with creativity (e.g., on education, institutions, industry, etc.) as well as creativity as a way of engaging with broader societal issues (e.g. mental illness, social marginalisation, rural isolation, poverty, isolation of the aged, individuals with disabilities or special needs, migrant integration, intercultural dialogue, climate action, biodiversity loss, etc.).

**Creative Youth: Enabling the Creative Potential of Every Child**

The Creative Youth Plan was published in December 2017 with the aim to “give every child practical access to tuition, experience and participation in art, music, drama and coding by 2022”. 
The Plan is guided by an Expert Advisory Group appointed by the Minister and implemented by an Inter-Departmental Working Group comprising this Department and the Departments of Education and Skills, Children and Youth Affairs, and the Arts Council.

The Plan has four key objectives:

- supporting collaboration between formal and non-formal approaches to creativity in education;
- extending the range of creative activities for young people;
- embedding the creative process within the education system by developing programmes that will enable teachers to help young people learn and apply creative skills and capacities; and
- supporting Continuing Professional Development for teachers working in Early Years, Primary and Post Primary Schools.

To the end of 2019, the Creative Ireland programme has built strong partnerships with the Department of Education and Skills, the Arts Council, Education and Training Boards etc. and has invested €7.8 million in creative youth initiatives. In terms of its partnerships within the Education Sector, a combined budget allocation of €6.381m has been set aside in 2020 (DCHG, DES, DCYA and Arts Council) to support embedding creative practices in schools and out of school settings through Creative Schools, Creative Clusters, and Creative Youth Partnerships. Other Department supported activity includes Fighting Words – a national initiative to encourage young people to engage in creative writing as well as investments in Music Generation (a national music education programme), Sing Ireland (an organisation supporting group singing across Ireland), and Youth Theatre Ireland (the national development organisation for youth theatre).

**Creative Communities: Enabling Culture and Creativity in Every Community**

The Creative Ireland Programme evolved directly from the success of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, where one of the most successful elements was the activation of citizenship and community engagement through the Local Authorities. Feedback from Local Authorities saw a desire to harness the creativity and collaborative nature of the centenary programme structures, and the Creative Ireland Programme seeks to build on this in a sustainable way. Creative Communities is being implemented through the Local Authorities largely through a joint investment programme of €8.7 million supported by the Creative Ireland Programme and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. This funding supports the implementation, by a dedicated team, of the 5-year Culture and Creativity Strategies (2018 to 2022) in each local authority. To date, some 2,000 community-based initiatives have been supported, covering a range of genres, art, theatre, music, outreach, training and capacity building, creative industries, diversity and equality, wellbeing and health initiatives, heritage and
biodiversity, and Irish language projects. This pillar also includes the implementation of Cruinniú na nÓg, the national day of free creative activities for children and young people.

Cruinniú grew from 500 free events and activities in 2018 to over 780 events with an estimated 55,000 children participating across all local authorities in 2019. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Cruinniú na nÓg was hosted online and within a matter of weeks had delivered 500 free events to a national and international audience in collaboration with RTÉ and all 31 local authorities (the extent of citizen engagement is currently being compiled for reporting purposes).

Cultural Investment: Investing in our Cultural Infrastructure
This pillar is being delivered through the Department’s capital investment plan under Project Ireland 2040 - Investing in Our Culture, Language and Heritage 2018-2027 (See section 3.6)

Creative Industries: Ireland - A Centre of Excellence in Media Production
Recent European Investment Fund (EIF) market analysis highlights that the creative industries account for 4.2% of EU GDP, greater than that of the accommodation and food services sectors, and that creative businesses are more resilient than other sectors, out-performing benchmark survival rates of service enterprises, and with similar survival rates after one and five years as companies in the ICT sector. The EIF notes however, that creative industries account for only 2.8% of Ireland’s GDP, so while the creative industries are a growth sector, the scale of Ireland’s output in the creative industries lags behind Europe.

Initially, the focus of this Creative Industries pillar was on the Audiovisual segment of the industry. This element is being delivered through the Department’s Audiovisual Action Plan to support the screen industries (feature film, TV drama, etc.) and an associated investment of €200 million under the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 sectoral investment plan Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage 2018 – 2027 (See section 2.5).

In response to the ambition of Future Jobs Ireland 2019 to identify opportunities in the wider creative industries sector, the Creative Ireland Programme is currently working with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation to finalise a Roadmap for the Creative Industries. The Roadmap concentrates our primary efforts on design-based, digital design and content creation sectors. Following extensive consultation across the industry a number of key priorities have been identified (i) enhanced connectivity between education and training and the creative industries, (ii) well-informed, joined-up, targeted measures in a supportive regulatory environment, and (iii) ambition and leadership by Government.

Global Reputation: Unifying our Global Reputation
In March 2017, the Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the state agencies with responsibility for promoting Ireland abroad, developed Ireland.ie as the new portal for Ireland. Responsibility for Ireland.ie now rests with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. The Creative Ireland Programme also informed and contributed to the development of the Global Ireland 2025 initiative, ensuring that Irish culture and creativity is recognised as a vital asset in building Ireland’s reputation and influence abroad. This pillar of work is primarily being addressed through the Department’s Culture Ireland team (See section 3.5).

**Strategic Partnerships**

The National Creativity Fund 2018/2019 was established to identify and support innovative pilot projects in the areas of culture, creativity and wellbeing. Supported projects include:

- the Open Youth Orchestra of Ireland (a national youth ensemble for physically and intellectually challenged led by the Royal Irish Academy of Music);
- the establishment of the Creative Health Hub for children facing life-long medical conditions and disabilities;
- support for Age & Opportunity to place six artists into residential care homes; and
- Supporting the National Museum of Ireland to further develop and enhance the Irish Community Archive Network (iCAN) whereby volunteers in local communities are supported to create online digital archives.

**Immediate priorities for the coming months**

- Finalise, launch and commence implementation of the Roadmap for the Creative Industries in partnership with the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation.
- Deliver a climate workshop in collaboration with Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.
- Undertake a strategic review of the Culture and Creativity Teams in each Local Authority.
- Identification of a Creative Youth policy legacy and associated post-programme measures between the Departments of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Education and Skills, Children and Youth Affairs, and the Arts Council.
- Continue to explore opportunities for a deeper collaboration across a number of Government Departments, including the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Health during the remainder of the Programme.
3.5 Galway 2020

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Officer</td>
<td>Christine Sisk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:christine.sisk@chg.gov.ie">christine.sisk@chg.gov.ie</a></td>
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<tr>
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**Background**

In 2020, Galway, on behalf of Ireland, is hosting the European Capital of Culture, one of the biggest cultural events in the world. The Government has given a commitment of €15 million to the initiative, which is managed through the Department, with €9.72m drawn down to date. The Cultural Programme has been planned over many years to be a year-long celebration of street spectacle, exhibitions, readings, classical concerts, dance, schools’ projects, children’s events, the Irish language, musical performances, digital encounters, live art, theatre, circus, funambulism, public art, heritage, food, sports, sheep, folklore, our islands, our people, imagination and creativity. It was designed to incorporate events around the city, county, islands and across the country, North and South, as well as events in Britain, and in many EU countries.

In addition to Government funding, Galway City Council has committed €6 million to date (including €2.2 million funding for the bid phase) and Galway County Council has committed €4 million.

**COVID 19**

The current COVID 19 pandemic is having and will continue to have a significant impact on the delivery of Galway 2020. The Department has indicated approval for Galway 2020 to re-engage with the cultural partners from the original bid book to examine options for the delivery of a revised cultural programme in light of the COVID-19 impacts. On this basis Galway 2020 is proposing a revised cultural programme comprising 27 projects from the original winning bid book, many of which include multiple events to be held over the period July 2020 to March 2021. The proposed format for delivery is on the basis that social distancing requirements will remain in place, with delivery methods including limited access physical performance, exhibition, installations and a significant element of digital delivery. One cultural partner has indicated that it will not be possible deliver its proposed events by end March 2021.

A request for prolongation of the Culture Programme to April 2021 has been sent to the European Commission to allow time for delivery in changed circumstances and a response is awaited.

The unspent elements of committed local authority funding is no longer guaranteed and there is no expectation of further private sponsorship, leaving Government as the sole funder.
Governance
Galway 2020 is being delivered by a company especially established for this purpose and is led by a Board of Directors that is responsible for the strategic direction and oversight of the Galway 2020 Company. The major stakeholders are represented on the Board, which now comprises 15 members. The Chief Executives of Galway City and County Councils are on the Board as well as a representative of the Minister, Dr Moling Ryan.

The Department has performance delivery agreements in place with Galway 2020 and Galway City Council. The agreements address the roles and responsibilities of the Department and grantees in the provision and expenditure of the €15 million grant funding to Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture, as well as the key deliverables and performance indicators attached to the drawdown of the grant, and the monitoring and reporting arrangements in place.

Quarterly monitoring meetings between the Department, Galway 2020, Galway City Council and Galway County Council, as the other main stakeholders, are an important component of the performance delivery agreement.

Immediate priorities for the coming months

- Delivery of the Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture Cultural Programme in revised format having regard to the restrictions in place for the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic;
- Maximisation of future opportunities arising for artists and cultural operators as a result of developing and delivering projects online with a global reach
- Development of a legacy programme.
Culture Ireland was established as a Division of the Department in 2005 to promote Irish arts worldwide. Its work is guided by an Expert Advisory Committee, appointed by the Minister, which provides support and assistance in directing the implementation of Culture Ireland’s strategy. The Committee comprises a number of ex officio members representing the Department, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tourism Ireland, Screen Ireland, the Arts Council and the IDA, as well as members appointed for their expertise in this area.

Culture Ireland creates new opportunities for Irish artists and companies to present their work globally through showcases at key global art events, including the Edinburgh Festivals and the Venice Biennales. It also supports the presentation of outstanding Irish work to international audiences through a regular grant programme. Culture Ireland also leads on the delivery of the cultural aspects of Global Ireland 2025 (the Government’s strategy for increasing the impact of Ireland’s global footprint). A key element of this is the ongoing support to fund an annual programme of Irish arts in the Irish Arts Centre, New York, London Irish Centre and Centre Culturel Irlandais, Paris and to expand this programme through the network of Irish cultural centres. In supporting the network, the Department is also investing in:

- the redevelopment of the Irish Arts Centre, New York to become a world-class cultural hub, with support from public authorities in New York City and New York State, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and private investors. It is envisaged that the Centre will open in late 2020; and,
- the redevelopment of the London Irish Centre, Camden to become a flagship Irish cultural centre. This is being supported on a joint funding basis with the DFAT.

