



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Annual Report 2016



Table of Contents

Mission and Mandate	3
Focal ón Aire	4
Focal ón Ard-Rúnaí	5
Goals and Strategies	6
Progress in 2016	
Goal 1: Arts, Culture, Film and Music	7
Goal 2: Built and Natural Heritage	15
Goal 3: The Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands	27
Goal 4: North South Cooperation	31
Goal 5: Regional and Rural Affairs	35
Corporate Matters	41
Appendix 1 – Programme for Government – Commitments relating to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	42
Appendix 2 – Agencies and Bodies funded from the Department’s Vote	48
Appendix 3 – Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs – Expenditure in 2016	50

Mission and Mandate

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

The key functions under its remit include:

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

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

In 2016 the Department was also assigned responsibility for a series of actions under the Programme for Government designed to facilitate integrated rural development at local level and to foster the growth of vibrant, sustainable and inclusive communities. These matters are also addressed in this Strategy. While there is already a lot being done to support rural development through various Government strategies, the Action Plan for Rural Development published in January 2017 provides, for the first time, a visible, cohesive and coordinated approach across the whole of Government to the implementation of both economic and social policies that impact on rural communities. It will serve as an overarching structure for the co-ordination and implementation of initiatives that benefit rural Ireland.

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

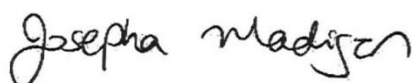
Focal ón Aire

It was an honour for me to be appointed as Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht by An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar T.D. in December 2017. However, for now it is my pleasure to introduce this report which looks back on 2016 - a year of particular and significant achievement for the Department.

Under the stewardship of Minister Heather Humphreys T.D. and the then Secretary General Joe Hamill (who retired in early 2017), the Department, led the organisation of the Centenary Programme that generated such enthusiasm throughout the country.

In addition to this, the important work of preserving our Built and Natural Heritage and supporting the Arts was continued throughout the year. Under the stewardship of Airí Stáit, Seán Kyne T.D and his predecessor Joe McHugh T.D. , significant progress was also achieved in respect of the 20 Year Strategy for Irish, while under Michael Ring T.D., the development of the Action Plan for Rural Development was advanced in exemplary fashion.

This report reflects both the diversity of the work of this Department and the commitment of its staff to delivery of results across the range of its remit. I congratulate all who contributed to the work of the Department in 2016. I and my colleague Aire Stáit, Joe McHugh T.D. look forward to working with the Secretary General and the staff of the Department to continue this record of achievement over the coming year.



Josepha Madigan, T.D.
Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Focal ón Ard-Rúnaí

The centenary year of 2016 was a particularly busy and challenging time for the Department, and I am delighted to acknowledge the work of colleagues across the entire Department who made such a clear and valuable contribution to the centenary celebration and to the continuing promotion and conservation of our unique culture, heritage and language throughout the year.

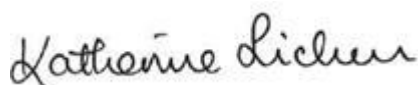
Having joined the Department in early 2017, I would like to express my appreciation of the work of my colleagues, both past and present, for their successful input to what was an historic year. Joe Hammill and his team provided outstanding support to Minister Humphreys and her Ministers of State in delivering across the entire range of the Department's activities in 2016.

The undoubted highlight of the year was the work led by the 2016 Project Office, in conjunction with colleagues in the Office of Public Works, the Department of the An Taoiseach, the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces, and other Government Departments. This resulted in a positive and inclusive celebration of this historic year. Staff from across the Department participated in a range of events which not only generated a great sense of community and national pride but also showcased the ability and dedication of our public servants.

As even a cursory glance through this Report will show the Department has held a broad and challenging brief that impacts on citizens throughout the entire country and beyond as we reach out to our diaspora through a range of initiatives in relation to arts, culture, the Irish language and our contribution to the preservation of our rich heritage.

The year under review saw a significant change in the Department's role with the assumption of new responsibilities for Rural Development – which have now been assigned to the Department of Rural and Community development. I am impressed with the professionalism and enthusiasm with which managers and staff adapted to these new challenges and I would like to offer my best wishes for the future to those who have gone on to work in the new Department.

It is said that change is the only constant, and the experience of the Department in 2016, as described in this report, bears witness to that. I look forward to working with Minister Madigan, Minister of State McHugh and colleagues across the Department as we look to further build on the initiatives delivered in 2016 and beyond.



Katherine Licken
Ard-Rúnaí

Goals and Strategies

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

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

Arts, Culture, Music and Film

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

Built and Natural Heritage

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

The Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands

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

North/South Co-operation

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

Regional and Rural Affairs

Goal 5: To promote and facilitate long-term sustainable economic and social progress across rural Ireland.

Goals

Progress in 2016 – Goal 1: Arts, Culture, Film and Music

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

Strategy 1:

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

In July 2016 *Culture 2025 / Éire Ildánach* was presented to Cabinet. This is Ireland's first National Cultural Policy, setting out high-level aims for the next decade and was developed following an extensive consultation process with stakeholders throughout the country.

In December 2016, the Creative Ireland Programme was launched as the main implementation vehicle for the priorities identified in *Culture 2025/Éire Ildánach* and as the Government's Legacy Programme arising out of the Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme.

The Creative Ireland Programme is a high-level, high-ambition, 5-year initiative, from 2017 to 2022, (building up to the centenary of the foundation of the State) which aims to place creativity at the centre of public policy. It is designed to mainstream creativity in the life of the nation so that individually and collectively, people can realise their full creative potential.

Strategy 2:

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

The National Cultural Institutions continue to play a central role in relation to the development of and access to Irish arts and culture.

Almost 4.9 million visitors attended the National Cultural Institutions in 2016. This figure represents a 6.4% increase on 2015 figures of just over 4.5 million and allows for favourable comparisons between our Cultural Institutions and their international counterparts.

Some highlights from the Institutions in 2016

The **Natural Museum of Ireland (NMI)** site at Collins' Barracks hosted the *Soldiers and Chiefs – The Irish at War at Home and Abroad from 1550 to the present day* exhibition, which also featured an online curated element and a seminal 1916 exhibition called *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising*. The NMI also commenced work on a master development plan, to be completed in 2017.

The **National Library** progressed its capital investment plan with the Minister announcing a capital investment of €10m for the historic Kildare Street premises. This investment plan will help transform the Library into a world-class facility for the storage and display of some of our most important historical documents. Funding was provided for the acquisition of W. B. Yeats material for the National Library.

At the **National Gallery of Ireland** Work continued to progress on the major renovation project in the historic Dargan and Milltown wings of the NGI, which was completed in 2017. The Summer also saw the opening of an exhibition of ten of the finest drawings by Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), from the Royal Collection.

At the **National Concert Hall**, the newly refurbished and historic Kevin Barry Recital Room was opened by An Taoiseach in April 2016. The restoration of the Kevin Barry Rooms is one of the nine key 'Permanent Reminders' being developed at historically significant locations as part of the Government's Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme.

The **Irish Museum of Modern Art** hosted the exhibition, *IMMA Collection: Freud Project*. This exhibition, which opened in October 2016, is a collection of 50 works by the extraordinary realist painter Lucian Freud, one of the greatest realist painters of the 20th century and offered a new opportunity for IMMA which has never before dedicated galleries to specific works or artists for such duration.

2016 also witnessed a number of other significant developments and achievements including:

- The allocation of funding under the Local and Regional Museums Scheme for 19 separate projects ranging from upgrade of the exhibition space at the James Joyce Centre to the Conservation of Castle Leslie Maps at Monaghan County Museum.
- The 2016 theme for the fifth year of the International Celebration of Irish Culture initiative, which took place over an extended four-day period in conjunction with the St. Patrick's Day Festival was I Love my City.
- The historic records of Births, Marriages and Deaths were launched on the website www.irishgenealogy.ie in September 2016. The General Register Office (GRO) provided the electronic records of historic Births, Deaths and Marriages (i.e. birth registers over 100 years old, marriage registers over 75 years old and death registers over 50 years old) to the Department in order that they could

made available on www.irishgenealogy.ie. This website has received over 2.3 million hits from September 2016 to December 2017. This is a joint project with the Department of Social Protection and the General Register Office.

- In October 2016, an announcement was made of the development of a major international exhibition celebrating the life and work of Nobel Laureate Seamus Heaney at the new Cultural and Heritage Centre in the Bank of Ireland's College Green complex. The Heaney exhibition, which is being developed by the National Library with the support of the Department, will be the first exhibition in the new Centre and is due to open in Mid 2018.

Strategy 3:

The continued development of the 'Arts in Education' initiative.

The Arts in Education charter, developed by the Department and the Department of Education and Skills, continued to be successfully delivered in 2016. The Charter plays a pivotal role in promoting both Arts Education and Arts in Education through a collaborative approach across Government Departments, education agencies and arts organisations. The Arts in Education web portal, www.artsineducation.ie, which is supported by both Departments, will provide an unprecedented opportunity for young people and all other interested groups to engage productively with the arts in education in Ireland.

Strategy 4:

The continued development of Ireland's arts and cultural infrastructure, as resources allow.

In January 2016 the Minister announced more than €400,000 in funding for arts organisations across the country under the Small Capital Grants Scheme. More than 180 applications were received and funding of up to €10,000 was awarded to over 60 organisations, for innovative and creative projects to improve the delivery of arts and culture to their communities.

In July, the Minister announced a new €9 million investment scheme for arts and cultural centres as part of the Government's Capital Investment Framework 2016-2021. The scheme is running over a three year period and is focused on upgrading the existing stock of arts and cultural centres around the country. The funding is being made available.

Other significant funding awards in 2016 included €475,000 to the Abbey Theatre for the upgrade and maintenance of facilities.

Strategy 5:

The development and promotion of the Irish film, TV and animation production sector.

2016 was a significant year for film in Ireland, with the release of a number of significant Irish films. At the Oscars Ceremony in February Benjamin Cleary's *Stutterer* won the Oscar for Best Live Action Short Film to add to an already impressive list of awards secured for this film. *Room* was also recognised with Brie Larson collecting the award for Best Actress.

In all, Irish Film Board supported productions secured seven nominations including those of Lenny Abrahamson as Best Director and Emma Donoghue for Best Adapted Screenplay, both for *Room*. *Room* and *Brooklyn* were both nominated in the category of Best Picture; *Room*'s Brie Larson and *Brooklyn*'s Saoirse Ronan were both nominated in the category of Best Actress in a Leading Role.

Michael Fassbender was also nominated as Best Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in Danny Boyle's *Steve Jobs*, while *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, part of which was filmed on Sceilg Mhichíl in Co. Kerry, was nominated in five categories.

In 2016, a total of 76 projects were approved for funding under the Section 481 Scheme which provides for corporation tax (CT) relief for investment in films by companies.

In July, the Minister announced the completion of a new Audiovisual Co-production Treaty between Ireland and Canada to replace the 1989 Co-production Treaty and improve arrangements for feature films, television dramas and documentaries which are coproduced by Irish and Canadian production companies.

In November, the Minister announced the commissioning of an economic analysis of our screen based creative industries. The study will examine the economic impact and potential of the Irish film, television and animation sector.

Strategy 6:

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

Over the course of 2016, Culture Ireland supported 450 artistic projects across 60 countries which reached a live audience of 4.5 million and 15.5 million online/television viewers. These artistic projects included 100 festivals, over 80 theatre/music tours, 80 exhibitions and art fairs and 123 film screenings. Culture Ireland generated new opportunities and contracts for Irish artists through its support of 160 venue and festival promoters to visit and experience Irish artists presenting work at festivals in Ireland.

Culture Ireland delivered a special international Centenary Programme *I Am Ireland* across the globe, with a focus on key territories – United States, Great Britain, Canada

and Australia. Highlights included two events in London in April: Imagining Ireland, a musical celebration of Irish artists, from Ireland and Britain, at the Royal Festival Hall; and a concert at the Wigmore Hall featuring many of Ireland's finest classical musicians, which was broadcast live on BBC Radio 3 and on RTÉ Lyric FM. Ireland 100, a special three-week festival of Irish arts and culture at the Kennedy Center, Washington D.C. commenced in May.

Other highlights of the year for Culture Ireland included:

- Ceangal, a special performance featuring Irish and Scottish artists in Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall in the presence President Higgins and the Scottish First Minister in June 2016.
- The translation of ninety-nine Irish books into foreign languages including James Stephens' *The Insurrection in Dublin* into Spanish, Bengali and Tamil; Gerard Whelan's *The Guns of Easter* into Bengali and Lia Mills' *Fallen* into Tamil, to mark the Centenary of 1916.
- Michael Keegan-Dolan's production of *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* opened at Sadler's Wells in London in December before commencing a global touring schedule from Europe to Australia.
- At the Great Escape Festival Awards in Brighton, Dublin's Hard Working Class Heroes festival won the Best City Champion award, while the Best Export Office was awarded to Music from Ireland, which is delivered by First Music Contact in partnership with Culture Ireland.

Ireland's exhibition at the 15th International Architecture Biennale Exhibition, *Losing Myself*, was launched in Venice in May. Commissioned and curated by Niall McLaughlin and Yeoryia Manolopoulou, *Losing Myself*, focused on Alzheimer's and engaged with audiences via an online website.

Strategy 7:

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

Ireland 2016

The Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme was marked by official ceremonies and hundreds of local initiatives. More than one million people came onto the streets of Dublin over the Easter weekend, in an extraordinary celebration and commemoration. This citizen participation continued throughout 2016 at flag raising ceremonies, schools' Proclamation Day activities and a range of other shared community, historical and cultural events, with over 3,500 events taking place at home and abroad.

Over 60 state ceremonial events took place throughout the year. The Department

worked closely with key stakeholders such as the Departments of the Taoiseach, Defence, Foreign Affairs and Trade, and Education and Skills, the Office of Public Works, the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, and Local Authorities in the delivery of this ambitious programme of events.

Other highlights of the year included:

- A copy of the Proclamation and National Flag presented by representatives of the Defence Forces to every primary school in the country;
- Over 1,000 Proclamations for a New Generation were uploaded on to the Scoilnet website (www.scoilnet.ie) by children and students;
- A children's state ceremonial event, commemorating the children who died in the Rising;
- A ceremony in the Garden of Remembrance for those who gave their lives in the cause of Irish Freedom;
- Over 2,500 special centenary events took place across the country with each of the 31 local authorities producing their own Ireland 2016 Centenary County Plan;
- Hundreds of thousands of historical resources were archived and made available to the public for the first time as part of major digitisation initiatives by the National Library, the Military Archives and the Digital Repository of Ireland, amongst others;
- The *Proclaiming a Republic – The 1916 Rising* exhibition at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks has been seen by over 390,000 people since it opened in March 2016;
- The central place of the Irish language in the ideals of the Revolutionary Generation was recognised at a state ceremonial event at the Pearse Museum, Rathfarnham;
- The role of women in 1916 was recognised over the year with special exhibitions, talks, performances including a specially curated Mná 1916/Women of 1916 touring exhibition;
- The Culture Ireland *I Am Ireland* programme presented a special showcase of contemporary Irish artists in Canada, Australia, the UK and United States, with thousands of additional events taking place across the world led by the Government's embassy network.

Other Commemorations

In 2016, the Department with the assistance of the Expert Advisory Group of Historians, chaired by Dr. Maurice Manning, continued to co-ordinate a programme of reflective commemorative events for the Decade of Centenaries.

World War I

The Minister attended a series of commemorative events in France to mark the centenary of the Battle of the Somme on 1 July 2016, including laying a wreath at the Ginchy Cross in Guillemont and attending the special Abbey Theatre production, supported by Culture Ireland, of *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*, at the Maison de la Culture, Amiens.

The Minister was present at the principal commemoration of the Battle of the Somme at the Thiepval Memorial, where President Michael D. Higgins represented Ireland. The Minister represented the Government at the ceremony at the Ulster Tower, which stands in remembrance of the 36th Ulster Division.

The Minister also attended the Somme Association's annual event in Guillemont on 3 September 2016, marking the participation of the 16th Irish Division in the campaign.

Irish soldiers who died at the Battle of the Somme were also commemorated at home. On 1 July, a military ceremony was held at the Irish National War Memorial Park, Islandbridge, honouring the Irish regiments who fought at the Somme and World War I. On Saturday, 9 July, at the same venue, a state-led commemoration took place in conjunction with the Royal British Legion. President Michael D. Higgins, Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister Heather Humphreys were among those who attended.

The Irish who died fighting at Gallipoli and elsewhere during World War I, while serving with the Australian and New Zealand forces, were remembered at the annual military ceremony at Grangegormon on ANZAC Day (25 April), which was attended by the President.

The Taoiseach and Minister for Justice and Equality attended the annual Remembrance Sunday events in Enniskillen and Belfast, respectively.

A state commemorative event was held in St. Stephen's Green on 9 September to remember the legacy of Lt. Thomas Kettle, upon the centenary of his death. The ceremony was followed by the launch of an exhibition entitled *Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: Somme 100*.

On 13 November, the Minister joined the French Minister of State for Veterans and Remembrance at the Ministry of Defence, Jean-Marc Todeschini, for the inauguration of the France – Ireland Memorial at Glasnevin Cemetery. The memorial was gifted to the Irish people by France, in recognition of the solidarity and the sacrifice made by so many from the island of Ireland in the defence and freedom of France, particularly during the First World War.

Strategy 8:

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

Under the capital programme of restoration and development projects some €31 million in capital funding was provided for a number of flagship commemorative projects overseen by the Ireland 2016 Office, creating a long-term legacy for the 2016 commemoration programme. These included:

- the GPO Witness History visitor centre;

- the restoration of specific parts of Richmond Barracks and the creation of an exhibition and interpretative space, in conjunction with Dublin City Council;
- the restoration and refurbishment of the Athenaeum in Enniscorthy;
- a new cultural centre, Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, located beside Pearse's Cottage in Rosmuc, Co. Galway; and
- the restoration of the Kevin Barry Rooms in the National Concert Hall.

Other capital works undertaken as part of the Centenary Programme included the refurbishment of Kilmainham Courthouse and its adaption as a new visitor centre for Kilmainham Gaol and the provision of a new Military Archives Facility in Cathal Brugha Barracks.

Work on the development of 14 Henrietta Street as a Tenement Museum, was also continued in conjunction with Dublin City Council. A project to provide a 1916 Commemorative Centre and to restore the National Monument at 14-17 Moore Street was halted as a result of High Court proceedings. More limited works to temporarily secure and safeguard the buildings pending the outcome of the Minister's appeal against the High Court judgments were ongoing at the end of the year and have since been completed

Progress in 2016 – Goal 2: Built and Natural Heritage

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

Strategy 1:

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

Natural Heritage

Peatland Management

The first National Peatlands Strategy was published in June 2016. The Peatlands Strategy Implementation Group met twice in 2016. The initial progress report on the implementation of the strategy will be sent to Government in 2017. The National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation (SAC) Management Plan was progressed and subsequently published. Arising from the 2014 Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network, the Wildlife (Amendment) Bill 2016 was published on 22 July 2016 and is currently proceeding through the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Science & Biodiversity

Detailed site-specific conservation objectives were published for 55 Natura sites in 2016. These included SACs that are selected for raised bog, blanket bog and coastal habitats. Conservation objectives for an additional 55 SACs were underway by year end.

Progress was made too on new draft invasive alien species (IAS) legislation which will meet EU obligations and deal comprehensively with the issue of IAS in general in the national context also.

A new National Biodiversity Action Plan (2017-2021) was drafted and brought to public consultation stage. This plan sets out a range of objectives to meet Ireland's biodiversity challenges and also its international obligations over the life of the Plan and was subsequently published in 2017

Built Heritage & Architectural Policy

Heritage Bill 2016

The Heritage Bill 2016 was introduced in the Seanad and brought to committee stage. The Bill involves the amending of the Canals Act 1986, the Wildlife Acts and the Heritage Act 1995. The amendments to the Heritage Act 1995 arose from the recommendations of the Report of the Critical Review of the Heritage Council, approved by Government in 2013.

Government Policy on Architecture Implementation Programme

The Government Policy on Architecture Annual Reports for 2013-2016 were published and the Department continued its investment in a supporting grant initiative to

conclude on-going actions within the policy.

National Landscape Strategy

The National Landscape Strategy was launched May 2016. Initial work for a National Landscape Character Assessment, a key action of the Strategy, was undertaken along with other supporting actions on education and awareness.

Historic Houses

The Historic Houses in Private Ownership Action Plan was published November 2015. Arising from the Plan, Structures at Risk Funding of €86,550 was provided for works on 11 Historic Houses and a public consultation paper on Section 482 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, was prepared in collaboration with the Department of Finance.

Service Level Agreements were signed between the Department and the Heritage Council and the Irish Historic Houses Association.

NIAH Programme

The NIAH, as part of the 1916 Centenary programme, published four of its Building of the Month texts on buildings associated with the Rising, Pearse Museum, GPO, Kilmainham Gaol and the Athenaeum-Enniscorthy. It also collaborated, with the Irish Architectural Archive, on an exhibition on the effects of the Rising on the fabric of the city.

Archaeology

Fresh impetus was given to the drafting of the consolidated and updated Monuments Bill with additional resources being allocated by the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel.

An updated draft of the Brú na Bóinne Management Plan was submitted to UNESCO for consideration in parallel with the introduction of new consultation procedures on planning at local level

Progress continued with the Tentative List of potential new World Heritage sites and the Technical Evaluation document for the Royal Sites. The Directed Research Scheme conducted through the Royal Irish Academy also continued during the year.

Strategy 2:

Ensuring effective implementation and, where appropriate, enforcement of heritage policies and legislation, including through third parties.
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The Department engaged with a wide-range of public authorities and participated in numerous inter-Departmental and expert working groups in order to assist public authorities in meeting their obligations with regard to the Nature Directives.

The Department is responsible for the licensing requirements under the Wildlife Acts and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Over

7,400 licences and permits were issued by the Department for a variety of activities in 2016 of which 64% (over 4,700) were issued for deer hunting.

Peatlands Issues

In 2016, the Department, in conjunction with the Peatlands Council, continued to progress the protection of Ireland's raised bog special areas of conservation (SACs) within the framework of the EU Habitats Directive.

Aerial and on-the ground monitoring of turf cutting sites in conjunction with An Garda Síochána (AGS) and the Air Corps continued in 2016. Approximately 330 plots were cut on 24 of the protected sites, representing a significant decline for 2011 levels (1,300 plots cut)

Under the Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme 2,666 annual payments and 112 deliveries of turf were made in 2016. Once-off incentive payments of €500 were also made in respect of 179 applicants. Work continued on the relocation of turf cutters from raised bog SACs to non- designated bogs.

A €5.4m five year project funded under the EU LIFE Natura 2014-2020 programme to restore active raised bog in 12 sites in Ireland's SAC Network commenced in 2016.

Cessation of Turf Cutting Compensation Scheme

	To end-2014	To end-2015	To end-2016
Applications received	3,041	3,392	3,482
Payments made	6,429	8,943	11,536
Turf Deliveries	650	789	902
Legal Agreements returned	1,394	1,625	1,827
Once-off Payments (€500)	3,310	1,544	1,703

Designations

The formal Special Areas of Conservation designation programme continued with 104 SACs formally designated by the end of 2016.

A further 12 candidate SAC sites (9 new; 3 extensions) were advertised, and landowners were notified of the proposed designations.

New Irish zoo standards have been successfully rolled out, putting in place a new zoo inspectorate and licensing regime, in compliance with Irish legislation and EU obligations. In 2016, a total of 22 zoos were inspected and a further 52 sites identified for inspection in the next phase.

Legislation, Licensing and Property Management

In 2016, the Department received and processed 6,691 planning applications which were referred to the Minister in her role as a statutory consultee under *the Planning and Development Act, 2000* for observations or submissions on the implications of proposed developments which may have an impact on the built or natural heritage. This

represented an increase of 20% on 2015's total number of planning application referrals from planning authorities. The heritage sections of the Department were also consulted on almost 400 cases in relation to proposed developments at pre-planning stage.

In addition, the Minister in her role as a 'consultation body' or 'prescribed body' under various other statutes received over 1,800 referrals from public authorities in 2016 for observations or submissions on the implications of the activities they are regulating, which may have an impact on the built or natural heritage (e.g. foreshore licence applications, tree-felling licences).

Archaeology

The Department continued to carry out its functions under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. Investigations were carried out in respect of 117 reports of threat or damage to monuments while notifications of intention to carry out work at or near monuments were examined. The Department funded ten rescue excavation projects and one post excavation analysis.

The number of licences for new archaeological investigations grew by over 20% on the previous year, reflecting the general trend in increased development activity. Three sets of interviews for first-time applicants for licences to excavate were held in 2016 in co-operation with the National Museum of Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists Ireland.

Licences, Consents, Approvals and Directions issued in 2016

- Archaeological excavation licences – 675
- Extensions to excavation licences – 237
- Consents to use detection devices – 232
- Dive survey licences – 80
- Approvals and responses to variations to existing Ministerial consents – 92
- Ministerial Directions for archaeological works on road projects – 2

On-going maintenance of the statutory list of recorded monuments continued and work on the mapping, file-management, and data components for counties Westmeath and Kilkenny, in particular, is nearing completion. In addition, the Department is continuing to update its records on the online Historic Environment Viewer. An additional 1,140 records were added to the Sites and Monuments Record in 2016: the current Record total is 154,607.

The Department continues to out-source surveys of monuments and engage with researchers to procure specialist surveys of particular monument types to update the national record.

Co-operation continued with Bord Na Móna to survey industrial peatlands and a geophysical survey was commissioned at Mayne Bog, Co. Westmeath.

Strategy 3:

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

The Department continued to invest significant resources in fulfilling its ongoing role as a prescribed body or a statutory consultee in the planning process and in the consent processes of other Departments and agencies. The Department has initiated steps to improve and to standardise the service it provides by increasing its level of engagement with other authorities.

The Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Unit provides key input to other Departments and State agencies when required as well as engaging proactively with environmental NGOs and academic bodies to deliver on the Government's National Biodiversity Action Plan.

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) regulations, and obligations under the Convention, continue to be implemented via the Department's CITES Management Authority in NPWS. Officials in the Department cooperate on an on-going basis with Customs/Revenue Commissioners.

Built Heritage

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

The Department also supported local authorities in their role in the protection of the built heritage by providing financial support through structured schemes, i.e. Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Structures at Risk Scheme.

The Irish Architecture Foundation was supported in the delivery of their awareness and education programme through two of its major funded activities: Open House and the National Architects in School scheme.

Capital and Fiscal Investment Programmes

The development of appropriate and targeted fiscal incentives, including capital investment programmes, for built heritage areas was continued in partnership with the Department of Finance (Living City Initiative) and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (ERDF Designated Urban Grants Scheme)

Capital Project Development

Over €3m allocated in capital funding for conservation projects in 2016 under schemes including:

- ***Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS):***

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme, a €2 million scheme for the repair and conservation of protected structures, was introduced, on the same model as the very successful Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme which ran in 2014. The 2016 scheme supported over 270 projects across the country, creating over 17,000 days of employment in the conservation and construction industries, while helping to regenerate urban and rural areas. The scheme also leveraged just under €5.5 million, more than double the scheme's allocation of €2 million.

- ***Structures at Risk Fund (SRF):***

The Structures at Risk Fund (SRF) was reintroduced for 2016 with funding of over €1 million provided to enable conservation works to heritage structures, in both private and public ownership, protected under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, which were deemed to be at significant risk of deterioration. The fund, which was administered through the local authorities, assisted over 50 projects throughout the country.

- ***Projects under the auspices of the Office of Public Works:***

Funding of €350,000 was allocated to the Office of Public Works for the conservation and preservation of national monuments and historic properties in State Care. Conservation works were undertaken at Kilmacurragh House, Basket Islands, Derrynane House and Castletown House. On the National Monument's side projects at Kilmainham Gaol, Carlingford Castle and the Turoe Stone also benefited.

Architectural Heritage Policy Guidelines:

Work has continued on promoting the Architectural Heritage Policy Guidelines. One new volume in the Advice Series entitled *Disaster Management in the Historic Built Environment* was progressed, with initial text received from the contractor in November.

Built Heritage International

Ireland continued to be represented by Department officials on a number of European bodies, including the European Heads of Heritage Forum, the European Heritage Legal Forum and the European Forum on Architectural Policies as well as the Edinburgh Group (UK). In addition the Department engages with the Council of Europe and the relevant directorates of the European Union.

Archaeology

Following discussions between this Department and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, measures for preventative maintenance of monuments have been included in the latest agri-environmental scheme. This is the first time that the farmers, as the primary custodians of our monuments, have been rewarded for maintenance work that will enhance the protection and survival of archaeology into the future.

The Department also entered into discussions with Fáilte Ireland and the Office of Public Works with a view to developing a strategic partnership to deliver a programme of investment in National Monuments owned by the Minister under Fáilte Ireland's

Ireland's Ancient East initiative. The Department's role will focus on the archaeological components of the programme.

Strategy 4:

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

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

National Parks

The Department manages 79,000 hectares of National Parks, Natures Reserves and other natural heritage sites such as Muckross House and Glenveagh Castle. The parks are managed from a conservation, education and amenity perspective in order to maintain and preserve their importance for future generations. The Department established an inter-agency group on outdoor recreation, including representatives from Waterways Ireland, Coillte, Bord na Móna and the Office of Public Works.

