

**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, HERITAGE,  
GAELTACHT AND THE ISLANDS**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2000**

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## Foreword by the Minister

I am pleased to welcome the Department's third annual report setting out the many achievements in what has been another busy and challenging year. In 2000, the Department continued, with considerable success, to conserve and protect the built and natural heritage, support and promote the Irish language, develop the broadcasting sector, support the film industry, and foster the arts in all its forms.

The Review of the Arts Legislation, which I initiated late in 1999 continued throughout 2000 and was marked by the publication by me in July of the document "Towards a New Framework for the Arts" which brought the consultative process to its public phase. I was greatly encouraged to receive more than 230 written submissions in response to this paper and I believe that the quality of the amending legislation which I will be promoting later this year will be all the better for this response.

A scheme to fund new infrastructure or improve existing infrastructure for the arts was announced in 2000. The Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS) will support the National Development Plan's objectives of fostering balanced regional development and promoting social inclusion by facilitating access to the arts at regional and local level. It follows the highly successful CDIS scheme launched under the Tourism Operational Programme 1994-99.

During the year significant progress was made in developing policy and legislation in the broadcasting area. The Broadcasting Bill, 1999 completed all stages in Dáil Éireann by year-end. The Government also approved in mid-year a new Transaction Structure for the introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television. Extensive consultations took place with broadcasters and event organisers to protect free-to-air television coverage, in line with the provisions of the Broadcasting (Major Events Television Coverage) Act, 1999.

The Department has also been addressing the implications of the new strategic goals identified in the report of the Film Industry Strategic Review Group as the Irish film industry continues to thrive and display an increasing confidence and self-sufficiency. During the year the Irish Film Board (Amendment) Act became law. It provides for a greatly increased expenditure rating for the Board.

The National Museum and the Chester Beatty Library were both recipients of prestigious Gulbenkian Awards, a fitting recognition of the investment made in those and other Institutions. The acquisition, by the National Library of James Joyce's original working draft of the "Circe" episode of Ulysses was a high point in the cultural year. Major capital investment at both the National Gallery and the National Museum is continuing.

In 2000, the work of preservation, conservation, management and maintenance of the built and natural heritage continued. On the legislative front, the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 that will greatly enhance the protection of wildlife and the natural heritage was passed. A comprehensive review of the National Monuments Acts, 1930-1994 was also initiated with a view to publishing a consolidated Bill later this year.

At this time of unprecedented economic growth and development, the role of this Department in preserving the integrity of the built and natural heritage assumes an even greater significance and urgency. The negotiation of a Code of Practice between the Department and the National Road Authority to safeguard the archaeological heritage while allowing the Authority to deliver its programme of new road projects is an important example of how we can contribute to efficient and sustainable development.

The Government's aim of reversing the decline of Irish as the primary spoken language in the Gaeltacht and the extension of its use elsewhere in the country took a significant step forward during the year with the approval by Government of the General Scheme of the Official Languages Equality Bill. When enacted, this Bill will give legislative support to the provision of State services through Irish for those citizens wishing to avail of them. A Commission on Irish in the Gaeltacht has also been established to examine the issues, which affect and influence the speaking of Irish in the Gaeltacht and to prepare an Action Plan.

Great strides have been made in progressing the aims of the Government's *Action Programme for the Millennium* and I acknowledge the dedication and commitment of staff throughout the Department and in the associated agencies in bringing those aims to fruition. I am confident that the Department will go from strength to strength in meeting its objectives of fostering, conserving and promoting our artistic, cultural, linguistic and natural heritage over the coming years.

I could not finish this brief Foreword without acknowledging the support and encouragement which I have at all times received from my cousin and colleague, Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., who moved to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, earlier this year. The quality of his work to encourage wider use of the Irish language and to promote the development of the Gaeltachts and Offshore Islands has been widely recognised. I wish him well in his new assignment. I am delighted also to welcome Máire Ní Chochláin, T.D., as Minister of State and have little doubt but that with her abilities and personal qualities she, too, will make a success of this challenging assignment.

**Sile de Valera**

*Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands*  
**June 2001**

## **Introduction by the Secretary General**

Although the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands has been in existence for less than four years, it has already established a high public profile during that short period by virtue of its wide and varied brief which touches on the interests of so many of our people. During 2000, significant progress was achieved in the areas of new legislation and of policy development as well as in service development. The outcomes achieved during the year and which are described in this report are attributed in no small measure to the commitment and professionalism of our staff in all disciplines; administrative, industrial, professional and technical. The Department continues to draw strength from its diversity and the wide variety of experience and expertise within its workforce as it continues to evolve into a coherent entity with a strong sense of common purpose.

Under the National Development Plan, £100m./€127m. will be invested over the next five years in the built heritage area. Work has already begun on many of these projects. Funding will be concentrated on conservation of properties rather than the provision of visitor facilities and an apprenticeship programme, aimed particularly at the skills crucial to conservation work; carpentry, stonecutting and stonemasonry, is being put in place. A number of projects funded under the EU Operational Programme for Tourism (OPT) were opened in 2000, of which the Trim Castle restoration project and the new restaurant and gardens at Muckross House in Killarney are but two examples.

During the year too, we saw the realisation of projects in the Arts area undertaken through a combination of Exchequer, EU and local funding under the Cultural Development Incentive Scheme (CDIS). Many museums, galleries, literary centres and theatres throughout the country benefited from funding under the scheme. We hope that ACCESS, the successor to CDIS, which was launched during the year, will have a similar impact.

The Department continued to work in partnership with people living on our Offshore Islands to improve the quality of life through investment in infrastructure as well as assisting projects to develop improved air and ferry services. Much work was also done during the year on the preparation of the Official Languages Equality Bill.

The Department continues to develop its capacity both to provide a quality service to our many customers and thus respond to demands imposed by the ongoing process of public sector modernisation. The Department's Partnership Committee has been at the heart of the change process and completed work during the year on an Internal Communication Strategy. It also moved forward significantly work on the preparation of an expanded charter on Quality Customer Service, on Human Resources Management and on the introduction of the Performance Management and Development System. I am particularly pleased to welcome the extension of Partnership structures to the Cultural Institutions.

During the past year work began on developing a new Management Information Framework and Payroll Systems. Our Information Technology Division was restructured during 2000 to facilitate attainment of the objectives outlined in the Department's IT Strategy. We have improved and are extending our overall IT capability network infrastructure. Major projects, including the development of a comprehensive e- Government strategy for the Department, the redesigning of the Department's Web site and the designing of a tracking system for Planning Applications, were commenced in 2000 and will continue into 2001.

In conclusion may I record my thanks to the Minister and Minister of State for their continued support for and commitment to the many tasks with which we are entrusted. In doing so, I wish to welcome Máire Ní Chochláin, T.D., who was appointed as Aire Stáit at the Department by the Taoiseach earlier this year and to pay a particular tribute to our former Aire Stáit, Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., who achieved so much during his three and a half years with us and who was a continuing source of inspiration to those of us who had the privilege of working with him.

**Philip Furlong**  
*Secretary General*  
*June 2001*

## **SUMMARY OF THE MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE YEAR**

The Year 2000 saw considerable progress across the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands' diverse range of operations. This is illustrated by the following summary of some of the notable achievements of the year.