Activity in 2019 and 2020

In 2019 Culture Ireland supported the delivery of 453 projects in 56 countries, reaching an audience of 6 million. To achieve a wider reach for Irish arts, Culture Ireland supports a programme of annual showcasing of Irish artists at a key marketplaces and festivals to generate further opportunities for Irish artists.

In January 2019 five new Cultural Ambassadors were appointed, Yvonne Farrell and Shelley McNamara of Grafton Architects, Poet Paul Muldoon, Actress Ruth Negga and Musician Martin Hayes. These Cultural Ambassadors will continue their work in 2020 including to assist in:

- Raising the public focus on arts and culture as a key means of promoting Ireland
- Participating in keynote events, projects and media promotion
- Providing advice and input on strategic initiatives
- Enhancing cultural tourism promotion
- Generating access to high level and influential individuals and organisations
- Inviting other high-profile contacts to participate in events and projects.

This year, in light of the ongoing COVID 19 pandemic, Culture Ireland reviewed its plans to deliver a global programme of Irish arts. In the context of the rapidly changing environment, Culture Ireland examined ways to continue support of Irish artists and ensuring an ongoing international reach for their work. As many artists sought to replace their cancelled or postponed events with online performances, Culture Ireland launched Ireland Performs, a short-term scheme to support online performances by Irish artists during the COVID-19 pandemic. Priority was given to artists who had lost showcase or performance opportunities, through the COVID-19 lockdown.

In April/May Culture Ireland, in a first time partnership with Facebook Ireland, delivered 120 online performances through the Ireland Performs programme over a six-week period

- Performances covered all genres of music, spoken word, theatre and visual arts
- Total viewship has reached over 820,000
- Performances reached a global audience reach and engagement across Britain, Europe, North America, Asia and Australia
- Programme included artists from 28 counties across the island of Ireland
- More than 100 Ireland Performs events remain available to be viewed through Culture Ireland’s Facebook page.

Artists reported the following impacts based on their performance:

- Increased experience in upskilling - technical, for showcasing and ways to scale a presentation to meet the needs of the format
- Development of what they have learned to make further presentations in similar formats
- Authentic connection with their audiences

Positive feedback from international audiences based on the great global reach achieved - to audiences, but also to press, festivals, radio etc.

The Department is also exploring, with Other Voices\Ireland’s Edge, proposals for a number of events in Ireland and overseas to promote Irish culture and to support the objectives of Global Ireland 2025, the Government’s initiative to double the scope and impact of Ireland’s global footprint in the period to 2025.

**Showcase Programme**
Culture Ireland plans to showcase Irish artists to global presenters through a series of online initiatives including at the Galway Film Fleadh, Philadelphia Folk Festival, Dublin Fringe Festival.
and Dublin Theatre Festival and Ireland Music Week later this year to ensure future contracts and bookings for Irish artists globally.

Additionally, the Department has supported a range of online initiatives responding to the COVID 19 emergency, including:

- The Other Voices Courage programme, including a number of performances from our National Cultural Institutions, reached audiences of over 2.7 million with 1.15 million live views.
- The Courage 2 Programme will provide further live performances to take place in heritage sites such as Kilkenny Castle and Glenveagh National Park and will follow a similar approach to Courage 1 in the context of live streaming and online/ TV play thereafter. €400,000 in additional funding has been provided for Courage 2 from additional funding provided to the Department.

**Intangible Cultural Heritage**


Under the Convention, Ireland is obliged to recognise, protect and promote our cultural heritage elements at a national level and in mid-2019, the permanent National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage was put in place, recognising and celebrating 30 living cultural heritage practices from all around Ireland. The National Inventory is open to encompassing further practices under an open and rolling application process.

**Immediate priorities for the coming months**

- Plans for the appointment of Cultural Officers abroad on a joint funded basis between the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, are being progressed with the first appointment planned to be in the USA, which has been advertised.
- The Irish Arts Centre, New York is due to complete the newly developed facility in late 2020. This will facilitate a high-profile programme of Irish arts, supported by Culture Ireland from 2021.
- In 2020, Ireland is working to be one of seven State Parties to apply to join the UNESCO multinational falconry file, already comprised of eighteen State Parties, who are recognised to have falconry as part of their intangible cultural heritage.
- Culture Ireland will work throughout 2020 to assist and maximise the global reach of the Galway 2020 Programme, subject to the ongoing review of the
programme arising from the COVID 19 pandemic.
3.7 Project Ireland 2040 – National Cultural Institutions Investment Programme

Under the Department’s sectoral plan under Project Ireland 2040 – the National Development Plan, *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage, 2018-2027*, €460 million has been allocated to the National Cultural Institutions (including a €40 million allocation for the ongoing maintenance and upgrade of the NCIs). The NCI investment programme is an opportunity to bring our NCIs up to international standards by: (i) improving performance spaces; (ii) improving the preservation and display of our National Collections; (iii) improving visitor facilities; (iv) ensuring compliance with modern health and safety standards; (v) ensuring universal access; and, (vi) improving the environmental sustainability of the NCIs.

*Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage* outlined indicative investment allocations for capital works at each National Cultural Institution to contribute to the total project costs. The NCIs will also contribute to the project costs through securing philanthropic and other supports. It is expected that each institution will provide between 10% and 15% of the total project costs.

*Table 3.2: Indicative investment allocations as part of the NCI Investment Programme*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National Cultural Institutions</th>
<th>Indicative Investment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Gallery of Ireland</td>
<td>€54 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Concert Hall</td>
<td>€78 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Museum of Modern Art</td>
<td>€36 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chester Beatty Library</td>
<td>€20 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Museum of Ireland</td>
<td>€85 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Ireland</td>
<td>€23 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Archives</td>
<td>€22 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbey Theatre</td>
<td>€80 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crawford Art Gallery</td>
<td>€22 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCI annual capital grant</td>
<td>€40 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At present, each individual project is continuing through the project lifecycle required by the Public Spending Code, the framework that governs the appraisal, implementation and evaluation of public expenditure. Each stage of the project lifecycle includes clear decision points at which the Minister must decide whether to approve, cancel or re-appraise the project (see table 3.1).
The table below provides a snapshot indicating the lifecycle stage of each NCI project and highlighting upcoming decisions for 2020.

### Table 3.4: NCI Investment Programme by lifecycle stage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NCI</th>
<th>Lifecycle Stage</th>
<th>Milestone/Decision Point in 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Archives</td>
<td>Final Business Case</td>
<td>The National Archives has completed the enabling works phase (including the transfer of over 2 million records to temporary storage). Tenders have been received and are currently being assessed with a view to presenting the Final Business Case in Q3 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Ireland</td>
<td>Implementation</td>
<td>The National Library of Ireland has completed the first phase of the project involving the transfer of the collections to state of the art, secure locations with proper environmental/fire controls. This transfer has made space for the subsequent phases to complete on the historic west wing of the building. Submission of Phase 2 investigative works proposal in Q1 2020. Phase 2 Project Execution Plan is underway albeit with some minor COVID 19 related delays - Q2 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMMA</td>
<td>Strategic Assessment</td>
<td>Submission of Strategic Assessment in Q4 2020.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Under the Department’s sectoral plan (Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage 2018-2027) as part of Project Ireland 2040 – the National Development Plan, an indicative investment of €23 million has been identified for the redevelopment project at the National Library of Ireland (NLI). The National Library of Ireland (NLI) commenced work in 2018 on a major redevelopment of their main building on Kildare Street, Dublin 2, in partnership with the Office of Public Works and funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The redevelopment of the National Library includes multiple phases impacting different parts of the main building at different times. The project will allow the NLI to create the storage and preservation conditions necessary to keep the national collections safe for the long-term. At the same time, the Library will benefit from enhanced public spaces and services.

The project phases are as follows:

- **First Stage NCAD Building (Phase 1)** – Completion of the Book Repository. Completed in June 2019. This phase saw the transfer of collections from the West Wing to a state of the art, secure facility with proper environmental and fire controls. This transfer has also made possible phase 2 – the preparatory works for the redevelopment of the historic west wing.

- **Second Stage West Wing (Phase 2)** - Full structural, fabric and Mechanical & Electrical survey and external works. This stage has commenced with external surveys and internal investigative works underway, albeit with some minor COVID 19 related delays. The results of this stage will inform the design of stage 3.

- **Third Stage West Wing Main Construction (Phase 3)** – structural repair works to existing floors, walls and ceilings, upgrading the fabric of the building and the installation of new internal stairs, walls and doors.

- **Fourth Stage West Wing Fit out (Phase 4)** - the general fit-out of the West Wing to include Ground Floor Cafe / Shop / Reception / Basement exhibition.

In terms of the project’s governance, a tri-partite institutional arrangement has been agreed for this project involving the Department, the OPW and the National Library. A steering committee has been established and includes senior management from the Department, OPW and NLI. It meets every 2 months.
Following the completion of the Millennium Wing, the National Gallery Ireland (NGI) prepared a Master Development Plan (MDP) in 2006. It is intended to:

- Eradicate issues which jeopardised the safe operation of the Gallery, including lack of fire prevention, extensive leaks, damp issues, extreme temperature fluctuations, etc.;
- Integrate separately conceived and serviced wings of the Gallery to one set of standards and controls;
- Provide a significantly improved and modernised visitor experience with greater public access to key areas of Gallery activity and technological standards for a museum of the 21st Century.

In February 2011, the Dargan and Milltown Wings were closed and the OPW oversaw works on behalf of the NGI incorporating phase 1 (the repair of the Dargan Wing roof), and phases 2 & 3 (repair of Milltown Wing roof and refurbishment of Dargan and Milltown Wings). In June 2017, the renovated wings re-opened. The cost of the project was €31.7 million (€16 million from Department, €12.1 million from the NGI; €3.6 million from the OPW). It is currently at final account stage.

Under the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 sectoral plan, Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage, the NGI was identified for an indicative investment of €54 million. The NGI wish to proceed with phase 4 of the MDP, which may include the following:

- A spine which will unify and improve integration between galleries and wings, with hugely improved circulation linking the entrances on Clare St. and Merrion Square;
- Education Centre for Learning & Creativity comprising a studio-workroom, an exhibition space, resource room, auditorium, break-out space and a seminar room.
- A National Art Library & Archive, improving environmental conditions and storage capacity to a modern standard, and inviting access through public visibility at the heart of the Gallery.
- A Centre of Excellence for Conservation, providing the Conservation Department with dedicated, fit-for-purpose facilities on view to the public via glazed openings to public areas.
- Full integration of the plant in the now completed, future-proofed energy centre.