Strategic Investment Partnership

The Department, which manages some 485 kilometres of tracks and trails across its heritage property portfolio, entered a new strategic partnership with Fáilte Ireland. This partnership will focus on the five National Parks and Coole Park Nature Reserve along the Wild Atlantic Way as well as Wicklow National Park on Ireland's Ancient East with a view to undertaking feasibility, scoping and design of tourism projects at these sites.

Mayo International Dark Sky Park

In September, the Department formally launched the Mayo International Dark Sky Park, which encompasses Ballycroy National Park and the Wild Nephin Wilderness.

Dark Sky is an accreditation for parks or other public land possessing exceptional starry skies and a natural nocturnal habitat where light pollution is mitigated and natural darkness valued as an important, educational, cultural, and scenic and natural resource. Ballycroy and the Wild Nephin have received gold tier status, which is the highest accreditation.

Killarney House

The refurbishment programme for Killarney House and its ornamental grounds and gardens announced in 2011 continued in 2016. Landscaping works were completed and the grounds and ornamental gardens were opened to the public in April. Work on interpretation/exhibition phase was advanced.. The house was opened in 2017 and its full amenities will be open to the public on a phased basis.

Purchase of lands at Glenasmole

In December 2016 the Department finalised the purchase of 4,900 acres (1,983 hectares) of the Dublin Uplands, in the area known popularly as the 'Featherbeds', at a cost of €800,000. This land will be added to the Wicklow Mountains National Park, expanding the total size of this National Park to 22,000 hectares.

Diamond Hill

The Department completed essential health and safety maintenance and upgrading work on the Diamond Hill Looped Walk route in Connemara National Park. Approximately 200,000 people visit Connemara National Park annually and most of these would visit at least part of the Diamond Walk.

Rhododendron Clearance

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

Film-making

During the late spring 2016, the Department facilitated the filming of scenes for *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* at various sites on the Atlantic coastline, in co-operation with other state agencies and the hosting communities.

Other initiatives undertaken during 2016

The Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service also worked on a range of research projects and publications throughout 2016 including the following.

Publications

- The production in collaboration with the National Biodiversity Data Centre of the *Atlas of Mammals in Ireland*, as well as the publication of three Irish Wildlife Manuals covering hen harriers, mammal identification and petrifying springs, and three Red Data Lists (moths, plants and sharks).
- A collaborative group that included the Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service produced the Vascular Plant Red List which provides an assessment of which flowering plants and ferns on the island of Ireland are under threat or at risk of extinction. 106 (8.8%) of the 1,211 assessed are considered threatened, of which 20 (1.7%) are Critically Endangered, 25 (2.1%) Endangered and 61 (5.0%) Vulnerable, while 15 (1.2%) are Extinct in Ireland. Eighteen vascular plants are endemic, being found only on the island of Ireland and, including these, Ireland is of international importance for 47 vascular plants for which it holds (or possibly holds) more than a quarter of the European population. The Red List is a product of the significant dedication and unprecedented efforts of botanical recorders in Ireland over many years, resulting in many hundreds of thousands of records, including finds of rare species and charting of the unfortunate decline

and loss of species.

- The fifth annual report from the RAPTOR scheme detailing direct threats and pressures (other than habitat related threats and pressures) facing birds of prey in Ireland was published in March 2016.
- NPWS staff also contributed to the *Atlas of Predaceous Water Beetles of Britain and Ireland*.

Scientific Research and Monitoring Projects

- Monitoring programmes to assess the conservation status of marine habitats, lagoon, grasslands, vegetated shingle, lake habitats, a suite of rare plant species, bat species, cetaceans, seals, vertigo species, pearl mussel, marsh fritillary and Natterjack toad continued throughout 2016.
- The OBSERVE Programme, a joint undertaking between the Department and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment to monitor seabirds, whales and dolphins, completed extensive acoustic and aerial monitoring programmes off the east, south and west coasts. More than 8,000 seabird and cetacean records had been obtained by the end of 2016 and key statistical and habitat modelling continued throughout 2017.
- A national assessment of the pine marten was completed.
- Two new monitoring programmes for lake habitats listed in the EU Habitats Directive were initiated.
- The Department commissioned surveillance of Freshwater Crayfish plague, including through use of environmental DNA, a novel technique.
- Comprehensive invertebrate surveys of four woodland nature reserves were also carried out
- Two species of note were discovered in 2016: A barkfly was found in Co. Cork, recorded new to Europe; and a Water Stick Insect found in Co. Wexford is a species new to Ireland.
- A study was completed that showed that Ireland is a hotspot for genetic diversity of the freshwater pearl mussel in Europe, with the Caragh population in Co. Kerry found to have the highest genetic diversity of any river recorded in the world to date. A three year freshwater pearl mussel monitoring programme revealed that one Irish population has returned to favourable condition, but that all other populations are in decline.

Bogs

In 2016, the Department closed-out the three-year contract with RPS Consulting "Provision of Scientific Basis for Raised Bog Conservation in Ireland". The Department's work with RPS has greatly increased our understanding of raised bog eco-hydrology and informed our current approach to raised bog conservation, particularly in finding a

compromise between turf-cutting interests and conservation obligations (in compliance with Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive). The contract also produced full Restoration Management Plans for all 53 raised bog SAC, Site Specific Conservation Objectives for 52 of these sites and the final draft of the National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan.

A detailed desk review of blanket bog SACs was carried out and peat-extraction areas mapped and classified. This will help inform consultations with stakeholders and owners and, in devising appropriate strategies for long-term management of extraction at affected sites.

NPWS collaborated in a successful Ireland/Ni bid for EU INTERREG funding proposing state lands in the Ox Mountain Bogs SAC for blanket bog restoration work. A new research project by Queen's University and informed by NPWS, to investigate costs/benefits of, degraded /intact blanket bog areas to water quality/flows, won EPA support and will continue to be informed by NPWS specialist advice.

KerryLIFE is implementing measures to address sources of silt, nutrients and hydrological change on 35 participating farms in the Blackwater and Caragh catchments to restore the freshwater pearl mussel population. Restructuring of conifer forests into long-term retention woodlands using a range of novel approaches also commenced in 2016. The implementation of measures is monitored on an on-going basis and a scientific monitoring programme featuring novel techniques such as sediment fingerprinting is being deployed to demonstrate the effectiveness of measures.

The Department is co-financer for an EU LIFE project to establish a European Red List of Bryophytes. The European Red List identifies those species that are threatened with extinction at the European level so that appropriate conservation action can be taken to improve their status.

Agri-environment: in 2016, the Department assisted the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the design of the new 'locally-led' initiatives for Hen Harrier and Freshwater Pearl Mussel. A budget of €35m over the coming years to encourage the involvement of the local community and farmers in the protection of these species, as well as involving researchers, ecologists, NGOs and other agencies. Additional monies are available under the Irish Regional Development Programme for other innovative projects that can deliver positive conservation outcomes, such as is being delivered in the Burren. The Department continues to work with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine to address land eligibility issues that affect direct payments under the Common Agricultural Policy and in particular in Natura 2000 sites.

The Department continued to fund work on reintroduction of golden and white-tailed sea eagle, and a memorandum of understanding was agreed with Fota Wildlife Park to initiate captive breeding of the endangered Natterjack toad.

The Department engaged with the Irish Natural Capital Forum. This forum brings parties from key sectors together to discuss how best the natural capital concept, and natural capital accounting, can be brought into the mainstream of public, civil and corporate

policymaking and planning.

A research project was initiated in 2016 to examine public and private expenditure on biodiversity conservation and recommend innovative financial mechanisms to bridge any gaps.

A national pilot project mapping and assessing a suite of prioritised ecosystems and their services was completed.

Strategy 5:

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

Heritage Council

The Department continued its funding of the Heritage Council and also worked throughout 2016 to continue the implementation of recommendations arising from the Heritage Council Review. Among the highlights of the Council's activities was a successful staging of *Heritage Week* with over 1,800 events taking place around the country and a community grant scheme with funding assistance of €800,000 offered to 171 heritage projects nationwide.

The Department also continued to liaise with partners such as the Office of Public Works in relation to funding allocated for the conservation and preservation of national monuments and historic properties in State Care and with the Irish Heritage Trust, the Irish Architectural Archive and the Irish Historic Houses Association in their areas of heritage protection;

Science and Biodiversity

The Department's National Parks and Wildlife Service provided funding, via the Heritage Council, to facilitate the continued operation of the National Biodiversity Data Centre.

Strategy 6:

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

The Department finalised a Strategic Investment Partnership with Fáilte Ireland aimed at enhancing and promoting the tourism offering at Ireland's National Parks and Coole Park Garryland Nature Reserve. The Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding OU with the Irish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ISPCA) formalising on-going cooperation and collaboration between the NPWS and ISPCA on issues where wildlife crime and animal offences overlap. The Department has also established an inter-agency group on Outdoor Recreation which also includes

representatives from Waterways Ireland, Coillte, Bord na Móna and Office of Public Works.

Peatlands

The Peatlands Strategy Implementation Group established in 2016 under the National Peatlands Strategy to bring all relevant Departments and State entities together met twice during 2016.

Science and Biodiversity

The Department's NPWS works with a number of other Departments and agencies in realising its strategic and business objectives: on a range of issues including mapping projects, scientific monitoring, invasive alien species, the EU LIFE programme, Climate Change, implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and Revenue (on CITES). In 2016, there has also been extensive consultation between the Department and Inland Fisheries Ireland with respect to invasive alien species.

The Department has provided scientific advice in 2016 in relation Objective 2.1 of INTERREG VA (2014-2020), which is designed to promote cross-border cooperation to facilitate the recovery of selected protected habitats and priority species. The total value of call is €11 million ERDF.

The Department continues to work in partnership with a number of other state bodies on progressing a National Landcover and Habitat Mapping programme to achieve a number of collective goals, completing in 2016 work packages on an Economic and Use Case, a draft habitat/landcover classification and a draft data model.

Progress in 2016 – Goal 3: The Irish Language, the Gaeltacht and the Islands

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

Strategy 1:

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

The Department has responsibility for the co-ordination of the implementation of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language in co-operation with a wide range of key stakeholders.

During 2016, assistance was provided under the Pre-school and After School Scheme to nine Gaeltacht-based Family Support Centres and certain pre-school services which operate through Irish in order to support the provision of language acquisition and enrichment activities aimed at young Gaeltacht families.

Funding was also provided for the organisation *Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta* to help develop services for parents raising children through Irish in the Gaeltacht. As part of the Family Language Support Programme, 1,195 language support packs were distributed

Strategy 2:

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

The implementation of the language planning process was advanced during 2016. Notices were made in accordance with the provisions of section 7(3) of the Act in respect of a further 9 Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas in 2016 and organisations were selected to prepare and implement language plans in respect of each area.

In October and November 2016, notices in accordance with the provisions of section 9 of the Act were made in respect of *Daingean Uí Chúis*, Co. Kerry and *Letterkenny*, Co. Donegal – effectively commencing the language planning process in these towns.

In relation to Irish Language Networks, the process to prepare language plans in respect of the Irish language networks of: *Loughrea*, Co. Galway; *Ennis*, Co. Clare, and *Clondalkin*, Dublin, as selected by *Foras na Gaeilge*, commenced.

Strategy 3:

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

19 language schemes were confirmed in 2016, including 8 inaugural, 6 second and 5 third schemes. By the end of 2016, there were 116 schemes in force, covering 119 public bodies. All schemes are available on the website of An Coimisinéir Teanga at www.coimisineir.ie.

Review of the Official Languages Act

In 2016, a review of the Official Languages (Amendment) Bill was undertaken in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including An Coimisinéir Teanga, Conradh na Gaeilge and the Welsh Government who also operate a statutory language regime. Revised legislative proposals were subsequently brought forward in 2017.

Strategy 4:

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

Irish Language Support Schemes

Funding continued to be provided under the Irish Language Support Schemes to a broad range of Irish language organisations and initiatives. Expenditure of €3.594m was incurred. This included:

- current and capital grants paid to various Irish language organisations operating outside the Gaeltacht, for example, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Gnó Mhaigh Eo, Gael Taca, Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, and An Cumann Scoildrámaíochta. Projects supported in the digital humanities and terminology sectors such as Dúchas.ie, logainm.ie and abair.ie in addition to the LEX project which provides Irish language terminology for the EU;
- Teaching of Irish in 38 international universities, including 14 universities under the auspices of the Fulbright Commission and 7 under the auspices of the Ireland Canada University Foundation;
- Support for twelve 3rd level courses in Ireland under the Advanced Irish Language Skills Initiative;
- Support for projects in the business and arts sectors.
- Capital projects at Coláiste na bhFiann's Headquarters in Co. Meath, Gaelphobal Thamhlachta in Dublin and the TechSpace as Gaeilge Project.

Expenditure

Capital funding of €922,000 was provided to support the development and maintenance of various community language-centred facilities in the Gaeltacht. Included in this expenditure are grants towards the refurbishment/building of various facilities, crèches, community halls, football pitches and Irish colleges. The purchase of equipment was also grant aided.

€7.370m was spent on various language-centred programmes and schemes in the

Gaeltacht to promote and maintain the Irish language in the context of the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish Language. Initiatives funded Included:

- Under Scéim na bhfoghlaimeoirí Gaeilge a total of 26,024 students attended 50 Irish colleges in the Gaeltacht and three exceptional long established colleges outside of the Gaeltacht in 2016.
- Funding for the three centres that Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge has in the Gaeltacht: Gaoth Dobhair, An Cheathrú Rua and Carna.
- A total of 113 Irish Language Assistants were employed in 109 Gaeltacht schools under the Language Assistance Scheme;
- 183 Irish Language Summer Camps were recognised under the Irish Language Summer Camps Scheme and 6,077 Gaeltacht children attended those camps;
- Funding for sporting activities through the medium of Irish in Gaeltacht schools; and
- Two organisations (An Gaelacadamh and An Crann Óg) received funding for the provision of music, song and dance classes through Irish in the Gaeltacht.
- Pilot projects to promote the Irish language in technology, to develop machine translation technology, to develop an online degree in Irish and in Irish traditional culture, to set up a new scheme *TechSpace as Gaeilge*, to develop a new Irish language radio app to bring together all Irish language radio stations, a Digital Plan for the Irish language, support for Edcite as Gaeilge to create and share a new digital content resource for schools teaching, and RTÉ's Irish Language Action Plan. Funding was also provided to Raidió Rí-Rá, a chart-station for young people that broadcasts in Irish.

Strategy 5:

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

The overall Exchequer allocation for Údarás na Gaeltachta, the regional authority responsible for the economic, social and cultural development of the Gaeltacht, was €18.510m in 2016. A total of €2.4m in additional capital was secured for an tÚdarás in 2016.

At year end, total employment in Údarás client companies stood at 7,963, of which 7,348 were full-time jobs and 615 were part-time jobs. Údarás client companies created 559 new full-time jobs during 2016. When job losses are taken into consideration, there was a net increase of 80 jobs overall.

Údarás na Gaeltachta administers various social employment schemes, which are funded by the Department of Social Protection and play an important role in providing work experience and training for Gaeltacht communities. In 2016, more than 1,000 participants were involved in 47 schemes throughout the Gaeltacht.

Under the Gaeltacht Act 2012, Údarás na Gaeltachta is responsible for supporting organisations in preparing and implementing language plans in Gaeltacht Language

Planning Areas and in Gaeltacht Service Towns situated in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas.

Strategy 6:

Facilitating the delivery of services to island communities.

New transport contracts for ferry and freight services to the islands were put in place in 2016. A contract was agreed between the Department and Galway Aviation Services Limited for provision of an Air Service for the Aran Islands from January 2017 to December 2020, underpinned by a contract agreed between the owner of Aerfort Chonamara and the Department.

The 2016 capital budget for delivery of services for the offshore islands was significantly greater than 2015. This allowed the Department to co-fund with relevant local authorities, a programme of works on the offshore islands – works such as road repairs and upkeep of piers used to access the islands. The Department progressed the implementation of the four-year AranLIFE project (2014-2017), it being core-funded under the EU's LIFE programme. Works continued under the project in 67 participant farms.

Agreement was reached with the HSE for expansion of the helicopter service for Toraigh – from a fortnightly service during the months of November to March to a weekly service. This has proved to be of great benefit to the island community as this island is frequently left without a ferry service due to inclement weather. New passenger ferry contracts were also agreed for Sherkin Island, County Cork and Clare Island, Co Mayo.

Strategy 7:

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

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

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

Progress in 2016 – Goal 4: North-South Co-operation

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

Strategy 1:

Continued engagement in support of An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland, the two North/South Implementation Bodies funded jointly by this Department.
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A sectoral meeting of the North-South Ministerial Council (NSMC) was held in 2016 in relation to An Foras Teanga and Waterways Ireland. Two NSMC Working Group Meetings took place in on 26 May and 12 December.

Four quarterly monitoring meetings in respect of An Foras Teanga were held in 2016 (29 February, 9 May, 7 September and 21 November) with six bi-monthly meetings held in respect of Waterways Ireland (10 February, 13 April, 19 July, 14 September, 26 October and 14 December). Oversight and governance were also ensured through regular ongoing communication with the Northern Sponsor Department and the Agencies and at other meetings.

The Department also hosted a field trip from the Northern Sponsor Department in April, which comprised a bilateral meeting and other meetings with Tuairisc.ie, Telegael, Ionad Tacaíochta Teaghlaigh, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta and the Coimisinéir Teanga.

The Department is committed to co-funding and supporting An Foras Teanga (comprising Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch) and to assist this North/South Implementation Body in carrying out its functions in the context of both the Good Friday and St. Andrew's Agreements. An Foras Teanga is accountable to the North South Ministerial Council (NSMC) and to the Ministers in the Sponsoring Departments, i.e., this Department and the Department for Communities (DfC) in Northern Ireland.

Foras na Gaeilge carries out all of the designated responsibilities regarding the Irish language, including facilitating and promoting the development of Irish in the public and private arena. Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch has responsibility for the development of the Ulster-Scots language, including the promotion of greater awareness and the use of the language and of Ulster-Scots cultural issues. Both Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch have their own boards, whose members together constitute the board of An Foras Teanga.

The NSMC set the following key ministerial priorities for Foras na Gaeilge in 2016:

- Completion of the online new English-Irish dictionary with 130,000 sense units, incorporating core subject language and terminology for primary and post primary level, in addition to quality control and final cross-dictionary editing on the full dictionary;

- Launch of the Irish Language Community Scheme (Scéim Phobail Gaeilge) 2016-2018 and implementation of the language planning process for Irish Language Networks and Gaeltacht Service Towns, as appropriate;
- Launch of a comprehensive portal website for the Irish language on www.gaeilge.ie;
- A focus on projects for young people, including assistance for 70 projects under the Youth Events Scheme, award of Gaelbhratach (Irish language flag scheme) to 50 schools, organisation of a music band competition, promotion of a reading strategy and continued co-operation with Cumann na bhFiann and Gael Linn in this area; and
- Continued monitoring and support of the new partnership arrangements with the lead organisations in order to achieve strategic objectives in the areas of education, language use and development of networks, in addition to language awareness and representation, in collaboration with the all-island language development forum.

The NSMC set the following key ministerial priorities for Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch in 2016:

- Ongoing provision of support in the community through delivery of funding programmes for music and dance tuition, community festivals, community impact programme, summer schools and core funding for key organisations;
- A focus on educational initiatives, including support for 20 primary schools under the Ulster-Scots Flagship School programme and delivery of three East/West and three North/South primary school twinings to enhance knowledge and co-operation around Ulster-Scots heritage;
- Promotion of the Ulster-Scots language, heritage and culture through the Discover Ulster-Scots web portal, launch of a Hairtlan area, touring exhibitions, public events, publications and three heritage projects in the border counties;
- Increasing grassroots promotion of Ulster-Scots by delivering promotional training to community groups and launching a new scheme for the promotion of community radio broadcasting; and
- Development and delivery of programmes of activity around Ulster and the Great War, with particular reference to the centenary of the Battle of the Somme and the European Heritage Weekend.

By the end of 2016, significant progress had been achieved by An Foras Teanga in regard to these priorities.

Funding is provided to An Foras Teanga from this Department and DfC in accordance with budgets approved by the NSMC. During 2016, total funding of €13.249m was provided by this Department to An Foras Teanga, including ringfenced funding of €1.061m for Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge (supporting reading, writing and publishing initiatives in the Irish language) and €118,518 for Colmcille (a tripartite initiative to promote the Irish and Scots Gaelic languages).

More detailed information is available on the websites www.forasnagaeilge.ie (Foras na

Gaeilge) and www.ulsterscotsagency.com (Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch).

Strategy 2:

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

In addition to the language, other areas of cross border co-operation included work on the planning of commemorations, collaborations between museums on either side of the border, participation by a number of projects in Northern Ireland in Culture Night, as well as engagement on built and natural heritage, and environmental matters. This Department, together with the Department for Infrastructure in Northern Ireland and the NSMC also supports and funds Waterways Ireland in the management maintenance, development and restoration of the inland waterways.

Strategy 3:

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

This Department, together with Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure in Northern Ireland until May 2016 and then the Department for Infrastructure and the NSMC supports and funds Waterways Ireland in the management, maintenance, development and restoration of the inland waterways.

In 2016, this Department provided funding to Waterways Ireland amounting to €26.567m. The main outputs achieved during the year included the following:

- Ongoing maintenance to ensure that over 90% of the 1,000 km of waterways in Waterways Ireland remit remained navigable throughout the 2016 boating season (April to October).
- Maintenance and repair work continued across the navigations with resources used to effect emergency repairs, and ensure water management. Works to repair damaged infrastructure from winter 2016/2016 continued on the Shannon Navigation with navigation to Limerick from Parteen Weir reopening in August. Waterways Ireland staff repaired a further three major canal bank failures in 2016. The Department provided an additional €3.188m of capital resources during the year. This additional funding resourced a works programme to repair infrastructure across the navigations. On the canal network a lock gate manufacturing programme has commenced to replace lock gates throughout the canal system.
- The development of Blueways continued in partnership with local authorities alongside programmes to build capacity, and marketing activity to bring visitors to the Blueways;

- Shannon-Erne Blueway opened on 28 May.
- Planning approval granted and funding was secured for a canoe trail on Lough Derg.
- 100,000 visitors used the Shannon Blueway, launched in October 2014 increasing use of the Lough Allen canal.
- Work continued on upgrading 38 km of the Royal Canal towpath from the Maynooth to Westmeath border and 13.6 km from Drapers Bridge to Longford Bridge, Royal Canal, with the help of third party funding.
- Progress in the development of the Ulster Canal to Castlesaunderson: Phases 1 and 2 of the works have been completed. Tender assessment for Phase 3, development of navigation to Castlesaunderson is currently being completed and on site works commenced in 2017.
- Ulster Canal Greenway-Partnership formed with stakeholders and project developed.
- INTERREG VA funding secured with a grant of €4.9m which will develop 22 km of towpath along the route of the Ulster Canal.
- The overall number of registered boats increased by 530 in 2016. Private boating contributing over €88m per annum to the economy, with over 8,000 registered boats on the Shannon and 6,000 boats on the Erne navigation. The Irish Boat Rental Association members reported an 11% increase in business in 2016 contributing €50m annually to the economy with over 70% of visitors coming from mainland Europe.
- Over 3,000 people from local communities along the waterways became involved in volunteering and delivery of projects under the the inaugural Heritage Plan Community Grant Programme , part of Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020 launched in July 2016.
- Delivery of the Lakelands and Inland Waterways marketing and promotion campaign in partnership with Fáilte Ireland continued.
- The 2016 Sponsorship Programme offered support to 121 events, 118 of which took place. The overall financial contribution to the sponsorship programme was €185,000. Based on post event reports received to date, the events attracted 138,000 visitors to the inland waterways, contributing over €5.5m to the local and national economies.
- Waterways Ireland continued work to support the development of businesses with nine operating licenses issued in 2016 for new businesses on the waterways.
- Waterways Ireland continued to contribute to the Shannon Flood Risk State Agency Co-ordination Working Group at central and special interest co-ordination level.

Progress in 2016 – Goal 5: Regional and Rural Affairs

Coordinate and advance the implementation of actions for the development of rural communities arising from both national and EU policies/programmes.

As part of the Government's programme to support rural development a number of initiatives including CLÁR, Town and Village Renewal, Rural Recreation and REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zones) were launched by the Department during 2016. In the main the initiatives were implemented via the Local Authorities and resulted in just over €30m in funding distributed to a wide variety of projects all over Ireland.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme

In 2016 €9.88m was made available for the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, on foot of which 170 projects around the country were supported.

The central aim of the Town and Village Renewal scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future. Small towns and villages with a population of less than 10,000 were a particular focus. The types of projects funded under this initiative were identified primarily by local authorities in partnership with local communities.

REDZ 2016

Following on from the pilot Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZ) initiative in 2015, a second phase of the REDZ initiative was launched in September 2016. Under REDZ 2016, €6.142m was approved for 47 projects across Ireland. The REDZ 2016 was a co-funded scheme between the Department and the Local Authorities.

Under the REDZ 2016 scheme Local Authorities were invited to submit suitable projects for consideration. Successful projects were awarded funding of up to 80% of the total project cost, with the balance of funding being met from local sources (local authority, private sector or community-based funding) with a minimum 5% cash contribution.

Rural Recreation

In 2016, the Department implemented an Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme that provided funding for necessary maintenance, development, enhancement and promotional work on existing recreational infrastructure in Ireland. The scheme funded 117 projects across the country providing total funding of €7.4m. Approved projects ranged from small scale trail infrastructure to sections of larger projects in cooperation with most Local Authorities, Waterways Ireland, Coillte and Inland Fisheries.

The Department also continued to implement the Walks Schemes which incorporates private landowners as key participants in the provision of high quality walking trails by contracting them to undertake maintenance work on the trails in line with agreed work plans. The Walks Scheme is currently operating on 39 trails supported by 1,912 landowners and is being managed by sixteen Local Development Companies around the country. Payments to these 1,912 participants for 2016 amounted to €1.8m.

CLÁR

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas which have suffered the greatest levels of population decline. While the programme was originally launched in 2004, it was eventually closed to new applications in 2009.

Michael Ring, T.D., then Minister of State for Regional Development, re-opened the programme in 2016. The new programme focused on three separate measures:

- Measure 1: Safety Measures for Schools and Community/Sports Facilities
- Measure 2: Playgrounds and Multi-Use Games Areas
- Measure 3: Local Access Roads.

In 2016 funding of €8.24m was approved for a diverse range of projects all over Ireland. In total 651 projects were approved, ranging from safety lights outside a large number of primary and post primary schools to the development of new outdoor play facilities and the repair and maintenance of those already established.

TidyTowns

The TidyTowns competition, operated by the Department and sponsored by SuperValu, received 859 entries in 2016.

The National TidyTowns awards ceremony took place in The Helix, Dublin and approximately 1,000 TidyTowns volunteers attended the event. Skerries in Co. Dublin won the overall title of Ireland's Tidiest Town. Ireland's Best Kept Town, a North/South competition, was won by Broughshane, Co. Antrim in 2016.

Tullamore, Co. Offaly and Straffan, Co. Kildare took part in the Entente Florale competition in 2016 and won Gold and Silver medals, respectively. Letterkenny participated in the Communities in Bloom competition.

Western Development Commission

The Western Development Commission (WDC) is charged with promoting the benefits of living, working and doing business in the region and encouraging the development of its economy based on the sustainable development of its strengths and resources.

The WDC also provides risk capital to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises through the WDC's Western Investment Fund (WIF). This was established on a revolving fund basis so all receipts are reinvested back into Western Enterprises.

LEADER

LEADER supports both private enterprise and community groups in delivering projects aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of economic activity in rural areas. 2016 was a transition year for LEADER funding as the final projects from the LEADER programme 2007 -2013 were

concluded and the selection of LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) for the delivery of the 2014-2020 programme took place.

Approximately €7.6m was provided to conclude the last outstanding projects under the 2007-2013 Programme and to make transitional funding available to LEADER LAGs during the period between the closure of the previous programme and the commencement of the new one.

The overall funding package for the LEADER Programme 2014-2020 is €250m. This funding is being delivered to local communities and local enterprise via the new LAGs, which are selected on the basis of the quality of the Local Development Strategies that they develop for their respective areas. The cost of developing these strategies is covered under the Programme. The LAG selects projects for funding based on the objectives outlined in each individual strategy. These objectives come within a range of defined themes that include enterprise development and job creation, the development of rural towns, social inclusion and the environment.

Thirty-two Local Development Strategies were submitted for selection in respect of the 28 sub-regional areas in Ireland. These strategies were assessed by Pobal before being forwarded to an Independent Selection Committee for final evaluation and decision. Strategies have now been selected in all sub-regional areas and Funding Agreements were signed with 28 Local Action Groups for the delivery of LEADER in all 28 sub-regional areas in 2016. The Department also launched a second strategy selection process for east Galway which is the only area of rural Ireland not covered by one of the 28 strategies already selected. It is expected that a strategy will be completed and selected for this area of Galway in 2017.

Local Action Groups were active thereafter through:

- promoting the LEADER programme in local communities;
- receiving Expressions of Interest for funding; and
- working with potential project promoters to deliver fully developed and costed applications.

By the end of 2016, over 2,000 Expressions of Interest were received for funding of approximately €97m and the first project applications had been approved.

In addition to the roll-out of the LEADER programme, the Department also launched a national call for LEADER co-operation projects with an available budget of €3 million. LEADER Co-operation is a specific element of the Rural Development Programme designed to encourage LAGs to work together on a joint project which is of mutual interest to each participating area. Co-operation must involve a partnership of two or more LAGs from different areas – within Ireland or internationally – coming together to jointly deliver projects that benefit their respective local communities. The launch followed a joint North-South conference to promote co-operation between LEADER Local Action Groups across the island.