- ◆ The Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS) which will provide funding of £36m/€45.7m over the years 2001-2004 for investment in infrastructure for the arts was launched in May.
- ◆ The consultative process of the Review of the Arts Legislation, initiated in 1999 was marked by the publication in July of the discussion document "Towards a New Framework for the Arts".
- ◆ Significant progress was made in developing policy and legislation throughout the year:
  - the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 and Irish Film Board (Amendment) Acts were passed into law,
  - the Broadcasting Bill, 1999 completed all stages in Dáil Éireann,
  - the Housing (Gaeltacht) (Amendment) Bill was published in October
  - the General Scheme of the Official Languages Equality Bill was approved by Government in July,
  - the Government also approved in mid-year a new Transaction Structure for the introduction of Digital Terrestrial Television,
  - a comprehensive review of the National Monuments Acts, 1930-1994 was initiated.
- ◆ There were also many highlights for the cultural institutions particularly
  - the National Library's acquisition of James Joyce's original working draft of the "Circe" episode of Ulysses in November, and
  - the unveiling, in July, of the Foundation Stone of Millennium Wing of the National Gallery.
  - The receipt by the Chester Beatty Library, which opened in February and the National Museum of the Gulbenkian Awards for best Museum and best Larger Museum, respectively.
- ◆ Ratification by Ireland of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production, which came into effect in August, will facilitate Irish film producers in establishing partnerships with producers in other European countries.
- ◆ The extension, until April 2005, of the Section 481 tax relief scheme was announced in the 2000 Budget, by the Minister for Finance.

- ◆ The conclusion of an agreed Code of Practice between the Department and the National Road Authority was an important development in balancing the needs of heritage conservation and economic development.
- ◆ The Built Heritage will benefit significantly from the securing of £100m/€127m under the National Development Plan to be invested in a range of projects over the next five years.
- ◆ A sum of £3million/€3.8million was provided under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 for the construction of a new Visitor Centre in the village of Ballycroy to serve Mayo National Park.
- ◆ Two North/South bodies were established in 2000; An Foras Teanga, the North/South Language Body and Waterways Ireland, which is responsible for the management of inland waterways.
- ◆ An Coimisiún faoin nGaeilge sa Ghaeltacht was established in 2000 to make recommendations to the Government regarding the strengthening of the Irish language as the spoken language of the Gaeltacht.
- ◆ Over £5m/€7m was spent on improvements to Gaeltacht roads in 2000, the first year of a new NDP funded 7 year programme to provide one road of suitable quality to each Gaeltacht area.
- ◆ A special allowance to Island pensioners of £10/€12.70 per week was announced in Budget 2000.
- ◆ Significant progress was also made in developing the Department's organisational capabilities with the securing of additional staff for support services, the restructuring of the IT Division, the extension of Partnership structures to the regions and the Cultural Institutions and the launch of an Internal Communication Strategy.

## **The Arts**

### ***Core Policy Goal:***

*To facilitate the implementation of strategies for the arts, by providing an appropriate resource, policy and legislative framework that will support their stimulation and development.*

### ***Supporting Objectives:***

- *To provide appropriate support for the Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon in the implementation of strategies for the arts;*
- *To maximise the economic and employment creation potential of the arts and culture sectors; and*
- *To create an environment that fosters access to and participation in the arts by all sections of Irish society.*

The economic prosperity and enhanced leisure opportunities of recent years have created an environment conducive to an expansion in the range and quality of cultural expression in Ireland. Against this background, the Arts Division of the Department pursued during 2000 its core objective of fostering the creation of an environment to improve access to, and participation in, the arts by all sections of Irish society.

### **Review of Arts Legislation**

The major review of arts legislation announced by the Minister in 1999 to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the Arts Act, 1949, and the subsequent establishment of the Arts Council gathered momentum during the year under review. The purpose of this review is to identify the principles and issues that ought to inform the way we develop, support and understand the arts as we face into a new century. In July 2000, the Minister embarked on a process of public consultation with the publication of the discussion document "Towards a New Framework for the Arts" which identified in broad terms many of the key themes arising in the review.

In total 233 submissions were received from interested groups and individuals on the issues raised in the document. These responses addressed both the broad policy framework for the arts and the need for legislative change. Mr. Theo Dorgan was appointed as independent external facilitator to carry out an analysis of the submissions and his report identified the need for more focussed consultation with the Arts Sector on the major themes and arrangements for this were put in train.

### **Arts and Culture Projects**

#### **(1) Arts and Culture Capital Enhancement Support Scheme (ACCESS)**

In May 2000 the Minister announced details of a new scheme to grant aid new infrastructure or enhancements of existing infrastructure for the arts (arts centres, theatres, museums and galleries as well as arts studios and other arts production, creative and performance spaces). Total funding for the scheme will be £36M/€45.7M over the years 2001-2004.

Detailed selection criteria and guidelines were drawn up by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands. Over 180 applications were received and evaluation of these applications in accordance with predetermined criteria was in progress at year-end.

The scheme will support the provision and enhancement of facilities for the promotion of the Arts, which would not otherwise be made available on a broad basis. The Scheme will support the National Development Plan objectives of fostering balanced regional development and promoting social inclusion by providing greater access at regional and local level to the arts generally.

## **(2) Cultural Development Incentive Scheme (CDIS)**

In the course of the year 2000 a number of arts and culture projects came to fruition thanks to funding provided by the Department through the Exchequer and the EU under the Cultural Development Incentive Scheme (CDIS). These included the Clare County Museum in Ennis, the Crawford Municipal Gallery in Cork, the North Kerry Literary Centre in Listowel and the Pavilion Theatre, Dún Laoghaire. Significant progress was also made on the International Folk Music Centre in Ennis and the Cork Public Museum.

## **(3) Arts Intervention Report**

In April 2000 the Minister launched the report prepared by the Arts Intervention Group entitled *"You can't play Richard III, you're handicapped ...and people will be looking at you"*. This report reflected the results of a six-month research project, which examined the level of access for the disabled to the arts and also the development of quality disability arts practice across the country. Among the recommendations of the report are that arts organisations actively consult with people with disabilities to attract them as audience, creators and producers. The report also recommends the development of structures to promote the take up of arts initiatives by people with disabilities.

## **EUROPEAN CITY OF CULTURE 2005**

In 1999 a new European Union Community Action for the European Capital of Culture Event was agreed for the years 2005-2019. This new Action adopted a rotational system to designate a city for each year. Under the rotational system Ireland has the right to nominate a Capital of Culture in 2005. Having secured Government funding of £5m/€6.35m to allow the designated city to develop a programme for 2005, the Minister issued an invitation to four cities with County Borough Status: Waterford, Galway, Limerick and Cork to put forward their candidature for consideration. All four cities responded positively to the Minister's invitation and submitted detailed proposals which were forwarded to the European Commission in December, 2000 for consideration by the European panel of experts, who are expected to announce their decision by end 2001.

## **Broadcasting**

### **Core Policy Goal:**

*To develop a policy and legislative framework for broadcasting conducive to:*

- *Irish radio and television being of the highest quality and remaining the preferred choice of a majority of Irish listeners and viewers;*
- *The provision of quality broadcasting services in the Irish language;*
- *Optimising the opportunities presented by the emerging technologies for the provision of new Irish-based broadcasting services.*

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- *To develop appropriate legislation, structures and strategy in conjunction with other Government Departments and State agencies:*
- *to oversee the introduction and regulation of digital broadcasting in Ireland;*
- *to facilitate existing broadcasting services, both public and private, in developing their full potential;*
- *to ensure that the application of new technologies to existing communications infrastructures as well as broadcasting transmitter networks will have a positive impact on Irish broadcasting, particularly in relation to the origination of local, regional and community based broadcasting services; and*
- *to ensure that issues arising from the convergence of telecommunications and broadcasting are addressed in a way that will optimise the contribution that broadcasters, programme makers, other product generators, infrastructure operators and other participants in broadcasting and broadcasting-related activities can make to the Information Society in Ireland.*

Broadcasting in Ireland has witnessed enormous change and transformation over the last decade. During 2000 considerable progress was made in the development of a policy and legislative framework for broadcasting in an environment of rapid technological development that will be conducive to the provision of the highest quality Irish radio and television.