At present, given urgent fire safety issues, it is intended to seek Ministerial approval to proceed with works to 88-90 Merrion Square as part of smaller phase (phase 4a) in 2020 while plans for
the larger phase 4 are developed. The renovation of 88-90 will involve the relocation of NGI staff to another location on Merrion Square to facilitate the works, as well as the transfer of the NGI’s library collection and services to a temporary location within the NGI complex. The Department has set aside €0.5m to support the relocation of staff and materials to 7 Merrion Square for the duration of the works to 88-90 Merrion Square. The works to 88-90, once completed will offer another public entrance on Merrion Square, an enhanced library, education facilities, and upgraded office facilities. The indicative investment in this phase will be €5.5 million including the relocation costs.

In terms of the project’s governance, a tri-partite institutional arrangement has been agreed for this project involving the Department, the OPW and the National Gallery. A working group has been established to oversee the preparation of the preliminary business case, chaired by the National Gallery and including representatives from the Department and the OPW.

Phase One: The Natural History Museum: 2018 - 2021 €15m

The Natural History Museum is at the top of the Museum’s priorities for development.

Current position:

- The NMI has received approval for the Strategic Assessment Report for Phase 1 – The Natural History Museum element of the overall plan.
- Funding of €250,000 has been granted to the NMI to assist with the completion of a Preliminary Business Case for the project.
- An ad-hoc working group has been established to oversee the completion of the business.
- Funding has also been approved in principle for any necessary investigative works.

The next step under the Public Spending Code is the preparation of the Preliminary Business Case. At this point, the objectives and rationale for the project will be reviewed, and if necessary, revised based on additional evidence from the detailed appraisal. The indicative financial appraisal conducted during the strategic assessment report will also be replaced with more robust appraisals of the economic cost and benefits, financial appraisal and risk analysis. This phase also includes an analysis of the main options/appraisal methodology, risk and sensitivity analysis and a recommendation on the preferred option.

In terms of the project's governance, a tri-partite institutional arrangement has been agreed for this project involving the Department, the OPW and the NMI. A working group has been established to oversee the preparation of the preliminary business case, chaired by the NMI and including representatives from the Department and the OPW.
**Natural History Museum - Roof**
The Natural History Museum has been closed recently on a number of occasions due to leaks in the roof. Temporary repairs have been carried out. Refurbishment of the roof will be funded by the Office of Public Works (OPW). The OPW has indicated its intention to proceed with this project over 2020/2021.

**The Natural History Museum - Access**
The Museum re-opened on the 28th of April 2010 following completion of a programme of works by the OPW which included the reinstatement of the stone staircase which collapsed in 2007 resulting in the closure of the Museum; work to facilitate appropriate fire evacuation procedures; the introduction of a ramp to the front door and installation of accessible toilet facilities; the introduction of safety netting beneath the glass ceiling and some works of a more minor nature relating to decoration and presentation.

The programme of works carried out included a full safety review which identified the need for emergency exits for visitors from the upper balcony levels. Prior to the announcement of Project Ireland 2040, it had not been possible to fund the necessary works and the balconies have therefore remained unavailable to the public. The access situation is compounded by the fact that there is also only limited access to the first-floor level. There is currently a management system in place to facilitate controlled supervised access to the upper level. The issues will be addressed as part of the redevelopment of the Museum. The project has received approval for its strategic assessment report and will prepare its preliminary business case, in line with the Public Spending Code, over 2020.

**Phase Two: Museum of Archaeology, Kildare Street**
The National Museum has also indicated its intention to progress a project at the Museum of Archaeology on Kildare Street. It is intended that it will conduct the necessary appraisal work, commencing with a strategic assessment report in 2020.
Under the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 sectoral plan, *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage*, there is an indicative allocation of €78 million for the National Concert Hall (NCH). Together with the OPW, the NCH has prepared a development plan for the Earlsfort Terrace Complex which it is proposed would be completed over the period 2018 to 2027.

The first part of the plan has been completed and includes the provision of a new lift and staircase adjacent to the existing south marble staircase. The new lift provides easy public access from the main foyer to the first-floor concourse and Kevin Barry Rooms, as well as the North and South Butler Wings.

It is envisaged that the development of the final project proposal will include some of the following features:

- A newly refurbished and extended main auditorium;
- Improved musicians’ facilities, improved foyer areas;
- Reorganisation of public facilities;
- Opportunities for the John Field Room; and
- Refurbishment of the former Medical Library.

The NCH has received approval for its strategic assessment report and is working with the OPW, to prepare the preliminary business case for this project. Once completed it will recommend a preferred option, based on objective criteria and value for money, to take forward to detailed design, planning permission etc. It is intended that the business case document will be submitted to the Department for consideration in September 2020.

In terms of the project’s governance, a tri-partite institutional arrangement has been agreed for this project involving the Department, the OPW and the NCH. A working group has been established to oversee the preparation of the preliminary business case, chaired by the NCH and including representatives from the Department and the OPW.

**National Children’s Science Centre**

This proposal for a National Children Science Centre (NCSC) may have an impact for the Earlsfort Terrace building both in terms of layout, synergies of construction and likely closure time of the NCH (which will have financial implications as the NCH generates some 70% of its funding requirement).
The Chester Beatty Library

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Responsible Business Unit</th>
<th>Cultural Policy &amp; Institutions and Commemorations</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>€20m</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Officer</td>
<td>Kevin Lonergan</td>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kevin.lonergan@chg.gov.ie">kevin.lonergan@chg.gov.ie</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(064) 662 7397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Chester Beatty Library (CBL) is an art museum and library that operates as a charitable trust and houses an important collection of manuscripts, miniature paintings, prints, drawings, Qur’an’s, rare books and some decorative arts assembled by Sir Alfred Chester Beatty (1875-1968). The Library’s collections open a window on the artistic treasures of the great cultures and religions of the world, with items from countries across Asia, the Middle East, North Africa and Europe. The collection is an internationally significant collection.

Under the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 plan, an indicative investment of €20 million is envisaged for the Library. The Library is located in the Dublin Castle complex and the OPW has prepared a master development plan for Dublin Castle. Additionally, the CBL has advised that it is close to completing a Strategic Assessment report for submission to the Minister in Q2 2020.

In terms of the project’s governance, a tri-partite institutional arrangement has been agreed for this project involving the Department, the OPW and the Chester Beatty Library. A working group has been established to oversee the preparation of the strategic assessment (previously called a preliminary appraisal) and business case, chaired by the Library and including representatives from the Department and the OPW.
The Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA) is Ireland’s National Cultural Institution for Contemporary Art. It has received an indicative allocation of €36 million in the capital plan. The main element of IMMA’s proposed investment involves the development of a dedicated Collections and Learning Centre on the site at the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham.

It is expected that a strategic assessment report for the capital investment project will be prepared over 2020.
The Crawford Art Gallery, the only NCI located wholly outside Dublin, has been allocated an indicative amount of €22 million under the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 sectoral plan, *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage*). The Gallery’s building has significant infrastructural defects and the Gallery has prepared a phased development plan for the building.

A strategic assessment was prepared by the Crawford Art Gallery as required under the Public Spending Code. This was approved in 2019 together with a capital allocation of €230,000 for works and studies required for the preliminary business case. The Crawford Art Gallery is now finalising its preliminary business case for the project as required under the Public Spending Code. It is expected that this document will be formally submitted to the Department in the coming weeks.

Work has been ongoing on legal issues relating to the ownership of the building from Cork ETB to the OPW. The Cork ETB confirmed the method of transfer of ownership would be by commencement of the section 7 of the 2007 Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act. It is expected that this transfer will be completed in the coming months.

In terms of the Governance of the project, the Crawford Art Gallery is the sponsoring agency and the Department is the approving authority. The extent of OPW involvement is currently being considered in the context of the transfer of ownership of the building to the OPW. In the interim, however, a working group chaired by the Crawford Art Gallery and including representatives from the Department and the OPW has been established to prepare the preliminary business case for the project.
The National Archives Act 1986 established the National Archives to preserve the archival records of central government and also transferred to it the papers of the Public Record Office and the State Paper Office both of which were abolished. In 1992, the National Archives headquarters moved from the Four Courts to the former Jacob’s biscuit factory in Bishop Street, Dublin 8, one of the 1916 battlegrounds. About a third of the archives are still held at the Four Courts.

All of the National Archives storage space has been full since 2013. On 12 November 2013, the Government decided that the National Archives Development Plan should be included as a project within the Decade of Centenaries Commemorative Programme.

Under the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 sectoral plan, Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage, an indicative allocation of €22 million is envisaged for the National Archives.

The National Archives Development Plan will see the provision of a secure environmentally controlled Archival Repository in full compliance with internationally accepted archival storage standards. This will be achieved by converting the large single-story warehouse at the back of the National Archives to a two-storey Archival Repository that will increase the National Archives storage capacity by two-thirds. There will also be improvements to exhibition space and facilities for the visiting public. To facilitate this next stage of the development, the National Archives has successfully completed a range of enabling works including the transfer of 70,000 archival boxes, containing over 2 million records, to temporary storage.

The new archival repository to house 300,000 archival boxes will include:

- 95,000 boxes currently stored there;
- records in commercial storage at present of 20,000 boxes;
- backlogs still held by Government Departments, estimated at 50,000 boxes; and,
- full annual statutory transfers of around 12,000 boxes for 11-12 years – up to the end of the twenty-twenties. This means that the new facility would likely to be filled by 2030, however the current design provides for the possibility for further extension of the building by the addition of further floors to the building as a future proofing measure.

The project is being delivered by the OPW on an agency basis on behalf of the Department. The procurement process for this project has completed and tenders are currently being evaluated. It is expected that, subject to Ministerial approval, the preferred contractor will be identified and contract ready to be awarded in late 2020.
The Abbey Theatre’s current building is over 50 years old and is widely recognised as being seriously deficient in the facilities it provides for artists, audiences and staff and in terms of its energy efficiency. The Abbey Theatre has been seeking to find a solution to improve this situation, for more than a decade. The new redevelopment would create a major open, inviting and accessible cultural centre on a site extending southwards beyond its present location at the junction of Abbey Street and Marlborough Street, fronting onto the River Liffey at Eden Quay.