Post Office and Broadband Implementation

Main Achievements and Key Initiatives 2016

The Post Office Network and Broadband Implementation Unit was established within the Department in April 2016 to contribute to the Department's goal of facilitating sustainable regional and rural development as set out in the Programme for a Partnership Government.

The primary objective of the Unit is to prepare communities for the arrival of high-speed broadband through focused engagement with key stakeholders, including local authorities, to remove barriers to the rollout of telecommunications infrastructure. The Unit is also working with local authorities to develop digital strategies for each local authority area. The Unit also worked to support An Post as it continues its adaptation to a changing business environment.

National Broadband Plan

The *Programme for a Partnership Government* commits the Department to assist the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in the rollout of high-speed broadband once the contract(s) for the National Broadband Plan (NBP) have been awarded. Key initiatives carried out in 2016 include:

- The establishment of two Regional Broadband Action Groups (RAGs), mirroring the two procurement lots in the NBP procurement process, and comprising the 31 local authorities. The objective of the Regional Action Groups is to ensure that each local authority is fully prepared for facilitating the winning bidder(s) to commence work as soon as the procurement process is completed and contracts have been signed. In 2016 there were four meetings of the Regional Action Groups.
- Funding of the appointment of 27 Broadband Officers to act as single point of contacts within local authorities for telecommunication companies.
- Over 400 Strategic Community Access Hubs were evaluated and approved with a view to prioritising these for connection to high speed broadband during the roll out and will provide free access to high-speed broadband for rural communities.

Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce

The *Programme for a Partnership Government 2016* also committed to the establishment of a Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce was established to examine solutions to address broadband/mobile phone coverage deficits and to identify tangible actions that can be taken to improve the quality of broadband and mobile voice services being provided to citizens across Ireland. The Report of the Mobile Phone and Broadband Taskforce was published in December 2016. The report outlines recommendations and 40 tangible actions to alleviate barriers to mobile reception and broadband access ahead of the rollout of the National Broadband Plan.

Post Offices

It is Government policy that An Post should remain a strong, viable company in a position to provide a high quality postal service and maintain a national network of customer focused post offices in the community. The *Programme for a Partnership Government* committed to acting on all of the recommendations of the final report of the Post Office Network Business Development Group.

Two working groups were established to progress the recommendations arising from the report of the Business Development Group; these were the Post Office Network Renewal Implementation Group, chaired by Bobby Kerr, and the Post Office Hub Working Group chaired by then Minister of State, Michael Ring T.D.

The Network Renewal Group examined a number of issues relating to the Post Office network, including the number and spatial distribution of post offices, branch modernisation, the streamlining of products and services, and postmaster contracts. Mr. Kerr submitted his final report to An Post in December 2016.

The role of the Post Office Hub Working Group was to identify potential models under which the post offices could act as community hubs, especially in rural areas. This Working Group completed its work in December. In 2017, responsibility for the Post Office Network was transferred to the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

The Programme for a Partnership Government also contains a commitment to investigate, amongst other options, the German Sparkassen model for the development of local public banks that operate within well-defined regions. A work programme has been agreed with the Department of Finance and, in consultation with relevant stakeholders this programme has continued to investigate the model in 2017. It is envisaged that work will be completed by mid-2017.

Rural Strategy

The *Programme for a Partnership Government* published in May 2016 identified the development and revitalisation of rural Ireland as a key priority. Following her appointment, Minister Humphreys was tasked by the Taoiseach to develop a new *Action Plan for Rural Development* with a view to advancing economic and social progress in rural areas. The intention of the Government was that the Action Plan would act as an overarching structure for the co-ordination and implementation of initiatives across Government which have the potential to benefit rural Ireland.

Preparation of the Action Plan began in the latter half of 2016, during which a wide-ranging process of consultation was undertaken. In September, a series of meetings was held with key stakeholder groups including farming groups, fishing groups, Teagasc, Macra na Féirme, Údarás na Gaeltachta, IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, Chambers Ireland, the Western Development Commission, the Association of Irish Local Government, Irish Rural Link and Waterways Ireland. An information session was also provided to Oireachtas members that month, who were invited to submit proposals for

consideration for inclusion in the Plan. In October 2016, six structured workshops were held across the country with representatives from local community groups, Local Government, rural stakeholder groups, and relevant State bodies and agencies.

All Government Departments and State Agencies were also contacted in relation to the preparation of the Action Plan with a view to identifying actions across the whole spectrum of Government functions. The Action Plan was published in January 2017.

Corporate Matters

Human Resources

The Taoiseach announced on 6 May 2016 that a newly configured Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs was to be established. The newly configured Department would be responsible for all of the functions of the previous Department of Arts, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht and, in addition, would be responsible for certain functions previously in the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

There were 607 whole-time equivalent staff in the newly configured Department at end-2016, compared to 548, in the previous configuration, at the end of 2016.

Training and development of staff was supported through a range of activities including formal training courses, health and safety development, professional development, specialised training, refund of academic fees, attendance at conferences and seminars and reimbursement of professional membership fees. Through such training and development activities, the Department ensured that staff continued to have the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours to maintain organisational performance and for the achievement of business objectives.

Information Technology

September 2016 saw the launch of the Department's new website. The site was developed by a cross-functional team and is firmly focused on facilitating the user in accessing information about the Department and its services. The site has attracted significantly increased traffic since its launch.

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

Corporate Governance & Services

The Department is committed to providing a high-quality, efficient and effective service to its customers. The Department's *Customer Service Action Plan* and *Customer Service Charter* are available on the Department's website.

Freedom of Information and Access to Information on the Environment

Between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016, the Department received 169 requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2014. Of the 169 requests, 45 were granted in full, 47 were part-granted, and 40 were refused. A total of 37 applications were withdrawn or handled outside of the FOI Act.

Between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2016, the Department received 39 requests under the Access to Information on the Environment Regulations. Of the 39 requests, 22 were granted in full, 8 were part-granted, and 5 were refused. A total of 4 applications were withdrawn or handled outside of AIE regulations.

Appendix 1
Programme for Government 2011-2016
Commitments relating to the Department of Arts, Heritage,
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

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

Arts, Culture and Sport

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

An Ghaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht

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

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

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

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

Natural Heritage

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

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

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

We will seek Oireachtas support for a new Town and Village Renewal Scheme to support the revitalisation of our towns and villages and improve the living and working environment of communities. Using the €30million available from this year to local authorities for town and village regeneration, the scheme will, among other things, seek to increase the attractiveness and sustainability of our towns and villages as places to live and work. (Year 1 Action)

We will support a new Cabinet level Minister and Department of [Regional Development Rural Affairs] to provide greater political coordination and prioritisation of the work in other Departments in relevant areas that impact on rural Ireland. The Minister will create a clearing house forum to investigate the best ideas to advance economic and social progress in rural Ireland and will work to implement the best proposals in partnership with the rest of Government.

We will also reinforce the role of the Western Development Commission (WDC), so that it supports the implementation of regional jobs plans in the West and North-West. As part of this, the WDC will be given a specific mandate to stimulate the development of enterprise networks in these two regions and to stimulate innovative approaches to development. This will build on the recent allocation of €2million in additional funding to support regional economic development in the West of Ireland, which the WDC will administer across a number of economic development projects.

LEADER groups will continue to play a central role in the rejuvenation of communities throughout Ireland and the new Partnership Government is committed to increasing funding for the LEADER programme. We will work with local authorities, local action groups and local communities to ensure that LEADER funding delivers the maximum possible benefit for communities throughout the country. In addition, we will make available more competitive capital funding to allow LEADER groups bid for additional resources for projects that best support rural economic development.

Building on the €3million provided to support CEDRA initiatives, we will implement the recommendations of the CEDRA report and the new Rural Charter as appropriate; in order to further support the long-term sustainable development of rural Ireland. The new Minister for (Regional Development and Rural Affairs) will take charge of implementing the CEDRA report.

Within the new Department of (Regional Development and Rural Affairs), we will task a coordinating unit to work with communities to develop co-operative structures to keep vital local services in place and to retain and develop vibrant local enterprises.

The new Government will deliver balanced national development. One way in which we will achieve this goal is by creating sufficient scale in the west of Ireland, through an Atlantic Economic Corridor, to match other areas in developing infrastructure, attracting Irish and multinational investment, and growing jobs and wealth in local communities.

To deliver on this goal the new Minister will develop a new and improved Town and

Village Renewal Scheme with input from the Oireachtas in time for Budget 2017. As part of this scheme we will propose to commit additional funding to support the development of rural towns and villages, as a key priority for revitalising rural Ireland.

As part of this additional funding, we will double the funding available for the Rural Walks Scheme from €2million to €4million to increase the number of walks covered from 40 to 80.

Following the completion of the tender process and the awarding of the contract, targeted for June 2017, the new Government will work with the winners to accelerate the roll out of the infrastructure next year. We will work with local councils to establish broadband taskforces to help facilitate the local rollout of commercial and National Broadband Plan infrastructure in each county area. The relevant Cabinet Committee will be updated regularly on the progress of the National Broadband Plan.

The new Government will act swiftly on the recommendations of the Post Office Business Development Group by supporting the introduction and rollout, by An Post, of an 'ePayment Account' in 2016, to enhance post office activity in financial services and increase footfall.

We will also advance a new model of 'community banking' by requesting An Post and the League of Credit Unions, as well as any other interested stakeholders, to investigate and propose a new model of community banking that provides a suite of banking services through the large network of Post Offices. This could be based on the Kiwibank model in New Zealand, where the Post Office owned bank provides a comprehensive suite of financial services, from personal loans and bank accounts to credit cards, business banking, and insurance. We will thoroughly investigate the German Sparkassen model for the development of local public banks that operate within well-defined regions

The new Government will also establish the feasibility of offering motor tax services and other State services in post offices.

We will establish a working group to identify the potential for local post offices to act as 'hubs' to facilitate other services such as health and transport and a one-stop-shop for Government services.

We will also support the establishment of a post office network renewal process to build on An Post's existing 5-year strategy for the network.

The Government commits to the continuation of the current process involving all stakeholders including the NPWS, Government appointed scientists and the TCCA. The Government will do all in its power to facilitate and expedite this process, including providing additional resources, to provide impacted turf cutters with an agreed and reasonable alternative, with the aim of making substantial progress within the lifetime of this Government.

The Government will publish new legislation to de-designate 46 NHAs within the first 100 days of Government.

The Government commits to reviewing the timetable for the implementation of actions relating to NHAs in consultation with the EU.

The Government is committed to building on the progress already made on SACs and will continue working to expedite the relocation process.

We will introduce a new small grants scheme to provide essential upgrades to existing regional arts and culture centres and support the Heritage Council.

We will respond to the Western Development Commission's Creative West report within three months.

We will also boost supports to facilitate increased loans between our National Cultural Institutions and our network of regional museums.

We will also expand the Historic Towns Initiative to include more towns.

We will support the traditional heritage of literature, music, song & dance.

To aid the development of Greenways, the Minister for Transport will develop national guidelines for Greenway public consultation, planning, and construction to help guide local authorities and agencies

The new Government will continue to commemorate the most significant events in the history of this State, ensuring that these commemorations are inclusive, and enhance our understanding of our shared history, particularly among children and young people, so that they have a meaningful and lasting impact.

We will develop and publish an updated National Heritage Plan that sets out policies for the protection and promotion of our built and natural heritage and responds to challenges within the heritage sector.

We will also implement the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Heritage so that Ireland's unique cultural heritage assets, such as hurling, uilleann piping and the Folklore Collection in UCD, are given UNESCO recognition and status.

Work to progressively increase funding to the arts, including the Arts Council and the Irish Film Board, as the economy continues to improve

Implement the Arts in Education Charter, which provides an unprecedented opportunity for children and young people to engage in a proactive and meaningful way with arts in education in Ireland

Encourage each local authority to strengthen the role of arts and heritage officers. We

will establish stronger links between arts and heritage officers, the Office of Public Works, Fáilte Ireland, the Arts Council, as well as with Local Enterprise Offices, to develop and promote opportunities for arts and cultural tourism

Introduce a new small grants scheme to provide essential upgrades to existing regional arts and cultural centres around the country, including regional theatres

Prioritise the publication of Culture 2025, the first national cultural policy. It will consider a range of important issues including: supporting artists and creative workers, improving access to culture, breaking down barriers in areas of social exclusion and disadvantage, and how culture is enriched by greater cultural diversity. The publication of Culture 2025 follows a widespread consultation process with relevant stakeholders

Boost supports to regional museums and facilitate increased loans between our National Cultural Institutions and our network of regional museums

Work with the Irish Film Board/Screen Ireland to ensure that Ireland is maximised as a location for international film production

Support a built heritage investment scheme on an annual basis to support the conservation of heritage structures and the regeneration of urban and rural areas

We will further encourage strong, mutually beneficial links between the business community and arts organisations. This approach will be based on helping arts organisations to capitalise on sponsorship opportunities, and develop business partnerships and fundraising skills.

The Irish language is of crucial importance to our heritage and culture. The new Government needs to systematically implement the 20-Year Strategy for the Irish language, increase the number of people using Irish in their daily lives and ensure that Irish becomes a more visible language in today's society, both as a spoken language and also in areas such as signage and literature.

Focus on job creation in the Gaeltacht, through Údarás na Gaeltachta

Encourage the attendance by children in Irish-medium pre-schools or naíonraí in Gaeltacht areas.

Recognise the importance of the status of Irish as a full working language of the EU institutions and work towards ending the derogation, as circumstances allow increase investment in the Irish language.

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

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

		Dublin 8
National Concert Hall	www.nch.ie	National Concert Hall Earlsfort Terrace Dublin 2
National Gallery of Ireland	www.nationalgallery.ie	National Gallery of Ireland Merrion Square West Dublin 2
National Library of Ireland	www.nli.ie	National Library of Ireland Kildare Street Dublin 2
National Museum of Ireland	www.museum.ie	National Museum of Ireland Collins Barracks Benburb Street Dublin 7
Western Development Commission	www.wdc.ie	Western Development Commission Dillon House, Ballaghaderreen Co Roscommon
Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch (Ulster-Scots Agency)	www.ulsterscotsagency.com	The Ulster-Scots Agency The Corn Exchange Belfast, BT1 2LG Northern Ireland
Údarás na Gaeltachta	www.udaras.ie	Údarás na Gaeltachta Na Forbacha Co. na Gaillimhe
Waterways Ireland	www.waterwaysireland.org	Waterways Ireland 2 Sligo Road Enniskillen, BT74 7JY Co. Fermanagh Northern Ireland

**Appendix 3:
EXPENDITURE**

SUBHEAD	OUTTURN FOR 2016 ADMINISTRATION	OUTTURN €'000
X.1	Salaries, Wages and Allowances	31,175
X.2	Travel and Subsistence	1,196
X.3	Training and Development and Incidental Expenses	845
X.4	Postal and Telecommunications Services	473
X.5	Office Equipment and External IT Services	1,811
X.6	Office Premises Expenses	726
X.7	Consultancy Services and Value for Money and Policy Reviews	3
	TOTAL	36,229
ARTS, CULTURE & FILM		
A.1	Administration – Pay	5,709
A.2	Administration – Non-Pay	1,063
A.3	Payments to match resources generated by the National Archives	40
A.4	General Expenses of the National Archives and National Archives Advisory Council	1,274
A.5	General Expenses of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Chester Beatty Library, National Concert Hall and the Crawford Gallery	10,876
A.6	Regional Museums, Galleries, Cultural Centres and Projects	2,925
A.7	Cultural Infrastructure and Development	15,352
A.8	Culture Ireland	5,496
A.9	An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Part Funded by National Lottery)	60,120
A.10	General Expenses of the National Museum of Ireland	12,120
A.11	General Expenses of the National Library of Ireland	6,944
A.12	Irish Film Board	15,571
A.13	General Expenses of the National Gallery of Ireland	7,636
A.14	National City of Culture	0
A.15	Decade of Centenaries 1912-1922	28,374
A.16	Cork Event Centre	0
	TOTAL	173,499
HERITAGE		
B.1	Administration – Pay	18,514
B.2	Administration – Non-Pay	1,590
B.3	Grant of An Chomhairle Oidreachta (Heritage Council) (part funded by National Lottery)	5,243
B.4	Built Heritage	2,402
B.5	Natural Heritage (National Parks and Wildlife Service)	17,074
B.6	Irish Heritage Trust	324
B.7	Built Heritage Jobs Leverage Scheme	2,102
B.8	Peatlands Restoration	800
	TOTAL	48,049

GAELTACHT

C.1	Administration – Pay	2,949
C.2	Administration – Non-Pay	789
C.3	Gaeltacht Support Schemes	8,292
C.4	Irish Language Support Schemes (Part Funded by National Lottery)	3,594
C.5	An Coimisinéir Teanga	639
C.6	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Administration	8,823
C.7	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Current Programme Expenditure	3,000
C.8	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Grants for Projects and Capital Expenditure on Premises	9,087
C.9	Islands	13,274
C.10	20 Year Strategy for the Irish Language - 2010-2030	999
C.11	Decade of Centenaries – Teach an Phiarsaigh	1,900
	TOTAL	53,346

NORTH-SOUTH CO-OPERATION

D.1	Administration – Pay	1,058
D.2	Administration – Non-Pay	683
D.3	An Foras Teanga	13,249
D.4	Waterways Ireland	26,567
	TOTAL	41,557

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS

E.1	Administration – Pay	2,947
E.2	Administration – Non-Pay	929
E.3	Dormant Accounts Measures	432
E.4	Western Development Commission	1,639
E.5	National Rural Development Schemes	24,794
E.6	Leader – Rural Economy Sub Programme	9,989
E.7	Tidy Towns Competition	1
E.8	Town and Village Regeneration	9,880
E.9	Rural Broadband, Post offices and Regional Economic Development	1,089
	TOTAL	51,699

GROSS EXPENDITURE TOTAL	368,150
APPROPRIATIONS-IN-AID	(8,620)
NET EXPENDITURE TOTAL	359,530



An Roinn
Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Department of
Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2016



Misean agus Sainordú	3
Focal ón Aire	4
Focal ón Ard-Rúnaí	5
Spriocanna agus Straitéisí	6
Dul Chun Cinn in 2016	
Sprioc 1: Na hEalaíona, Cultúr, Scannán agus Ceol	7
Sprioc 2: Oidhreacht Thógtha agus Nádúrtha	15
Sprioc 3: An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin	28
Sprioc 4: Comhoibriú Thuaidh Theas	33
Sprioc 5: Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha agus Tuaithe	37
Gnóthaí Corparáideacha	43
Aguisín 1 – Clár an Rialtais – Gealltanais a bhaineann leis an An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta	44
Aguisín 2 – Gníomhaireachtaí agus Comhlachtaí a Mhaoinítear as Grúpa Vótaí na Roinne	51
Aguisín 3 – An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta – Caiteachas in 2016	53

Misean agus Sainordú

Déanann an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta maoirseacht ar chosaint agus ar chur i láthair oidhreacht agus chultúr na hÉireann. Is iad ár spriocanna oidhreacht agus cultúr na hÉireann a chosaint agus a chur chun cinn, úsáid na Gaeilge a bhrú chun cinn agus tacú le forbairt inbhuanaithe na n-oileán.

Is iad seo a leanas na príomhfheidhmeanna atá faoina cúram:

- Na hEalaíona, Cultúr, Scannán agus Ceol, chomh maith le maoirseacht ar Fhorais Chultúir na hÉireann;
- Oidhreacht Thógtha agus Nádúrtha na hÉireann;
- An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin; agus
- Comhoibriú Thuaidh/Theas a mhéid is a bhaineann sé le hUiscebhealaí Éireann, An Foras Teanga agus feidhmeanna ginearálta na Roinne.

Chomh maith leis an luach ollmhór a bhaineann leo, is áis luachmhar iad ár dteanga, ár gcultúr agus ár n-oidhreacht do ghnó agus do thurasóireacht agus mar bhealach chun tacú le forbairt gheilleagrach agus Éire a chur chun cinn mar cheann scríbe tarraingteach d'infheistíocht inbhuanaithe isteach. Ó bunaíodh é sa bhliain 2011, tá an Roinn ag féachaint leis na sócmhainní seo a chothú tuilleadh d'fhonn iad a fhorbairt agus a chothabháil do na glúnta atá le teacht, agus cur lena gcumas fás agus fostaíocht inbhuanaithe a chruthú sa gheilleagar i gcoitinne.

In 2016 sannadh freagracht ar an Roinn freisin as sraith gníomhartha faoi Chlár an Rialtais a ceapadh chun forbairt chomhtháite tuaithe a éascú ag leibhéal áitiúil agus fás phobail bheoga, inbhuanaithe agus chuimsitheacha a chothú. Tugtar aghaidh ar na hábhair sin freisin sa Straitéis seo. Cé go bhfuil cuid mhór ar bun cheana le tacú le forbairt tuaithe trí straitéisí éagsúla Rialtais, cuirtear cur chuige feiceálach, comhtháite, comhordaithe ar fáil den chéad uair, ar fud an Rialtais, leis an bPlean Gníomhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe a foilsíodh in Eanáir 2017 i leith chur i bhfeidhm polasaithe eacnamaíocha agus sóisialta a imríonn tionchar ar phobail tuaithe. Beidh sé mar struchtúr uileghabhálach do chomhordú agus cur chun feidhme tionscnamh a théann chun leasa na gceantar tuaithe in Éirinn.

Tá an Roinn tar éis bheith ag obair le gach páirtí leasmhara agus gach páirtí ábhartha, in éineacht lenár gcomhpháirtithe san earnáil phoiblí, leis na cuspóirí sin a bhaint amach trí pholasaithe agus cláir den scoth a fhorbairt agus a chur i bhfeidhm d'fhonn cultúr, teanga agus oidhreacht uathúil na hÉireann a chaomhnú, a chosaint agus a chur ar taispeáint.

Focal ón Aire

Ba mhór an onóir dom é a bheith ceaptha mar Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta ag an Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar, T.D. i mí na Nollag 2017. Is cúis áthais dom anois, áfach, an tuarascáil seo a thabhairt i láthair ina bhféachtar siar ar 2016 – bliain a raibh éachtaí áirithe agus suntasacha bainte amach don Roinn.

Faoi mhaoirseacht an Aire Heather Humphreys, T.D., agus an tArd-Rúnaí Joe Hamill (a d'imigh ar scor go luath in 2017), bhí an Roinn i gceannas ar eagrú an Chláir Chomórtha Céad Bliain a spreag ábhar spéise áirithe ar fud na tíre.

Chomh maith leis seo, leanadh leis an obair thábhachtach atá againn ár nOidhrecht Thógtha agus Nádúrtha a chaomhnú agus tacú leis na hEalaíona. Faoi mhaoirseacht na nAirí Stáit, Seán Kyne, T.D., agus a réamhtheachtaí Joe McHugh, T.D., rinneadh dul chun cinn suntasach i dtaca leis an Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge, agus faoi mhaoirseacht Michael Ring, T.D., tugadh chun tosaigh forbairt an Phlean Ghníomhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe ar bhealach eiseamláireach.

Is léiriú é an tuarascáil seo ar éagsúlacht oibre na Roinne seo agus tiomantas a chuid ball foirne araon torthaí a sheachadadh thar réimse a chuid cúraimí. Tréasláim leo siúd uile a chur le hobair na Roinne in 2016. Tá mé féin agus mo chomhghleacaí, Joe McHugh, T.D., ag súil le bheith ag obair leis an Ard-Rúnaí agus le foireann na Roinne chun leanúint leis an tsraith éachtaí seo sa bhliain romhainn.



Josepha Madigan T.D.

Aire Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta

Focal ón Ard-Rúnaí

Tréimhse go speisialta gnóthach agus dúshlánach don Roinn í bliain comórtha 2016, agus tá áthas orm aitheantas a thabhairt d’obair na gcomhghleacaithe ar fud na Roinne uile a chur leis an gceiliúradh comórtha ar bhealach a bhí chomh soiléir agus luachmhar, agus aitheantas don chur chun cinn agus caomhnú leanúnach ar ár gcultúr, oidhreacht agus teanga uathúil i rith na bliana.

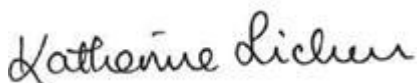
Agus mé tagtha chun na Roinne go luath in 2017, ba mhaith liom mo bhuíochas a léiriú d’obair mo chuid comhghleacaithe, idir iar-chomhghleacaithe agus chomhghleacaithe reatha, as ucht an ionchur rathúil a bhí acu i mbliain stairiúil. Thug Joe Hamill agus a fhoireann tacaíocht den scoth don Aire Humphreys agus dá hAirí Stáit agus iad ag déanamh soláthair thar réimse iomlán gníomhaíochtaí na Roinne in 2016.

Ba é buaicphointe na bliana gan dabht an obair a raibh faoi cheannas ag Oifig Tionscadail 2016, i gcomhar le comhghleacaithe in Oifig Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí, i Roinn an Taoisigh, sa Roinn Cosanta agus sna Fórsaí Cosanta, agus i Ranna eile Rialtais. Bhí sé mar thoradh air seo gur ceiliúradh dearfach agus cuimsitheach a bhí ann ar an mbliain stairiúil seo. Ghlac baill foirne ar fud na Roinne páirt i réimse imeachtaí, agus ní amháin gur chothaigh siad meoin láidir bróid phobail agus náisiúnta, ach chuir cumas agus díograis ár seirbhíseach poiblí os comhair an phobail.

Mar a d’fheicfí le fiú sracfhéachaint ar an Tuarascáil seo, tá cúram leathan agus dúshlánach ag an Roinn seo a bhfuil tionchar aige ar shaoránaigh ar fud na tíre agus níos faide i gcéin agus muid ag déanamh teagmhála lenár ndiaspóra trí réimse tionscnamh i dtaca leis na healaíona, an cultúr, an Ghaeilge, agus trínár n-ionchur do chaomhnú ár n-oidhreachta saibhre.

Sa bhliain atá faoi athbhreithniú, rinneadh athrú suntasach ar ról na Roinne agus glacadh le freagrachtaí nua as an bhForbairt Tuaithe – atá sannta anois don Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail. Chuaigh an ghairmiúlacht agus díograis lena ghlac bainisteoirí agus baill foirne i leith na ndúshlán seo i bhfeidhm orm, agus ba mhaith liom mo dheaghúil don am romhainn a thabhairt dóibh siúd a d’imigh ar aghaidh chun obair sa Roinn nua.

Deirtear go mbíonn cúrsaí ag síorathrú anois, agus is mar sin a bhí sé don Roinn in 2016, mar atá curtha síos sa tuarascáil seo. Tá mé ag súil le bheith ag obair leis an Aire Madigan, leis an Aire Stáit McHugh, agus le comhghleacaithe ar fud na Roinne agus muid féachaint le tógáil ar na tionscnaimh a cuireadh i gcrích in 2016 agus níos faide romhainn amach.



Katherine Licken
Ard-Rúnaí

Spríocanna agus Straitéisí

Tá baint ag an Roinn le réimse leathan gníomhaíochtaí agus soláthar seirbhíse. Ar mhaithe le críocha na Tuarascála Bhlantúla seo, tá obair na Roinne grúpáilte i gceithre phríomhearnáil, mar atá leagtha amach thíos.

Is iad na ceithre hearnáil, i dteannta na spríocanna atá sainaitheanta do gach aon cheann acu:

Na hEalaíona, Cultúr, Ceol agus Scannán

Spríoc 1: Láidreachtaí ealaíonta agus cruthaitheacha na hÉireann a fhorbairt, a chur chun cinn agus a cheiliúradh sa bhaile agus thar lear, agus a mhéid is féidir a bhaint as a bhfiúntas do shochaí, do gheilleagar agus do chlú na tíre.

Oidhreacht Thógtha agus Nádúrtha

Spríoc 2: Ár n-oidhreacht uathúil a chaomhnú agus a bhainistiú ar mhaithe leis na glúine reatha agus leis na glúine atá le teacht, mar thaca d'athnuachan geilleagrach agus d'fhostaíocht inbhuanaithe, agus faoi réir oibleagáidí dlíthiúla.

An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin

Spríoc 3: Tacú leis an nGaeilge, úsáid na teanga mar phríomhtheanga an phobail sa Ghaeltacht a threisiú agus cuidiú le forbairt inbhuanaithe phobail na n-oileán.

Comhoibriú Thuaidh-Theas

Spríoc 4: Comhoibriú Thuaidh Theas a chur chun cinn, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs an Fhorais Teanga agus Uiscebhealaí Éireann.

Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha agus Tuaithe

Spríoc 5: Dul chun cinn fadtéarmach inbhuanaithe eacnamaíoch agus sóisialta a chur chun cinn agus a éascú ar fud na tuaithe in Éirinn.

Dul chun cinn le linn 2016 – Sprioc 1: Na hEalaíona, Cultúr, Ceol agus Scannán

Láidreachtaí ealaíonta agus cruthaitheacha na hÉireann a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn sa bhaile agus thar lear, agus a mhéid is féidir a bhaint as a bhfiúntas do shochaí, do gheilleagar agus do chluí na tíre.

Straitéis 1:

Polasaí Cultúir Náisiúta - *‘Éire Ildánach’* - a fhorbairt chomh maith le próiseas chun tacú le cur i bhfeidhm an pholasaí i gcomhar le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha.