## **Legislation**

The Broadcasting Bill, 1999 completed all stages in Dáil Éireann and was referred to Seanad Éireann on 14 December 2000. The Bill, which was enacted in early 2001, has as its objectives:

- to facilitate the introduction of digital terrestrial television (DTT) in Ireland;
- to provide enabling powers for the establishment of TG4 as a separate statutory entity;
- to provide for the IRTC (to be renamed the Broadcasting Commission of Ireland) to be given expanded powers and functions in relation to the regulation of digital broadcasting on all platforms;
- to honour the Government's commitment regarding the abolition of the 3% levy on local radio services with the establishment of a once-off fund of £500,000/€634,869 to assist transmission costs; and
- to provide for additional clarity and detail in relation to the public service broadcasting remit of RTÉ under the Broadcasting Authority Acts. TG4 is also given a comprehensive public service remit under the terms of the Bill.

During the year extensive consultations were undertaken with event organisers at home and abroad and with broadcasters following the enactment of the Broadcasting (Major Events Television Coverage) Act, 1999. The Act gives the Minister power to designate events of a sporting or non-sporting nature that will be protected for free-to-air television coverage with near universal coverage.

## **Independent Radio and Television Commission (IRTC)**

A major area of work for the Commission in 2000 was the implementation of its licensing programme, which was developed the previous year. Contract negotiations were concluded for a new Dublin City and County independent broadcasting service, Lite FM. The station launched its music-driven service (35+ audience) in May.

Competitions were initiated for a new sound broadcasting service for Cork City and County and for two new sound broadcasting services in the Dublin area. One new institutional radio service (St. Joseph's Hospital, Clonmel) and one new community radio service (Raidió Pobal Inis Eoghain) commenced broadcasting.

As part of its developmental role, the Commission established a human resources initiative in conjunction with the commercial operators within the independent radio sector. The Commission also continued its 'New Adventures in Broadcasting' scheme designed to enhance and improve programme quality and diversity in the independent sector. Nineteen programmes benefited to the tune of £60,000/€76,184 under the scheme during 2000. Two new award categories were created within this scheme for the most innovative Irish language programme and the most innovative youth programme. In December 2000, the Advisory Committee to the IRTC on the Irish Language launched its policy document, '*Irish Language Programming in the Independent Broadcasting Sector*'. The Committee consists of representatives from the IRTC, Foras na Gaeilge, Gael-Linn and five independent radio stations.

The activities of the IRTC are described in greater detail in its annual Report and Accounts, which are published separately.

### **Radio Telefís Éireann (RTÉ)**

The Government appointed new members and a new Chairman, Mr Paddy Wright, to the RTE Authority for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2000 to 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2005. The newly appointed members of the Authority are Joe Barry, Des Geraghty, Maura Hayes, Gary Hynes, Dr Mary Peters CBE, Stephen O' Byrnes, Dr Mary Redmond and Anne Doyle.

RTÉ as the national broadcaster received net income from sales of television licences of approximately £67 m/€85m to enable it to carry out its functions under Broadcasting legislation. A further £14m/€17.9m in current funding and £0.87m/€1m in capital funding was provided by the Department for TG4.

In October 2000 RTÉ formally submitted an application for an increase of £50/€63.50 in the Television Licence Fee. The Minister subsequently appointed consultants PriceWaterhouseCoopers to carry out a comprehensive and independent review of the application. Evaluation of the application had not been completed by year-end.

## **TG4**

Pending the bringing into force of the relevant provisions of the Broadcasting Act, 2000 to provide for its establishment as a separate statutory body, TG4 continues to operate within the RTÉ family of services. During the year continued financial support was provided for TG4. In March 2000, TG4 submitted a development plan for the years 2000-2003. The Minister commissioned consultants CapGemini Ernst & Young to examine the costings contained in the plan, which envisaged TG4 being established during the period as a stand-alone entity. The Minister is formulating her proposals for the further development of TG4 in the light of the development plan.

## **Broadcasting Complaints Commission (BCC)**

The Government appointed new members and a new Chairman, Ms Oonagh McCrann, to the Broadcasting Complaints Commission for a five year period commencing the 6<sup>th</sup> September, 2000. The newly appointed members of the Commission are Joseph G Brady, Kay Cogan-Daly, Gerry Collison and Christy Cooney.

## **Independent Broadcasting**

Independent Broadcasting continued to develop during 2000 with both local and community radio stations and the national broadcasters TV3 and Today FM contributing to the diversity of broadcasting services available in Ireland.

## **Film**

**Core Policy Goal:** *To develop, monitor and evaluate an integrated policy for the sustainable development of the Irish film industry*

**Supporting Objective:**

- *To strengthen and enhance the Irish Film Board within the parameters of the existing legislation to address the new strategic goals identified in the report of the Film Industry Strategic Review Group entitled “ The Strategic Development of the Irish Film and Television Industry 2000-2010”.*

Following the report of the Film Industry Strategic Review Group and the approval by Government of key measures arising from this report, the Department has been engaged in addressing the new strategic goals identified. There was a high level of production activity during 2000 with a rich and diverse array of indigenous productions taking place, which reflects the vibrancy of the increasingly capable and self-confident indigenous film sector.

## **European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production**

A significant development was the ratification by Ireland of the European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production. This Convention, which came into effect in August 2000, will facilitate Irish film producers in establishing partnerships with producers in other European countries.

## **Irish Film Board/Bord Scannán na hÉireann**

The Irish Film Board has the following statutory functions:

- To assist and encourage the making of films in the State and the development of an industry in the State for the making of films;
- To have regard, as appropriate, to the need for the expression of national culture through the medium of film making; and
- To participate in international collaborative projects, and where appropriate, to enter into agreements with comparable bodies outside the State, subject to appropriate ministerial consents and consultation.

The Irish Film Board (Amendment) Act was enacted by the Oireachtas during 2000. It raised the limit of expenditure, which may be incurred by the Board from £30m/€38m to £80m/€101.5m. In 2000, an Exchequer capital provision of £7.2m/€9.1m was allocated to the Board up 50% over 1999. Development finance amounting to £1.3m/€1.65m was provided for 129 projects and production loans while £4.85 m/€6.16m as provided for 74 film, television and documentary projects. Total development finance and production loans amounted to £6.15 m/€7.8 m.

The Irish Film Board also provided a grant of £1.1m/€1.4 m to Screen Training Ireland, which operates under the aegis of FÁS, for the strategic development of skills in the film and television production sector.

### **Section 481**

Section 481 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, provides a fiscal incentive to taxpayers to invest in film production. The scheme allows tax relief on investments in film projects certified under the Act. In his 2000 Budget the Minister for Finance announced that the scheme was to be extended for a further five years, thereby putting in place an environment conducive to stability and confidence for the film industry.

In 2000, 28 projects, comprising 13 indigenous and 15 foreign productions received Section 481 certification, authorising the raising of £62.6 m/€79.4 m, with a spend in Ireland of £72.9 m/€92.5 m.

## **Cultural Institutions**

**Core Policy Goal:** *To promote the appropriate development of the cultural institutions; to encourage the continuing relevance of the institutions' activities to the public at large; and to provide an effective policy and legislative framework for the protection and appreciation of our moveable heritage*

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- *To provide a resource, policy and legislative framework for the cultural institutions, taking account of demands arising from changes in society and legal requirements;*
- *To encourage the development of the cultural institutions in accordance with agreed strategic objectives, indicators of performance, and mechanisms for review of achievements and co-operation between the institutions;*
- *To establish and support a National Cultural Institutions Council; and*
- *To establish a policy framework to facilitate greater access to the national collections by the general public and the development of local and regional museums.*

The Department's primary role is to support the National Cultural Institutions through the provision of Exchequer funding on an annual basis and through a range of other policy and operational measures to assist them in developing their services to the public. Each of the National Cultural Institutions publishes its own annual report which give details of the developments in respect of their particular areas.

### **Capital Projects**

#### ***National Museum***

Work continued on a number of capital developments during 2000. These included the National Museum's major new facility at Turlough Park House, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. This new facility will be home to the National Folklife Collection and will enable the public to view material previously unseen or inadequately exhibited in innovative and exciting surroundings. It is a flagship development, which will cost in the region of £12m/€15.2m and is the result of a very successful cultural partnership between the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, the National Museum of Ireland and Mayo County Council.