In 2019, the Abbey Theatre prepared a strategic assessment report which was considered by the Minister and received approval to move to the next stage, the preparation of the preliminary business case.

A working group, comprising representatives from the Abbey Theatre and the Department, has been established to oversee the development of the preliminary business case. This structure will be formalised once the project moves into the planning and design phase and the full project governance arrangements are agreed with the Department.

It is likely that this project will play an important role in the regeneration of the Abbey Street area of the city and it is expected that, in that context, Dublin City Council is a critical stakeholder in the delivery of the project.
3.8 Project Ireland 2040 – Regional Arts and Culture Infrastructure

The Department’s sectoral plan under Project Ireland 2040, *Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage*, includes a €40 million programme of investing in cultural infrastructure across all regions by supporting the development and upgrading of regional arts centres, theatres, regional museums, galleries, archives, multi-use facilities, artist studios etc.

Under this funding provision, the Department continues to fund commitments made under ongoing schemes, including the Arts and Culture Capital Scheme (ACCS) and the Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Schemes (ACCESS I and II). It will also support new grant schemes and other projects, including under the 2019 Cultural Capital Scheme.

**ACCESS II (Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme II)**

The Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS II) was administered by the Department from 2006. It followed on from the first successful ACCESS scheme administered by the Department from 2000. ACCESS II is designed to assist the provision of high standard arts and culture infrastructure and enhanced access to the arts throughout the country. The scheme prioritised the enhancement and maintenance of existing facilities, and accordingly 70% of the funds available were directed towards the enhancement and/or refurbishment of existing facilities, with 30% for new facilities. There was also provision under the terms of the scheme to support new build projects. Projects supported included the provision of new integrated art centres, theatres and studio space and the refurbishment of existing performance spaces. It has been widely acknowledged as a significant intervention in the provision of quality cultural space throughout the regions. The ACCESS II Scheme allocated €42.78m to 77 projects.

2019 saw significant progress on the Butler Gallery in Kilkenny project, which is scheduled to be completed in 2020, as well as working to commence remaining projects under the capital scheme. 2020 will see the commencement of the Tullamore Arts Centre project due to be completed by 2022.

**Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018**

In January 2016, the Arts and Culture Capital Scheme (ACCS) was launched. The scheme opened for applications in June 2016 and focussed on enhancing the existing stock of arts and culture centres throughout the country while also supporting not-for-profit organisations that have a defined arts and cultural focus.

The Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018 has an allocation of €10.214m and is focused on the refurbishment and enhancement of the existing stock of arts and culture facilities throughout the country. This scheme is currently supporting a broad range of projects over three complementary grant streams targeting investment in a range of different facilities, including arts centres, theatres, galleries, museums and creative spaces.

Funding under Streams 1 and 2 of ACCS was aimed at ensuring the preservation of the broad range of dedicated, purpose-built arts and culture facilities throughout the country, which were in
need of investment. Stream 3 provided capital funding for smaller not-for-profit organisations with a defined arts and cultural remit.

Grant funding of between €20,000 and €1m was offered to projects on a matched funding basis with a maximum of between 50%-70% of funding provided by the Department (streams 1 and 2). Stream 3 provided for smaller grants of up to €20,000 for organisations for capital works with a funding rate of 70% provided by the Department. Over €10 million was allocated to 134 projects under the three streams. This includes seven flagship projects which received substantial funding allocations of over €300,000 each.

Table 3.5: Number of projects and grant awards by ACCS stream

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No of projects</th>
<th>Grant award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stream 1</td>
<td>€4,983,531</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stream 2</td>
<td>€4,350,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stream 3</td>
<td>€880,815</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCS</td>
<td>€10,214,346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funding of €3,953,593 has been paid out on this Scheme to the end of 2019.

**Cultural Capital Scheme 2019-2022**

In October 2019 the Minister launched a new €4.7m Capital investment scheme for arts and culture centres. The scheme will run from 2019-2022 and will focus on enhancing the existing stock of arts and culture centres throughout the country. In line with the Government’s action on climate change, this scheme will prioritise projects that reduce an organisation’s carbon footprint that will make a real and positive impact on the environment. Projects that provide additional capacity for artists and artistic production particularly in arts centres will also be favoured. This new Scheme builds on the success of the former Arts and Culture Capital Scheme 2016-2018.

This funding is being made available under the National Development Plan, Project Ireland 2040. Investing in our Culture, Language & Heritage 2018 -2027 sets out the Government’s objectives for capital investment in Ireland’s culture, language and heritage. The plan sets out significant investment on a phased basis over the next 10 years including €40m to secure existing investment in arts and culture infrastructure nationwide and ensure a regional balance. This level of investment will ensure the upkeep of regional infrastructure right across the country.

- **Stream A** will offer grants up to €50,000 for small enhancement/expansion/refurbishment projects which may involve construction works to arts and culture facilities and/or upgrading of equipment.
- **Stream B** will offer grants from €50,000 up to €300,000 for larger enhancement/expansion/refurbishment projects involving construction works to arts and culture facilities.

(Funding of €4.5m is available in total towards Stream A & B)
– **Stream C** will offer grants up to €15,000 for the upgrading of visual artists’ workspaces and studios including audio-visual artists. Visual Artists Ireland (VAI) are administering this funding on behalf of the Department. Funding of €200,000 is available towards Stream C.

The scheme opened for applications from 25 October 2019 and closed on 7 January 2020. The applications under this new capital scheme are currently undergoing assessments. The first stage of this assessment process (eligibility stage) is now complete. The remaining stages of assessment have been completed and a submission will be prepared for the Minister over the coming weeks.

**Other capital projects**

2020 will see the Department progress a number of flagship projects including:
– Progress the Mary Robinson Centre project in Mayo;
– Progress capital works at the National Opera House in Wexford; and,
– Development of proposals for provision of Artist spaces in Dublin with Dublin City Council.

**Immediate priorities for the coming months**

- Complete the assessment of applications under the 2019 Cultural Capital Scheme for consideration by the Minister.
- Continue to support the delivery of regional arts and cultural infrastructure under the range of ongoing schemes and individual projects.
3.9 Project Ireland 2040 – Digitisation

Digitisation makes it possible for people all over Ireland and indeed the world, to access the rich and varied collections held in trust for us by our National Cultural Institutions. There is a huge appetite for high quality on-line cultural material. By digitising their collections, Ireland’s cultural institutions increase their reach well beyond those who are in a position to visit their buildings in person. Digitisation also provides a very important channel to connect with Ireland’s Diaspora – which is estimated to be up to 70 million people worldwide – and in turn encourages cultural tourism.

In April 2018 as part of the Department’s sectoral plan under Project Ireland 2040, Investing in our Culture, Language and Heritage, the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht announced funding of €10 million for national digitisation investment which will see a number of national collections digitised over the period 2018-2027.

Digitisation funding to date has enabled the National Cultural Institutions and organisations with collections of national significance to:

- Provide on-line access to their collection;
- Preserve and conserve their collections;
- Safeguard their collections;
- Provide online searchable access to their collections; and
- Facilitate the reuse of digital content.

Initial Projects Funded under the pilot “Cultural Digitisation Scheme” (2017-2020)
An initial allocation of €2.339 million was awarded in October 2017 to support a range of digitisation projects in Ireland’s national cultural institutions and organisations with collections of national significance. To date, the Department has supported digitisation projects at:

- The National Gallery of Ireland;
- The National Museum of Ireland;
- The National Library of Ireland;
- The Irish Museum of Modern Art;
- The Chester Beatty Library;
- The National Archives;
- The Crawford Art Gallery;
- Irish Traditional Music Archive;
- Contemporary Music Centre; and
- Church of Ireland: Representative Church Body Library.

Specific highlights from the digitisation projects funded are as follows:
(a) National Library of Ireland – Band Aid Archives project
The Band Aid Archives have been donated to the National Library by the Band Aid Trust, and a commitment of €245,000 in digitisation funds from the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to facilitate the development of the archive by the National Library has also been announced under the digitisation scheme. It is estimated that a significant volume of this archive will be digitised by the end of 2020.

Band Aid was a worldwide phenomenon in the mid-1980s. Band Aid’s ‘Do They Know It’s Christmas?’ is one of the most popular Christmas songs ever released, and the UK and US Live Aid concerts on 13th July 1985 were among the defining events of the decade.

The archive includes:
- Hundreds of letters from private individuals – including many children and teenagers – mostly handwritten and on a range of personal writing paper;
- Letters, often witty and revealing, from well-known public figures;
- Publicity materials, including press cuttings and photographs;
- Donations of objects, including artwork, poetry and musical recordings;
- Reports of projects in Africa, funded by the Trust since 1985; and
- Trust correspondence – between Trust members and with third parties, including donors, governments, shipping companies, other charities, broadcasters, etc.

(b) National Archives - Dáil Éireann collections
The National Archives is the custodian of a variety of records relating to the formative years of the Irish State. These include the proceedings of the early Dáil Éireann and related activities.

In partnership with the Houses of the Oireachtas Service, the National Archives is digitising a collection of records from the early Dáil Éireann. These documents provide a remarkable insight into the day-to-day work of the First Dáil and its offices. This project, when complete, will bring into public view a large number of surviving files from the First and Second Dáileanna. The files contain original and copy correspondence, primarily between Diarmuid Ó hÉigeartaigh, Secretary to Dáil Éireann, and members of the cabinet, as well as members of the Dáil. The files contain documents generated by the functioning of the administrative apparatus established in the aftermath of the 1918 general election to support the activities of the Government of the day.

(c) Chester Beatty Library Project
The Chester Beatty Library (CBL) received funding of €200,000 under the Cultural Digitisation Scheme to assist in purchasing digital equipment to aid its in-house digitisation programme and support the development of a new website and image portal.

This new website now has 5,000 digitised images (taken from CBL collection) which was ready in time for the 50th anniversary celebrations of when Sir Alfred Chester Beatty left his collection to
the Irish people. The CBL identified digitisation as a way of opening up the majority of its collection to a wider audience. Only 1-2% of its collection is on public display at any one time and CBL believe that this will allow them to open their collection to a global audience.

The project was designed to:

- Deliver the CBL’s strategic objectives to increase access, furthering its development and providing the organisation with the technological infrastructure to meet its current and future needs;
- Open the CBL’s extraordinary collection to a global audience for the first time;
- Provide the CBL with a resource to use as a learning tool for outreach and adopt new methods of engaging with existing and new audiences;
- Position the CBL to exploit the benefits of the digital shift in cataloguing, caring for and researching its collections;
- Allow the CBL to capitalise on the commercial opportunities to create a new earned income stream for the museum; and,
- Contribute to the CBL’s reputation internationally and further its position as a pre-eminent international centre for the understanding of world cultures.