I mí Iúil 2016 cuireadh *Culture 2025/Éire Ildánach* faoi bhráid an Rialtais. Is é seo an chéad Pholasaí Cultúir Náisiúnta in Éirinn, ina leagtar amach aidhmeanna ardleibhéil do na deich mbliana amach romhainn agus forbraíodh é i ndiaidh próiseas fairsing comhairliúcháin le páirtithe leasmhara ar fud na tíre.

I mí na Nollag 2016 seoladh Clár Éire Ildánach mar an phríomh-mheán forfheidhmithe do na tosaíochtaí a sainithníodh in *Culture 2025 / Éire Ildánach* agus mar Chlár Iarmhartach an Rialtais ag eascairt as Éire 2016: Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain.

Is tionscnamh ardleibhéil uailmhianach 5 bliana é Clár Éire Ildánach a chlúdaíonn na blianta ó 2017 go 2022, (an phrapáil le haghaidh comóradh céad bliain bhunú an Stáit) a bhfuil sé mar aidhm leis an chruthaitheacht a chur ag croílár pholasaí poiblí. Tá sé mar aidhm leis an chruthaitheacht a chur i mbéal an phobail agus í a bheith ina gnáthchuid de shaol an náisiúin ionas go mbeidh daoine in ann barr a gcumais chruthaithigh a bhaint amach, go haonarach agus i gcomhar lena chéile.

Straitéis 2:

Caomhnú agus feabhsú na mbailiúchán náisiúnta agus na gclár taispeántais agus soláthar tacaíochta do thionscnaimh réigiúnacha agus áitiúla i gcomhar leis na hInstitiúidí Cultúrtha Náisiúnta agus le geallsealbhóirí eile.

Tá ról lárnach i gcónaí ag na Forais Chultúir Náisiúnta i bhforbairt ealaíona agus cultúr na hÉireann. Tá ról lárnach acu freisin maidir lena chinntiú go bhfuil teacht ag an bpobal ar na healaíona agus ar an gcultúr in Éirinn.

Thug beagnach 4.9 milliún duine cuairt ar na Forais Chultúir Náisiúnta in 2016. Is ionann an figiúr sin agus méadú de 6.4% ar fhigiúirí 2016 de bheagán os cionn 4.5 milliún agus is féidir comparáid dhearfach a dhéanamh idir ár bhForais Chultúir agus á leithéidí ar fud an domhain.

Roinnt buaicphointí ó na hInstitiúidí in 2016

Ag suíomh **Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann (NMI)** ag Dún Uí Choileáin rinneadh an taispeántas *Soldiers and Chiefs – The Irish at War at Home and Abroad from 1550 to the present day* a chur i láthair, ina raibh gné ar líne freisin agus taispeántas tábhachtach 1916 dar teideal *Proclaiming a Republic: The 1916 Rising*. Chuir an NMI tús freisin le hobair ar phlean mór forbartha atá le críochnú in 207.

Rinne an **Leabharlann Náisiúnta** dul chun cinn ar a plean infheistíochta caipitil agus d'fhógair an tAire infheistiú caipitil de €10m do na háitribh stairiúla ar Shráid Chill Dara. Cabhróidh an plean infheistíochta seo áis den chéad scoth a dhéanamh den Leabharlann le cuid dár gcáipéisí stairiúla is tábhachtaí a stóráil agus a chur ar taispeáint. Cuireadh maoiniú ar fáil le hábhar de chuid W. B. Yeats a cheannach don Leabharlann Náisiúnta.

I n**Gailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann** leanadh ar aghaidh le hobair ar an mórthionscadal athchóirithe i sciatháin stairiúla Bhaile an Mhuilinn agus Dargan sa Ghailearaí, obair a cuireadh i gcrích in 2017. Le linn an tsamhraidh osclaíodh taispeántas de dheich gcinn de na líníochtaí is fearr de chuid Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519), as an mBailiúchán Ríoga.

Sa **Cheoláras Náisiúnta**, d'oscail an Taoiseach Seomra Ceadail stairiúil nuachóirithe Kevin Barry in Aibreán 2016. Rinneadh Seomraí Kevin Barry a athchóiriú mar cheann de na naoi 'Meabhrúcháin Bhuna' atá á bhforbairt in áiteanna a bhfuil suntas stairiúil ag baint leo, mar chuid d'Éire 2016: Clár Comórtha Céad Bliain an Rialtais.

Rinne **Áras Nua-Ealaíne na hÉireann** an taispeántas *IMMA Collection: Freud Project* a óstáil. Is bailiúchán é an taispeántas seo, a osclaíodh i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2016, de 50 saothar leis an bpéintéir réalaióch iontach Lucian Freud, duine de na péintéirí réalaiócha is fearr den 20ú haois agus thug sé deis nua do IMMA, áit nár tiomnaíodh gailearaithe do shaothair ná ealaíontóirí sonracha roimhe do thréimhse den fhad sin.

Baineadh forbairtí agus éachtaí suntasacha eile amach le linn 2016 freisin, lena n-áirítear:

- Maoiniú a leithdháileadh faoi Scéim na Músaem Áitiúil agus Réigiúnach do 19 dtionscadal ar leithligh a chlúdaigh raon leathan ó uasghrádú an spáis taispeántais in Ionad James Joyce go Caomhnú Léarscáileanna Chaisleán Leslie i Músaem Chontae Mhuineacháin.
- Ba é téama 2016 don chúigiú bliain den Tionscnamh um Cheiliúradh Idirnáisiúnta ar Chultúr na hÉireann, a tharla thar cheithre lá i gcomhthráth le Lá Fhéile Pádraig, ná Is Breá Liom mo Chathair.
- Seoladh taifid stairiúla Breitheanna, Póstaí agus Básanna ar an suíomh gréasáin www.irishgenealogy.ie i mí Mheán Fómhair 2016. Chuir an Phríomh-Oifig Clárúcháin (POC) taifid leictreonacha de Bhreithneanna, Póstaí agus Básanna

stairiúla (i.e. taifid bhreithe a bhí níos mó ná 100 bliain d'aois agus taifid bháis a bhí níos mó ná 50 bliain d'aois) ar fáil don Roinn ionas go bhféadfaí iad a chur ar www.irishgenealogy.ie. Tá níos mó ná 2.3 milliún amas faighte ag an suíomh gréasáin seo idir Meán Fómhair 2016 agus Nollaig 2017. Is comhthionscadal é seo leis an Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí agus an Phríomh-Oifig Chlárúcháin.

- I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2016 fógraíodh go raibh mórthaispeántas idirnáisiúnta á fhorbairt le saol agus sathaor bhuaiteoir an duais Nobel, Seamus Heaney, a cheiliúradh san Ionad nua Cultúir agus Oidhreachta i gcoimpléasc Bhanc na hÉireann ar Fhaiche an Choláiste. Is é taispeántas Heaney, atá á fhorbairt ag an Leabharlann Náisiúnta le tacú ón Roinn, an chéad taispeántas a bheidh san Ionad nua agus tá sé le hoscailt i lár 2018.

Straitéis 3:

Forbairt leanúnach an tionscnaimh 'Na hEalaíona san Oideachas'.

Leanadh ar aghaidh in 2016 le cur i gcrích rathúil Chairt na nEalaíon san Oideachas, forbartha ag an Roinn agus an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna. Tá ról ríthábhachtach ag an gCairt i gcur chun cinn an Oideachais Ealaíon agus i gcur chun cinn na nEalaíon san Oideachas trí chur chuige comhoibríoch ar fud na Ranna Rialtais, na ngníomhaireachtaí oideachais agus na n-eagraíochtaí ealaíon. Cuirfidh tairseach na nEalaíon san Oideachas www.artsineducation.ie, a bhfuil tacaíocht á fáil aici ón dá Roinn, deis úrnua ar fáil do dhaoine óga agus do gach grúpa leasmhar eile páirt tháirgiúil a ghlacadh sna healaíona san oideachas in Éirinn.

Straitéis 4:

Forbairt leanúnach bhonneagar ealaíon agus cultúir na hÉireann, de réir mar atá acmhainní ar fáil.

I mí Eanáir 2016 d'fhógair an tAire níos mó ná €400,000 de mhaoiniú d'eagraíochtaí ealaíon ar fud na tíre faoin Scéim um Dheontais Chaipitil Bheaga. Fuarthas níos mó ná 180 iarratas agus bronnadh suas go €10,000 ar níos mó ná 60 eagraíocht, le haghaidh tionscadail nuálacha agus chruthaitheacha lena gcur i gcrích a fheabhsú ó thaobh ealaíona agus cultúr a chur ar fáil ina bpobail.

I mí Iúil, d'fhógair an tAire scéim infheistíochta nua de luach €9 milliún d'ionaid ealaíon agus cultúir mar chuid de Chreat Infheistíochta Caipitil an Rialtais 2016-2021. Tá an scéim á reáchtáil thar thréimhse trí bliana agus tá sí dírithe ar uasghrádú a dhéanamh ar na hionaid ealaíon agus cultúir atá ar fud na tíre cheana. Tá an maoiniú á chur ar fáil.

I measc maoiniú suntasach eile a bronnadh le linn 2016 bhí €475,000 d'Amharclann na Mainistreach lena n-áiseanna a uasghrádú agus a chothabháil.

Straitéis 5:

Forbairt agus leathnú na hearnála léiriúcháin scannán, teilifíse agus beochana.

Ba bhliain shuntasach í 2016 don tionscal scannánaíochta in Éirinn, agus scaoileadh roinnt scannáin thábhachtacha Éireannacha. Ag searmanas na ngradam Oscar i mí Feabhra bhuaigh scannán Benjamin Cleary, *Stutterer*, an duais don Ghearrscannán Beoghnímh is Fearr, rud a chuireann leis an liosta iontach duaiseanna atá faighte ag an scannán seo. Tugadh aitheantas don scannán *Room* freisin, nuair a bronnadh an duais don Aisteoir Mná is Fearr ar Brie Larson.

Ar an iomlán, fuair léiriúcháin a fuair tacaíocht ó Bhord Scannán na hÉireann seacht n-ainmniúchán lenar áiríodh ainmniúchán Lenny Abrahamson don Stiúrthóir is Fearr agus Emma Donoghue don Script Oiriúnaithe Scannáin is Fearr, an dá cheann acu do *Room*. Ainmníodh *Room* agus *Brooklyn* araon i gcatagóir an Scannáin is Fearr; ainmníodh Brie Larson as *Room* agus Saoirse Ronan as *Brooklyn* sa chatagóir don Aisteoir Mná is Fearr i bPríomhról.

Ainmníodh Michael Fassbender freisin sa chatagóir don Aisteoir is Fearr i bPríomhról as a thaibhiú i scannán Danny Boyle, *Steve Jobs*, agus bhí *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, ar taifeadadh cuid de ar Sceilg Mhicíl i gCo. Chiarraí, ainmnithe i 5 chatagóir.

In 2016, ceadaíodh 76 tionscadal san iomlán do mhaoiniú faoi Scéim Alt 481 lena ndéantar foráil d'fhaoiseamh cánach corparáide d'infheistíocht i scannáin ag comhlachtaí.

I mí Iúil, d'fhógair an tAire go raibh Conradh nua Comhléiriúcháin Chlosamhairc sínithe idir Éirinn agus Ceanada le teacht in áit Chonradh Comhléiriúcháin 1989 agus le feabhas a chur ar shocruithe do scannáin, do dhrámaí teilifíse agus do chláir faisnéise a chomhléirítear ag comhlachtaí léiriúcháin Éireannacha agus Ceanadacha.

I mí na Nollag, d'fhógair an tAire go raibh anailís eacnamaíoch ar ár dtionscail chruthaitheacha scannán-bhunaithe á choimisiúnú. Féachfar sa staidéar ar thionchar agus acmhainneacht eacnamaíoch earnáil scannánaíochta, teilifíse agus beochana na hÉireann.

Straitéis 6:

Tacú le láithreachtaid idirnáisiúnta ealaíontóirí Éireannacha agus lucht leanúna nua a fhorbairt ar fud an domhain, ag leabú an cultúr i straitéis chur i láthair idirnáisiúnta an Rialtais.

Le linn 2016, thacaigh Cultúr Éireann le 450 tionscadal ealaíonta ar fud 60 tír, a bhain lucht féachana beo de 4.5 milliún duine amach, chomh maith le 15.5 milliún duine ar líne/ar an teilifís. I measc na dtionscadal ealaíonta sin bhí 100 féile, níos mó ná 80 camchuart amharclannaíochta/ceoil, 80 taispeántas agus aonach ealaíne agus 123 taispeántas scannáin, Chruthaigh Cultúr Éireann deiseanna agus conarthaí nua

d'ealaíontóirí Éireannacha trína thacaíocht do 160 tionscnóir ionaid agus féile le cuairt a thabhairt agus blaiseadh a fháil d'ealaíontóirí Éireannacha ag cur a gcuid saothar i láthair ag féilte in Éirinn.

Chuir Cultúr Éireann Clár speisialta Comórtha Céad Bliain dar teideal *Mise Éire* i láthair ar fud an domhain, le fócas faoi leith ar chríocha tábhachtacha - na Stáit Aontaithe, an Bhreatain Mhór, Ceanada agus an Astráil. I measc na mbuaicphointí bhí dhá imeacht i Londain i mí Aibreáin: *Imagining Ireland*, ceiliúradh ceoil ar ealaíontóirí na hÉireann, as Éirinn agus an Bhreatain, sa Royal Festival Hall; agus ceolchoirm sa Wigmore Hall ina raibh cuid mhór de na ceoltóirí clasaiceacha is fearr in Éirinn, rud a craoladh beo ar BBC Radio 3 agus ar RTÉ Lyric FM. Cuireadh tús i Mí na Bealtaine le *Ireland 100*, féile speisialta trí seachtaine d'ealaíona agus cultúr na hÉireann ag an Kennedy Center, Washington D.C.

Ar bhuaicphointí eile na bliana do Chultúr Éireann bhí:

- Ceangal, taibhiú speisialta ina raibh ealaíontóirí Éireannacha agus Albanacha páirteach sa Royal Concert Hall i nGlaschú i láthair an Uachtarán Uí Uiginn agus Chéad-Aire na hAlban i Mí an Mheithimh 2016.
- Aistriú nócha a naoi leabhar Éireannacha go teangacha iasachta lena n-áirítear *The Insurrection in Dublin* le James Stephens go Spáinnis, Beangáilis agus Tamailis; *The Guns of Easter* le Gerard Whelan go Beangáilis agus *Fallen* le Lia Mills go Tamailis, le Cuimhneachán Céad Bliain 1916 a chomóradh.
- Cuireadh léiriú Michael Keegan-Dolan de *Swan Lake/Loch na hEala* ar an stáitse ag Sadler's Wells i Londain ó mhí na Nollag sular tugadh ar camchuart domhanda é ón Eoraip go dtín Astráil.
- Ag Gradaim an Great Escape Festival in Brighton, bronnadh an gradam Best City Champion ar fhéile Hard Working Class Heroes Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus fuair Music from Ireland, a chuireann First Music Contact i láthair i gcomhpháirtíocht le Cultúr Éireann, an Best Export Office.

Rinneadh taispeántas na hÉireann ag an 15ú Biennale Ailtireachta Idirnáisiúnta, *Losing Myself*, a sheoladh sa Veinéis i Mí na Bealtaine. Díriodh *Losing Myself*, a bhí coimisiúnaithe agus curtha le chéile ag Niall McLaughlin agus Yeoryia Manolopoulou, ar ghalar Alzheimer agus rinneadh teagmháil le lucht féachana trí shuíomh gréasáin.

Straitéis 7:

Forbairt agus cur i gcrích chlár comórtha an Rialtais a stiúradh, le béim faoi leith ar *Éire 2016*, tionscnamh náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta le 100 bliain ó Éirí Amach 1916 a chomóradh.

Éire 2016

Rinneadh Clár Cuimhneacháin Éire 2016 a chomóradh le searmanais oifigiúla agus na céadta tionscnamh áitiúil. Tháinig níos mó ná aon mhilliún duine le chéile ar shráideanna Bhaile Átha Cliath thar dheireadh seachtaine na Cásca, mar chuid de cheiliúradh agus comóradh iontach. Leanadh leis an rannpháirtíocht seo ó shaoránaigh ar feadh na bliana 2016 ag searmanais ardaithe brataí, gníomhaíochtaí do Lá an Fhorógra sna scoileanna agus raon imeachtaí comhroinnte pobail, staire agus cultúir, agus rinneadh níos mó ná 3,500 imeacht a reáchtáil sa bhaile agus thar lear.

Rinneadh níos mó ná 60 searmanas stáit a reáchtáil le linn na bliana. D'oibrigh an Roinn go dlúth le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara ar nós Roinn an Taoisigh, an Roinn Cosanta, an Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála, an Roinn Oideachais agus Scileanna, Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí, Óglaigh na hÉireann, An Garda Síochána, agus Údaráis Áitiúla leis an gclár uaimhianach imeachtaí seo a chur i gcrích.

Ar bhuaicphointí eile na bliana:

- Bhronn ionadaithe do na hÓglaigh cóip den Fhorógra agus den Bhratach Náisiúnta ar gach bunscoil sa tír
- Rinne leanaí agus mic léinn níos mó ná 1,000 Forógra do Ghlúin Nua a uaslódáil ar an suíomh gréasáin Scoilnet (www.scoilnet.ie).
- Searmanais Stáit do leanaí, ina ndearnadh comóradh ar na páistí a fuair bás le linn an Éirí Amach;
- Searmanas sa Ghairdín Cuimhneacháin dóibh siúd a thug a mbeatha ar mhaithe le Saoirse na hÉireann;
- Rinneadh níos mó ná 2,500 searmanas speisialta a reáchtáil ar fud na tíre agus chuir gach ceann den 31 údarás áitiúil a bPlean Contae féin le chéile do Chomóradh Céad Bliain Éire 2016;
- Rinneadh na céadta míle acmhainn staire a chur i gcartlann agus a chur ar fáil don phobal den chéad uair mar chuid de mhórtionscnaimh dhigiteacha sa Leabharlann Náisiúnta, sa Chartlann Mhíleata agus i dTaisclann Dhigiteach na hÉireann, agus in áiteanna eile nach iad;
- Tá an taispeántas *Proclaiming a Republic – The 1916 Rising* ag Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann, Dún Uí Choiléain feicthe ag níos mó ná 390,000 duine ó osclaíodh é i Mí an Mhárta 2016;
- Aithníodh ról lárnach na Gaeilge in idéil na Glúine Réabhlóidí ag searmanas stáit i Músaem na bPiarsach, Ráth Fearnáin;
- Tugadh aitheantas ar ról na mban i 1916 le linn na bliana le taispeántais, cainteanna agus léirithe speisialta, lena áiríodh taispeántas ar camchuart a cuireadh le chéile go speisialta, dar teideal Mná 1916;
- Le clár Chultúr Éireann, *Mise Éire*, cuireadh mórtaispeántas speisialta i láthair le healaíontóirí Éireannacha na linne seo i gCeanada, san Astráil, san RA agus sna Stáit Aontaithe, agus cuireadh na mílte imeacht breise ar siúl ar fud na cruinne faoi stiúir líonra ambasáidí an Rialtais.

Cuimhneacháin Eile

Lean an Roinn ar aghaidh in 2016 le clár imeachtaí machnamhacha cuimhneacháin a

chomhordú, le cuidiú ón Sainghrúpa Comhairleach Staraithe faoi chathaoirleacht an Dr Maurice Manning, do Dheich mBlíana na gCuimhneachán.

An Chéad Chogadh Domhanda

D'fhreastail an tAire ar shraith imeachtaí comórtha sa Fhrainc le céad bliain ó Chath an Somme a chomóradh ar an 1 Iúil 2016, lenar áiríodh fleascleagan ag Cros Ginchy in Guillemont agus freastal ar léiriú speisialta de chuid Amharclann na Mainistreach, le tacaíocht ó Chultúr Éireann, de *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*, ag an Maison de la Culture, Amiens.

Bhí an tAire i láthair ag príomhchuímhneachán Chath an Somme ag Leacht Thiepval, áit a rinne an tUachtarán Micheál D. Ó hUigín ionadaíocht d'Éirinn. Bhí an tAire i láthair mar ionadaí Rialtas na hÉireann ag an searmanas ag Túr Uladh, a tógadh i gcuimhne 36ú Rannán Uladh.

D'fhreastail an tAire freisin ar ócáid bhliantúil Chumann an Somme in Guillemont ar an 3 Meán Fómhair 2016, áit a ndearnadh comóradh ar an méid a rinne an 16ú Rannán Éireannach san fheachtas.

Rinneadh saighdiúirí Éireannacha a fuair bás le linn Chath an Somme a chomóradh sa bhaile freisin. Ar an 1 Iúil, rinneadh searmanas míleata a reáchtáil i bPáirc Cuimhneacháin Náisiúnta an Chogaidh, Droichead na hInse, leis na Reisimintí Éireannacha a throid ag an Somme agus sa Chéad Chogadh Domhanda a onórú. Ag an láthair chéanna ar an Sathairn, an 9 Iúil, bhí cuimhneachán stáit ann i gcomhar leis an Royal British Legion. Bhí an tUachtarán Micheál D. Ó hUigín, an Taoiseach Enda Kenny agus an tAire Heather Humphreys i measc an lucht freastail.

Rinneadh muintir na hÉireann a fuair bás agus iad ag troid ag Gallipoli agus in áiteanna eile le linn an Chéad Chogaidh Domhanda ar fiannas le fórsaí na hAstráile agus na Nua-Shéalainne, a thabhairt chun cuimhne ag searmanas míleata bliantúil i nGráinseach Ghormáin Lá ANZAC (an 25 Aibreán), ag a raibh an tUachtarán i láthair.

Bhí an Taoiseach agus an tAire Dlí agus Cirt agus Comhionannais ag imeachtaí bliantúla Dhomhnach na gCuimhneachán in Inis Ceithleann agus i mBéal Feirste, faoi seach.

Rinneadh comóradh stáit a reáchtáil ar Fhaiche Stiabhna ar an 9 Meán Fómhair leis an Lt Thomas Kettle a thabhairt chun cuimhne, ar chomóradh céad bliain a bháis. I ndiaidh an tsearmanais seoladh taispeántas dar teideal *Fields of Battle, Lands of Peace: Somme 100"*.

Ar an 13 Samhain, bhí an tAire i gcuideachta Aire Stáit Iarshaighdiúirí agus Cuimhneacháin na Fraince san Aireacht Cosanta, Jean-Marc Todeschini, d'oirniú Leacht Cuimhneacháin na Fraince - na hÉireann i Reilig Ghlas Naíon. Bronnadh an leacht cuimhneacháin mar bhronntanas ar mhuintir na hÉireann ón Fhrainc, mar aitheantas ar dhlúthpháirtíocht agus íobairt go leor de mhuintir an oileáin ar mhaithe le cosaint agus saoirse na Fraince, go háirithe le linn an Chéad Chogaidh Domhanda.

Straitéis 8:

Teagmháil ghníomhach le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha eile chun tacú le cur i gcrích tráthúil mhórtionscadail chomórtha chaipitil.

Faoin gclár caipitil de thionscadail athchóirithe agus forbartha cuireadh tuairim is €31 milliún de chistiú caipitil ar fáil do líon áirithe mórtionscadal comórtha faoi mhaoirseacht Oifig Éire 2016, rud a chruthaigh oidhreacht fhadtéarmach do chlár comórtha 2016. Áirítear orthu sin:

- ionad cuairteoirí Ard-Oifig an Phoist, Witness History;
- athchóiriú ar pháirteanna sonracha de Dhún Richmond agus cruthú spáis taispeántais agus léirithe, i gcomhar le Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath;
- athdheisiú agus athchóiriú an Athenaeum in Inis Córthaidh;
- ionad cultúrtha nua, Ionad Cultúrtha an Phiarsaigh, in aice le Teach an Phiarsaigh i Ros Muc, Co. na Gaillimhe; agus
- athfhorbairt Sheomraí Kevin Barry sa Cheoláras Náisiúnta.

Ar na hoibreacha caipitil eile a rinneadh mar chuid den Chlár Comórtha Céad Bliain bhí athchóiriú Theach Cúirte Chill Mhaighneann agus a chur in oiriúint mar ionad nua cuairteoirí do Phríosún Chill Mhaighneann agus Cartlann Mhíleata nua a cuireadh ar fáil i nDún Chathail Bhrugha.

Leanadh ar aghaidh freisin leis an obair le 14 Sráid Henrietta a fhorbairt mar Mhúsaem Tionóntáin, i gcomhar le Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath. Cuireadh stad le tionscadal chun Ionad Comórtha 1916 a sholáthar agus an Séadchomhartha Náisiúnta ag 14-17 Sráid an Mhúraigh a athchóiriú mar thoradh ar imeachtaí na hArdchúirte. Bhí tuilleadh oibreacha teoranta d'fhonn na foirgnimh a dhéanamh sábháilte agus a chosaint go dtí go mbeadh toradh ar achomharc an Aire in aghaidh bhreithiúnais na hArdchúirte ar siúl ag deireadh na bliana agus cuireadh i gcrích iad ó sin.

Dul chun cinn le linn 2016 – Sprioc 2: Oidhreacht Thógtha agus Nádúrtha

Ár n-oidhreacht uathúil a chaomhnú agus a bhainistiú ar mhaithe leis na glúine reatha agus leis na glúine atá le teacht, mar thaca d'athnuachan geilleagrach agus d'fhostaíocht inbhuanaithe, agus faoi réir oibleagáidí dlíthiúla.

Straitéis 1:

Cinntiú go bhfuil sraith polasaithe agus reachtaíocht i bhfeidhm ag Éirinn le riachtanais nua-aimseartha a chomhlíonadh chomh maith le hoibleagáidí oidhreachta an AE agus oibleagáidí oidhreachta idirnáisiúnta.

Oidhreacht Nádúrtha

Bainistiú Talamh Portaigh

Foilsíodh an chéad Straitéis Náisiúnta Tailte Móna i mí an Mheithimh 2016. Tháinig Grúpa Forfheidhmithe na Straitéise Tailte Móna le chéile faoi dhó le linn 2016. Seolfar an chéad tuarascáil ar dhul chun cinn maidir le cur i bhfeidhm na straitéise chuig an Rialtas in 2017. Rinneadh dul chun cinn ar an bPlean Náisiúnta Bainistíochta um Limistéirí faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta ar Phortaigh Ardaithe 2017-2022 agus foilsíodh é. Ag eascairt as an Athbhreithniú ar Líonra Limistéar Oidhreachta Nádúrtha na bPortach Ardaithe in 2014, rinneadh an Bille um Fhiadhúlra (Leasú) 2016 a fhoilsiú ar an 22 Iúil 2016 agus tá sé á chur a ghaoidh trí Thithe an Oireachtais faoi láthair.

Eolaíocht agus Bithéagsúlacht

Foilsíodh cuspóirí caomhantais suíomhoiriúnaithe mionsonraithe do 55 suíomh Natura in 2016. Áiríodh orthu sin LCSanna atá roghnaithe do ghnáthóga ar phortaigh ardaithe, ar bhratphortaigh agus ar an gcósta. Bhí obair ar chuspóirí caomhantais do 55 LCS breise ar siúl faoi dheireadh na bliana.

Rinneadh dul chun cinn freisin ar dhréacht-reachtaíocht nua maidir le Speicis Choimhthíocha Ionracha (IAS) a chomhlíonfaidh oibleagáidí AE agus a rachaidh i ngleic go cuimsitheach le IAS go ginearálta agus sa chomhthéacs náisiúnta freisin.

Rinneadh Plean Gníomhaíochta nua um Bithéagsúlacht Náisiúnta (2017-2021) a dhréachtú agus a thabhairt go céim comhairliúcháin phoiblí. Leagtar amach sa phlean raon cuspóirí le dúshlán bithéagsúlachta na hÉireann a shárú chomh maith lena hoibleagáidí idirnáisiúnta thar shaolré an Phlean agus foilsíodh é in 2017.

Polasaí Oidhreachta Tógtha agus Ailtireachta

An Bille Oidhreachta 2016

Tugadh isteach an Bille Oidhreachta 2016 sa Seanad agus tugadh go céim an choiste é. I gceist leis an mBille tá leasú ar Acht na gCanálacha 1986, ar na hAchtanna um Fhiadhúlra agus ar an Acht Oidhreachta 1995. D'éascair na leasuithe ar an Acht Oidhreachta 1995 as moltaí Thuarascáil an Athbhreithnithe Chriticiúil ar an gComhairle Oidhreachta, a cheadaigh an Rialtas in 2013.

Clár Forfheidhmithe Pholasaí an Rialtais ar Ailtireacht

Foilsíodh Tuarascálacha Bliantúla Pholasaí an Rialtais ar Ailtireacht do 2013-2016 agus lean an Roinn lena hinfheistiú i dtionscnamh deontas tacaíoch le gníomhartha leanúnacha laistigh den pholasaí a thabhairt chun críche.

An Straitéis Náisiúnta Tírdhreacha

Seoladh an Straitéis Náisiúnta Tírdhreacha i Mí na Bealtaine 2016. Tugadh faoin obair thosaigh ar Mheasúnú ar Nádúr an Tírdhreacha Náisiúnta, ar phríomhghníomh é de chuid na Straitéise, mar aon le gníomhartha tacaíoch maidir le hoideachas agus feasacht.