Works continued on site at the Museum's Collins Barracks development with new facilities being provided for staff and visitors in 2000 and with substantial work being undertaken on the design of the new central building. This year saw the transfer of most of the Museum's staff previously located at Kildare Street to new accommodation in Collins Barracks. The new space and accommodation at Collins Barracks has enabled the Museum to show new and exciting exhibitions including the exhibition of clothing and jewellery, "The Way We Wore", which opened in 2000 and was an enormous success. The National Museum of Ireland was presented with the Gulbenkian Award for "Best Larger Museum" in 2000 for this exhibition and in particular for some of the innovative display methods used in the exhibition including circular cases allowing 360 degrees viewing.

#### ***Chester Beatty Library***

In February 2000, the Chester Beatty Library and Museum opened to the public for the first time at its new £6.6m/€8.4m city centre location at the Clock Tower Building at Dublin Castle. This exciting new location opens a window on the artistic treasures of the great cultures and religions of the world and with its central location makes these treasures more accessible to the public. In 2000 Gulbenkian presented the Museum of the Year Award to the Chester Beatty Library for its new facilities and gallery space.

### ***Irish Museum of Modern Art***

March 2000 saw the opening of new climate-controlled galleries, which will regularly house exhibitions from important collections worldwide at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. The new galleries have added 320 square metres to the Museum's exhibition area and are located in the former Deputy Master's House. The restoration of the Deputy Master's House and the creation of the New Galleries cost £2.2m/€2.8m.

### ***National Library***

Works continued on planning for the National Library of Ireland £50m/€63.5m development project. Significant construction work was undertaken on the former National College of Art & Design Building adjoining the Library. This work is part of a five-year programme for the Library, which will modernise the Library and provide the reader and visitor with much improved facilities and services.

### ***National Gallery***

In July 2000 the Minister unveiled the Foundation Stone of the Millennium Wing of the National Gallery of Ireland. This new wing for the Gallery scheduled to open in 2001 will make an important artistic statement to present and future generations. An additional 4,000 square metres will become available to the Gallery, which will allow the Gallery to provide a wider range of exhibitions and public programmes and will incorporate the most up-to-date facilities for national and international exhibitions.

### **Irish Academy for the Performing Arts**

The Government's commitment to the establishment of an Academy for the Performing Arts reflected in the Action Programme for the Millennium, identified as a key priority the establishment of a Centre for the Performing Arts, incorporating a Conservatoire. During 2000 the Minister together with the Minister for Education and Science announced the setting up of the Planning and Steering Group to move to the next phase in the development of an Academy for the Performing Arts. A capital allocation of £35m/€44.4m has been approved by the Government for this project.

## **Marketing and Promotion of the Cultural Institutions**

The marketing of the National Cultural Institutions and Dúchas, the Heritage Service of the Department continued during 2000. Marketing Managers from the various Cultural Institutions met regularly with the aim of increasing co-operation and visitors.

Following on from the “Dublin – A Magical Trail of Culture” brochure produced by the Department in 1999, the Department commissioned an innovative TV commercial to widen the appeal of the National Cultural Institutions. The commercial was produced in Irish and English and was shown on RTÉ, Network 2, TV3 and TG4.

In November 2000, the Minister launched the first Calendar of Events for the Cultural Institutions at the World Travel Market, Earls Court, London. The Calendar will be produced quarterly by the Department and highlights the wide range of activities and events including concerts, plays, lectures and exhibitions to be found and experienced on Dublin’s magical trail of culture.

Section 1003 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997, provides tax relief in respect of donations of heritage objects to our collecting institutions. During 2000 the Minister for Finance, following consultation with the Minister, increased the aggregate open market value of heritage items, which can be donated in a calendar year, to £3m/€3.8m. In 2000, the total value of donations was £2.7m/€3.4m. Significant among these was the donation to the National Library of the unique Yeats Manuscripts Collection as well as manuscripts and other papers from the collection of the poet, Austin Clarke. In addition, the complete Brian Friel archival collection was donated to the Library, while Mr. Maurice Foley, former Chairman of the Irish Museum of Modern Art, donated an important collection of paintings to the Irish Museum of Modern Art.

Other donations to the cultural institutions under this important legislative provision were:

- ◆ the Whoseday Archive donated to the National Library;
- ◆ the painting “ Wall of Light Yellow” by Sean Scully and a collection of works by the artist Brian Maguire, both donated to the Irish Museum of Modern Art; and
- ◆ the painting “ The Castellated Rhine” by Turner donated by Lady Beit to the National Gallery.

### **Ulysses 'Circe' Manuscript**

A highlight of the year was the acquisition by the National Library of Ireland in New York at auction of James Joyce's original working draft of the "Circe" episode of Ulysses. Joyce had given the manuscript to his friend the American lawyer John Quinn. The importance of this purchase, which was funded by this Department, is underscored by the fact that most of the surviving manuscript material relating to Ulysses is held in the United States of America.

## **The Built and Natural Heritage**

**Core Policy Goal:** *To protect, maintain, conserve, manage and present the built and natural heritage.*

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- *To develop a National Heritage Plan and to encourage the development of local heritage plans;*
- *To provide the appropriate policy, legislative, administrative and financial framework for all areas of heritage responsibility (natural, archaeological, architectural and waterways);*
- *To maintain and develop Dúchas as a high quality and effective Heritage Service;*
- *To develop and maintain an effective working relationship with the Heritage Council;*
- *To participate in international endeavours to protect the built and natural heritage;*
- *To maintain effective working relationships with the relevant Government Departments, State agencies and other interested bodies, and to ensure that heritage policy is taken into account by them in the preparation of policies and legislation;*
- *To facilitate the development of cultural tourism in a manner consistent with the primary function of conservation of the built and natural heritage; and*
- *To promote and develop an increased public appreciation of the importance and value of the built and natural heritage.*

Throughout 2000 efforts continued to ensure the preservation, conservation, management and maintenance of the State's rich heritage, including its monuments, ancient properties, archaeological riches, architecture and ecology.

### **National Development Plan.**

In November 2000 the Minister announced overall funding of £100m/€126.9m for the built heritage elements of the National Development Plan. The strategy for the period to 2006, which was developed following a detailed consideration of all the sites and properties in the care of the Department, will see the emphasis shift, from the provision of new or improved visitor access to sites, to the conservation of properties. To this end, the strategy announced by the Minister includes an extensive capital programme. An apprenticeship programme which will concentrate on the skills crucial in conservation work – carpentry, stonecutting and stonemasonry; a marketing programme to increase the awareness of sites; and a programme of the installation of information panels at sites with no guide service will be put in place. In addition funding will also be provided for acquisitions of key sites and for regulating the built environment.

Work commenced at over 30 of the national monument sites approved for funding under the National Development Plan. These sites included the following:

#### *Ardfert Cathedral*

Works in 2000 included conservation and restoration work on the nave of the cathedral. Pioneering stabilisation works, unlike any previously employed on Irish monuments, made the south wall self-supporting. This allowed the removal of the massive buttress erected in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and revealed again the nine slender windows in the south wall. Innovative work was also undertaken in researching the mortars used in the restoration of the cathedral.

#### *Warehouse, Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary.*

Restoration work commenced on the house and the outbuilding. Work on the exhibition was also advanced and it is expected that the site will be open to the public in 2001.

### Ferns Castle, Co. Wexford.

Construction of a new visitor reception building began. This will include tearooms, toilets and guide accommodation.

### Adare Castle, Co. Limerick.

Major conservation work was undertaken at Adare Castle in 2000, which included the stabilisation of both the inner and outer gatehouse, structures that had previously been in a dangerous condition. Work also commenced on the conservation of the tower.