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht launched the upgraded CBL website in December 2018 which included newly digitised data.

(d) Church of Ireland Records Project

The Representative Church Body (RCB) Library in Churchtown, Dublin holds the majority of remaining Church of Ireland registers and records. Of particular importance the RCB Library holds the Church of Ireland parish registers for baptism, marriage and burial. This includes 1,110 sets of parish records, approximately 840 of which contain varying quantities of public records which have not yet been digitised. These registers are of vital importance as they serve as a most valuable source of genealogy data for the era predating Civil Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

A capital grant of up to €100,000 for the digitisation of Church of Ireland Parish Registers was approved under the cultural Digitisation Scheme, with work commencing in early 2019.

These unique records will be used to determine the nature of family relationships for a variety of legal, medical, social and research purposes. Church of Ireland Parish Registers also have a wide social and religious scope; for example, former US President Barack Obama is one of several presidents of the United States with Irish Protestant identity.

Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Treasury Initiative

The destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland (PROI) at the Four Courts, on 30th June 1922, was a devastating cultural loss and one of the great tragedies of the Civil War.
2022: Ireland’s Virtual Record Treasury is an innovative all-island and internationally collaborative project, led by Trinity College Dublin, which seeks to re-imagine and re-create this national treasure and the archival collections that were lost, comprising records of 7 centuries of Irish history and administration. The Department is providing funding of up to €205 million to support Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Treasury Initiative.

This project is consistent with the guidance of the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations for the second half of the Decade of Centenaries (2018-2023). It is the only legacy project to be specifically referenced in the Group’s advice as a significant, enduring and national legacy of the Decade of Centenaries, which would support the State very appropriately in its approach to the remembrance of the Civil War, the partitioning of Ireland and the foundation of the State.

Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Record Treasury Project is an innovative collaborative initiative, with 4 archival partners: The National Archives (of this State), The National Archives (of the UK), The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and The Irish Manuscripts Commission.

The project is also supported by the ADAPT Centre, which is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and led out of TCD; the Trinity Association and Trust; and Trinity College Dublin’s Making Ireland research team.

The following project outputs are envisaged:

- A fully immersive, three-dimensional, virtual reality model of the digitally reconstructed Public Record Office of Ireland, built from original architectural plans and early 20th century photographic evidence.
- The model will be used as an interactive tool for engagement and research – visitors will be able to move through the building and order a historical record in the Victorian Reading Room or browse the virtual shelves and link to substitute or salvaged records held by archives and libraries around the world.
- The team is working to assemble a complete inventory of records lost in and salvaged from the 1922 fire. Dispersed surviving records or substitute sources have been identified and all of the available information about these sources, from archives and libraries in Ireland and internationally, will be gathered into one fully searchable database.
- ‘Gold Seams’ of substitute material will be identified, whereby a critical mass of substitute sources exist or meets particular standards with regard to accuracy, comprehensiveness, accessibility and state of preservation within their current repositories. From these ‘Gold Seams’ a more complete reconstruction of a destroyed series can be made, drilling down to the level of individual documents.
- It is estimated that up to 20% of the PROI records destroyed in 1922 can be fully reconstructed and a further 50% of the archives partially reconstructed.
Future “Cultural Digitisation Scheme”
A review of all aspects of the current Digitisation Scheme is underway. It is anticipated that a new call for digitisation applications will take place before the end of 2020.

Immediate priorities for the coming months

- Complete the review of the current Digitisation Scheme.
- Launch a new call for applications under the Digitisation Scheme
- Continue to support the delivery of key digitisation projects including Beyond 2022.
3.10 Audiovisual Strategy and Investment

<table>
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<th>Responsible Business Unit</th>
<th>Arts, Film and Investment Unit</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>€21.1m</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal Officer</td>
<td>Mary Nash</td>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.nash@chg.gov.ie">mary.nash@chg.gov.ie</a></td>
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<td>(064) 662 7327</td>
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**Background**

Investment in the Audiovisual sector funded by the Department primarily takes place through Screen Ireland, which provides support for production, development and distribution. In addition, the Film Tax Credit (section 481 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997) provides significant support for films produced in Ireland.

In June 2018, the Audiovisual Action Plan was launched. This industry-wide, long-term plan, inaugurated under Pillar 4 of the Creative Ireland Programme, will support the Government’s ambition to enable Ireland to become a global hub for this sector. The Action Plan identified eight policy areas:

i. Oversight of Industry by Steering Group
ii. Section 481 Film Tax Credit
iii. Strategic Review of Feature Film Funding
iv. Funding
v. Skills Development (encompassing Crowe Howarth Report Recommendations)
vi. Regulatory Reform
vii. Marketing
viii. Other supports and reform

A high-level Steering Group involving Government Department and State Agencies has been set up to oversee the implementation of the Audiovisual Action Plan. The membership includes representatives from the Department, the Department of Finance, the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment, the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, the Department of Education and Skills, the Revenue Commissioners, Screen Ireland, the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland, IDA Ireland, and Enterprise Ireland.

In December 2019, the First Progress Report on the Implementation of the Audiovisual Action Plan was published. Key achievements since the plan’s launch in June 2018 include:

- Clear ownership of the Implementation Plan with cross-departmental and agency engagement;
- The extension of Section 481 Film tax relief until 2024, along with changes to improve the administration of the relief;
- The introduction of the Regional Film Development Uplift, which offers additional tax reliefs to incentivise film production in the regions;
Increase in funding to Screen Ireland which has led to increased investment in TV drama, skills development, support to visit markets and establishing ways to provide a stronger presence in key markets such as Los Angeles;
Development of new skills development courses and enhanced training and skills development opportunities as part of Section 481 revisions;
Ireland signed the revised Council of Europe Convention on Cinematographic Co-production in early 2019 which will continue to facilitate partnerships on co-productions with other signees of the convention.

Immediate priorities for the coming months

- The Department, through its role on the Audiovisual Action Plan steering group, will continue to work to implement key initiatives as part of the Audiovisual Action Plan.
- As Section 481 is a critical tool for the Irish audiovisual sector, it will continue to be kept under review by the Steering Group over the lifetime of the Audiovisual Action Plan.
- The oversight of training and the alignment of the education sector to the needs of the industry remains a standing item on the agenda of the Steering Group and initiatives such as the skills needs surveys, the renewed focus on quality training as part of Section 481 and ongoing engagement with the industry will ensure that continuing strides are made on the Skills Development policy area.
- Funding for the sector remains a key matter for consideration. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE) has been managing the progress of the Broadcasting Bill through the Houses of the Oireachtas. It was envisaged that this bill would enable the collection of the TV licence fee to be put to public tender. The Bill which reached Second Stage lapsed on the dissolution of the Dáil. This is likely to be put on hold given the remit of the Future of Media Commission to examine the funding model for public service broadcasting. Following the conclusion of a public consultation last year, DCCAE is also progressing plans for the transposition of the revised Audiovisual Media Services Directive which is expected to be implemented into Irish law before the end of 2020.
- As part of its work in conducting a root and branch review of funding to the sector, Screen Ireland have contributed to the European Audiovisual Observatory’s report on mapping of film and audiovisual public funding criteria in the EU. In addition, Screen Ireland is currently contributing to a review of audiovisual media services and levies which has been commissioned by the broadcasters RTÉ and TG4.
- Subject to the lifting of travel restrictions arising from the COVID 19 pandemic, In 2020 Screen Ireland is planning to expand its presence in Los Angeles by appointing a representative to work closely with the new Irish Consulate in Los Angeles. Strengthening the base in Los Angeles will support the mission for employment and turnover growth in the Audiovisual Sector by providing for the building and management of relationships with major US studios and content producers, communication of the opportunities available in Ireland, and the
identification of upcoming, portable productions that could locate in Ireland.
3.11 Screen Ireland

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<td><a href="mailto:mary.nash@chg.gov.ie">mary.nash@chg.gov.ie</a> (064) 662 7327</td>
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Screen Ireland, the development agency for the Irish film, television and animation industry, supports the development and production of original Irish drama, comedy, documentary and children’s animation for the independent production sector in Ireland. Its aim, particularly in its television remit, is to create high-end, creative content with both an Irish and international audience / marketplace in mind.

In 2019, Screen Ireland funded:

- 15 Irish feature films
- 5 creative co-productions between Irish and international companies
- 6 animated television series and specials
- 17 documentary films
- 17 short films

**Legal basis**

Screen Ireland works within the framework of the Irish Film Board Acts 1980-2018 to promote, develop and market the Irish film industry at home and abroad. The primary activity of Screen Ireland is to provide development and production finance for Irish film, television and animation projects and to promote Ireland as a location for international film-makers. It is independent in its funding decision-making.

**Screen Ireland’s mission**

Screen Ireland's mission is to support and promote Irish film, television and animation through fostering Irish artistic vision and our diverse creative and production talent, growing audiences, and attracting filmmakers and investment into the country.

**Strategy**

Screen Ireland, under its previous name, Bord Scannán na hÉireann/the Irish Film Board launched “Building on Success: IFB Five Year Strategy Plan 2015-2020” detailing its ambitious vision and plans for the role of the agency within the thriving Irish film, television and animation industry. The strategy was developed by the Board of Screen Ireland following extensive consultation and
engagement with stakeholders from all parts of the industry and has three key pillars: Vision for 2020; Building on Core Strengths; and Strong Foundations.

The following extracts from Screen Ireland’s five year strategy plan (2016 to 2020) set out its vision for 2020, approach to building on core strengths and strong foundations of the sector, and funding:

**Vision for 2020**

Working with industry stakeholders, Screen Ireland will promote an overall vision for the industry, focusing on leadership, gender & diversity, and building audiences for film, television and animation. Highlights under this pillar include; providing strong industry leadership; working with the Government and the wider industry to provide a coherent public sector approach to the development of the sector; achieving a target of 50/50 gender parity in creative talent working in screen content; and positioning audiences as a central part of the work we support.

**Building on Core Strengths**

Screen Ireland will build on the success achieved to progress and develop creative screen talent production, the development of talent and skills, and inward production and investment. Funding of, and support for, creative development (and the necessary organisational arrangements) will be central to this. Targets under this pillar include; the creation of a new position of Head of Creative Production and Talent Development to provide artistic and creative leadership in support of screen production, and maximising opportunities for the improved Section 481 tax incentive; as well as developing talent and skills through training initiatives to meet the growing needs of the sector.