Tithe Stairiúla

Foilsíodh an Plean Gníomhaíochta do Thithe Stairiúla faoi Úinéireacht Phríobháideach i Mí na Samhna 2015. Ag eascairt ón Phlean, cuireadh €86,550 de Mhaoiniú do Struchtúir i mBaol ar fáil le haghaidh oibreacha ar 11 Teach Stairiúil agus ullmhaíodh páipéar comhairliúcháin phoiblí ar Alt 482 den Acht Comhdhlúite Cánacha 1997 i gcomhar leis an Roinn Airgeadais.

Síníodh Comhaontuithe Seirbhíse idir an Roinn agus an Comhairle Oidhreachta agus Cumann Tithe Stairiúla na hÉireann.

Clár Fhardal Náisiúnta na hOidhreachta Ailtireachta (NIAH)

Mar chuid de Chlár Comórtha Céad Bliain 1916, d'fhoilsigh an NIAH ceithre théacs dá chuid maidir le Foirgneamh na Míosa i dtaca le foirgnimh a bhí bainteach leis an Éirí Amach, Músaem na bPíarsach, Ard-Oifig an Phoist, Príosún Chill Mhaighneann agus an Athenaeum in Inis Córthaidh. Chomhoibrigh sé freisin le Cartlann Ailtireachta na hÉireann ar thaispeántas maidir le héifeachtaí an Éirí Amach ar chreatlach na cathrach.

Seandálaíocht

Cuireadh dlús nua le dréachtú an Bhille comhtháite nuashonraithe Séadchomharthaí nuair a rinne Oifig na nDréachtóirí Parlaiminte acmhainní breise a leithdháileadh.

Cuireadh dréacht nuashonraithe de Phlean Bainistíochta Bhrú na Bóinne faoi bhráid UNESCO lena bhreithniú i gcomhthráth le tabhairt isteach nósanna imeachta comhairliúcháin nua maidir le pleanáil ag leibhéal áitiúil.

Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an dul chun cinn le Liosta Ionadaíoch de shuíomhanna féideartha Oidhreachta Domhanda nua agus an Measúnacht Theicniúil do na Suíomhanna Ríoga. Leanadh ar aghaidh freisin le linn na bliana leis an Scéim um Thaighde Stiúrtha a dhéantar a réachtáil tríd Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann.

Straitéis 2:

Cur i bhfeidhm agus, nuair is cuí, forfheidhmiú éifeachtach polasaithe agus reachtaíocht oidhreachta a chinntiú, lena n-áirítear trí thríú páirtithe.

Chuaigh an Roinn i dteagmháil go gníomhach le raon leathan údarás poiblí agus ghlac páirt i sainghrúpaí oibre idir-Rannacha iomadúla d'fhonn cabhrú le húdaráis phoiblí a n-oibleagáidí a chomhlíonadh i dtaca leis na Treoracha Dúlra.

Tá an Roinn freagrach as na riachtanais cheadúnais faoi na hAchtanna Fiadhúlra agus Rialacháin na gComhphobal Eorpach (Éin agus Gnáthóga Dúlra) 2011. D'éisigh an Roinn níos mó ná 7,400 ceadúnas agus cead do ghníomhaíochtaí éagsúla in 2016, 64% acu (níos mó ná 4,700) do sheilg fianna.

Saincheisteanna a bhain le Tailte Móna

Lean an Roinn, i gcomhar leis an gComhairle Tailte Móna, ar aghaidh in 2016 ag déanamh dul chun cinn maidir le cosaint na bportach ardaithe i limistéir na hÉireann atá faoi chaomhnú speisialta laistigh de chreat na Treorach maidir le Gnáthóga ón AE.

In 2016 coinníodh suas an mhonatóireacht ón aer agus ar an talamh ar shuíomhanna bainte móna i gcomhar leis an nGarda Síochána agus leis an Aerchór. Baineadh móin ar tuairim is 330 ceap ar 24 de na suíomhanna faoi chosaint, arb ionann é agus laghdú suntasach ar leibhéil 2011 (nuair a baineadh móin ar 1,300 ceap).

Faoin Scéim Cúitimh um Scor de Bhaint Móna rinneadh 2,666 íocaíocht bhliantúil agus 112 seachadadh móna in 2016. Rinneadh íocaíochtaí dreasachta aonuaire de €500 freisin i leith 179 iarrthóir. Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an obair le lucht bainte móna a athlonnú ó LCSanna ar phortaigh ardaithe go portaigh neamh-ainmnithe.

Cuireadh tús le linn 2016 le tionscadal €5.4m cúig bliana a fhaigheann maoiniú faoi chlár 2014-2020 EU LIFE Natura d'fhonn portach ardaithe gníomhach a athshlánú in 12 áit i Líonra LCS na hÉireann.

Scéim Cúitimh um Scor de Bhaint Móna

	go deireadh- 2014	go deireadh- 2015	go deireadh- 2016
Iarratais a fuarthas	3,041	3,392	3,482
Íocaíochtaí a rinneadh	6,429	8,943	11,536
Seachadtaí Móna	650	789	902
Comhaontuithe Dhlíthiúla a seoladh ar ais	1,394	1,625	1,827
Íocaíochtaí Aon-Uaire (€500)	3,310	1,544	1,703

Ainmniúcháin

Leanadh ar aghaidh le clár ainmniúcháin Limistéar faoi Chaomhnú Speisialta agus rinneadh 104 LCS a ainmniú go foirmeálta faoi dheireadh 2016.

Rinneadh 12 shuíomh féideartha eile (9 gcinn nua; 3 shíneadh) a fhógairt, agus cuireadh na hainmniúcháin bheartaithe in iúl d'úinéirí talún.

Tá caighdeán nua na hÉireann do zúnna curtha i bhfeidhm go rathúil, lena cuireadh

córas nua cigireachta agus ceadúnaithe zú i bhfeidhm, a chomhlíonann reachtaíocht na hÉireann agus oibleagáidí an AE. In 2016 rinneadh cigireacht ar 22 zú san iomlán agus sainathnódh 52 cinn eile lena scrúdú sa chéad chéim eile.

Reachtaíocht, Ceadúnú agus Bainistiú Maoine

Le linn 2016 fuair an Roinn 6,691 iarratas pleanála agus rinneadh iad a phróiseáil agus ansin seoladh ar aghaidh iad chuig an Aire ina ról mar chomhairlí reachtúil faoin *Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt, 2000* le haghaidh tuairimí nó aighneachtaí i dtaca le himpleachtaí forbairtí beartaithe a d'fhéadfadh tionchar a bheith acu ar an oidhreacht thógtha nó nádúrtha. B'ionann an líon sin agus méadú de 20% ar líon iomlán na n-iarratas pleanála a chuir údarais phleanála ar aghaidh in 2015. Chuathas i ndáil chomhairle le rannáin oidhreachta na Roinne freisin i dtaca le beagnach 400 cás i ndáil le forbairtí beartaithe ag an gcéim réamh-phleanála.

Ina theannta sin, fuair an tAire, ina ról mar 'chomhlacht comhairliúcháin' nó 'comhlacht forordaithe' faoi reachtanna éagsúla eile, níos mó ná 1,800 tarchur ó údarais phoiblí in 2016 le haghaidh tuairimí nó aighneachtaí maidir leis na himpleachtaí a bhain leis na gníomhaíochtaí atá á rialú acu, a bhféadfadh tionchar a bheith acu ar an oidhreacht thógtha nó nádúrtha (e.g. iarratais ar cheánais chladaigh, ceadúnais le crainn a leagan).

Seandálaíocht

Lean an Roinn ar aghaidh ag cur a feidhmeanna i gcrích faoi Achtanna na Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta 1930-2004. Rinneadh imscrúduithe i leith 117 tuairisc ar bhagairt nó damáiste do shéadchomharthaí agus breathnaíodh ar 304 fógra maidir le beartú chun obair a dhéanamh ag séadchomhartha, nó gar dó. Mhaoinigh an Roinn deich tionscadal tochailte tarrthála agus aon anailís iar-tochailte amháin.

Tháinig méadú de os cionn 20% ar líon na gceadúnas d'imscrúduithe nua seandálaíochta i gcomparáid leis an bhliain roimhe, rud a léiríonn an treocht ghinearálta i ngníomhaíocht forbartha méadaithe. Rinneadh trí thacar agallamh a reáchtáil in 2016 d'iarthóirí céaduaire ar cheadúnais le tochailtí a dhéanamh i gcomhar le hArd-Mhúsaem na hÉireann agus Institiúid Seandálaithe na hÉireann.

Ceadúnais, Toiliú, Faomhadh agus Treoracha a eisíodh in 2016

- Ceadúnais tochailte seandálaíochta - 675
- Síntí le ceadúnais tochailte - 237
- Cead gairis bhraite a úsáid - 232
- Céadúnais suirbhéireachta tumtha - 80
- Ceadanna agus freagairtí d'athruithe ar thoiliú an Aire a tugadh roimhe - 92
- Treoracha ón Aire d'oibreacha seandálaíochta ar thionscadail bhóthair - 2

Leanadh ar aghaidh le cothabháil leanúnach an liosta reachtúil de shéadchomharthaí taifeadta agus tá deireadh beagnach tagtha le hobair ar mhapáil, bainistiú taifead agus gnéithe sonraí do chontae na hIarmhí agus chontae Chill Chainnigh, ach go háirithe. Anuas air sin, tá an Roinn ag leanúint le nuashonrú ar a taifid ar an Amharcóir Comhshaoil Stairiúil ar líne. Cuireadh 1,140 taifead breise le Taifead na Suíomhanna agus na Séadchomharthaí in 2016: is ionann líon iomlán an Taifid reatha agus 154,607.

Leanann an Roinn ar aghaidh ag seachfhoinisú suirbhéanna ar shéadchomharthaí agus ag déanamh teagmháil ghníomhach le taighdeoirí le suirbhéanna speisialaithe a fháil ar chineálacha áirithe séadchomharthaí d'fhonn an taifead náisiúnta a nuashonrú.

Lean an comhoibriú le Bord na Móna ar aghaidh le suirbhé a dhéanamh ar thailte móna tionsclaíocha agus rinneadh suirbhé geoifisiceach a choimisiúnú ar Phortach Mhaighne, Co. na hIarmhí.

Straitéis 3:

Oibriú le haonáin eile Stáit agus neamhstáit lena chinntiú go bhfuil na struchtúir is cuí i bhfeidhm le seirbhísí oidhreachta tógtha agus nádúrtha a chur ar fáil.

Lean an Roinn ar aghaidh ag infheistiú acmhainní suntasacha lena ról leanúnach mar chomhlacht forordaithe nó comhairlí reachtúil sa phróiseas pleanála a chur i gcrích chomh maith le próisis toilithe Ranna agus gníomhaireachtaí eile. Tá tús curtha ag an Roinn le céimeanna chun an tseirbhís a chuireann sé ar fáil a fheabhsú agus a chaighdeánú trína leibhéal teagmhála le húdaráis eile a mhéadú.

Cuireann Aonad Sheirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra (SPNF) na Roinne ionchur tábhachtach ar fáil do Ranna agus gníomhaireachtaí Stáit eile nuair is gá agus téann sé i dteagmháil go réamhghníomhach le hEagraíochtaí Neamhrialtasach a comhshaoil agus forais acadúla le Plean Gníomhaíochta an Rialtais um Bithéagsúlacht Náisiúnta a chur i gcrích.

Tá rialacháin CITES (An Coinbhinsiún maidir le Trádáil Idirnáisiúnta i Speicis Fána agus Flóra Fiáin) , agus oibleagáidí faoin Choinbhinsiún, á gcur i bhfeidhm go leanúnach trí Údarás Bainistíochta CITES na Roinne, san SPNF. Comhoibríonn oifigigh sa Roinn ar bhonn leanúnach le Coimisinéirí Custam/Ioncaim.

Oidhreacht Thógtha

Lean an Roinn ar aghaidh ag tacú le húdaráis pleanála, leis an gComhairle Oidhreachta agus páirtithe leasmhara eile in oidhreacht thógtha agus iad ag cur a gcláir feasachta agus oideachais i gcrích. Leanadh ar aghaidh freisin le cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil an creat riaracháin do bhainistiú agus cosaint sócmhainní stairiúla ar bhonn náisiúnta i bhfeidhm, i gcomhar le húdaráis áitiúla, gníomhaireachtaí stáit ábhartha agus príomhpháirtithe leasmhara.

Thacaigh an Roinn freisin le húdaráis áitiúla ina ról i dtaca le cosaint na hoidhreachta tógtha trí thacaíocht airgeadais a chur ar fáil le scéimeanna struchtúrtha, i.e. An Scéim Infheistíochta don Oidhreacht Thógtha agus an Scéim um Struchtúir i mBaol.

Tacaíodh le Foras Ailtireachta na hÉireann agus iad ag cur a gclár feasachta agus oideachais i gcrích trí dhá cheann dá mórghníomhaíochtaí maoinithe: Open House agus an National Architects in School Scheme.

Cláir Infheistíochta Caipitil agus Fioscaí

Leanadh ar aghaidh le dreasachtaí cuí agus spriocdhírthe fioscacha a fhorbairt, lena n-áirítear cláir infheistíochta caipitil, do limistéir oidhreachta tógtha i gcomhpháirtíocht leis an Roinn Airgeadais (an Tionscnamh Living City) agus an Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil (Scéim Deontas Uirbeach Ainmnithe ERDF).

Forbairt Tionscadal Caipitil

Níos mó ná €3m leithdháilte ar mhaoiniú caipitil do thionscadail chaomhantais in 2016 faoi scéimeanna lena n-áirítear:

- ***Scéim Infheistíochta don Oidhreacht Thógtha (SIOT):***

Tugadh an Scéim Infheistíochta don Oidhreacht Thógtha, scéim €2 mhilliún le struchtúir faoi chosaint a dheisiú agus a chaomhnú, isteach leis an tsamhail chéanna a úsáideadh don Scéim Giarála Post don Oidhreacht Thógtha, a reáchtáladh in 2014 agus ar éirigh go han-mhaith leis. Thacaigh scéim 2016 le níos mó ná 270 tionscadal ar fud na tíre, rud a chruthaigh níos mó ná 17,000 lá fostaíochta sna tionscail caomhantais agus foirgníochta agus a chabhraigh le ceantair uirbeacha agus thuaithe a athnuachan. Rinne an scéim beagán faoi €5.5 milliún a ghíaráil freisin, níos mó ná dhá oiread leithdháileadh €2 mhilliún na scéime.

- ***An Ciste um Struchtúir i mBaol (SRF):***

Tugadh an Ciste um Struchtúir i mBaol (SRF) isteach arís do 2016 agus cuireadh cistiú os cionn €1 milliún ar fáil dó chun go mbeifear ábalta obair chaomhantais a dhéanamh ar struchtúir oidhreachta atá faoi úinéireacht phoiblí agus phríobháideach, a mheastar a bheith i mbaol mór dul i léig agus atá cosanta faoin Acht um Pleanáil agus Forbairt 2000, arna leasú Chabhraigh an ciste, a riaradh trí na húdaráis áitiúla, le níos mó ná 50 tionscadal ar fud na tíre.

- ***Tionscadail faoi choimirce Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí:***

Cuireadh €350,000 de mhaoiniú ar fáil d'Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí do chaomhnú agus do chur i láthair shéadchomharthaí náisiúnta agus maoiní stairiúla, atá faoi chúram an Stáit. Tugadh faoi oibreacha caomhantais ag Teach Kilmacurragh, na Blascaodaí, Tigh Mór Dhoire Fhionáin agus Teach Bhaile an Chaisleáin. Ar thaobh na Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta, bhain tionscadail ag Príosún Chill Mhaighneann, Caisleán Chairlinn agus Cloch an Tuair Rua tairbhe as an gcistiú.

Treoirínte maidir le Polasaí Oidhreachta Seandálaíochta:

Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an obair le Treoirínte do Pholasaí Oidhreachta Seandálaíochta a chur chun cinn. Rinneadh imleabhar nua amháin sa tSraith Chomhairleach dar teideal *Disaster Management in the Historic Built Environment* a bhrú chun cinn, agus fuarthas an téacs tosaigh ón gconraitheoir i Mí na Samhna.

Oidhreacht Thógtha Idirnáisiúnta

Lean oifigigh na Roinne ag déanamh ionadaíocht d'Éirinn i bhforais Eorpacha éagsúla, lena n-áirítear Fóram Cheannairí Oidhreachta na hEorpa, Fóram Dílíthiúil Oidhreachta na hEorpa agus an Fóram Eorpach ar Pholasaithe Ailtireachta chomh maith le Grúpa Dhún Éideann (Ríocht Aontaithe). Ina theannta sin, déanann an Roinn teagmháil ghníomhach

le Comhairle na hEorpa agus le lucht stiúrthóireachta ábhartha an Aontais Eorpaigh.

Seandálaíocht

I ndiaidh pléití idir an Roinn seo agus an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, tá bearta do chothabháil coisctheach ar shéadchomharthaí curtha san aireamh sa scéim agra-chomhshaoil is déanaí. Is é seo an chéad uair ar tugadh luach saothair d'fheirmeoirí, mar phríomhchoimeádaithe ár séadchomharthaí, as obair chothabhála a fheabhsóidh cosaint agus marthanas na seandálaíochta sa todhchaí.

Chuaigh an Roinn i mbun plé freisin le Fáilte Éireann agus le hOifig na nOibreacha Poiblí d'fhonn comhpháirtíocht straitéiseach a fhorbairt le clár infheistíochta i Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta atá faoi úinéireacht an Aire a chur i gcrích faoi thionscnamh *Sean-Oirthear na hÉireann* Fáilte Éireann. Díreofar ról na Roinne ar ghnéithe sheandálaíochta an chláir.

Straitéis 4:

Meas agus tuiscint níos fearr ar oidhreacht shaibhir na hÉireann a chur chun cinn mar áis luachmhar do ghnó, d'fhorbairt pobail, d'fheirmeoireacht agus do thurasóireacht agus mar bhealach chun Éire a chur chun cinn mar cheann scríbe tarraingteach d'infheistíocht inbhuanaithe isteach.
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Mar chuid dá hiarrachtaí le hoidhreacht thógtha agus náisiúnta na hÉireann a chur chun cinn agus an pobal a chur ar an eolas maidir le dea-chleachtas i dtaca leis na hacmhainní sin a bhainistiú, bhí taispeántais á reáchtáil ag an Roinn ag go leor féilte agus imeachtaí, go háirithe an Comórtas Náisiúnta Treabhdóireachta, an BT Young Scientist Exhibition agus Seó Thulach Mhór.

Páirceanna Náisiúnta

Déanann an Roinn 79,000 heicteár de Pháirceanna Náisiúnta, Anaclanna Dúlra agus suíomhanna oidhreachta nádúrtha eile ar nós Teach Mhucrois agus Caisleán Ghleann Bheatha a bhainistiú. Déantar na páirceanna a bhainistiú ó thaobh caomhantais, oideachais agus conláiste de, d'fhonn a dtábhacht a chothabháil agus a chaomhnú do na glúnta amach romhainn. Bhunaigh an Roinn grúpa idirghníomhaireachta maidir le háineas amuigh faoin aer, lena áiríodh ionadaithe d'Uiscebhealaí Éireann, Coillte, Bord na Móna agus Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí.

Comhpháirtíocht Infheistíochta Straitéisí

Chuaigh an Roinn, a dhéanann tuairim is 485 ciliméadar de rianta agus cosáin ar fud a punann réadmhaoine oidhreachta a bhainistiú, i mbun comhpháirtíochta nua straitéisí le Fáilte Éireann. Díreoidh an chomhpháirtíocht sin ar na cúig Pháirc Náisiúnta agus Anaclann Dúlra Pháirc na Cúile ar Shlí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin chomh maith le Páirc Náisiúnta Chill Mhantáin i Sean-Oirthear na hÉireann d'fhonn staidéar féidearthachta, staidéar scóipe agus dearadh a dhéanamh maidir le tionscadail turasóireachta ag na suíomhanna sin.

Páirc Idirnáisiúnta Spéir Dhorcha Mhaigh Eo

I mí Mheán Fómhair, sheol an Roinn Páirc Idirnáisiúnta Spéir Dhorcha Mhaigh Eo go hoifigiúil, lena cuimsítear Páirc Náisiúnta Bhaile Chruaich agus Limistéar Nádúrtha Néifinne.

Is ionann Spéir Dhorcha agus creidiúnú do pháirceanna nó do thailte poiblí eile ina bhfuil spéartha an-réaltacha ar fad chomh maith le gnáthóg nádúrtha oíche ina bhfuil tuailiú solais maolaithe agus ina bhfuil luach ar an dorchadas mar acmhainn thábhachtach oideachais, chultúrtha agus scéimhe nádúrtha. Tá stádas órga, an creidiúnú is airde, faighte ag Baile Chruaich agus Limistéar Nádúrtha Néifinne.

Teach Chill Airne

Lean an clár athchóirithe do Theach Chill Airne agus dá thailte agus gairdíní ornáideacha, a fógraíodh in 2011, ar aghaidh in 2016. Cuireadh oibreacha tírdhreachta i gcrích agus osclaíodh na tailte agus na gairdíní ornáideacha don phobal i Mí Aibreáin. Rinneadh dul chun cinn ar an obair ar chéim léirithe/taispeántais. Osclaíodh an teach in 2017 agus osclófar a áiseanna go léir don phobal ar bhonn céimneach.

Tailte a ceannaíodh i nGleann an Smóil

I Mí na Nollag 2016 thug an Roinn ceannachán 4,900 acra (1,983 heicteár) de hArdtailte Bhaile Átha Cliath, sa cheantar ar a dtugtar na Featherbeds, chun críche ar chostas €800,000. Cuirfear an talamh sin le Páirc Náisiúnta Shléibhte Chill Mhantáin, rud a fhágfaidh 22,000 heicteár sa Pháirc Náisiúnta seo.

Binn Ghuaire

Chuir an Roinn obair riachtanach chothabhála agus uasghrádaithe sláinte agus sábháilteachta i gcrích ar Chosán Bhinn Ghuaire i bPáirc Náisiúnta Chonamara. Tugann tuairim is 200,000 duine cuairt ar Pháirc Náisiúnta Chonamara gach bliain agus tugann an chuid is mó díobh cuairt ar chuid den Chosán, ar a laghad.

Réiteach na Róslabhras

In go leor áiteanna tá an róslabhras in aghaidh áit na dtor dúchasach a ghlacadh agus fásann sé i mothair dhlútha, ag coinneáil fásra dúchasach amach agus ag cur srian ar athghiniúint nádúrtha crann. Tá cistiú bliantúil de dhíth sa chlár seo d'fhonn an infheistíocht a chosaint thar na mblianta tríd an speiceas coimhthíoch seo a rialú agus cuid de na coillte dúchásacha gan mhilleadh is tábhachtaí in Éirinn a chosaint. Déantar an róslabhras a réiteach gach bliain i bPáirceanna Náisiúnta Chill Airne, Bhaile Chruaich, Chonamara agus Ghleann Bheatha.

Scannánaíocht

Ag deireadh an earraigh in 2016, d'éascaigh an Roinn scannánú radharcanna do *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* ag áiteanna éagsúla ar chósta an Atlantaigh, i gcomhar le gníomhaireachtaí Stáit eile agus na pobail óstála.

Tionscnaimh eile ar tugadh fúthu le linn 2016

D'oibrigh Seirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra na Roinne ar raon tionscadal taighde agus foilseachán le linn 2016, lena n-áirítear an méid seo a leanas:

Foilseacháin

- Foilsíú an *Atlas of Mammals in Ireland* i gcomhar leis an Ionad Náisiúnta le Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta, chomh maith le trí Lámhleabhar ar Fhiadhúlra na hÉireann ina gclúdaítear cromán na gceart, aithint mamach agus fuaráin chlochraithe, agus trí Liosta Sonraí Dearga (leamhain, plandaí agus siorcanna).
- Rinne grúpa comhoibríoch, ar a raibh Seirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra na Roinne, Liosta Dearg na bPlandaí Soithíocha a chur amach, ina bhfuil measúnú ar na plandaí bláthanna agus raithneach ar oileán na hÉireann atá faoi bhagairt nó i mbaol díothaithe. Meastar go bhfuil 106 (8.8%) den 1,211 a measúnaíodh faoi bhagairt, 20 díobh sin (1.7%) i mBaol Criticiúil, 25 (2.1%) i mBaol agus 61 (5.0%) Somhillte, agus tá 15 (1.2%) díobh Díofa in Éirinn. Tá ocht bplanda soithíoch déag eindéimeach, is é sin le rá nach bhfuil siad le fáil ach ar oileán na hÉireann agus, iad sin san áireamh, tá tábhacht idirnáisiúnta ag baint le hÉirinn do 47 planda soithíoch ós rud é go bhfuil, nó go bhféadfadh sé go bhfuil, níos mó ná ceathrú dá líon Eorpach le fáil anseo. Is toradh é an Liosta Dearg ar thiomantas suntasach agus iarrachtaí gan fasach lucht taifeadta luibheolaíochta na hÉireann leis na blianta fada, as a dtáinig na céadta míle taifead, lena n-áirítear fionnachtana speiceas neamhchosanta agus cairtiú ar mheath agus cailteanas speiceas.
- I Mí an Mhárta 2016 foilsíodh an cúigiú tuarascáil bhliantúil ón scéim RAPTOR, ina bhfuil cur síos ar bhagairtí díreacha agus brú (seachas bagairtí agus brú a bhaineann le gnáthóga) ar éin chreicthe in Éirinn.
- Scríobh foireann an SPNF píosaí don *Atlas of Predaceous Water Beetles of Britain and Ireland* freisin.

Tionscadail Taighde agus Monatóireachta Eolaíoch

- Leanadh ar aghaidh le linn 2016 le cláir mhonatóireachta chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar stádas caomhantais ghnáthóga mara, murlach, féarthailte, trá scaineagáin fhásmhar, gnáthóga locha, tacar speiceas neamhchoitianta plandaí, speicis ialtóige, ceiticigh, róna, speicis vertigo, diúilicín péarla, fritileán réisc agus cnádán.
- Chuir Clár OBSERVE, comhthionscadal idir an Roinn seo agus an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil le monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar éin fharraige, míolta móra agus deilfeanna, deireadh le cláir fhairsinge mhonatóireachta fuaime agus aeir amach ó na cóstaí thoir, theas agus thiar. Bhí níos mó ná 8,000 taifead faighte ar éin fharraige agus ceiticigh faoi dheireadh 2016 agus leanadh ar aghaidh le samhaltú tábhachtach staitistiúil agus gnáthóige ar feadh 2017.
- Tugadh measúnú náisiúnta ar an gcat crainn chun críche.
- Cuireadh tús le dhá chlár nua monatóireachta do ghnáthóga locha a bhí liostáilte sa Treoir ón AE maidir le Gnáthóga.

- Rinne an Roinn faireachas ar Phlá na Cráifisce Fionnuisce a choimisiúnú, lena n-áirítear trí úsáid a bhaint as DNA ón timpeallacht, ar teicníc nua é.
- Rinneadh suirbhéanna cuimsitheacha inveirteabrach ar cheithre anaclann dúlra i gcoillearnach freisin.
- Aimsíodh dhá speiceas suntasach le linn 2016: Thángthas ar mhíol leabhar i gCo. Chorcaí, ar cuireadh síos air mar speiceas nua san Eoraip; agus is speiceas nua in Éirinn é an Cipíneach Uisce a aimsíodh i gCo. Loch Garman.
- Cuireadh staidéar i gcrích lena léiríodh gur príomhionad éagsúlacht ghéiniteach í Éire i dtaca leis an diúilicín péarla fionnuisce san Eoraip, agus fuarthas go raibh an éagsúlacht ghéiniteach is mó d'aon abhainn taifeadta go dtí seo ar domhan i bpobal diúilicíní na Cárthaí i gCo. Chiarraí. Léiríodh le clár monatóireachta trí bliana ar dhiúilicíní péarla fionnuisce go raibh meath ar gach phobal in Éirinn seachas ceann amháin, a bhfuil riocht maith arís air.

Portaigh

In 2016, chuir an Roinn deireadh leis an gconradh trí bliana le RPS Consulting, “Bonn Eolaíoch a Sholáthar do Chaomhnú an Phortaigh Ardaithe in Éirinn”. Chuir obair na Roinne le RPS go mór lenár dtuiscint ar éicihidreolaíocht an phortaigh ardaithe agus chuir sé bonn agus taca faoinár gcur chuige reatha i leith chaomhnú phortaigh ardaithe, go háirithe i dtaca le comhréiteach a fháil idir leasa bainte móna agus oibleagáidí caomhantais (le hAirteagal 6.3 na Treorach um Ghnáthóga a chomhlíonadh). As an gconradh d’eascair Pleananna iomlána Bainistithe Athchóirithe do na 53 LCS ar phortaigh ardaithe, Cuspóirí Caomhantais Suíomhoiriúnaithe do 52 de na suíomhanna sin agus an dréacht dheiridh den Phlean Náisiúnta um Bainistiú LCS na bPortach Ardaithe freisin.

Rinneadh athbhreithniú mionsonraithe ar LCSanna ar bhratphortaigh agus rinneadh limistéir bhainte móna a mhapáil agus a rangú. Cabróidh seo le bonn a chur faoi chomhairliúchán le páirtithe leasmhara agus le húinéirí agus le straitéisí cuí a cheapadh do bhainistiú fadtéarmach baint móna ag suíomhanna a ndearnadh dochar dóibh.