## **National Heritage Plan**

Work continued throughout 2000 on the drafting of the National Heritage Plan in consultation with other Departments and Agencies. The objective of the Plan is to produce, for the first time in the history of the State, an integrated plan for the national heritage in the new Millennium. The proposed Plan will seek to set out priorities, strategies and actions for the future. It is expected that the plan will be published in 2001.

## **Heritage Council**

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body that promotes the national heritage and proposes policies for its protection and enhancement. The Council publishes its own annual report outlining its activities. In July, 2000 the Minister appointed a new Council which will serve until 2005. The newly appointed members of the Council are Dr. Simon Berrow, Mary Ryan, Lieut Col Con Costello, Nessa Dunlea, Maurice Hurley, Michael McMahon, Nioclás Ó Conchúir, Clare O'Grady Walshe, Bride Rosney, Prof. William Smyth, Virginia Teehan and Primrose Wilson. The new Chairman of the Heritage Council is Dr. Tom O'Dwyer.

## **Work with other Departments and Bodies**

To ensure that heritage issues are taken into account by Government Departments, State Agencies and other bodies in relation to their functions, the Department participated in initiatives on a wide range of issue, which impacted both directly and indirectly on the heritage.

## **The Built Heritage**

### **Protection of the Architectural Heritage**

Integrated measures to strengthen the protection of the architectural heritage are now being implemented. The Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1999 placed the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) on a statutory basis. The Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 1999, which came into force on 1 January, 2000 provides for mandatory listing of buildings for protection by planning authorities, with a role for the Minister in recommending buildings for protection and in providing conservation advice and guidance.

### **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)**

During 2000 the NIAH published the County Clare Interim County Survey. The surveys for the towns of Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlebar, Cavan, Monaghan, Roscommon, Roscrea and Sligo were also published. It is intended that the primary survey of the NIAH will be completed within the next 12 years and that the data obtained will be used for the purpose of recommending to planning authorities that specific properties be included in their record of protected structures.

In exercising her advisory role the Minister recommended to Clare County Council that 381 structures in the county be included in the Record of Protected Structures and similar recommendations were made in respect of 858 structures in 10 towns. She also issued draft architectural conservation guidelines. Meetings were held with every planning authority in Ireland to discuss these. Specific architectural conservation advice was given in relation to 658 planning applications.

### **Tax Relief on Certain Heritage Buildings**

Section 482 of the Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 (formerly Section 19 of the Finance Act, 1982) allows for tax relief in respect of expenditure incurred on the repair, maintenance or restoration of approved buildings or gardens in the State. The Minister granted 27 determinations during the year.

### **National Monuments Capital Projects.**

During 2000 progress was made on a number of projects receiving grant assistance under the EU Operational Programme for Tourism (OPT) 1994-1999. These projects included Maynooth Castle, Co. Kildare, the Mainguard, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary and Trim Castle, Co. Meath. The Trim Castle project was completed and opened to the public in June. In its first season Trim attracted over 30,000 visitors.

### **National Botanic Gardens, Dublin**

A new visitor centre incorporating a purpose-built lecture theatre and catering facilities opened in September 2000, which will further enhance the visitor experience at the Gardens. Coach and car parking facilities have also been provided. The Gardens have long had an important educational role and the new theatre including audio-visual facilities will allow for the expansion and development of the educational programme. In addition the theatre will provide an ideal venue for cultural events.

### **Kilkenny Castle, Kilkenny**

The third and final phase of the restoration works to the Castle was completed. The provision of a multi-purpose facility for cultural and other events in the South Tower and Parade Wing opened in May 2000. This project represents a major achievement in terms of a co-operative venture between the Department, local authorities and local business interests. The facility includes a unique circular auditorium with tiered balconies, which can seat up to 220 people.

### **Iveagh Gardens, Dublin**

The newly restored cascading rustic fountain in the Gardens was officially opened by the Minister in 2000. The cascade displays a dramatic wall of water in a setting of specialized plants and stones collected from Ireland and throughout the world.

### **Fota Arboretum, Fota Island, Co. Cork**

Fota Arboretum with its extensive collection of exotic and native trees and other plants, now in the care of the Department, was first created by the Smith-Barry family in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and developed by them over a period of 175 years. The restoration of the Orangery, a late 19<sup>th</sup> century building in the classical style and one of the main features of the Arboretum, was completed during the year.

### **Castletown House, Celbridge, Co. Kildare**

Work undertaken during 2000 included reroofing the colonnades and repairing the front and rear. An Edenderry quarry, closed since the early 1960s, was especially re-opened to provide stone, which matched the existing stonework.

## **Protection of the Archaeological Heritage**

### **Review of the National Monuments Acts, 1930-1994**

The National Monuments Acts, backed by a number of important court rulings, provide a comprehensive body of legislation for the protection of the archaeological, architectural and historic heritage. It has been clear for some time that there is a need for review and consolidation, to respond to new issues that have arisen, to take full advantage of court rulings, deal with ambiguities and unnecessary complexities and allow the State to become party to relevant international conventions.

The review process began with a public consultation process. Based on that consultation and a general review of the legislation, preparatory work on the consolidated Bill is continuing and it is hoped to publish it in 2001.

### **Archaeology and Afforestation**

A major study, initiated in 1999, to examine the impact of grant assisted afforestation on the archaeological heritage was completed in 2000. Two reports entitled "Review of the Impact of Grant Assisted Afforestation on Known Archaeological Monuments" and "Review of the Potential Impact of Public and Private Sector Afforestation on as yet Unidentified Archaeological Monuments" have been received by the Department. Their findings are

being considered in the context of preparing a comprehensive strategy for protecting this important area of archaeological heritage.

### **Archaeological Excavation Licensing**

The total number of licences and extensions to existing licences issued by the Department in 2000 exceeded 1200. Many of the licences being issued are development-led, reflecting the increasing impact of development work on the archaeological heritage arising from the unprecedented boom in building activity.

### **Advice in relation to Development Applications**

Over 9,000 development applications, approximately 600 underwater related and 800 forestry licences were examined to ensure that the protection of archaeology was taken into consideration.

### **Code of Practice**

The Minister launched a Code of Practice agreed with the National Roads Authority in July 2000. The Code of Practice aims to safeguard the archaeological heritage whilst allowing the Authority to deliver on its programme of new road projects, which is a key element of the Government's National Development Plan. As an indication of its commitment to the code the NRA undertook to recruit 22 archaeologists to assist them in their work.

It is hoped that similar codes can be agreed with other development sectors in due course.

### **Archaeological Survey of Ireland**

Work on the Archaeological Survey of Ireland is progressing steadily and field survey work for all 26 counties is now substantially complete. In 2000, *The Archaeological Inventory of Co. Cork Vol. 4- North Cork* was published, the sixteenth of a projected 38 volumes in the County Archaeological Inventory series. Inventories are now complete for 11 counties.

## **Underwater Archaeological Survey**

The Underwater Unit was re-established in August 2000. It dealt mostly with development impacts on underwater, inter-tidal and coastal archaeology. The unit also dived and surveyed a number of sites thus adding to the bank of information on the underwater archaeological heritage. In addition, mitigation strategies were devised in relation to river and port dredging in consultation with the Irish Ports Association, as well as oil and gas exploration proposals. The unit is now concentrating its attention on survey in order to identify the extent of the underwater archaeological heritage and it is intended to publish the first volume of the shipwreck inventory in 2001.

## **Irish Archaeological Wetland Unit**

Survey work has highlighted the archaeological richness of our peatlands, which is being impacted upon by commercial exploitation of the bogs. In 2000, the backlog of cataloguing of sites already surveyed was cleared and a new data management system was put in place. The main area of field survey work was in Toar Bog, Co. Offaly where a very high density of sites of archaeological potential was recorded – over 400 in an area of 430 hectares.

## **Natural Heritage**

### **Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000**

In the area of protection of our natural heritage, the most important development during the year was the enactment, in December 2000, of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act.