**Strong Foundations**

In order to deliver on the ambitious vision, and for Screen Ireland to deliver on its priorities, strong foundations will be required, including increased funding for investment in film, television, and animation; dynamic partnerships within the sector; and an effective organisation. Goals under this pillar include; seeking increased funding from all potential avenues, including contributions from public service broadcasters and content distributors to Irish film and screen storytelling content; and continuing in the creation and nurturing of partnerships with stakeholders including the IDA and Enterprise Ireland, other public film funding agencies and private sector funders such as distributors and broadcasters.
Immediate priorities for the coming months

- On 31 January 2020, Screen Ireland launched its 2020 Slate of 40 Film, TV and Animation Productions. The slate includes the first TV shows that Screen Ireland has supported, following the announcement of funding for TV drama in 2019.

- Investing in creative screen talent and supporting Irish production companies remains a key priority for the agency in order to drive continued growth and in 2020, there will be a particular focus on the development process. A fund to support slate development across feature film, animation and TV drama will be a key part of 2020 priorities.

- In 2020, subject to the impact of COVID 19 mitigation measures, Screen Ireland will include a number of high-end episodic TV drama productions in its slate of productions. In aiming to build and support the TV drama sector, Screen Ireland aims to increase funding for TV drama in 2020 in collaboration with Irish broadcast partners RTÉ, TG4 and Virgin Media as well as international partners.

- The development of film and television production activity and jobs across regional Ireland is also a key driver for Screen Ireland. Many of the film and TV productions in Screen Ireland’s 2020 slate were produced or filmed on location in regional areas. Screen Skills Ireland, which is the training division of Screen Ireland, continues to play an important role working with producer companies across Ireland to grow the skills base.

- Screen Ireland will continue to focus on the need to develop further studio infrastructure to drive inward production activity. In addition, to strengthen relationships in the US a representative based in Los Angeles will, subject to the lifting of travel and other COVID 19 mitigation measures, be appointed in 2020.

- Screen Ireland also has a strong commitment to diversity and gender equality and aims to continue to grow the number of productions with female directors and writers.

Funding

Screen Ireland receives annual Exchequer funding through the Department’s vote which is provided for: programme expenditure, and; administration costs, including staff costs, and other general expenses incurred by Screen Ireland.

This is administered under a Performance Delivery Agreement which is a performance contract between Screen Ireland and the Department in which an agreed level of service is formalised.
### 3.12 Abbey Theatre

<table>
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<th>Responsible Business Unit</th>
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<th>Budget</th>
<th>€400,000 capital (current funding provided by Arts Council)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principal Officer</td>
<td>Mary Nash</td>
<td>Contact</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mary.nash@chg.gov.ie">mary.nash@chg.gov.ie</a> (064) 662 7327</td>
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**Overview**

The Abbey Theatre is the only National Cultural Institution (NCI) which receives its annual current funding from the Arts Council. All of the other NCIs receive both current and capital annual funding from this Department. In line with the other NCIs, however, capital funding to the Abbey is provided by the Department. This funding is provided from the Department’s A7 subhead.

There are significant challenges in the Abbey’s current building and without continuing investment the Abbey could not remain open. Unlike the other National Cultural Institutions, the Abbey is not owned and managed by the OPW and the full cost of maintenance falls to the theatre. Table 1 shows the amounts it received from the Department in recent years.

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<thead>
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<td>€ 400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>€ 400,000</td>
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As part of the National Development Plan (and the Department’s Project Ireland 2040 sectoral plan), the Abbey is currently working on an €80m redevelopment plan for its Abbey Street site. This redevelopment will be critical both in terms of enhancing the theatre offering by the Abbey but also in terms of its contribution to the wider regeneration of Dublin’s North Quays. The Abbey are currently developing a preliminary business case for the project with a view to submitting it to the Department by year end 2020.

**Practitioners’ Letter**

On the 7th January 2019, over 300 theatre practitioners (subsequently increased to over 400 signatories in further correspondence issued) wrote to the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht raising concerns about the quality of employment opportunities and remuneration.
rates in the Abbey Theatre's current production model since the appointment of the two co-directors in 2016.

On the 11th January 2019, Minister Madigan wrote to both the theatre practitioners and the Abbey Theatre about the issues raised in the theatre practitioners' letter. The Minister acknowledged the necessity for the Abbey Theatre, as with all theatres, to have a level of artistic freedom in terms of its programming, while also acknowledging the necessity for a strong working relationship with theatre practitioners in order for the continued success of theatre in this country.

On 1 February 2019, the Abbey Theatre met with representatives of theatre practitioners for an initial scoping meeting. It was agreed that a process of bilateral meetings with representatives from the various sectors within the theatre community would follow to deal with the issues raised. Following the scoping meeting, the Abbey Theatre organised a number of bilateral meetings with representatives from different disciplines and official industry bodies.

On the 2nd of May 2019 the Abbey published a report in response to the original letter to Minister Madigan in January and subsequent discussions held with representative of the theatre practitioners during the bilateral meetings. The Abbey stated in the report that it had learned from this dialogue process and is firmly committed to enhancing the quality of its engagement with all theatre disciplines, by establishing clear, accessible and timely communications.

The full implementation of the actions listed in the Abbey report to which the Theatre has committed is being monitored by the Board of the Abbey Theatre and is being reported on to the Arts Council. The Arts Council has also been engaging with the Abbey Theatre about the quality of employment opportunities and remuneration rates that it provides for Irish based artists.

In May and December 2019, some of the theatre practitioners wrote again to the Minister stating that while the Abbey Theatre is engaging with the practitioners and progress has been made, the letter writers are essentially unhappy at the pace of progress.

The Department, with the Arts Council, continues to engage with the Abbey Theatre towards the full implementation of the actions.
3.13 NCIs, Arts Council and Screen Ireland – Oversight and Governance

Governance Arrangements
All public bodies are required to comply with the operation and governance arrangements set out for them in the Code of Practice for the Governance of State Bodies. For the NCIs, Arts Council and Screen Ireland, the following governance arrangements apply:

- Designated liaison officer at Principal Officer level and business unit works with the public body;
- Agreement of an Oversight Agreement between the Department and the board of the public body;
- Agreement of an annual performance delivery agreement (PDA) between the executive of the public body and Department including an annual budget and programme of work. This a performance contract between the public body and the Department in which an agreed level of service is formalised;
- Quarterly liaison meetings to oversee delivery of the annual PDA, annual expenditure and preparation for the annual estimates process;
- The liaison unit and Department’s HR unit provide sanction for filling posts.
Established in 1951, the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon is the government agency for supporting and developing the arts in Ireland. The Council recognises that the arts have a central and distinctive contribution to make to our evolving society. The Arts Council is statutorily independent in its funding decision making.

The Arts Council, established under the Arts Act 2003, under which the arts are defined as arts of any creative or interpretative expression and includes visual arts, theatre, literature, music, dance, opera, film, circus and architecture. The responsibilities of the Arts Council are laid out in Section 9 of the Act.

The Arts Council translates its statutory functions into its mission to lead the development of the arts in Ireland. It does this in four ways, as follows:

- Advocate the importance and value of the arts and promote their practice and development;
- Advise government and others on the arts as required by the Arts Act;
- Invest public monies allocated to it by government in supporting artists and arts organisations to make work of excellence and in other actions consistent with its remit; and
- Work in partnership with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and with other government departments as well as with local government and with agencies and organisations within and beyond the cultural sector.

The Arts Council’s 10 year Strategy (Making Great Art Work 2016-2025)
The Arts Council’s 10-year strategy, Making Great Art Work 2016-2025 is implemented through a series of 3-year plans from 2017. Making Great Art Work sets out a framework for the development of the arts in Ireland for the decade 2016–2025. The Strategy also establishes how the Council will lead the development of the arts in Ireland over the next decade under five priority areas set out as follows.

Making Great Art Work sets out five priority areas, each with a distinct goal.
The Arts Council receives annual Exchequer funding through the Department’s vote which it uses for programme expenditure and; administration costs, including staff costs, and other general expenses incurred by the Council in discharging its statutory functions.

Immediate priorities for the coming months

- Review and enact new models of investment in the work of artists and arts organisations, particularly in light of COVID 19 pandemic.
- Develop partnerships both within and outside the arts sector to build greater public engagement in the arts.
- Measure the effects of investment.
- Develop capacity to support and renew the arts sector.

The Arts Council recently announced plans for €80 million investment across Ireland in 2020 and this includes a wide range of investment plans to strengthen key arts infrastructure and organisations in their ability to develop and create great work.

- A priority of the Council is to improve the pay and conditions of artists including the publication of a new Paying the Artist’ Policy.
- The Council plan to invest substantial monies through its Strategic Funding programme as well as in projects and programmes.
- The Council also plans to expand further its Scoileanna Ildánacha/Creative School pilot, the flagship initiative of the Government’s Creative Ireland programme to enable the creative potential of every child, subject to the lifting of COVID 19 mitigation measures.
- The Council has also confirmed investment of €500,000 in Phase 2 of its flagship capacity building RAISE programme.
- Further details of the investment programme can be viewed on the Arts Council’s website.

Following the Government announcement of 16 June of additional funding of €20 million, the Arts Council will offer a range of supports to artists and arts organisations affected by the COVID 19 emergency.
Overview of recent developments at the National Archives

There have been a number of recent developments of note in the National Archives:

- Orlaith McBride, formerly Director of the Arts Council, has been appointed as Director of the National Archives;
- Under the Department’s sectoral plan for Project Ireland 2040, the main construction element of the redevelopment of the National Archives building at Bishop Street will go to tender in 2020 with a view to commencing construction within the year;
- The National Archives continues its ambitious digitisation project. January 2020 saw the inclusion of the most recent Government annual releases (1989) into the National Archives online catalogue. This is in addition to the inclusion of a further 5,523 records into the catalogue;
- Continued provision of a unique genealogy resource through digitised census records (1901 and 1911) and a free genealogy advisory service.

20-year Rule

The National Archives Act 1986 provides for the transfer and release to the public of the records of Government Departments to the National Archives when they are 30 years old. The National Archives (Amendment) Act 2018 introduces a provision that allows records to be transferred when they are 20 years old and over in certain circumstances. A working group will shortly finalise an implementation plan regarding the release of the 20-year records.