Bhí an SPNF páirteach i dtairiscint na hÉireann/Thuaisceart Éireann, ar éirigh leis, ar mhaoiniú EU INTERREG, inar moladh tailte stáit ar LCS Phortach Shliabh Gamh le haghaidh obair athchóirithe ar bhratphortach. Fuair tionscadal taighde nua de chuid Ollscoil na Banríona, bunaithe ar eolas ón SPNF, le himscrúdú a dhéanamh ar na costais/buntáistí a bhaineann le limistéir bhratphortaigh dhíghrádaithe/shlán ar chaighdeán/sruthlú uisce, tacaíocht ón nGníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil agus leanfaidh an SPNF ar aghaidh ag cur sainchomhairle ar fáil lena aghaidh.

Tá bearta á gcur i bhfeidhm ag KerryLIFE chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar fhoinsí siolta, cothaitheach agus athraithe hidreolaíche ar 35 feirm rannpháirteach i ndobharcheantair an Phoill Ghoirm agus na Cárthaí le líon na ndiúilicíní péarla fionnuisce a athshlánú. Cuireadh tús freisin le linn 2016 le hathstruchtúrú foraoisí bhuaircíneacha mar choillearnach coinneála fadtéarmach trí úsáid a bhaint as raon cur chuige nua. Déantar monatóirí ar bhonn leanúnach ar chur i bhfeidhm beart agus tá clár monatóireachta eolaíoch, a bhfuil teicnící nua ar nós mhéarlorgaireacht dríodair, á úsáid le héifeachtacht

na mbeart a léiriú.

Cuireann an Roinn cómhaoiniú ar fáil do thionscadal EU LIFE le Liosta Dearg Eorpach de Bhrifít a bhunú. Aithnítear sa Liosta Dearg Eorpach na speicis atá faoi bhagairt díothaithe ag leibhéal na hEorpa ionas gur féidir tabhairt faoi ghníomh caomhantais cuí lena stádas a fheabhsú.

Agra-chomhshaol: In 2016, chabhraigh an Roinn leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara le tionscnaimh nua faoi stiúir áitiúil a cheapadh do Chromán na gCearc agus don Diúilicín Péarla Fionnuisce. Buiséad de €35m sna blianta atá le teacht le rannpháirtíocht an phobail áitiúil agus feirmeoirí i gcosaint na speiceas sin a spreagadh, chomh maith le taighdeoirí, éiceolaithe, eagraíochtaí neamhrialtasacha agus gníomhaireachtaí eile. Tá tuilleadh airgid ar fáil faoi Chlár Forbartha Réigiúnach na hÉireann do thionscadail nuálacha eile ar féidir leo torthaí dearfacha caomhantais a bhaint amach, ar nós an méid atá á dhéanamh i mBoirinn. Tá an Roinn ag leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair leis an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara le dul i ngleic le ceisteanna incháilitheachta talún a chuireann isteach ar íocaíochtaí díreacha faoin gComhbheartas Talmhaíochta agus suíomhanna Natura 2000 ach go háirithe.

Lean an Roinn ag cistiú obair leis an iolar mara agus an t-iolar fíréan a thabhairt ar ais, agus aontaíodh meabhrán tuisceana le Páirc Fiadhúlra Fota le tús a chur le pórú i ngéibheann den Chnádán.

Ghlac an Roinn páirt i bhFóram na hÉireann ar Chaipiteal Nádúrtha, lena dtugtar páirtithe as earnálacha tábhachtacha le chéile le plé a dhéanamh ar an mbealach is fearr le coincheap an chaipitil nádúrtha, agus cuntasaíocht chaipitil nádúrtha, a thabhairt isteach i lár an aonaigh i dtaca le ceapadh beartas agus pleanáil poiblí, sibhialta agus corparáideach.

Cuireadh tús in 2016 le tionscadal taighde le scrúdú a dhéanamh ar chaiteachas poiblí agus príobháideach ar chaomhnú bithéagsúlachta agus meicníochtaí nuálacha airgeadais a mholadh le haon bhearnaí a líonadh.

Tugadh chun críche tionscadal trialach náisiúnta le tacar éiceachóras tosaíochta agus a seirbhísí a mhapáil agus a mheasúnú.

Straitéis 5:

Cinntiú go gcuirtear seirbhísí oidhreachta ar fáil do chustaiméirí na Roinne ar bhealach chomh héifeachtach agus is féidir, lena n-áirítear tríd an gComhairle

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta

Lean an Roinn le cistiú na Comhairle Oidhreachta agus d'oibrigh siad ar feadh 2016 le leanúint le moltaí a d'éascair as Athbhreithniú na Comhairle Oidhreachta a chur i bhfeidhm. Ar bhuaicphointí ghníomhaíochta na Comhairle bhí *Seachtain na hOidhreachta*, ar éirigh go han-mhaith léi agus ina raibh níos mó ná 1,800 imeacht ar

siúl ar fud na tíre. Reáchtáladh scéim deontas pobail freisin lenar cuireadh cabhair chistiúcháin de €800,000 ar fáil do 171 tionscadal oidhreachta ar fud na tíre.

Choinnigh an Roinn uirthi ag déanamh teagmháil ghníomhach le comhpháirtithe ar nós Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí i dtaca le cistiú a leithdháileadh ar chaomhnú agus cosaint séadchomharthaí náisiúnta agus réadmhaoine stairiúla faoi Chúram an Stáit agus le hIontaobhas Oidhreachta na hÉireann, Cartlann Ailtireachta na hÉireann agus Cumann Tithe Stairiúla na hÉireann ina réimsí cosanta oidhreachta.

Eolaíocht agus Bithéagsúlacht

Chuir Seirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra na Roinne cistiú ar fáil, tríd an gComhairle Oidhreachta, le feidhmiú leanúnach an Ionad Náisiúnta le Sonraí Bithéagsúlachta a éascú.

Straitéis 6:

Oibriú go dlúth le Ranna agus gníomhaireachtaí eile le sineirgí a bhaint amach agus le hoibriú ar bhealach níos éifeachtaí lenár spriocanna a bhaint amach.

Thug an Roinn Comhpháirtíocht Infheistíochta Straitéisí le Fáilte Éireann chun críche, a bhfuil sé mar aidhm léi an táirge turasóireachta i bPáirceanna Náisiúnta na hÉireann agus Anaclann Dúlra na Cúile-Ghairealáin a fheabhsú agus a chur chun cinn. Shínigh an Roinn Meabhrán Tuisceana le Cumann na hÉireann um Fhóirithint ar Ainmnithe, rud a chur comhoibriú agus comhar leanúnach idir an SPNF agus an ISPCA ar bhonn foirmiúil maidir le saincheisteanna a bhaineann le coir in aghaidh an dúlra agus cionta ainmhithe araon. Tá grúpa idirghníomhaireachta bunaithe ag an Roinn freisin maidir le hÁineas Amuigh faoin Aer, lena n-áirítear ionadaithe d'Uiscebhealaí Éireann, Coillte, Bord na Móna agus Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí.

Tailte Móna

In 2016 bhí dhá chruinniú ann de Ghrúpa Forfheidhmithe na dTailte Móna, a bunaíodh in 2016 faoin Straitéis Náisiúnta Tailte Móna leis na Ranna agus aonáin Stáit ábhartha go léir a thabhairt le chéile.

Eolaíocht agus Bithéagsúlacht

Oibríonn SPNF na Roinne le Ranna agus gníomhaireachtaí éagsúla eile lena cuspóirí straitéiseacha agus gnó a bhaint amach: ar raon ceisteanna lena n-áirítear tionscadail mhapála, monatóireacht eolaíoch, speicis choimhthíocha ionracha, clár EU LIFE, Athrú Aeráide, cur i bhfeidhm na dTreoracha a bhaineann le Creat Straitéise Mara agus Creat Uisce agus Ioncam (ar CITES). Bhí comhairliúchán fairsing ar bun le linn 2016 freisin idir an Roinn agus lascaigh Intíre Éireann i leith speicis choimhthíocha ionracha.

Tá comhairle eolaíoch curtha ar fáil ag an Roinn in 2016 i dtaca le Cuspóir 2.1 de INTERREG VA (2014-2020), atá ceaptha le comhoibriú trasteorann a chur chun cinn d'fhonn athshlánú ghnáthóga roghnaithe faoi chosaint agus speicis thosaíochta a

éascú. Is ionann luach iomlán na gairme agus Scéim Deontas Uirbeach Ainmnithe €11 milliún.

Tá an Roinn ag leanúint ar aghaidh ag obair i gcomhpháirtíocht le comhlachtaí stáit eile le clár Náisiúnta Mapála Cumhdaigh Talún agus Gnáthóg a bhrú chun cinn le comhspricanna áirithe a bhaint amach, agus in 2016 d'éirigh leo pacáistí oibre maidir le Cás Eacnamaíoch agus Úsáide a chur i gcrích chomh maith le dréachtrangú gnáthóg/cumhdaigh talún agus dréacht-samhail de shonraí.

Dul chun cinn le linn 2016 – Sprioc 3: An Ghaeilge, an Ghaeltacht agus na hOileáin

Tacú leis an nGaeilge, úsáid na teanga mar phríomhtheanga an phobail sa Ghaeltacht a threisiú agus cuidiú le forbairt inbhuanaithe phobail na n-oileán.

Straitéis 1:

Forfheidhmiú na *Straitéise 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030*.

Tá an Roinn freagrach as comhordú a dhéanamh ar chur i bhfeidhm na Straitéise 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge i gcomhar le raon leathan de phríomhpháirtithe leasmhara.

Le linn 2016 cuireadh cabhair ar fáil faoin Scéim Réamhscoile agus Iarscoile do naoi nIonad Tacaíochta Teaghlaigh sa Ghaeltacht agus do sheirbhísí réamhscoile áirithe a fheidhmíonn trí Ghaeilge chun tacú le soláthar gníomhaíochtaí sealbhaithe agus saibhrithe teanga dírithe ar theaghlaigh óga Gaeltachta.

Cuireadh cistiú ar fáil freisin don eagraíocht Tuismitheoirí na Gaeltachta chun cabhrú leo a gcuid seirbhísí do thuismitheoirí atá ag tógáil a gclann le Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht a fhorbairt. Mar chuid den Chlár Tacaíochta Teanga do Theaghlaigh, scaipeadh 1,195 pacáiste tacaíochta teanga.

Straitéis 2:

An próiseas pleanála teanga a chur i bhfeidhm, i gcomhar le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta agus le Foras na Gaeilge, faoi Acht na Gaeltachta 2012.

Rinneadh dul chun cinn ar chur i bhfeidhm an phróisis pleanála teanga le linn 2016. Rinneadh fógraí i gcomhréir le forálacha alt 7(3) an Achta i leith 9 Limistéar Pleanála Teanga Gaeltachta breise in 2016 agus roghnaíodh eagraíochtaí le pleananna teanga a ullmhú agus a chur i bhfeidhm i leith gach limistéir.

I mí Dheireadh Fómhair agus mí na Samhna 2016 rinneadh fógraí i gcomhréir le forálacha alt 9 den Acht i leith Dhaingean Uí Chúis, Co. Chiarraí agus Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Dhún na nGall - rud a chuir tosach feidhme leis an bpróiseas pleanála teanga sna bailte sin.

I dtaca le Líonraí Gaeilge, cuireadh tús leis an bpróiseas le pleananna teanga a ullmhú i leith Líonraí Gaeilge: Bhaile Locha Riach, Co. na Gaillimhe; Inis, Co. an Chláir, agus Chluain Dolcáin, Baile Átha Cliath, de réir mar a roghnaigh Foras na Gaeilge iad.

Straitéis 3:

Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla 2003 a chur i bhfeidhm, lena n-áirítear teagmháil ghníomhach dhearfach leis an gCoimisinéir Teanga.

Deimhníodh 19 scéim teanga le linn 2016, lenar áiríodh 8 gcinn tionscnaimh, 6 dara scéim agus 5 tríú scéim. Faoi dheireadh na bliana 2016, bhí 116 scéim i bhfeidhm, a chlúdaíonn 119 comhlacht poiblí ar fad. Tá gach scéim ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin an Choimisinéara Teanga ag www.coimisineir.ie.

Athbhreithniú ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla

In 2016 rinneadh athbhreithniú ar Bhille na dTeangacha Oifigiúla (Leasú) i gcomhairle le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha, lena n-áirítear an Coimisinéir Teanga, Conradh na Gaeilge agus Rialtas na Breataine Bige, a bhfuil córas reachtúil teanga ar bun acusan freisin. Rinneadh moltaí reachtacha leasaithe ina dhiaidh sin in 2017.

Straitéis 4:

Cinntiú go bhfuil na struchtúir agus na scéimeanna i bhfeidhm chun tacú leis an nGaeilge taobh istigh den Ghaeltacht agus taobh amuigh di araon.

Scéimeanna Tacaíochta Gaeilge

Leanadh le maoiniú a chur ar fáil faoi na Scéimeanna Tacaíochtaí Gaeilge do réimse leathan eagraíochtaí agus tionscnamh Gaeilge. Tabhaíodh caiteachas de €3.594m. Áiríodh air sin:

- Deontais reatha agus chaipitil a íocadh le heagraíochtaí éagsúla Gaeilge a fheidhmíonn lasmuigh den Ghaeltacht, mar shampla, Gaillimh le Gaeilge, Gnó Mhaigh Eo, Gael Taca, Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe, agus An Cumann Scoildrámaíochta. Tacaíodh le tionscadail sna hearnálacha daonnachtaí digiteacha agus téarmaíochta ar nós Dúchas.ie, logainm.ie agus abair.ie chomh maith le tionscadal LEX, lena gcuirtear téarmaíocht Ghaeilge ar fáil don AE;
- Teagasc na Gaeilge i 38 ollscoil idirnáisiúnta, lena n-áirítear 14 ollscoil faoi choimirce Choimisiún Fulbright agus 7 gcinn faoi choimirce Fhondúireacht Ollscoile Éireann Cheanada;
- Tacaíocht do 11 chúrsa oideachais tríú leibhéal in Éirinn faoin Tionscnamh Ardscileanna Gaeilge;
- Tacaíocht do thionscadail in earnálacha an ghnó agus na n-ealaíon;
- Tionscadail chaipitil i gCeanncheathrú Choláiste na bhFiann i gCo. Mhaigh Eo, Gaelphobal Thamhlachta i mBaile Átha Cliath agus Tionscadal TechSpace as Gaeilge.

Caiteachas

Cuireadh maoiniú caipitil de €922,000 ar fáil chun tacú le forbairt agus cothabháil áiseanna éagsúla teangalárnacha pobail sa Ghaeltacht. San áireamh sa chaiteachas sin tá deontais le haghaidh athchóiriú/tógáil áiseanna éagsúla ar nós naíolanna, hallaí pobail, páirceanna peile agus coláistí Gaeilge. Tugadh cúnamh deontais freisin chun trealamh a cheannach.

Caitheadh €7.370m ar chláir agus scéimeanna éagsúla teangalárnacha sa Ghaeltacht leis an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn agus a chothabháil i gcomhthéacs na Straitéise 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge. Áiríodh an méid seo a leanas leis na tionscnaimh a maoiníodh:

- Faoi Scéim na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge d'fhreastail 26,024 mac léinn ar 50 coláiste Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht agus ar thrí choláiste seanbhunaithe den scoth taobh amuigh den Ghaeltacht in 2016.
- Cistiú do na trí ionad atá ag Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta Gaeilge sa Ghaeltacht: Gaoth Dobhair, An Cheathrú Rua agus Carna.
- Fostaíodh 113 Cúntóir Teanga i 109 scoil Ghaeltachta faoi Scéim na gCúntóirí Teanga;
- Tugadh aitheantas do 183 Campa Samhraidh Gaeilge faoi Scéim na gCampaí Samhraidh agus d'fhreastail 6,077 páiste ón nGaeltacht ar na campaí sin;
- Maoiniú le haghaidh ranganna spóirt agus aclaíochta trí mheán na Gaeilge i scoileanna Gaeltachta; agus
- Fuair dhá eagraíocht (An Gaelacadamh agus an Crann Óg) maoiniú le ranganna ceoil, amhránaíochta agus damhsa a chur ar fáil trí Ghaeilge sa Ghaeltacht.
- Tionscadail thrialacha leis an nGaeilge a chur chun cinn i measc na teicneolaíochta, le teicneolaíocht meaisín aistriúcháin a fhorbairt, le céim ar líne i nGaeilge agus i gcultúr traidisiúnta na hÉireann a fhorbairt, le scéim nua dar teideal *TechSpace as Gaeilge* a bhunú, le haip nua raidió i nGaeilge a fhorbairt chun na stáisiúin raidió go léir i nGaeilge a thabhairt le chéile, Plean Digiteach don Ghaeilge, tacaíocht do Edcite as Gaeilge le hacmhainn nua ábhair dhigitigh do scoileanna a chruthú agus a roinnt, agus Plean Ghníomhaíochta Gaeilge RTÉ. Tugadh cistiú freisin do Raidió Rí-Rá, stáisiún cairte do dhaoine óga a chraolann i nGaeilge.

Straitéis 5:

Tacú le hÚdarás na Gaeltachta mar ghníomhaireacht forbartha réigiúnach na Gaeltachta.

Ba é €18.510m an leithdháileadh iomlán as an Státchiste in 2016 d'Údarás na Gaeltachta, an t-údarás réigiúnach atá freagrach as forbairt gheilleagrach, shóisialta agus chultúrtha na Gaeltachta. Fuarthas caipiteal breise de luach €2.4m don Údarás in 2016.

Ag deireadh na bliana, bhí 7,963 duine san iomlán fostaithe i gcliant-chuideachtaí de chuid Údarás na Gaeltachta agus ba phoist lánaimseartha 7,348 de na poist sin agus ba phoist pháirtaimseartha 615 acu. Chruthaigh cliant-chuideachtaí an Údaráis 559 post lánaimseartha nua i rith 2016. Nuair a thugtar san áireamh na poist a cailleadh, bhí glanmhéadú de 80 post san iomlán i gceist.

Riarann Údarás na Gaeltachta scéimeanna éagsúla fostaíochta sóisialta atá maoinithe ag an Roinn Coimirce Sóisialaí agus a bhfuil ról tábhachtach acu i dtáithí oibre agus oiliúint a chur ar fáil do phobal na Gaeltachta. In 2016, bhí os cionn 1,000 rannpháirtí páirteach i

47 scéim ar fud na Gaeltachta.

Faoi Acht na Gaeltachta 2012, tá sé de fhreagracht ar Údarás na Gaeltachta tacú le heagraíochtaí agus pleananna teanga á n-ullmhú agus á gcur i bhfeidhm acu i Limistéir Phleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta agus i mBailte Seirbhíse Gaeltachta atá i Limistéir Phleanála Teanga Ghaeltachta.

Straitéis 6:

Soláthar seirbhísí do phobail na n-oileán a éascú.

Le linn 2016 cuireadh conarthaí nua iompair in áit do sheirbhísí farantóireachta agus lastais chuig na hoileáin. Aontáíodh conradh idir an Roinn agus Galway Aviation Services Limited le Seirbhís Aeir a chur ar fáil go hOileáin Árann ó mhí Eanáir 2017 go mí na Nollag 2020, a raibh conradh faoina bhonn a bhí comhaontaithe idir úinéir Aerfor Chonamara agus an Roinn.

Bhí buiséad caipitil 2016 le seirbhísí a chur ar fáil do na hoileáin amach ón gcósta píosa maith níos mó ná mar a bhí in 2015. Thug sé sin deis don Roinn clár oibreacha ar na hoileáin amach ón gcósta a chómhaoiniú le húdaráis ábhartha áitiúla - oibreacha ar nós bóithre a dheisiú agus céanna a úsáidtear le rochtain a fháil ar na hoileáin a chothabháil. Rinne an Roinn dul chun cinn ar chur i bhfeidhm thionscadal ceithre bliana AranLIFE (2014-2017), atá á chómhaoiniú faoi chlár LIFE an AE. Leanadh ar aghaidh le hoibreacha faoin tionscadal ar 67 feirm rannpháirteacha.

Aontáíodh leis an FSS seirbhís héileacaptair Thoraí a leathnú - ó sheirbhís choicisiúil idir mí na Samhna agus mí an Mhárta go seirbhís sheachtainiúil. Tá sé sin i ndiaidh dul chun tairbhe go mór do phobal an oileáin mar go mbíonn an t-oileán sin fágtha gan seirbhís farantóireachta go minic de bharr na drochaimsire, Aontáíodh conarthaí nua farantóireachta paisinéara freisin d'Inis Arcáin, Contae Chorcaí agus d'Oileán Chliara, Co. Mhaigh Eo.

Straitéis 7:

Oibriú le Ranna, gníomhaireachtaí agus páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha eile lenár spriocanna a bhaint amach.

Tá an Roinn ag leanúint léi ag obair le raon eagraíochtaí agus tionscnamh Gaeilge agus tá líon áirithe sruthanna cistiúcháin curtha ar fáil le tacú lena gcuid oibre. Oibríonn an Roinn go dlúth freisin le gníomhaireachtaí faoina coimirce le cur chun cinn na Gaeilge a bhrú chun cinn agus le tacú le daoine atá ina gcónaí sa Ghaeltacht agus ag obair inti.

Agus tionscadal AranLIFE á chur chun cinn aici, d'oibrigh an Roinn le clár Dúlra EU LIFE agus le raon leathan de ghníomhaireachtaí agus páirtithe leasmhara eile, lena n-áirítear an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Comhairle Contae na Gaillimhe, Teagasc agus Fáilte Éireann.

Dul chun cinn le linn 2016 – Spríoc 4: Comhoibriú Thuaidh-Theas

Comhoibriú Thuaidh Theas a chur chun cinn, go háirithe i gcomhthéacs an Fhorais Teanga agus Uiscebhealaí Éireann.

Straitéis 1:

Teagmháil ghníomhach leanúnach chun tacú leis an bhForas Teanga agus le hUiscebhealaí Éireann, an dá chomhlacht Forfheidhmithe Trasteorann atá á gcómhaoiniú ag an Roinn seo.

Tionóladh cruinniú eárnála den Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas (CATT) in 2016 i dtaca leis an bhForas Teanga agus Uiscebhealaí Éireann. Rinneadh dhá Chruinniú de Mheitheal Oibre CATT a réachtáil ar an 26 Bealtaine agus an 12 Nollaig.

Bhí ceithre chruinniú monatóireachta ráithiúla ann i dtaca leis an bhForas Teanga le linn 2016 (29 Feabhra, 9 Bealtaine, 7 Meán Fómhair, 21 Samhain) agus bhí sé chruinniú démhíosúla ann i dtaca le hUiscebhealaí Éireann (10 Feabhra, 13 Aibreán, 19 Iúil, 14 Meán Fómhair, 26 Deireadh Fómhair agus 14 Nollaig). Rinneadh maoirseacht agus rialachas a chinntiú trí chumarsáid rialta leanúnach leis an Roinn Urraíochta sa Tuaisceart agus na Gníomhaireachtaí agus ag cruinnithe eile.

D'óstáil an Roinn turas freisin ón Roinn Urraíochta sa Tuaisceart i mí Aibreáin, a chuimsigh cruinniú déthaobhach agus cruinnithe eile le Tuairisc.ie, Telegael, Ionad Tacaíochta Teaghlaigh, Acadamh na hOllscolaíochta agus leis an gCoimisinéir Teanga.

Tá an Roinn tiomanta do chómhaoiniú agus tacaíocht a thabhairt don Fhoras Teanga (atá déanta suas d'Fhoras na Gaeilge agus Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch) agus do chabhair a thabhairt don Fhoras Forfheidhmithe Thuaidh Theas seo agus á fheidhmeanna á gcur i gcrích aige i gcomhthéacs Chomhaontuithe Aoine an Chéasta agus Chill Rìmhinn araon. Tá an Foras Teanga freagrach don Chomhairle Aireachta Thuaidh Theas (CATT) agus d'Airí na Ranna Coimirce, i.e., an Roinn seo agus an Roinn Comhphobal (DfC) i dTuaisceart Éireann.

Tá Foras na Gaeilge freagrach as na sainchúraimí uile a bhaineann leis an nGaeilge, lena n-áirítear cabhrú le forbairt agus cur chun cinn na Gaeilge i réimsí poiblí agus príobháideacha. Tá Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch freagrach as forbairt na hUltaise, lena n-áirítear feasacht níos fearr i leith na teanga agus úsáid na teanga a chur chun cinn, chomh maith le cur chun cinn saincheistanna cultúrtha a bhaineann leis an Ultais. Tá a gcuid bord féin ag Foras na Gaeilge agus Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch. Cuimsíonn comhaltaí na mbord bord an Fhorais Teanga.

Leag an CATT amach na príomhthosaíochtaí aireachta seo a leanas d'Fhoras na Gaeilge in 2016:

- Cur i gcrích an fhoclóra nua Béarla-Gaeilge ar líne le 130,000 aonad céille, a chuimsíonn teanga croí-ábhair agus téarmaíocht do leibhéal bunscoile agus

iarbhunscoile, chomh maith le rialú caighdeán agus eagarthóireacht chríochnaitheach tras-fhoclóra ar an bhfoclóir iomlán;

- Seoladh na Scéime Pobail Gaeilge 2016-2018 agus cur i bhfeidhm an phróisis pleanála teanga do na Gréasáin Ghaeilge agus na Bailte Seirbhíse Gaeltachta, de réir mar is cuí;
- Seoladh suíomh tairisí cuimsitheach don Ghaeilge ar www.gaeilge.ie.
- Fócas ar thionscadail do dhaoine óga, lena n-áirítear cabhair le hghaidh 70 tionscadal faoi Scéim na nImeachtaí Óige, Gaelbhratach (scéim bratach Gaeilge) a bhronnadh ar 50 scoil, comórtas bannaí ceoil a reáchtáil, cur chun cinn straitéis léitheoireachta agus comhoibriú leanúnach le Cumann na bhFiann agus le Gael Linn sa réimse sin; agus
- Monatóireacht agus tacaíocht leanúnach do na socrúithe nua comhpháirtíochta leis na ceanneagraíochtaí chun aidhmeanna straitéiseacha a bhaint amach i réimsí an oideachais, úsáid na teanga agus forbairt líonraí, chomh maith le feasacht agus ionadaíocht teanga, i gcomhar leis an bhfóram forbartha teanga uile-oileáin.

Leag an CATT amach na príomhthosaíochtaí aireachta seo a leanas do Ghníomhaireacht na hUltaise in 2016:

- Soláthar tacaíochta go leanúnach sa phobal trí chlár maoiniúcháin a chur ar fáil do theagasc ceoil agus damhsa, féilte pobail, clár tionchar pobail, scoileanna samhraidh agus bunmhaoiniú do phríomheagraíochtaí;
- Fócas ar thionscnaimh oideachais, lena n-áirítear tacaíocht do bhunscoileanna faoi Phríomhchlár na hUltaise do Scoileanna agus soláthar trí nascadh bunscóileanna Thoir/Thiar agus trí cinn Thuaidh/Theas chun feabhas a chur ar an eolas agus ar an gcomhoibriú maidir le hoidhreacht na hUltaise;
- Cur chun cinn teanga, oidhreacht agus cultúr na hUltaise tríd an tairseach Discover Ulster-Scots, limistéar Hairtlan a sheoladh, taispeántais camchuairte, imeachtaí poiblí, foilseacháin agus trí thionscadal oidhreachta sna contaetha ar an teorainn;
- Cur chun cinn na hUltaise a mhéadú ar an talamh trí oiliúint i bpromóisean a chur ar fáil do ghrúpaí pobail agus trí scéim nua a sheoladh le craoladh raidió pobail a chur chun cinn; agus
- Forbairt agus cur i gcrích clár gníomhaíochta faoi Ulaidh agus an Cogadh Mór, le tagairt faoi leith do chomóradh céad bliain Chath an Somme agus Deireadh Seachtaine Oidhreachta na hEorpa.

Faoi dheireadh 2016, bhí dul chun cinn suntasach bainte amach ag an bhForas Teanga i gcur chun cinn na dtosaíochtaí seo.

Cuirtear maoiniú ar fáil don Fhoras Teanga ón Roinn seo agus ón DfC i gcomhréir le buiséid faofa ag an CATT. I rith 2016, cuireadh maoiniú iomlán de €13.249m ar fáil ón Roinn seo don Fhoras Teanga, lena n-áirítear maoiniú imfhálaithe de €1.061m do Chlár na Leabhar Gaeilge (a thacaíonn le tionscnaimh léitheoireachta, scríbhneoireachta agus foilsitheoireachta i nGaeilge) agus €118,518 do Colmcille (tionscnamh trípháirteach chun an Ghaeilge agus Gaeilge na hAlban a chur chun cinn).

Tá tuilleadh eolais ar fáil ar na suíomhanna gréasáin www.forasnagaeilge.ie (Foras na Gaeilge) agus www.ulsterscotsagency.com (Tha Boord o Ulstèr Scotch).

Straitéis 2:

Deiseanna a thapú le comhpháirtithe i dTuaisceart Éireann d'fhonn comhoibriú ar fud réimsí eile de shainchúram na Roinne seo a fheabhsú, ar fud na n-ealaíon, an chultúir, na hoidhreachta agus na gcuimhneachán.

Chomh maith leis an teanga, san áireamh i réimsí eile comhoibrithe trasteorann bhí obair ar phleanáil ócáidí cuimhneacháin, comhthionscadail idir músaeim ar an dá thaobh den teorainn, rannpháirtíocht ag roinnt tionscadal i dTuaisceart Éireann in Oíche Chultúir, chomh maith le rannpháirtíocht ar an oidhreacht thógtha agus nádúrtha, agus ar chúrsaí comhshaoil. Tacaíonn agus maoiníonn an Roinn seo, i gcomhar leis an Roinn Infreastruchtúir i dTuaisceart Éireann agus leis an CATT, Uiscebhealaí Éireann agus é i mbun na huiscebhealaí intíre a bhainistiú, a chothabháil, a fhorbairt agus a athchóiriú.