Some of the important features of the Act include:

- the introduction of a mechanism for statutory protection of Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs);
- the extension of protection under wildlife legislation to provide specifically for the protection of fish and aquatic invertebrate animals for the first time; and

- an enabling provision whereby Ireland can ratify the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA).

These, and the many other measures in the Act, will greatly enhance the protection afforded our important wildlife and natural heritage into the new millennium.

### **Designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs)**

The selection and boundary definition for marine Special Areas of Conservation, based on the BioMar survey data, was finalised in 2000. An additional 41 proposed candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) were publicly advertised. These were, in the main, marine sites for non-priority habitats and species as defined in the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The remaining 138 candidate SACs were formally transmitted to the EU Commission bringing the total number of those transmitted to 362. An additional 1,500 landowners, land users and license holders affected by the SAC proposals were directly notified of the position.

The Sandymount Strand/Tolka Estuary SPA was extended during the year and proposals to extend the Wexford Harbour SPA were also advertised. The Special Areas of Conservation Appeals Advisory Board continued its work during the year. The Board was established by the Minister to advise her on objections, from landowners to SAC designation. Under the Regulations objections may be made on scientific grounds only.

The Board comprises of a balanced representation of groups representing the interests of both landowners and heritage conservation and is chaired by the former Ombudsman, Mr. Michael Mills.

The Board met on 22 occasions during the year and made recommendations to the Minister in 34 appeal cases as follows:

Appeal Upheld	Partially Upheld	Department Position Upheld	Total
3	12	19	34

A further 11 appeal cases were resolved to both parties' satisfaction after referral but before they came to be formally dealt with by the Board.

Boundaries of cSACs were amended as a result of internal reviews by Dúchas staff or acceptance by the Minister of Appeals Advisory Board recommendations.

### **Conservation of Designated Areas**

Once again, significant progress was made in the establishment of local liaison committees in each area affected by proposals for designation of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs).

In 2000, the Department began public consultation on management plans by establishing local liaison committees for Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas (for birds). A new group of facilitators were trained in the skills of writing management plans for designated areas. Reports on SAC and SPA projects co-financed with the EU Life programme were completed and sent to the EU Commission, along with management plans for the main SACs in Ireland.

The year 2000, as in 1999, saw the Department involved in major initiatives to conserve Ireland's most important bogs – particularly midland raised bogs, and also upland habitats. Turfcutting either ceased altogether or will be phased out on raised bog SACs by the end of 2008. Where possible alternative sites were provided to owners and compensation was paid where necessary. Payments in 2000 totalled £1.3m/€1.62m.

The initiative to reduce sheep numbers in the upland areas of six western counties continued, helping to reverse damage caused by overgrazing. Landowners who had lost income as a result of the restrictions introduced in 1998 were compensated by the Department. Direct compensation payments exceeding £4m/€5.1m were issued in 2000.

The Department, in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, engaged trained teams to prepare Commonage Framework Plans for 463,778 ha of commonage. These plans are designed to provide a framework for the conservation and sustainable farming of commonage areas mainly located in the western uplands. Plans relating to 294,222 ha were approved by both Departments in 2000.

## **National Parks**

### ***Wicklow Mountains National Park***

Construction was completed towards the end of 2000 on new Regional Headquarters for Wicklow Mountains National Park.

### ***Wexford Wildfowl Reserve***

Major improvements works at Wexford Wildfowl Reserve were nearing completion at the end of 2000. The estimated cost is in excess of £0.4m/€0.51m. This project is receiving 75% E.U assistance under the 1994-'99 Operational Programme for Tourism (OPT).

### ***Lough Hyne***

On 28 July 2000 the Minister officially opened the new Visitor Centre in Skibbereen, Co. Cork to interpret Lough Hyne, Ireland's only Maritime Nature Reserve. This was a joint venture between the Department, Cork Co. Council who provided the site for the building and Skibbereen Commemoration Committee who have incorporated an exhibition on the Great Famine in the building. A sum of £0.5m/€0.63m was allocated by the Department under the OPT towards the cost of the project.

### ***Killarney***

Restoration of the Victorian Glasshouse in Killarney National Park is underway while the new restaurant and ancillary facilities in the Park, which were opened officially in April, have been very well received. In July 2000 the gardens of Killarney House, Co. Kerry were officially opened to the public for the first time in decades allowing unrestricted access to these grounds. It is intended to incorporate Killarney House into the National Park.

### ***Doneraile House***

Reroofing works at Doneraile House, Co. Cork, an 18<sup>th</sup> century Georgian house were completed during the summer at a cost of £0.7m/€0.8m. This project received 75% E.U assistance under the 1994-'99 Operational Program for Tourism (OPT). In July the Minister announced the provision £2m/€2.5m

under the National Development Plan 2000-2006 for the restoration of the House.

### **Liaison Committees**

The Wicklow Mountains National Park Council was established in 2000. This is an independent body consisting of representatives from the various groups with a keen interest in the National Park e.g. farmers, landowners, community interests and recreational users. The Council will work with local management to finalise a Management Plan for the National Park and build upon the existing good liaison with concerned parties.

An inaugural meeting of interested parties took place in December 2000 to set in train the establishment of a Liaison Committee for Killarney National Park in order to maintain the existing harmonious relationship between the local community and the Park authorities.

### **International Conventions**

The Department implements wildlife related international conventions and agreements in Ireland, including:

- EU Regulation 338/97, which implements the provisions of the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (C.I.T.E.S.);
- The International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling;
- The Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern);
- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn); and
- The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Wildfowl Habitat (Ramsar).

### **General Scientific Work**

Compilation and collation of scientific information and the maintenance of databases and inventory archives continued in 2000. Of particular importance is the provision and validation of data to service the Natura 2000 Network. Summary accounts of the conservation interest of designated sites for

dissemination to local authorities, landowners/users and other interested parties were produced and maps were validated prior to transmission of digital maps to the E.U. Commission.

Scientific surveys are carried out to assess the conservation value of habitats and species and to delimit the boundaries of sites of conservation importance, notably candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). During 2000 particular emphasis was placed on sites containing habitats listed on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. A suite of turlough, coastal and montane cSACs was surveyed.

A sound scientific approach to habitat classification is crucial to the application of the Habitats Directive and other environmental legislation. The Department continued to play a key role in this regard by participating in the European Vegetation Survey Workshop. The framework of that survey was also applied to the National Habitat Classification developed by the Heritage Council and published in October.

In addition to the above projects a large proportion of the time of scientific staff was devoted in the provision of ecological advice in relation to formal and informal SAC Appeals, SAC draft management plans and to the assessment of the conservation implications of major infrastructural projects and of a wide range of individual development proposals potentially affecting habitats and species in both terrestrial and marine environments.

### **Habitat Projects**

A vegetation survey of grazing exclosures was completed and a methodology for their future monitoring designed. An Action Plan was prepared for blanket bogs and wet heaths. The collation and computerisation of blanket bog vegetation and other survey data was commissioned and the blanket bog report and sites databases completed. Advice and botanical data was provided for postgraduate research projects testing the potential application of satellite imagery for moorland vegetation mapping.

A pilot survey of native broadleaf woodlands, based on three candidate Special Areas of Conservation was carried out in advance of the planning for a full-scale national survey. Involvement continued in the People's Millenium Forests Programme, in co-operation with the other project partners and in advising the Forest Service on the introduction of a grant scheme for native woodlands.

## **Bird Surveys and Research**

A programme of surveys and research projects continued many of them in co-operation with BirdWatch Ireland.

The **Seabird 2000** project – a survey and census of all breeding seabirds in Ireland and Britain – which commenced in 1999 and will continue into 2001, made very good progress during the summer 2000 breeding season. Most of the major Irish colonies have now been well covered, and long stretches of the coast and islands have been completely surveyed. Preliminary results indicate that most species of breeding seabirds are doing well (indeed some have increased dramatically since the last survey in the mid-1980s), but some of the large gulls have declined greatly, probably due to high annual mortality of adults and chicks from botulism.