Following the commencement of the 2018 Act, records which are less than 30 years and over 20 years old can be transferred to the National Archives if the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht makes an Order under the new legislation. Such an Order requires the consent of the Taoiseach, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform and the Minister from whose Department the records originate and consultation with the Director of the National Archives. The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht may make an order in respect of records that:

- are of significant historical or public interest; or
- would facilitate the balanced and fair reporting of matters of common interest to the State and other jurisdictions.

The Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht can only make an order to transfer records to the National Archives if the Director confirms that arrangements are adequate. A Ministerial order for the release of records requires the prior delineation of the records intended for release which is currently being dealt within the implementation plan.

National Archives - Dáil Éireann collections
The National Archives is also involved in the digitisation of various collections. As part of the Cultural Digitisation programme (highlighted earlier in this brief), the Archives are engaged in digitising a collection of records from the early Dáil Éireann. These documents provide a remarkable insight into the day-to-day work of the First Dáil and its offices.

**Immediate priorities for the coming months**

- Recruit additional archivists.
- Finalisation of the Implementation Plan.
- Ministerial Consideration for the commencement of the 2018 Act.
- Continue digitisation initiative.
3.16 Decade of Centenaries

The objective of the State centenary programme for the years 2020-2023 is to ensure that this complex period in our history, including the Struggle for Independence, the Civil War, the Foundation of the State and Partition, is remembered appropriately, inclusively, proportionately, respectfully and with sensitivity. It aims to promote a deeper understanding of the significant historical events of this period, which recognises that the shared historical experiences of those years gave rise to very different narratives and memories.

The programme also takes account of sensitivities across communities in Northern Ireland, acknowledging that very different perspectives persist on many of these events. It will continue to encourage reflection about the multiple identities, traditions and perspectives that are part of the overall Irish historical experience and will be sensitive to the local historical context, acknowledging that there was no uniform experience within counties or across the island of Ireland.

The forthcoming period in the Decade of Centenaries is the most sensitive to date as it occurs within the broader context of the impacts of the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union and political developments in Northern Ireland.

The Government’s approach is grounded in the principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations in its Second Statement (published in October 2017) and its subsequent specific guidance (published in January 2019). The Expert Advisory Group was established by An Taoiseach in 2011 and comprises historians, cultural practitioners and custodians of records. It provides guidance on historical matters relating to the Decade of Centenaries, to ensure the balance and authenticity of the commemorative programme. The group is chaired by Dr. Maurice Manning, is non-partisan and comprises of independent members from around the country.

The programme for the forthcoming period to 2023 comprises four strands:

- **A State Ceremonial Strand** which comprises a limited number of symbolic acts of national commemoration focusing on themes of remembrance and reconciliation and on the commemoration of all those who lost their lives during this period.
- **A Historical Strand** which comprises a diverse range of activities designed to encourage authentic historical enquiry about this period and promote the use of primary archival
sources. Initiatives are being progressed in collaboration with State partners, National Cultural Institutions, institutions of learning and other stakeholders.

- A **Community Strand**, which involves a collaborative approach – similar to that adopted for the 1916 centenary commemorations - between the State, local authority network and community organisations, including in Northern Ireland where appropriate.

- The **Creative Imagination Strand** which will continue to encourage artistic and creative expression in remembrance of the significant historical events of the period from 1919 to 1923 and all of those who lost their lives.

### The 2020 Decade of Centenaries programme & the COVID-19 national emergency

- In December 2019, a Memo was brought to Government for information, setting out the State’s Decade of Centenaries Programme for 2020.

- On 2nd January 2020 in Cork City Hall, the Government announced a significant Decade of Centenaries programme in 2020, including a major commemorative programme in remembrance of the significant events that occurred in Cork City and County in 1920.

- The on-going COVID-19 national emergency has temporarily interrupted the usual Decade of Centenaries programme delivery mechanisms. Plans for all commemorative events and associated outreach activities over the remainder of the year will continue to be informed and underpinned by the public health advice and protective health measures.

- A significant portion of the 2020 programme is due for delivery in the latter half of the year, including a number of planned public events. It will not be clear for some time to what degree and in what format these elements can proceed. The conditions for safely holding public gatherings are likely to remain challenging. We will seek to clarify this in the coming weeks and months as the public health advice and measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 evolve.

- The Department is continuing to explore how we can support our partners, including the local authorities and the National Cultural Institutions, who are seeking to create alternative opportunities for citizen engagement under the Decade of Centenaries Programme this year and for 2021.

- All initiatives funded by the Department will be aligned with the principles and guidance laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations.

- **NB:** All initiatives must also adhere to the public health advice and emergency measures laid down by the HSE and the Government.

- The significant centenaries that are being remembered with State supported initiatives in 2020 include but are not limited to, the following:
The assassination of Cork Lord Mayor Tomás MacCurtáin (20th March)

The mutiny of a battalion of the Connaught Rangers in India (28th June)

The sacking of Balbriggan (20th/21st September)

The death of Cork Lord Mayor Terence MacSwiney (25th October)

The execution of medical student and IRA volunteer Kevin Barry (1st November)

Bloody Sunday (21st November)

The Kilmichael Ambush in Cork (28th November)

The burning of Cork City (11th/12th December)

The passing of the Government of Ireland Act 1920 (23rd December)

The local authorities are key partners, in accordance with the guidance of the EAG, which advocates a leading role for local authorities in driving inclusive, respectful and meaningful community-led commemoration, augmented with appropriate State recognition, support and participation, which will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

**Centenaries of significant events that occurred in Cork City and County in 1920**

Plans to mark the significant events that occurred in Cork City and County a century ago are led by Cork City Council and Cork County Council, with significant State support, recognition and participation. Significant roles are also envisaged for Cork Public Museum, Cork City and County Libraries and the Crawford Art Gallery.

These centenaries include the deaths of two of the city’s first citizens - Tomás MacCurtáin (20 March 1920) and Terence MacSwiney (25 October 1920), the Kilmichael Ambush (28 November 1920) and the Burning of Cork City (11/12 December 1920).

Prior to the COVID-19 emergency, it was envisaged that these plans would include a State commemoration and parade (potentially on 1st November), as well as historical and cultural initiatives, and a series of civic events, including exhibitions and support for communities and schools.

The Department is currently liaising with Cork City Council and Cork County Council to determine what impact the COVID-19 emergency will have on their centenary plans, commemorative programming and funding requirements this year. It’s currently very difficult to predict to what extent public gatherings will be feasible during the latter half of the year. It’s also recognised that there are likely to be significant sensitivities around the portrayal of a large, public State event this year, where many other sporting, community and cultural events have been cancelled.

It’s proposed to scope out alternative options, and look at developing a smaller-scale commemorative ‘made for television’ event, without an invited audience or public participation, and with some pre-recorded elements. The Dept. of the Taoiseach has a leading role in coordinating these plans, in partnership with Cork City Council, RTÉ, the Dept. of Defence, the Defence Forces, the OPW, and this Department. The programme could potentially include the following (some pre-recorded) elements; military ceremonial, wreath-laying, and cultural and community elements.
Centenary of the Mutiny of a Battalion of the Connaught Rangers in India (28th June)

On 28th June, the Taoiseach led a small wreath-laying ceremony in Glasnevin Cemetery, to mark the centenary of the mutiny of a Battalion of the Connaught Rangers in India. This event was organised by the Department of the Taoiseach.

The Department is co-ordinating the development of plans to mark this centenary. The Commemorations Unit is supporting a range of commemorative initiatives led by Roscommon, Sligo, Galway, Longford and Westmeath County Councils to mark the centenary of the mutiny, in light of their close connections with those who participated in this historical event.

It is envisaged that the President will attend a commemorative event in Tubbercurry, County Sligo, on 2nd November (originally scheduled for 27th June). This event is organised by Sligo County Council in association with the Connaught Rangers Memorial Group Sligo. The date of the commemoration (2nd November) coincides with the centenary of the execution of the leader of the mutiny, Private James Daly. The arrangements for this event will be subject to the public health advice and protective measures laid down by the HSE and the Government.

Bloody Sunday
Plans to mark the centenary of the events that occurred in Dublin on 21 November 1920 are being led by Dublin City Council (particularly Dublin City Library and Archive), with appropriate State support and recognition. Key stakeholders in this process also include the GAA (GAA HQ, the GAA Museum and GAA branches in Dublin and Tipperary), Tipperary County Council and Glasnevin Trust. The Department has convened a co-ordination group to support a collaborative and cohesive approach in the development of the commemorative programme.

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the mutiny, Private James Daly. The arrangements for this event will be subject to the public health advice and protective measures laid down by the HSE and the Government.

**Centenary of the Sacking of Balbriggan (20th/21st September)**

Plans to mark the centenary of the Sacking of Balbriggan are being led by Fingal County Council, with appropriate State support and participation, co-ordinated by the Department.

**Centenary of Bloody Sunday (21st November)**

Plans to mark the centenary of the events that occurred in Dublin on 21st November 1920 are being developed by a range of stakeholders, including Dublin City Council (particularly Dublin City Library and Archive), the OPW at Dublin Castle, the GAA (GAA HQ, the GAA Museum and GAA branches in Dublin and Tipperary), Tipperary County Council and Glasnevin Trust. The Department has convened a co-ordination group to support a collaborative and cohesive approach in the development of the commemorative programme and will co-ordinate appropriate State support and recognition.

**The passing of the Government of Ireland Act 1920 (23rd December)**

As a joint initiative with the Irish and UK governments to mark the centenary of the partitioning of Ireland, and with the support of the Royal Irish Academy and the British Academy, Queen’s University Belfast will host a major conference entitled ‘The Partition of Ireland: Causes and Consequences’.

The Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations has endorsed the conference proposals and reiterated that the centenary of Partition presents particular challenges, requiring a careful and sensitive approach, which is grounded in respected academic research and scholarship.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of the Taoiseach are key partners in the development of these plans.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was due to take place on 3rd/4th December 2020. Queen’s University Belfast has proposed to postpone the conference until next year (potentially May) in light of the ongoing restrictions preventing large gatherings of people.

There is merit in also holding an event in December (format to be agreed), which would set an appropriate tone for the coming year. Discussions are ongoing with Queen’s University Belfast and all stakeholders.
Support for local authorities in 2020 under the Community Strand

A funding commitment of €10,000 has been approved for each local authority to support the delivery of commemorative initiatives at county level and within communities in 2020 – thereby maintaining funding levels on a par with the 2019 allocations.