Straitéis 3:

Oibriú le hUiscebhealaí Éireann le infreastruchtúr na n-uiscebhealaí a fheabhsú sa dá dhlínse.

Tacaíonn agus maoiníonn an Roinn seo, i gcomhar leis an Roinn Cultúir, Ealaíon agus Fóillíochta i dTuaisceart Éireann go Bealtaine 2016 agus ansin leis an Roinn Infreastruchtúir agus CATT, Uiscebhealaí Éireann agus é i mbun na huiscebhealaí intíre a bhainistiú, a chothabháil, a fhorbairt agus a athchóiriú.

In 2016, chuir an Roinn seo maoiniú de €26.567m ar fáil d'Uiscebhealaí Éireann. Ar na torthaí ba mhó a baineadh amach le linn na bliana, bhí:

- Cothabháil leanúnach lena chinntiú gur fhan níos mó ná 90% d'uiscebhealaí i dtéarmaí tagartha Uiscebhealaí Éireann inseolta ar feadh séasúr bádóireachta 2016 (Aibreán go Deireadh Fómhair).
- Leanadh ar aghaidh le hobair chothabhála agus deisiúcháin ar fud na n-uiscebhealaí agus baineadh úsáid as acmhainní le deisiúcháin éigeandála a dhéanamh agus bainistiú uisce a chinntiú. Leanadh ar aghaidh le hoibreacha chun caoi a chur ar infreastruchtúr a ndearnadh damáiste dó le linn an gheimhridh 2016/2016 ar Loingseoireacht na Sionnaine agus athosclaíodh an t-uiscebhealach go Luimneach ó Chora an Phairtín i mí Lúnasa. Dheisigh foireann Uiscebhealaí Éireann trí mhórchliseadh breise ar bhruacha canálacha le linn 2016. Chuir an Roinn €3.188m breise d'acmhainní caipitil ar fáil le linn na bliana. Chuir an cistiú breise sin acmhainní ar fáil do chlár oibreacha le hinfreastruchtúr ar fud na n-uiscebhealaí a dheisiú. Ar líonra na gcanálacha tá tús curtha le clár chun geataí loic a dhéanamh, d'fhonn iad a chur in áit na ngeataí loic atá ar fud chóras na gcanálacha.

- Leanadh ar aghaidh le forbairt na mBealaí Gorma, i gcomhar le húdaráis áitiúla, chomh maith le cláir chun cumas a chothú, agus gníomhaíocht mhargaíochta chun cuairteoirí a mhealladh chun na Gormbhealaí;
 - Osclaíodh Gormbhealach na Sionainne-na hÉirne ar an 28 Bealtaine.
 - Tugadh cead pleanála agus fuarthas maoiniú do rian do chanúnna ar Loch Dearg.
 - Bhain 100,000 cuairteoir úsáid as Gormbhealach na Sionainne, a seoladh i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2014 agus a mhéadaigh an úsáid a bhaintear as canáil Loch Aillionn.
 - Leanadh ar aghaidh leis an uasghrádú ar 38km den chosán tarraingthe ar an gCanáil Ríoga ó theorainn Mhaigh Nuad go Teorainn na hIarmhí agus 13.6km ó Dhroichead Draper go Droichead Áth an Longfoirt, An Chanáil Ríoga, le cabhair ó chistiú tríú páirtí.
- Dul chun cinn ar fhorbairt Chanáil Uladh go Caisleán Shandarsan: Tá Céimeanna 1 agus 2 curtha i gcrích. Tá measúnú tairisceana do Chéim 3, forbairt an uiscebhealaigh go Caisleán Shandarsan, á thabhairt chun críche faoi láthair agus cuireadh tús le hoibreacha ar an láthair in 2017.
- Comhpháirtíocht Ghlasbhealach Chanáil Uladh curtha ar bun le páirtithe leasmhara agus forbraíodh an tionscadal.
- Cistiú INTERREG VA faighte le deontas de €4.9m lena bhforbrófar 22km den chosán tarraingthe ar Chanáil Uladh.
- Tháinig méadú de 530 ar líon foriomlán na mbád cláraithe in 2016. Chuir bádóireacht phríobháideach níos mó ná €88m in aghaidh na bliana leis an ngeilleagar, le níos mó ná 8,000 bád cláraithe ar an tSionainn agus 6,000 bád ar uiscebhealach na hÉirne. Thuairiscigh baill Chumann Cíosa Bád na hÉireann méadú de 11% ar an ngnó in 2016, rud a chuir €50m in aghaidh na bliana leis an ngeilleagar, agus tagann níos mó ná 70% de na cuairteoirí ón mór-roinn.
- Ghlac níos mó ná 3,000 duine as pobail áitiúla ar na huiscebhealaí páirt in obair dheonach agus i gcur i gcrích tionscadal faoi Chlár Deontas Pobail an Phlean Oidhreachta, cuid de Phlean Oidhreachta Uiscebhealaí Éireann 2016-2020, a seoladh i mí Iúil 2016.
- Leanadh ar aghaidh le feachtas margaíochta agus promóisin Thionscnamh Dhúichí na Lochanna agus na nUiscebhealaí Intíre a chur i gcrích i gcomhpháirtíocht le Fáilte Éireann.
- Chuir Clár Urraíochta 2016 tacaíocht ar fáil do 121 imeacht, agus cuireadh 118 acu ar siúl. B'ionann an méid a íocadh isteach sa chlár urraíochta agus €185,000. Bunaithe ar thuairiscí iar-imeachta faighte go dtí seo, mheall na himeachtaí 138,000 cuairteoir chun na huiscebhealaí intíre agus, mar thoradh air sin, cuireadh os cionn €5.5m isteach sa gheilleagar áitiúil agus náisiúnta.
- Lean Uiscebhealaí Éireann ar aghaidh lena gcuid oibre chun tacú le forbairt ghnóthais, agus eisíodh naoi gceadúnas oibríochta in 2016 do ghnóthais nua ar na huiscebhealaí.
- Lean Uiscebhealaí Éireann leo freisin ag cur le Meitheal Comhordaithe Gníomhaireachtaí Stáit na Sionainne do Riosca i gcás Tuilte ag leibhéal lárnach agus ag leibhéal comhordaithe spéise speisialta.

Dul chun cinn in 2016 – Sprioc 5: Gnóthaí, Réigiúnacha agus Tuaithe

Comhordú a dhéanamh agus dul chun cinn a bhaint amach ar fhorfheidhmiú gníomhartha a thagann chun cinn de bharr beartais náisiúnta agus AE ar mhaithe le pobail tuaithe a fhorbairt.

Mar chuid de chlár an Rialtais chun tacú le forbairt na tuaithe, sheol an Roinn tionscnaimh áirithe lena n-áirítear CLÁR, Athnuachan Bailte agus Sráidbhailte, Áineas Tuaithe agus REDZ (Crios Forbartha Geilleagraí Tuaithe) le linn 2016. Den chuid is mó, cuireadh na tionscnaimh i gcrích trí na húdaráis Áitiúla agus dáileadh níos mó ná €30m de chistiú ar raon leathan tionscadal ar fud na hÉireann mar thoradh orthu.

Scéim Athnuachana Bailte agus Sráidbhailte

In 2016 cuireadh €9.88m ar fáil don Scéim Athnuachana Bailte agus Sráidbhailte, agus mar gheall air sin tacaíodh le 170 tionscadal ar fud na tíre.

Is é aidhm lárnach na scéime tacú le hathbheochan na mbailte agus na sráidbhailte chun feabhas a chur ar an timpeallacht cónaithe agus oibre na bpobal agus a n-acmhainneacht a mhéadú chun tacú le gníomhaíocht mhéadaithe gheilleagrach sa toadhcháí. Díriodh ach go háirithe ar bhailte agus sráidbhailte le daonra níos lú ná 10,000 duine. Is faoi na húdaráis áitiúla go príomha a bhí sé na cineálacha tionscadal a bheadh le maoiniú faoin tionscnamh seo a shainaitheint i gcomhpháirtíocht le pobail áitiúla.

REDZ 2016

Tar éis thionscnamh trialach na gCriosanna Forbartha Geilleagraí Tuaithe in 2015, seoladh an dara chéim den tionscnamh i mí Mheán Fómhair 2016. Faoi REDZ 2016, ceadaíodh €6.142m do 47 tionscadal ar fud na hÉireann. Ba scéim chómhainithe é REDZ 2016 idir an Roinn agus na húdaráis Áitiúla.

Faoi scéim REDZ 2016 tugadh cuireadh d'Údaráis Áitiúla tionscadail chúí a chur isteach lena mbreithniú. Bronnadh cistiú suas le 80% de chostas iomlán an tionscadail ar na tionscadail ar éirigh leo, agus tháinig an chuid eile den chistiú ó fhoinsí áitiúla (cistiú ó údarás áitiúil, ón earnáil phríobháideach nó cistiú pobalbhunaithe) le ranníocaíocht íosta de 5% airgead tirim.

Áineas Tuaithe

In 2016, chuir an Roinn Scéim um Infreastruchtúr Áineasa Faoin Aer i bhfeidhm lena cuireadh maoiniú ar fáil d'obair chothabhála, forbartha, feabhsaithe agus cur chun cinn ar an infreastruchtúr áineasa a bhí in Éirinn cheana féin. Maoiníodh 117 tionscadal ar fud na tíre leis an scéim, agus cuireadh cistiú iomlán de €7.4m ar fáil leis. Cuimsíodh raon fairsing tionscadal, ó infreastruchtúr cosáin ar scála beag go codanna de thionscadail níos mó i gcomhar le mórchuid na húdarás Áitiúil, Uiscebhealaí Éireann, Coillte agus lascaigh Intíre Éireann.

Lean an Roinn ar aghaidh freisin ag cur Scéim na Siúlóidí i bhfeidhm, lena cuimsítear úinéirí príobháideacha talún mar phríomh-rannpháirtithe i dtaboh cosáin ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil trí conradh a thabhairt dóibh leis an obair chothabhála ar

na cosáin a dhéanamh i gcomhréir le pleananna oibre comhaontaithe. Tá Scéim na Siúlóidí i bhfeidhm faoi láthair ar 39 gcosán a fhaigheann tacaíocht ó 1,912 úinéirí talún agus tá sí á bainistiú ag sé Chomhlacht Forbartha Áitiúla déag ar fud na tíre. Ba ionann na híocaíochtaí a rinneadh leis na 1,912 rannpháirtithe sin do 2016 agus €1.8m.

CLÁR

Is ionann CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Ard-Riachtanais) agus clár infheistíochta spriocdhírthe lena gcuirtear maoiniú ar fáil do thionscadail infreastruchtúir mhionscála sna ceantair thuaithe inar tharla an laghdú daonra is mó. Cé gur seoladh an clár in 2004, dúnadh é le haghaidh iarratais nua in 2009.

Rinne Michael Ring, T.D., an tAire Stáit um Fhorbairt Réigiúnach ag an am, an clár a athbhunú in 2016. Díritear an clár nua ar thrí bheart ar leithligh:

- Beart 1: Bearta Sábháilteachta do Scoileanna agus d'Áiseanna Pobail/Spóirt
- Beart 2: Clóis Súgartha agus Limistéir Ilúsáide Cluichí
- Beart 3: Bóithre Rochtana Áitiúla.

In 2016 ceadaíodh maoiniú de €8.24m do raon iléagsúil tionscadal in áiteanna ar fud na tíre. San iomlán, ceadaíodh 651 tionscadal, idir shoilse sábháilteachta lasmuigh de líon mór bunscoileanna agus iarbhunscoileanna, áiseanna súgartha lasmuigh a fhorbairt agus áiseanna a bhí ann cheana a dheisiú agus a chothabháil.

Bailte Slachtmhara

Fuair comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara, a fheidhmíonn an Roinn agus a fhaigheann maoiniú ó SuperValu, 859 iontráil in 2016.

Bhí searmanas bronnta ghradaim Náisiúnta na mBailte Slachtmhara ar siúl sa Helix, Baile Átha Cliath, agus d'fhreastail thart ar 1,000 oibrí deonach ó na Bailte Slachtmhara ar an ócáid. Ba Na Sceirí i gCo. Bhaile Átha Cliath a bhuaigh an duais fhoriomlán mar an Bhaile is Slachtmhaire in Éirinn. Bronnadh an duais don Bhaile is Feistiúla in Éirinn, comórtas Thuaidh/Theas, ar Bhruach Sheáin, Co. Aontroma in 2016.

Ghlac Tulach Mhór, Co. Uíbh Fhailí agus Teach Srafáin i gCo. Chill Dara páirt sa chomórtas Entente Florale in 2016 agus ghnóthaigh siad an bonn Óir agus an bonn Airgid faoi seach. Ghlac Leitir Ceanainn páirt sa chomórtas Communities in Bloom.

Coimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair

Is faoi Choimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair (CFI) atá sé na buntáistí a bhaineann le bheith ag cónaí, ag obair agus ag déanamh gnó sa réigiún a chur chun cinn agus forbairt gheilleagar an réigiúin a spreagadh bunaithe ar fhorbairt inbhuanaithe a láidreachtaí agus a acmhainní.

Cuireann an CFI caipiteal riosca ar fáil freisin do mhicreaghnóthais, gnóthais bheaga agus meánghnóthais agus do ghnóthais shóisialta trí Chiste Infheistíochta an Iarthair

(CII). Bunaíodh é seo ar bhonn chiste imrothlaigh ionas go ndéanfaí gach fáltas a athinfheistiú i bhFiontair an Iarthair.

LEADER

Tacaíonn LEADER le fiontar príobháideach agus grúpaí pobail araon le tionscadail a chur i gcrích atá dírithe ar an gcaighdeán maireachtála a fheabhsú i gceantair thuaithe agus éagsúlú na gníomhaíochta eacnamaíche i gceantair thuaithe a spreagadh. B'idirbhliain a bhí ann do mhaoiniú LEADER in 2016 mar gheall go raibh deireadh ag teacht leis na tionscadail dheireanacha ó chlár LEADER 2007-2013 agus go raibh Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Áitiúla (GGÁna) LEADER á roghnú le clár 2014-2020 a chur i gcrích.

Cuireadh tuairim is €7.6m ar fáil leis na tionscadail dheiridh a thabhairt chun críche faoi Chlár 2007-2013 agus le maoiniú idirthréimhseach a chur ar fáil do GGÁna LEADER le linn na tréimhe idir dheireadh an chláir dheireanaigh agus tús an chinn nua.

Is ionann an pacáiste maoiniúcháin foriomlán do Chlár LEADER 2014-2020 agus €250m. Tá an maoiniú sin á sholáthar do phobail áitiúla agus d'fhiontar áitiúil trí na GGÁna nua, a roghnaítear bunaithe ar chaighdeán na Straitéisí Forbartha Áitiúla a fhorbraíonn siad dá gceantair faoi seach. Clúdaítear an costas a bhaineann le forbairt na straitéisí sin faoin gClár. Roghnaíonn an GGÁ tionscadail le maoiniú bunaithe ar na cuspóirí atá leagtha amach i ngach straitéis aonair. Bíonn na cuspóirí sin laistigh de raon téamaí sainithe lena n-áirítear forbairt fiontair agus cruthú post, forbairt bhailte tuaithe, ionchuimsiú sóisialta agus an comhshaol.

Cuireadh tríocha a dó Straitéis Forbartha Áitiúla faoi bhráid lena mbreithniú do na 28 gceantar fo-réigiúnach in Éirinn. Rinne Pobal measúnú ar na straitéisí sin sular seoladh ar aghaidh iad chuig Coiste Roghnúcháin Neamhspleách le haghaidh measúnú deiridh agus cinneadh. Tá straitéisí roghnaithe anois i ngach ceantar fo-réigiúnach agus Comhaontuithe Maoiniúcháin sínithe le 28 Grúpa Gníomhaíochta Áitiúil do chur i gcrích LEADER i ngach ceann de na 28 ceantar fo-réigiúnach in 2016. Sheol an Roinn an dara próiseas roghnúcháin straitéise do Ghailimh thoir, arb é an ceantar tuaithe amháin in Éirinn é nach bhfuil clúdaithe ag ceann de na 28 straitéisí atá roghnaithe cheana. Táthar ag súil leis go ndéanfar straitéis a chur i gcrích agus a roghnú don cheantar seo i nGaillimh in 2017.

Bhí Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Áitiúla gníomhach ina dhiaidh sin leis an méid seo a leanas:

- clár LEADER a chur chun cinn i bpobail áitiúla;
- Léirithe Spéise a fháil i dtaca le maoiniú; agus
- obair le tionscnóirí féideartha tionscadal le hiarratais a chur i gcrích a bhí forbartha agus costáilte go hiomlán.

Faoi dheireadh 2016, bhí níos mó ná 2,000 Léiriú Spéise faighte i dtaca le maoiniú de tuairim is €97m agus bhí na chéad iarratais faofa.

Anuas ar fheidhmiú céimneach chlár LEADER, sheol an Roinn gairm náisiúnta ar

thionscadail chomhoibríthe LEADER le buiséad de €3 mhilliún ar fáil. Is ionann Comhoibriú LEADER agus gné shonrach den Chlár Forbartha Tuaithe a ceapadh chun spreagadh a thabhairt do GGÁna oibriú le chéile ar chomhthionscadal atá ina dhíol comhspéise ag gach réimse rannpháirteach. Mar chuid de Chomhoibriú, ní mór go dtiocfaidh comhpháirtíocht de dhá GGÁ nó níos mó as dhá réimse éagsúil - laistigh d'Éirinn nó go hidirnáisiúnta - le chéile chun tionscadail a chur i gcrích a theánn chun tairbhe dá bpobail áitiúla. Tháinig an seoladh sna sála ar chomhdháil Thuaidh-Theas le comhoibriú idir Ghrúpaí Gníomhaíochta Áitiúla LEADER a chur chun cinn ar fud an oileáin.

Cur i bhFeidhm maidir le hOifigí Poist agus Leathanbhanda

Príomhghnóthachtálacha agus Príomhthionscnaimh 2016

Bunaíodh Aonad Forfheidhmiúcháin Leathanbanda agus Líonra na nOifigí Poist sa Roinn i mí Aibreáin 2016 le cur le sprioc na Roinne i dtaca le forbairt inbhuanaithe réigiúnach agus tuaithe a éascú mar atá leagtha amach sa Chlár don Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta.

Is príomhchuspóir an Aonaid é pobail a ullmhú do theacht an leathanbhanda ardluais trí theagmháil ghníomhach dhíríthe a dhéanamh le páirtithe leasmhara, lena n-áirítear údaráis áitiúla, le bacainní ar fheidhmiú céimneach an bhonneagair teileacumarsáide a réiteach. Tá an tAonad ag obair le húdaráis áitiúla freisin le straitéisí digiteacha a fhorbairt do cheantar gach údaráis áitiúil. D'oibrigh an tAonad freisin le tacú le An Post agus é á chur féin in oiriúint do thimpeallacht gnó atá ag athrú.

Plean Náisiúnta Leathanbhanda

Sa *Chlár don Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta* tá gealltanas go gcabhróidh an Roinn leis an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil i dtaca le feidhmiú céimneach leathanbhanta ardluais nuair atá an conradh/na conarthaí don Plean Náisiúnta Leathanbhanda (NBP) bronnta. Áiríonn na príomhthionscnaimh ar tugadh fúthu in 2016:

- Dhá Ghrúpa Gníomhaíochta a bunaíodh i dtaca le Leathanbhanda Réigiúnach, rud a thagann leis an dá bheart soláthair sa phróiseas soláthair NBP, agus a chuimsíonn na 31 údaráis áitiúil. Is ionann cuspóir na nGrúpaí Gníomhaíochta Réigiúnacha agus cinnte a dhéanamh go bhfuil gach údaráis áitiúil ullmhaithe go hiomlán leis an tairgeoir/na tairgeoirí a n-éiríonn leo a éascú le tús a chur leis an obair chomh luath is atá an próiseas soláthair curtha i gcrích agus na conarthaí sínithe. Le linn 2016 tháinig na Grúpaí Gníomhaíochta Réigiúnacha le chéile ceithre huair.
- Maoiniú a cuireadh ar fáil le 27 Oifigeach Leathanbhanda a cheapadh le gníomhú mar phointe teagmhála aonair in údaráis áitiúla do chomhlachtaí teileacumarsáide.
- Rinneadh measúnú ar níos mó ná 400 Mol Straitéiseach Rochtana Pobail agus ceadaíodh iad d'fhonn iad a chur i dtosaíocht lena gceangal le leathanbhanda

ardluais le linn an fheidhmithe chéimnigh agus cuirfidh siad rochtain shaor in aisce ar leathanbhanda ardluais ar fáil do phobail tuaithe.

An Tascfhórsa Fón Póca agus Leathanbhanda

Sa *Chlár don Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta 2016* tugadh gealltanas freisin go ndéanadh an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil agus an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Tascfhórsa Fón Póca agus Leathanbhanda a bhunú. Ba é ról an Tascfhórsa réitigh a fhiosrú chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar easpaí raon clúdaigh leathanbhanda/fón póca agus gníomhartha inláimhsithe a shainaitheint a d'fhéadfaí a dhéanamh chun feabhas a chur ar chaighdeán na seirbhísí leathanbhanda agus fón póca a bhí á gcur ar fáil do shaoránaigh ar fud na hÉireann.

Foilsíodh Tuarascáil an Tascfhórsa Fón Póca agus Leathanbhanda i mí na Nollag 2016. Sa tuarascáil leagtar amach moltaí agus 40 gníomh inláimhsithe le bacainní ar ghlacadóireacht fón póca agus ar an rochtain ar leathanbhanda a mhaolú roimh chur i bhfeidhm céimneach an Phlean Náisiúnta Leathanbhanda.

Oifigí Poist

Is polasaí an Rialtais gur cheart do An Post leanúint ar aghaidh mar chomhlacht láidir, inmharthana atá in ann seirbhís ardchaighdeáin poist a chur ar fáil agus líonra náisiúnta d'oifigí poist dírithe ar chustaiméirí a chothú sna pobail. Sa *Chlár don Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta* tugadh gealltanas gníomhú de réir mholtaí uile thuarascáil dheiridh Ghrúpa Forbartha Gnó Líonra na nOifigí Poist.

Bunaíodh dhá mheitheal le dul chun cinn a bhaint amach ar na moltaí a d'éascair as tuarascáil an Ghrúpa Forbartha Gnó; eadhon, an Grúpa Forfheidhmithe um Athnuachan Líonra na nOifigí Poist, faoi chathaoirleacht Bobby Kerr, agus an Grúpa Oibre um Postoifigí Moil faoi chathaoirleacht an Aire Stáit ag an am, Michael Ring T.D.

Rinne Grúpa Athnuachana an Líonra scrúdú ar shaincheisteanna áirithe a bhain le líonra na nOifigí Poist, lenar áiríodh líon agus scaipeadh na n-oifigí poist, nuachóiriú brainsí, athchóirí táirgí agus seirbhísí, agus conarthaí na máistrí poist. Chuir an tUasal Kerr a thuarascáil dheiridh faoi bhráid An Post i mí na Nollag 2016.

Ba é ról an Ghrúpa Oibre um Postoifigí Moil samhlacha féideartha a shainaitheint faoin bhféadfadh na hoifigí poist feidhmiú mar lárionaid phobail, go háirithe i gceantair thuaithe. Chuir an Grúpa Oibre sin a chuid oibre i gcrích i Mí na Nollag. In 2017 aistríodh an fhreagracht as Líonra na nOifigí Poist go dtí an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil.

Sa *Chlár don Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta* tá gealltanas freisin fiosrú iomlán a dhéanamh, i measc roghanna eile, ar shamhail Sparkassen na Gearmáine i dtaca le bancanna áitiúla poiblí a fhorbairt a fheidhmíonn laistigh de réigiúin dhea-shainithe. Tá clár oibre comhaontaithe leis an Roinn Airgeadais agus, i gcomhairle le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha, leanadh ar aghaidh ag fiosrú an tsamhail in 2017. Feictear go gcuirfear an obair i gcrích faoi lár 2017.

Straitéis Tuaithe

Sa *Chlár don Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta* a foilsíodh i Mí na Bealtaine 2016 aithníodh forbairt agus athnuachan cheantar tuaithe na hÉireann mar phríomhthosaíocht. I ndiaidh í a cheapadh, thug an Taoiseach sainordú don Aire Humphreys *Plean Gníomhaíochta um Fhorbairt Tuaithe* nua a fhorbairt d'fhonn dul chun cinn eacnamaíoch agus sóisialta a bhrú chun cinn i gceantair thuaithe. Bhí sé i gceist ag an Rialtas go mbeadh an Plean Gníomhaíochta ina struchtúr foriomlán le tionscnaimh ar fud an Rialtais a d'fhéadfadh dul chun tairbhe do cheantar tuaithe na hÉireann a chomhordú agus a chur i bhfeidhm.

Cuireadh tús le hullmhú an Phlean Gníomhaíochta sa dara leath de 2016, agus tugadh faoi phróiseas fairsing comhairliúcháin. I mí Mheán Fómhair, rinneadh sraith cruinnithe a réachtáil le príomhpháirtithe leasmhara lena áiríodh grúpaí feirmeoireachta, grúpaí iascaireachta, Teagasc, Macra na Feirme, Údarás na Gaeltachta, ÚFT Éireann, Fiontraíocht Éireann, Cumann Chomhlachais Tráchtála na hÉireann, Coimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair, Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann, Naisc Tuaithe na hÉireann agus Uiscebhealaí Éireann. Rinneadh seisiún eolais a réachtáil an mhí sin freisin do bhaill den Oireachtas ar tugadh cuireadh dóibh moltaí a chur isteach lena mbreithniú i dtaca leis an bPlean. I mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2016, rinneadh sé cheardlann struchtúrtha a réachtáil ar fud na tíre le hionadaithe as grúpaí pobail áitiúla, Rialtas Áitiúil, páirtithe leasmhara tuaithe, agus comhlachtaí agus gníomhaireachtaí ábhartha Stáit.

Rinneadh teagmháil freisin le gach Roinn Rialtais agus gach Gníomhaireacht Stáit i dtaca le hullmhú an Phlean Gníomhaíochta d'fhonn gníomhartha a aithint ar fud raon iomlán feidhmeanna an Rialtais. Foilsíodh an Plean Gníomhaíochta i Mí Eanáir 2017.

Cúrsaí Corparáideacha

Acmhainní Daonna

D'fhógair an Taoiseach ar an 6 Bealtaine 2016 go ndéanfaí Roinn nuachumraithe Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe ag Gaeltachta a bhunú. Bheadh an Roinn nuachumraithe freagrach as feidhmeanna uile na Roinne Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta mar a bhí agus, ina theannta sin, bheadh freagracht uirthi as feidhmeanna faoi leith a bhí ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Pobail agus Rialtais Áitiúil agus ag an Roinn Cumarsáide, Fuinnimh agus Acmhainní Nádúrtha roimhe sin.

Ag deireadh 2016 bhí 607 ball foirne (coibhéis lánaimseartha) sa Roinn nuachumraithe, i gcomparáid le 548 sa leagan den Roinn a bhí ann roimhe sin ag deireadh 2016.

Tacaíodh le hoiliúint agus forbairt na foirne trí raon gníomhaíochtaí lenar áiríodh cúrsaí oiliúna foirmeálta, forbairt sláinte agus sábháilteachta, forbairt ghairmiúil, oiliúint speisialaithe, aisíoc táillí acadúla, freastal ar chomhdhálacha agus seimineáir agus aisíoc táillí ballraíochta gairmiúla. Trí ghníomhaíochtaí oiliúna agus forbartha dá leithéid, rinne an Roinn cinnte go raibh an t-eolas, na scileanna agus an t-iompar riachtanach ag an bhfoireann le feidhmíocht eagraíochtúil a chothabháil agus le cuspóirí gnó a bhaint amach.

Teicneolaíocht Faisnéise

Seoladh suíomh gréasáin nua na Roinne i Meán Fómhair 2016. B'fhoireann ilréimsiúil a d'fhorbraigh an suíomh gréasáin agus tá sé dírithe ar rochtain éasca a thabhairt don úsáideoir ar eolas faoin Roinn agus faoina seirbhísí. Tá méadú suntasach ag teacht i gcónaí ar an trácht a fhaigheann an suíomh ó seoladh é.

Ainmníodh an suíomh dátheangach do ghradam ag Gradaim Ríomhsheirbhísí an Rialtais 2016 chomh maith le Bunachar Logainmneacha na hÉireann (www.logainm.ie) arna fhorbairt ag Fiontar, DCU agus Brainse Logainmneacha na Roinne.

Rialachas Corparáideach & Seirbhísí Corparáideacha

Tá an Roinn tiomanta do sheirbhís éifeachtacht, éifeachtúil, ar ardchaighdeán a chur ar fáil dá custaiméirí. Tá *Plean Gníomhaíochta um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí* na Roinne agus *An Chairt um Sheirbhís do Chustaiméirí* ar fáil ar shuíomh gréasáin na Roinne.