Terns are migratory seabirds of special conservation concern and are listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive. In Ireland five tern species breed, with a combined total population of about 10,000 pairs. A number of the most important colonies – Rockabill and Dublin Port in Co. Dublin, the Little Tern colony at Kilcoole/Newcastle in Co. Wicklow, and Lady's Island Lake in Co. Wexford – are the subject of joint conservation and research work by the Department and BirdWatch Ireland. In 2000 this bore fruit with good numbers and productivity recorded at all sites.

In collaboration with Durham University, research was carried out in 2000 on the gannet colony on Great Saltee Island, Co. Wexford. This involved the establishment of the foraging range of the adult breeding gannets using satellite telemetry to track the daily movements of the birds while fishing to feed their chicks. Some birds were found to be ranging daily as far as Fastnet Rock in West Cork.

Besides Ireland's breeding seabirds our migratory wintering waterfowl are the most important element of our avifauna, from a bird conservation viewpoint, as we provide winter refuge for internationally important populations of a number of species of swans, geese, ducks and waders. The **Irish Wetland Bird Survey (I-WeBS)**, a joint project of the Department, BirdWatch Ireland and the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, is the main means of monitoring these species

annually, and identifying important wetlands on which they depend. The selection of sites for designation as Special Protection Areas (under the EU Birds Directive), Natural Heritage Areas (under the Wildlife Act, 1976), and Ramsar Convention sites, is based largely on the data collected by the I-WeBS project. Coverage of sites and frequency of counts continued to expand in 2000, and the formal report of I-WeBS for 1997-98 was published in February, 2000.

In 2000, the Department was a major sponsor of the Corncrake Grant Scheme, run by Bird Watch Ireland, the Grey Partridge project and the Common Bird Survey.

### **Other Species Projects**

During 2000 a national survey of the status and distribution of Shining Sickle-moss (*Drepanocladus vernicosus*) commenced. Preliminary results indicate that this species occurs in nutrient-poor fen and flush systems and that Ireland supports at least seven populations of the species. Work towards a Red Data Book for Irish bryophytes continued with intensive field survey on the distribution and conservation status of rare and threatened species in Co. Leitrim.

In 2000 a North/South project was initiated to create an atlas of Odonata (Dragonflies and Damselflies) for all of Ireland. It was co-funded by The Heritage Council and the Environment and Heritage Service Northern Ireland, and was launched via a web-site [www.ulstermuseum.org.uk/cedar](http://www.ulstermuseum.org.uk/cedar); (e-mail: [rstl@bann8.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:rstl@bann8.fsnet.co.uk)) which has already won considerable acclaim. Field recording for the atlas took place over summer 2000 and will continue for the next two years, with publication scheduled to take place in 2004. This is the first time an all-Ireland biological recording project has been initiated jointly by the relevant authorities North and South.

Work on the development of a list of nationally scarce vascular plant species continued by way of the Department's contribution to the Atlas of the vascular flora of Great Britain and Ireland (scheduled for publication in 2002). The results of the Scarce Plants Project will be incorporated into a revised edition of the Red Data Book for vascular plants.

## **Engineering Division**

The year 2000 saw major changes in the Engineering Structure of the Department, with the majority of the Engineering staff moving to Waterways Ireland. These resulted in staff changes and a smaller unit of operation, servicing only direct Departmental needs. The Division continued to provide health & safety advice throughout the Department, with particular emphasis on staff training and the improvement in the Department's overall safety management. Projects undertaken by the Division included:

- Design and construction advice on the new Ferns visitor centre, due for completion in March 2001;
- Design and construction supervision of own water supply for the Botanic Gardens;
- Continued work on the restoration of Emo Lake and supply source, due for completion in 2001;
- Dredging and cleaning of gardens and lakes in the Phoenix Park;
- Continuous development on Integrated Constructed Wetland research and construction in the Anne Valley, Waterford; and
- Completion of the Boyle Canal and harbour from Lough Key, in which the Division had a central design and support role.

## **EDUCATION AND VISITOR SERVICES**

In the year 2000 the Department's Education and Visitor Service continued to increase public appreciation of the importance and value of the built and natural heritage. People from home and abroad were encouraged to visit Dúchas managed sites and were assisted in their understanding of these sites by a wide variety of publications.

A key activity of the Education and Visitor Service was the presentation of 70 Department-managed heritage sites throughout the country and the raising of heritage awareness.

## **VISITORS**

The total number of visitors to the 60 fee-paying managed heritage sites in 2000 was 2.25 m. This level of visitors was maintained against a background of strong competition from a large number of privately operated visitor centres and a stabilisation in the number of overseas visitors to Ireland.

## **GUIDES**

Our 350 guides provided a trained guide service at 69 heritage sites in 2000 including Trim Castle, which was opened to the public in July following the completion of extensive restoration work. Many favourable comments were received on both the knowledge displayed by the guides and on their contribution to visitors' experience of these sites.

## **PROMOTION OF SITES**

Promotional literature in French, German, Spanish and Italian was distributed overseas through Bord Fáilte offices which maintained the international profile of Department-managed heritage sites.

## **FREE EDUCATIONAL VISITS FOR SCHOOLS**

A scheme was introduced in January 2000 whereby free admission to the fee-paying managed heritage sites is granted to school groups from primary or secondary level. Approximately 68,000 children visited Department-managed sites under this scheme. The aim of the scheme is to increase awareness of heritage in schoolchildren. The Education and Visitor Service are developing worksheets and other activities to help children to get the maximum benefit from their visits.

## **HERITAGE CARDS**

The Heritage Card, which allows unlimited access to all fee-paying managed heritage sites for one year, proved to be very popular in 2000. Over 17,000 cards were sold with over 700 purchases from the Heritage Card Officer and it is estimated that cardholders made over 110,000 visits to the sites throughout the year. Each Heritage Card purchaser receives a copy of a bulletin, which provides information in relation to new publications, new visitor centres and events relating to heritage.

## **HERITAGE INFORMATION IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES INITIATIVE**

The Heritage Information in Public Libraries Initiative was formally launched by the Minister in Ennis Branch, in May 2000. Six libraries are participating in the Initiative - Ennis, Galway, Clonmel, Nenagh, Kilkenny and Blanchardstown. This initiative, which will be extended, to other County Libraries, was introduced with the co-operation and assistance of An Chomhairle Leabharlanna.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

In 2000 three new booklets in relation to the Rock of Cashel, Cahir Castle and the National Botanic Gardens were produced as well as information leaflets for 7 managed heritage sites. In addition, 2 booklets and 4 leaflets were re-printed. "Exploring Irish Mammals", which tells the story of mammals in Ireland and emphasises the great diversity, richness and heritage value of our wild animals was published in 2000 in association with Town and Country House, Publishers.

## **CEOL REOITE**

The Ceol Reoite project was brought to a finale when the 'Ceol Reoite' CD, which is a collection of 14 individual musical pieces which were commissioned in relation to heritage sites, was launched by Minister de Valera in December, 2000 in the Coach House, Dublin Castle.

The 'Ceol Reoite' CD is available in record shops and at the various Heritage Sites.

## **NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK**

National Heritage Week, which is the Council of Europe initiative of European Heritage Days, was celebrated in 2000 from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of September with a full week of events throughout the country. These were attended by approximately 200,000 people. The week was widely promoted and a range of national and community organisations participated in over 400 events. These events included a number of special family occasions and events with a natural heritage theme. Several sites in the North of Ireland participated for the first time.

Many of the Department's managed heritage sites hosted special events or gave special concessions during the week. Each of the Department's Cultural Institutions hosted events which highlighted their role.