It is a condition of funding that all activities will connect in an appropriate, inclusive, respectful and non-partisan way with the Decade of Centenaries programme and will be aligned to the guiding principles laid down by the Expert Advisory Group.

All initiatives funded from the Department’s allocation must adhere to all of the public health advice and the emergency measures laid down by the HSE and the Government, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Local authorities are invited to adopt a broad focus in responding to the significant events and themes of 1920, which recognises all of the dimensions interwoven with the Struggle for Independence – the military activity, the political context and social, economic and cultural aspects and legacies.

Although public commemorative events and associated outreach activities are not envisaged in the near future, suggested activities that could be funded from this allocation include but are not limited to:

- The creation and curation of new digital content, such as online exhibitions, webinars and podcasts, for dissemination online and/or via traditional local media;
- Digitisation initiatives that will enhance free public on-line access to authentic archival sources;
- Other outreach activities, including the provision of online resources and activities for young people; and
- Re-publishing online of existing content relating to previous Decade of Centenaries initiatives.

Additional funding may be provided to support individual local authorities who have close connections to the events that occurred in 1920 and who have enthusiastically developed specific proposals for commemorative initiatives to mark these centenaries. Requests for additional funding, above the allocation of €10,000, are being examined on a case-by-case basis following careful consideration of the proposals received, in accordance with the principles and guidance laid down by the Expert Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, and in the context of the overall funds available as the current period of emergency evolves.
Other highlights for 2020

Other elements of the 2020 programme include but are not limited to the items below. These initiatives are currently under review to determine the extent to which the COVID-19 emergency will impact on project delivery and where alternative approaches may be possible.

- Continued partnership with the National Cultural Institutions;
- Continued partnership and engagement with other key stakeholders, including RTÉ, Glasnevin Trust, ICTU, institutions of learning, etc.
- Continued support for initiatives that encourage ongoing research and free public access to authentic archival sources, including the ‘Beyond 2022: Ireland’s Virtual Record Treasury’ research project;
- The pop-up museum, ‘100 Years of Women in Politics and Public Life’. A virtual tour of the pop-up museum is currently in development. It is envisaged that, when complete, this will be available for free, public access on the Decade of Centenaries website, www.decadeofcentenaries.com. This digital offering will greatly expand the accessibility of the pop-up content to a wider audience.
- Support for initiatives exploring the significance of the 1920 local elections, local government reform, and the evolution of new administrative structures during the Struggle for Independence;
- Appropriate recognition of the international dimension and the role of the Diaspora (led by D/FAT);
- Continued engagement with teachers and schools (in collaboration with D/Education and Skills);
- Ongoing development of initiatives under the Creative Imagination Strand, including the Markievicz Award. The five recipients of the award for 2020 were recently announced by Minister Madigan.
- Continued support for the Hedge School programme in 2020. The programme offers free public access to roundtable discussions with historians focusing on events and themes relevant to the Decade of Centenaries programme. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency measures, the Hedge Schools are being delivered via Podcasts – further details can be found at Appendix B.
3.17 Famine Commemorations

The first National Famine Commemoration Committee (NFCC) was established in July 2008, following a Government decision to commemorate the Great Famine with an annual memorial day.

The main objective of the National Famine Commemoration Committee is to consider the most appropriate arrangements for an annual national commemoration of the Great Famine. The Membership of the Committee which is now in its fourth term includes a range of parties, including representatives of relevant Government and non-Government organisations, as well as individuals with particular interests or expertise in relevant famine issues. The annual National Famine Commemoration (NDMD) is hosted by the Minister with the President and Taoiseach alternating as Guest of Honour, and is typically held in one of the four provinces on a rotating basis.

Following a Government Decision in 2018 the third Sunday in May was designated as the day for the National Famine Commemoration unless otherwise decided by the Minister following consultation with the local community.

Recognising the international dimension of the annual famine commemorations, each year the Department and National Famine Commemoration Committee supports an international commemoration event. There have been ten international commemorations to date, five of which were in the US, as well as in Canada, Australia and the UK.

Immediate priorities for the coming months

- Confirm and announce arrangements for the 2020 National Famine Commemoration to be held in Buncrana Co. Donegal. President Higgins is to be the Guest of Honour.
- Consult with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade regarding arrangements for an International Famine Commemoration 2020.
- Consider proposal for future work programme of the NFCC including a review of the format of the National Commemoration and public consultation on how best to commemorate the famine into the future, including the 175th anniversary and appropriate memorial/s.
- Review RTE /UCC proposal for Famine Project.
3.18 National Symphony Orchestra transfer to National Concert Hall

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Following the publication by RTÉ of the report ‘RTÉ Orchestras Ensuring a Sustainable Future’ that it commissioned from independent consultants Helen Boaden and Mediatique, the Government decided (July 2018):

- that the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) should come within the remit of the National Concert Hall (NCH) and should not be established as a separate State body; and,
- to authorise the initiation of discussions on the implementation of the report’s recommendations under the aegis of an oversight group with participation by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and a working group involving RTÉ and the National Concert Hall which will include consultation with the employees of both orchestras.

On foot of the Government Decision, an Oversight Group and Working Group have been established with formal terms of reference, with a view to identifying and addressing the relevant issues to be addressed to enable the successful transfer of the NSO from the remit of RTÉ to the remit of the NCH. The Group is chaired by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and is made up of representatives from:

- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- RTÉ
- National Concert Hall

The Group has discussed issues such as:

- Funding arrangements;
- Communication and engagement with stakeholders including the NSO;
- Shared vision of the future including an orchestral vision for the NSO and a new vision for the NCH; and,
- Legal issues.

**Immediate priorities for the coming months**

➤ Work will continue on issues such as funding
As part of its current funding provision, the Department directly funds a number of regional cultural institutions, schemes and projects to meet specific cultural needs and to enhance access to culture across the regions.

This funding typically includes funding for the following:

- Institutions in receipt of annual allocations e.g. the Hunt Museum and James Joyce Centre
- Organisations in receipt of annual allocations e.g. Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
- Enhancement of local museums and the Regional Museum Exhibition Scheme e.g. Waterford Museum of Treasures, Thomas McDonagh Museum, Richmond Barracks etc.
- Enhancing our cultural patrimony e.g. music in Great Irish Houses, Bernadette Greavy Bursary etc.
- Supporting North-South co-operation e.g. north south project by the Gallery of Photography
- International commitments and projects
- Local festivals and summer schools (€111,000 allocated for 50 projects in 2019).

**Immediate priorities for the coming months**

- Advertise for application for funding under annual schemes for Regional Museum development and North South co-operation
- Conclude Memorandums of Understanding with supported bodies in respect of 2020.
- Review S.1003 procedures with a view to strengthening national collections though philanthropic support
- Review of Export licensing arrangements for cultural assets
- Liaison with Revenue Commission and EU Commission regarding new regulation on import of cultural goods.
The Per Cent for Art scheme is a Government initiative, first introduced in 1978, whereby 1% of the cost of any publicly funded capital, infrastructural and building development can be allocated to the commissioning of a work of art. Examples of well-known pieces funded through the scheme include the *Perpetual Motion* by Remco de Fouw and Rachel Joynt at the Naas junction on the M7 motorway, *Magnus Modus* by Joseph Walsh at the refurbished wings of the National Gallery of Ireland and the *Luke Kelly* statue by Vera Klute in Sheriff Street, Dublin.

In July 2019, Government decided to update the Per Cent for Art scheme by increasing the investment caps, reforming the investment bands, and by introducing arrangements to better collect and analyse data on the outputs and outcomes of the scheme. Similar schemes operate in a number of EU countries and are designed to support the development of public art as part of capital investment as well as expanding State supported opportunities for artists and other creative.

The new conditions of the scheme are:

- Projects below €5 million: - 1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €50,000 (1% of upper limit);
- Projects between €5 million and €20 million: - 1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €125,000 (1% at median);
- Projects between €20 million and €50 million: - 1% of the cost of the project to a maximum of €350,000 (1% at median);
- Projects in excess of €50 million: - €500,000 being 1% of the lower level scale and declining as projects increase in scale.

These new thresholds serve the founding principles of the Per Cent for Art Scheme to a greater extent, placing greater emphasis on meeting the 1% of overall funding for projects within bands. The revision also encompasses a new upper maximum of €500,000 allocated to projects costing in excess of €50 million.

This revision to the scheme places no new obligation on Departments or public bodies to participate in the Per Cent for Art Scheme. The maximum threshold is a guideline only and Departments and public bodies may apply any level of funding they deem appropriate below that level. These new revisions have the support of key stakeholders involved in the administration of the scheme and are built upon, among other factors, feedback from the challenges faced by these bodies as part of the current scheme.
It is also proposed to improve data collection and re-establish the Inter-Agency Committee to improve the flow of information, harmonisation of implementation of the Scheme across the Public Sector, review the scheme on an ongoing basis and to review and update the 2004 guidelines.

**Immediate priorities for the coming months**

- Re-establish the Inter-Departmental Committee.
- Update the 2004 guidelines to produce revised draft by end 2020.
3.21 Night Time Culture

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Background
Over the past number of years Night Time Culture has been identified as an important feature in Irish cultural life, amidst concerns that it is facing challenges.

At national level, a symposium to investigate the possibility of creative nightlife and cultural activity after hours as an alternative and complementary option to commercial pubs and clubs was also held in the Irish Architectural Archive on Wednesday 17th April 2019.

On foot of engagements with stakeholders and other Government Departments, the Department established Pilot Night-Time Culture Groups in Dublin and Cork. Each group comprises a small number of representatives of the creative and arts communities, the entertainment and business sectors, the local authority and representatives from An Garda Síochána. The members of the groups have been tasked with proposing practical locally-based initiatives to improve night-time culture in their city as well as identifying changes required at a national level.

The work of the regional groups will feed into a National Night-Time Culture Steering Committee, which will have representatives of the Departments of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. The Committee will support the development of night-time culture by tackling the regional and local issues identified by the pilot groups.

This work will culminate in the development of Ireland’s first Night-Time Cultural Policy. To support this, the Department is planning to oversee a national survey of venues for night-time cultural activity, which will identify current venue use, possible improvements and also gaps in the venue network.

The venue symposium, which was due to take place in April, is currently on hold on the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has not yet been rescheduled.

Immediate priorities for the coming months

- Participate at Venues Symposium when it is rescheduled receive feedback from stakeholders.
- Engage with Dublin City Council and Cork City Council on proposals to develop pilot Night Time Culture schemes.