Saoráil Faisnéise agus Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis faoin gComhshaol

Idir an 1 Eanáir 2016 agus an 31 Nollaig 2016, fuair an Roinn 169 iarratas faoin Acht um Shaoráil Faisnéise 2014. As an 169 iarratas, bronnadh 45 acu san iomlán, bronnadh 47 acu i bpáirt agus diúltaíodh do 40 n-iarratas. Tarraingíodh siar, nó láimhsíodh lasmuigh den Acht um Shaoráil Faisnéise, 37 iarratas ar fad.

Idir an 1 Eanáir 2016 agus an 31 Nollaig 2016, fuair an Roinn 39 iarratas faoi na Rialacháin um Rochtain ar Fhaisnéis faoin gComhshaol. As an 39 iarratas, bronnadh 22 acu san iomlán ar deireadh thiar, bronnadh 8 acu i bpáirt agus diúltaíodh do 5 n-iarratas. Tarraingíodh siar, nó láimhsíodh lasmuigh de rialacháin AIE, 4 iarratas ar fad.

Aguisín 1
Clár an Rialtais 2011-2016
Gealltanais a bhaineann leis an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Is gealltanais iad na cinn a ndéantar tagairt dóibh anseo, i ndáil le *Clár an Rialtais 2011-2016*, gealltanais a bhfuil freagracht cheannasaíochta ag an Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta, Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta astu.

Na hEalaíona, Cultúr agus Spórt

Beidh ceapadh polasaí straitéiseach ina phríomhfheidhm ag an Roinn, le comhlachtaí agus gníomhaireachtaí líne freagrach as forfheidhmiú polasaí.

Spreagfaimid an Chomhairle Ealaíon chun leanúint le hacmhainní a thiomnú do chamchuartheanna chun infheistíocht an Stáit in infreastruchtúr réigiúnach ealaíon ar fud na tíre a chosaint agus chun deiseanna turasóireachta cultúrtha a thabhairt chuig bailte agus sráidbhailte ar fud na tíre.

Comhoibreoimid le páirtithe leasmhara i bpobal na n-ealaíon chun tograí nua a fhorbairt a bheidh dírithe ar thacaíocht phríobháideach a chothú do na healaíona in Éirinn, ag féachaint ar dheiseanna daonchairdis, urraíochta nó ciste dearlaice.

Déanfaimid ócáid dhá uair in aghaidh na bliana de Thionscnamh na hOíche Cultúir, agus tabharfaimid isteach Lá Comóraidh Chiste an Chrannchuir Náisiúnta, sa chaoi is go n-oscloídh na háiseanna ar fad a fuair cistiú ón gCrannchur Náisiúnta a ndoirse don phobal saor in aisce.

Déanfaimid athbhreithniú freisin ar uaireanta oscailte ár bhforais chultúrtha náisiúnta.

Forbróimid plean cultúrtha d'ócáidí cuimhneacháin amach anseo, cosúil le Cuimhneachán Céad Bliain Éirí Amach na Cásca 2016.

Cuirfimid turasóireacht ghinealais chun cinn tríd an Acht um Fhorais Chultúir Náisiúnta a thabhairt chun dáta i ndáil leis an Oifig Ginealais chun í a chur ar bhonn ceart reachtúil, chun a cuid oibriúcháin a nuachóiriú agus chun go bhféadfar Daonáireamh 1926 a fhoilsiú chun turasóireacht ghinealais a spreagadh.

Breathnóimid ar dheiseanna daonchairdis freisin chun cartlann náisiúnta agus ceantar ginealais a fhorbairt, chun go mbeidh sé níos éasca teacht ar chartlanna agus chun teacht i dtír ar réimse den turasóireacht chultúrtha a bhfuil spéis mhór ag an Diaspóra mór Éireannach inti.

Spreagfaimid comhoibriú níos fearr idir na húdaráis áitiúla chun cuidiú a chur ar fáil nuair is féidir do na húdaráis áitiúla nach bhfuil Oifigeach Ealaíon acu faoi láthair de bharr srianta ar earcaíocht agus chun comhoibriú le deiseanna turasóireachta cultúrtha a fhorbairt.

Déanfaimid iarracht leas poiblí éigin a bhaint as NAMA trí fhoirgnimh nach bhfuil aon fhéidearthacht thráchtála ag baint leo a shainithint agus a d'fhéadfadh a bheith oiriúnach mar áiseanna áitiúla ealaíon agus cultúir.

Fillfidh an fhreagracht as cinnteoireacht ar an Roinn, agus beidh gníomhaireachtaí freagrach as polasaithe a chur i bhfeidhm agus as torthaí agus luach ar airgead a mheas.

An Ghaeilge agus an Ghaeltacht

Tacóimid leis an Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge 2010-2030 agus cuirfimid na spriocanna agus na haidhmeanna insroichte atá inti i gcrích.

Bainfidh ceantair Ghaeltachta leas as an bplean gníomhaíochta post a bhfuil cur síos déanta air sa cháipéis seo. Foinár gcuid moltaí, cuirfimid ionchais cruthaithe fostaíochta nua ar fáil do na ceantair Ghaeltachta. Déanfaimid infheistíocht in infreastruchtúr fuinnimh, leathanbhanda agus uisce, ag cruthú an infreastruchtúir a theastaíonn chun gnóthaí agus poist nua a mhealladh agus chun tacú leo. Tacóimid go láidir freisin leis an bhféidearthacht i ndáil le poist i ngníomhaíochtaí turasóireachta agus mara. Leanfaimid le tacaíocht a thabhairt d'earnáil chraolacháin agus ealaíon na Gaeilge.

Déanfaimid athbhreithniú ar Acht na dTeangacha Oifigiúla chun a chinntiú go mbainfear an leas is fearr as caiteachas ar an teanga chun an teanga a fhorbairt agus chun a chinntiú go bhforchuirtear dualgas go cuí de réir éilimh ó shaoránaigh.

Déanfaimid athbhreithniú ar chláir reatha infheistíochta agus mhaoinithe a mbaineann eagraíochtaí Gaeilge leas astu chun luach ar airgead a bheidh infheicthe a bhaint amach do shaoránaigh agus chun torthaí inlámhsithe a bhaint amach ar bhonn trédhearcach.

Oidhreacht Nádúrtha

Ceadóimid díolúine ar bhaint móna baile ar 75 suíomh oidhreachta nádúrtha faoi réir chód comhaontaithe náisiúnta ar chleachtais chomhshaoil a thabhairt isteach.

Cuirfimid idirghabháil neamhspleách ar bun idir na páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha ar fad leis an aidhm shonrach de réiteach a éascú do 55 portach sainainmnithe ar cheantar faoi chaomhnú speisialta.

Cuirfimid idirghabháil neamhspleách ar bun chun réiteach a fháil ar shaincheisteanna nach bhfuil réitithe go fóill agus a bhaineann le baint móna ar bhratphortaigh.

Lorgóidh muid tacaíocht an Oireachtais le haghaidh Scéim nua Athnuachana Bailte agus Sráidbhailte chun tacú le hathbheochan ár mbailte agus ár sráidbhailte agus timpeallacht maireachtála agus oibre a fheabhsú sna pobail. Trí úsáid a bhaint as an €30 milliún atá ar fáil ón mbliain seo ag na húdaráis áitiúla le haghaidh athbheochan bhailte agus sráidbhailte, féachfaidh an scéim, i measc nithe eile, le tarraingteacht agus inbhuanaitheacht ár mbailte agus ár sráidbhailte a fheabhsú mar áiteanna le cónaí iontu agus le bheith ag obair iontu. (Gníomh Bhliain 1)

Tacóimid le hAire nua Rialtais agus an Roinn [Forbartha Réigiúnaí agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe] chun comhordú polaitiúil níos fearr a chur ar fáil agus beartú tosaíochta níos fearr ar obair Ranna eile i réimsí ábhartha a mbíonn tionchar acu ar cheantair thuaithe na hÉireann. Cruthóidh an tAire fóram tí imréitigh le fiosrú a dhéanamh ar na smaointe is fearr le dul chun cinn eacnamaíoch agus sóisialta a bhrú chun tosaigh faoin tuath in Éirinn agus oibreoidh an tAire chun na moltaí is fearr a chur i bhfeidhm leis an gcuid eile den Rialtas.

Déanfaidh muid ról Choimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair (WDC) a threisiú freisin, ionas go dtacóidh sé le cur chun feidhme phleananna réigiúnacha do phoist san Iarthar agus san Iarthuaisceart. Mar chuid de sin, tabharfar sainordú sonrathach don WDC chun forbairt líonraí fiontar a spreagadh sa dá réigiún sin agus chun cuir chuige nuálacha i leith fhorbairt a spreagadh. Tógfaidh sé sin ar an leithdháileadh de €2 mhilliún de mhaoiniú breise a rinneadh le déanaí chun tacú le forbairt eacnamaíoch réigiúnach in Iarthar na hÉireann, rud a riarfaidh an WDC ar fud líon áirithe tionscadal forbartha eacnamaíche.

Leanfaidh grúpaí LEADER leo lena ról lárnach in athbheochan phobail ar fud na hÉireann agus tá an Rialtas Comhpháirtíochta nua tiomanta don mhaoiniú do chlár LEADER a mhéadú. Oibreoidh muid le húdaráis áitiúla, grúpaí gníomhaíochta áitiúla agus pobail áitiúla lena chinntiú go n-úsáidfear maoiniú LEADER leis an tairbhe is mó is féidir a bhaint amach do phobail ar fud na tíre. Ina theannta sin, cuirfidh muid maoiniú caipitil níos iomaíche ar fáil chun deis a thabhairt do ghrúpaí LEADER tairiscint a dhéanamh le haghaidh acmhainní breise do na tionscadail is fearr a thacaíonn le forbairt eacnamaíoch tuaithe.

Ag tógáil ar an €3 mhilliún curtha ar fáil chun tacú le tionscnaimh CEDRA, cuirfidh muid na moltaí i dtuarascáil CEDRA agus an Chairt Tuaithe nua i bheidhm mar is cuí; d'fhonn tuilleadh tacaíochta a thabhairt d'fhorbairt fhadtéarmach cheantair thuaithe na hÉireann. Rachaidh an tAire nua (um Fhorbairt Réigiúnach agus Ghnóthaí Tuaithe) i gceannas ar chur i bhfeidhm thuarascáil CEDRA.

Laistigh den Roinn nua (Forbartha Réigiúnaí agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe), cuirfear aonad comhordaithe le chéile chun dul i mbun oibre le pobail d'fhonn struchtúir chomhoibríoch a fhorbairt le seirbhísí rithábhachtacha áitiúla a choinneáil agus fiontair bheoga áitiúla a choinneáil agus a fhorbairt.

Cuirfidh an Rialtas nua forbairt chothrom náisiúnta i gcrích. Bealach amháin ina mbainfear an sprioc sin amach ná trí dhóthain de scála a chruthú in Iarthar na hÉireann, trí Chonair

Eacnamaíochta Atlantaigh, chun ceantair eile a mheaitseáil i bhforbairt infreastruchtúir, i

mealladh infheistíocht Éireannach agus ilnáisiúnta, mar aon le líon na bpost agus an tsaibhris a mhéadú sna pobail áitiúla.

Leis an sprioc sin a bhaint amach forbróidh an tAire nua Scéim nua Athnuachana Bailte agus Sráidbhailte le hionchur ón Oireachtas in am do Cháinainéis 2017. Mar chuid den scéim seo molfaidh muid maoiniú breise a gheallúint chun tacú le forbairt bhailte agus sráidbhailte tuaithe, mar phríomh-thosaíocht chun ceantair thuaithe na hÉireann a athbheochan.

Mar chuid den mhaoiniú breise sin, méadfaidh muid an maoiniú atá ar fáil do Scéim na Siúlóidí Tuaithe faoi dhó ó €2 mhilliún go €4 mhilliún rud a mhéadóidh líon na siúlóidí a chlúdófar ó 40 go 80.

Tar éis chur i gcrích an phróisis tairisceana agus bronnadh an chonartha, atá beartaithe do Mheitheamh 2017, oibreoidh an Rialtas nua leis na buaiteoirí le luas a chur faoi chur i bhfeidhm céimneach an infreastruchtúir an bhliain seo chugainn. Oibreoidh muid le comhairlí áitiúla le tascfhórsaí leathanbhanda a bhunú chun cabhrú le feidhmiú céimneach infreastruchtúir tráchtála agus infrestruchtúir an Phlean Náisiúnta Leathanbhanda i ngach ceantar contae. Tabharfar tuairisc go rialta don Choiste ábhartha Rialtais maidir le dul chun cinn an Phlean Náisiúnta Leathanbhanda.

Gníomhóidh an Rialtas nua go sciobtha maidir le moltaí Ghrúpa Forbartha Gnó na nOifigí Poist trí thacaíocht a thabhairt do thabhairt isteach agus feidhmiú céimneach ag An Post de 'Chuntas Ríomhíocaíochta' in 2016, chun gníomhaíocht na n-oifigí poist i seirbhísí airgeadais a fheabhsú agus líon na gcustaiméirí a mhéadú.

Déanfaidh muid dul chun cinn freisin ar shamhail nua baincéireachta pobail trí iarraidh ar An Post agus Cumann na gComhar Creidmheasa, chomh maith le haon pháirtithe leasmhara eile, samhail nua baincéireachta pobail a fhiosrú agus a mholadh lena gcuirfí tacar seirbhísí baincéireachta ar fáil trí líonra mór na nOifigí Poist. D'fhéadfadh sé seo bheith bunaithe ar shamhail Kiwibank na Nua-Shéalainne, áit a ndéanann an banc, atá faoi úinéireacht na nOifigí Poist, tacar comhtháite seirbhísí airgeadais a chur ar fáil, ó iasachtaí pearsanta agus cuntais bainc go cártaí creidmheasa, baincéireacht ghnó agus árachas. Déanfaidh muid fiosrú iomlán ar shamhail Sparkassen na Gearmáine i dtaca le bancanna áitiúla pobail a fhorbairt a fheidhmíonn laistigh de réigiúin dhea-shainithe.

Fiosróidh an Rialtas nua freisin an fhéidearthacht a bhaineann le seirbhísí mótarcháin agus seirbhísí eile Stáit a sholáthar in oifigí poist.

Bunóidh muid grúpa oibre chun an fhéidearthacht a shainiú atá ag oifigí áitiúla poist feidhmiú mar 'lárionaid' d'fhonn seirbhísí eile a éascú ar nós sláinte agus iompar agus bheith mar ionad ilfhreastail do sheirbhísí Rialtais.

Tacóidh muid freisin le próiseas athnuachana líonra na n-oifigí poist a bhunú, d'fhonn tógáil ar an straitéis 5 bliana atá ag An Post don líonra.

Tá an Rialtas tiomanta do leanúint leis an bpróiseas reatha ina bhfuil na páirtithe leasmhara uile páirteach, lena n-áirítear an SPNF, eolaithe ceaptha ag an Rialtas agus an TCCA. Déanfaidh an Rialtas gach is féidir leis chun an próiseas sin a éascú agus a luathú, lena n-áirítear achainní breise a chur ar fáil, d'fhonn rogha mhalartach chomhaontaithe réasúnta a thabhairt don lucht bainte móna, a mbeidh sé mar aidhm leis dul chun cinn substaintiúil a dhéanamh le linn shaolré an Rialtais seo.

Foilseoidh an Rialtas reachtaíocht nua le 46 NHA a dhí-ainmniú laistigh den chéad 100 lá den Rialtas.

Tá an Rialtas tiomanta d'athbhreithniú a dhéanamh ar an amchlár do chur i bhfeidhm ghníomhartha a bhaineann le NHA-anna i gcomhairle leis an AE.

Tá an Rialtas tiomanta do thógáil ar an dul chun cinn atá déanta cheana maidir le SACanna agus leanfaidh sé ar aghaidh le luathú an phróisis athlonnaithe.

Tabharfaidh muid isteach scéim nua deontais bheaga le huasghrádú riachtanach a dhéanamh ar ionaid réigiúnacha ealaíon agus cultúir agus tacú leis an gComhairle Oidhreachta.

Tabharfaidh muid freagra ar thuarascáil Choimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair, Creative West, laistigh de thrí mhí.

Cuirfidh muid borradh freisin faoi thacaí le hiasachtaí méadaithe a éascú idir ár bhForais Chultúir Náisiúnta agus líonra ár músaeim réigiúnacha.

Leathnóidh muid Tionscnamh na mBailte Stairiúla freisin ionas go gcuirfear tuilleadh bailte san áireamh leis.

Tacóidh muid le hoidhreacht thraidisiúnta na litríochta, an cheoil, na hamhránaíochta & an damhsa.

Chun cabhrú le forbairt Ghlasbhealaí, forbróidh an tAire Iompair treoirlinnte náisiúnta do chomhairliúchán poiblí, pleanáil agus tógáil na nGlasbhealaí mar threoir d'údaráis agus ghníomhaireachtaí áitiúla.

Leanfaidh an Rialtas nua ar aghaidh ag déanamh comóradh ar na himeachtaí is suntasaí i stair an Stáit, ag cinntiú gur cuimhneacháin uileghabhálacha iad agus go gcuireann siad lenár dtuiscint ar ár stair chomhroinnte, go háirithe i measc pháistí agus dhaoine óga, ionas go mbeidh tionchar bríoch fadtéarmach acu.

Déanfaidh muid Plean Náisiúnta Oidhreachta nuashonraithe a chur le chéile agus a fhoilsiú lena leagfar amach polasaithe do chosaint agus chur chun cinn ár n-oidhreacht

thógtha agus nádúrtha agus lena dtabharfar aghaidh ar dhúshláin san earnáil oidhreachta.

Cuirfidh muid Coinbhinsiún UNESCO maidir le Caomhnú na hOidhreachta Doláimhsithe i ngníomh freisin ionas go dtabharfar aitheantas agus stádas UNESCO do shócmhainní oidhreachta cultúrtha na hÉireann, ar nós iománaíocht, ceol na bpíbe uilleann agus Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann in UCD.

Méadú a bhaint amach diaidh ar ndiaidh ar mhaoiniú do na healaíona, lena n-áirítear don Chomhairle Ealaíon agus do Bhord Scannán na hÉireann, de réir mar a thagann feabhas ar an ngeilleagar

Cuirfear Cairt na nEalaíon san Oideachas i bhfeidhm, lena gcuirfear deis gan fasach ar fáil do leanaí agus do dhaoine óga páirt a ghlacadh ar bhealach réamhghníomhach bríomhar sna healaíona san oideachas in Éirinn

Spreagfar gach údarás áitiúil le ról na n-oifigeach ealaíon agus oidhreachta a threisiú. Forbróidh muid naisc níos láidre idir oifigigh ealaíon agus oidhreachta, Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí, Fáilte Éireann, an Chomhairle Ealaíon chomh maith le hOifigí Fiontair Áitiúil, le deiseanna a fhorbairt agus a chur chun cinn do thurasóireacht ealaíon agus chultúrtha

Tabharfaidh muid isteach scéim nua deontais bheaga le huasghrádú riachtanach a dhéanamh ar ionaid réigiúnacha ealaíon agus cultúir, lena n-áirítear amharclanna réigiúnacha

Tús áite a thabhairt d'fhoilsiú 'Culture 2025 - Éire Ildánach', an chéad pholasáí cultúir náisiúnta. Breithneofar ann raon de cheisteanna tábhachtacha, lena n-áireofar: tacú le healaíontóirí agus lucht cruthaitheachta, rochtain ar an gcultúr a fheabhsú, bacainní a shárú maidir le heisiamh agus míbhuntáiste sóisialta, agus an mbealach ina ndéantar an cultúr a shaibhriú le héagsúlacht chultúrtha mhéadaithe. Tá Culture 2025 - Éire Ildánach á fhoilsiú tar éis phróiseas comhairliúcháin phoiblí le páirtithe leasmhara ábhartha

Borradh a chur faoi thacaí le hiasachtaí méadaithe a éascú idir ár bhForais Chultúir Náisiúnta agus líonra ár músaeim réigiúnacha

Dul i mbun oibre le Bord Scannán na hÉireann/Fís Éire chun a chinntiú go mbainfear an leas is mó is féidir as Éirinn mar áit le haghaidh léiriúcháin idirnáisiúnta scannán

Tacú le scéim infheistíochta oidhreachta tógtha ar bhonn bliantúil chun tacú le caomhnú struchtúr oidhreachta agus athghineadh cheantair uirbeacha agus thuaithe

Déanfaimid naisc láidre a spreagadh idir an bpobal gnó agus eagraíochtaí ealaíon, naisc a théann chun tairbhe don dá pháirtí. Beidh an cur chuige sin bunaithe ar chuidiú a thabhairt d'eagraíochtaí ealaíon an leas is mó is féidir a bhaint as deiseanna urraíochta, agus comhpháirtíochtaí gnó agus scileanna tiomsaithe airgid a fhorbairt.

Tá an Ghaeilge ríthábhachtach dár n-oidhreacht agus dár gcultúr. Ní mór don Rialtas nua an Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge a chur i bhfeidhm go córasach, líon na ndaoine a úsáideann Gaeilge gach lá a mhéadú agus cinnte a dhéanamh go mbeidh an Ghaeilge níos feiceálaí i sochaí an lae inniu, mar theanga labhartha agus i réimsí ar nós chomharthaíocht agus litríocht araon.

Díriú ar chruthú post sa Ghaeltacht, trí Údarás na Gaeltachta

Freastal ar réamhscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge nó naíonraí i gceantair Ghaeltachta a spreagadh

Aitheantas a thabhairt don tábhacht a bhaineann le stádas na Gaeilge mar theanga iomlán oibre de chuid institiúidí an AE agus oibriú i dtreo deireadh a chur leis an maolú, de réir mar is féidir agus infheistíocht sa Ghaeilge a mhéadú.

Aguisín 2: Gníomhaireachtaí agus Comhlachtaí a mhaoinítear as Vóta na Roinne

Comhlacht	Suíomh Gréasáin	Seoladh
An Coimisinéir Teanga	www.coimisineir.ie	An Coimisinéir Teanga An Spidéal Co. na Gaillimhe
An Chomhairle Ealaíon	www.artscouncil.ie	An Chomhairle Ealaíon 70 Cearnóg Mhuirfean Baile Átha Cliath 2
Leabharlann Chester Beatty	www.cbl.ie	Leabharlann Chester Beatty Caisleán Bhaile Átha Cliath Baile Átha Cliath 2
Áiléar Crawford	www.crawfordartgallery.com	Áiléar Crawford Plás Emmet Corcaigh
Foras na Gaeilge	www.gaeilge.ie www.forasnagaeilge.ie	Foras na Gaeilge 7 Cearnóg Mhuirfean Baile Átha Cliath 2
An Chomhairle Oidhreachta	www.heritagecouncil.ie	An Chomhairle Oidhreachta Áras na hOidhreachta Lána an Teampaill Cill Chainnigh
Bord Scannán na hÉireann	www.irishfilmboard.ie	Bord Scannán na hÉireann Geata na Banríona 23 Bóthar na nDuganna Gaillimh
Coimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann	www.irishmanuscripts.ie	Coimisiún Lámhscríbhinní na hÉireann 45 Cearnóg Mhuirfean Baile Átha Cliath 2
Áras Nua-Ealaíne na hÉireann	www.modernart.ie	Áras Nua-Ealaíne na hÉireann An tOspidéal Ríoga An Bóthar Míleata Cill Mhaighneann Baile Átha Cliath 8
An Chartlann Náisiúnta	www.nationalarchives.ie	An Chartlann Náisiúnta, Sráid an Easpaig

		Baile Átha Cliath 8
An Ceoláras Náisiúnta	www.nch.ie	An Ceoláras Náisiúnta Ardán Phort an Iarla Baile Átha Cliath 2
Gailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann	www.nationalgallery.ie	Gailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann Cearnóg Mhuirfean Thiar Baile Átha Cliath 2
Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann	www.nli.ie	Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann Sráid Chill Dara Baile Átha Cliath 2
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann	www.museum.ie	Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann Dún Uí Choileáin Sráid na Binne Boirbe Baile Átha Cliath 7
Coimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair	www.wdc.ie	Coimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair Teach Diolúin, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin
Gníomhaireacht na hUltaise (Tha Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch)	www.ulsterscotsagency.com	Gníomhaireacht na hUltaise The Corn Exchange Béal Feirste, BT1 2LG Tuaisceart Éireann
Údarás na Gaeltachta	www.udaras.ie	Údarás na Gaeltachta Na Forbacha Co. na Gaillimhe
Uiscebhealaí Éireann	www.waterwaysireland.org	Uiscebhealaí Éireann 2 Bóthar Shligigh Inis Ceithleann, BT74 7JY Co. Fhear Manach Tuaisceart Éireann

Aguisín 3:		
CAITEACHAS		
FO-MHÍRCEANN	TÁIRGEACHT DO 2016	TÁIRGEACHT
	RIARACHÁN	€'000
X.1	Tuarastail, Pánna agus Liúntais	31,175
X.2	Taisteal agus Cothú	1,196
X.3	Oiliúint agus Forbairt agus Costais Theagmhasacha	845
X.4	Seirbhísí Poist agus Teileachumarsáide	473
X.5	Trealamh Oifige agus Seirbhísí Seachtracha TF	1,811
X.6	Costais Áitreabh Oifige	726
X.7	Seirbhísí Comhairliúcháin agus Athbhreithnithe ar Luach ar Airgead agus ar Pholasaí	3
	IOMLÁN	36,229
	Na hEalaíona, Cultúr & Scannán	
A.1	Riarachán - Pá	5,709
A.2	Riarachán - Neamhphá	1,063
A.3	Íocaíochtaí chun acmhainní arna nginiúint ag an gCartlann Náisiúnta a mheaitseáil	40
A.4	Costais Ghinearálta na Cartlainne Náisiúnta agus na Comhairle um an gCartlann Náisiúnta	1,274
A.5.	Costais Ghinearálta Áras Nua-Ealaíne na hÉireann, Leabharlann Chester Beatty, an Cheolárais Náisiúnta agus Áiléar Crawford	10,876
A.6	Gailearaithe, Ionaid Chultúrtha, Tionscadail Chultúrtha agus Músaem Réigiúnacha	2,925
A.7	Infreastruchtúr agus Forbairt Chultúrtha	15,352
A.8	Cultúr Éireann	5,496
A.9	An Chomhairle Ealaíon (páirtmhaoinithe ag an gCrannchur Náisiúnta)	60,120
A.10	Costais Ghinearálta Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann	12,120
A.11	Costais Ghinearálta Leabharlann Náisiúnta na hÉireann	6,944
A.12	Bord Scannán na hÉireann	15,571
A.13	Costais ghinearálta Ghailearaí Náisiúnta na hÉireann	7,636
A.14	Cathair Náisiúnta an Chultúir	0
A.15	Deich mBlíana na gCuimhneachán 1912-1922	28,374
A.16	Ionad Imeachtaí Chorcaí	0
	IOMLÁN	173,499
	OIDHREACHT	
B.1	Riarachán - Pá	18,514
B.2	Riarachán - Neamhphá	1,590
B.3	Deontas na Comhairle Oidhreachta (páirtmhaoinithe ag an gCrannchur Náisiúnta)	5,243
B.4	Oidhrecht Thógtha	2,402

B.5	Oidhreacht Nádúrtha (an tSeirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta agus Fiadhúlra)	17,074
B.6	Iontaobhas Oidhreachta na hÉireann	324
B.7	Scéim Giarála Post don Oidhreacht Thógtha	2,102
B.8	Athchóiriú Tailte Móna	800
	IOMLÁN	48,049

AN GHAELTACHT

C.1	Riarachán - Pá	2,949
C.2	Riarachán - Neamhphá	789
C.3	Scéimeanna Tacaíochta Gaeltachta	8,292
C.4	Scéimeanna Tacaíochta Gaeilge (páirtmhaoinithe ag an gCrannchur Náisiúnta)	3,594
C.5	An Coimisinéir Teanga	639
C.6	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Riarachán	8,823
C.7	Údarás na Gaeltachta - Caiteachas an Chláir Reatha	3,000
C.8	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Deontais do Thionscadail agus do Chaiteachas Caipitil ar Áitribh	9,087
C.9	Oileáin	13,274
C.10	An Straitéis 20 Bliain don Ghaeilge - 2010-2030	999
C.11	Deich mBlia na gCuimhneachán - Teach an Phiarsaigh	1,900
	IOMLÁN	53,346

Comhoibriú Thuaidh-Theas

D.1	Riarachán - Pá	1,058
D.2	Riarachán - Neamhphá	683
D.3	An Foras Teanga	13,249
D.4	Uiscebhealaí Éireann	26,567
	IOMLÁN	41,557

FORBAIRT RÉIGIÚNACH AGUS GNÓTHAÍ TUAITHE

E.1	Riarachán - Pá	2,947
E.2	Riarachán - Neamhphá	929
E.3	Bearta na gCuntas Díomhaoin	432
E.4	Coimisiún Forbartha an Iarthair	1,639
E.5	Scéimeanna Náisiúnta Forbartha Tuaithe	24,794
E.6	Leader - Fochlár Eacnamaíochta Tuaithe	9,989
E.7	Comórtas na mBailte Slachtmhara	1
E.8	Athnuachan Bailte agus Sráidbhailte	9,880
E.9	Leathanbhanda Tuaithe, Oifigí Poist agus Forbairt Eacnamaíochta Réigiúnach	1,089
	IOMLÁN	51,699

	OLLCHAITEACHAS IOMLÁN	368,150
	LEITHREASAÍ-I-GCABHAIR	(8,620)
	GLANCHAITEACHAS IOMLÁN	359,530