## **The Irish Language/The Gaeltacht**

### **Central policy objective:**

*To reverse the decline in the use of Irish as the principal means of communication in the Gaeltacht and to extend the use of Irish elsewhere in the country.*

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- *To continue with the promotion of further development, principally through the programmes and schemes of the Department itself and of the bodies under its aegis, insofar as they relate to language, social, physical and economic matters in the Gaeltacht and to continue to maintain the primacy of the Irish language and its related culture in the Gaeltacht;*
- *To support the implementation of the Government's policy regarding the Irish language and the Gaeltacht through the activities of Údarás na Gaeltachta and to support the activities of An Foras Teanga;*
- *To encourage the use of Irish, and the provision of State services through Irish, on a broader basis throughout the country; and*
- *To maintain an effective working relationship with Government Departments, State agencies and other organisations in order to ensure that account is taken, in their activities, of Government policy in respect of the Gaeltacht and the Irish language.*

The reversal of the decline in the use of the Irish language as the primary medium of communication in Gaeltacht areas and the widening of its use in the rest of the country is a key objective of the Department. The year saw considerable progress in both the Department's legislative programme concerning the Gaeltacht and the Irish language as well as the ongoing work of the Department in furthering both the Gaeltacht and the Irish language.

### **Legislation**

In July approval was obtained for the preparation of the General Scheme for the Official Languages Equality Bill. The objectives of the Bill are to specify the language rights of citizens consistent with the constitutional status of both official languages (Irish and English) and to improve the delivery of State services in the Irish language for those citizens seeking such a service.

Work continued throughout the remainder of the year on the preparation of the draft Heads of the Bill. Substantial progress was achieved towards the objective of having the draft Heads ready for circulation to all Departments and the Attorney General for observations early in 2001.

### **An Foras Teanga**

The British Irish Agreement Act, 1999, is the legislative framework for the Cross-Border Implementation Bodies, one of which is An Foras Teanga. An Foras Teanga is comprised of two distinct Agencies – Foras na Gaeilge and Tha Boord o Ulster Scotch. The Department had a central role in advancing the work of an Foras Teanga, which carried out important work to progress Irish and Ulster-Scots throughout the year.

There were two meetings of the North South Ministerial Council (in its sectoral format) during the year – one in Belfast and one in Dublin.

The Department gave grants of £5.88m/€7.46m to the Irish Language Agency and of £0.09m/€0.12m to Tha Boord o Ulster Scotch in 2000.

### **Údarás na Gaeltachta**

A total of £31.45m/€39.93m, including capital and current monies, was made available to Údarás na Gaeltachta as grant-in-aid during the year (compared to a total of £28.45m/€36.12m in 1999). 1,000 full-time jobs were created in enterprises aided by Údarás bringing the total number of people in full-time employment in enterprises supported by Údarás to 8,251 by the end of 2000. A further 4,054 people were engaged in seasonal/part-time employment, bringing the total of people employed in enterprises aided by Údarás to 12,035.

## Ciste na Gaeilge

A total of £1.453m/€1.845m was paid out of this fund in 2000 including £1.070m/€1.358m to the following bodies: Bord na Leabhar Gaeilge; Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann; and Taibhdhearc na Gaillimhe. A total of £0.383m/€0.486m was paid to various Irish language projects including Gaillimh le Gaeilge; Tiobraid Árann ag Labhairt; An Féile Phan-Cheilteach; Gael Taca; and Iomairt Cholm Chille. Funding was provided for the following projects/schools that are based in Northern Ireland: Lá; Pobal; Gaelscoil Dhún Lathaí, Co. Antrim; and Gaelscoil Uí Néill, Co. Down. In June, the Minister of State, Éamon Ó Cuív T.D, launched a multilingual dictionary on Local Government and Business terms called “The European Language Initiative”, which was developed with the assistance of grant aid in the amount of £30,000/€38,092 from the Department. In December, the Minister of State launched “Eolaire na Gaillimhe”, organised by Gaillimh le Gaeilge, a list of businesses in Galway where a service in Irish is available.

## Gaeltacht Housing

A total of 1,486 applications were received under the Gaeltacht Housing Scheme in 2000 (a 10% increase over the number of applications in 1999) - including 109 applications from Gaeltacht Islands. Expenditure under the scheme in 2000 amounted to £1.94m/€2.46m (an increase of 25% compared to 1999) and 121 new houses were completed with grant aid as well as 769 other cases relating to improvements.

The following grant increases came into effect by Ministerial Order on 24 October 2000:

Grant	Gaeltacht		Gaeltacht Islands	
	Original Maximum Grant	New Maximum Grant	Original Maximum Grant	New Maximum Grant
Essential Improvements	£2,300	£4,000/	£3,450	£12,000
	€2,920	€5,079	€4,380	€15,237
Sewerage System	£ 500	£ 800	£ 750	£ 1,200
	€635	€1,016	€952	€1,524
New Bathroom	£ 800	£1,200	£1,200	£ 1,800

	€1,106	€1,524	€1,524	€2,285
Provision of Water Supply or improvements to Water Supply	£ 560 €711	£1,900 €2,412	£ 840 €1,066	£ 2,850 €3,619

The Housing (Gaeltacht) (Amendment) Bill was published in October. The general purpose of the Bill is the revision and updating of the Housing (Gaeltacht) Acts, 1929-1979, to make them more relevant for today's needs. The Bill provides, inter alia, that:

- applicants for new house grants need not be residing in the Gaeltacht while the house is being built;
- the Gaeltacht for the purposes of the Housing (Gaeltacht) Acts will only be those areas determined to be Gaeltacht areas under the Ministers and Secretaries (Amendment) Act; and
- responsibility for all matters relating to loan repayments under the Housing (Gaeltacht) Acts be transferred from the Office of Public Works to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands.

### **Cultural and Social Schemes**

- **Scéim na bhFoghlaimoirí Gaeilge (Irish language Learners Scheme)**

Under this scheme the Department pays a daily grant to qualified households in the Gaeltacht, which accommodate Irish Language Students attending a recognised Irish language college.

In 2000 grants of £2.33m/€2.96m were paid in respect of 24,124 students under this Scheme, the majority of whom were accommodated in 672 households in the Gaeltacht.

### **Scheme in relation to Irish language Courses for Adults**

The Department pays a grant to approved committees that organise Irish language courses in the Gaeltacht for adults. This Scheme is principally for people resident outside the Gaeltacht and grants were paid in respect of 1,170 people who attended such courses under the Scheme in 2000.

### **Scéim Labhairt na Gaeilge (Scheme in relation to Speaking Irish)**

Under the Scheme the Department can pay a grant of up to £200/€254 per school year to Gaeltacht households where Irish is the normal spoken language. In the school year 1999/2000 applications were received from over 3,500 households and expenditure under the Scheme in 2000 amounted to £0.50m/€0.63m.

Assistance is also available under the Scheme for the encouragement of Irish, to people who have been refused a grant under the Housing (Gaeltacht) Acts if they satisfy the Department that they have complied with the conditions regarding the Irish language and normal residence in the Gaeltacht.

### **Miscellaneous Services**

The Department provides support to organisations working to promote the Irish language in the Gaeltacht. Among the organisations supported in 2000 were: - Eagraíocht na Scoileanna Gaeltachta, Áras Uí Chadhain, Oidhreacht Chorca Dhuibhne, An Chrannóg, Oideas Gael, An Gaelacadamh, Áras Uí Ghramhnaigh and Áras Sorcha Uí Ghuairim.

A number of cultural events where Irish language and culture had a central role were also assisted during the year, for example scholarship prizes at Feiseanna and local Gaeltacht magazines.

In addition support totaling £48,180/€61,175 was given in respect of “Scéim Champaí Samhraidh trí Ghaeilge d’Aos Óg na Gaeltachta”.

## **Improvement Schemes in the Gaeltacht**

Capital grants are available for the improvement of infrastructure in the Gaeltacht including roads, marine works and facilities such as community halls and playing fields. The aim of the Schemes is to promote linguistic, cultural and social development and to support physical and economic development.

The Department secured additional funding, during the duration of the National Development Plan for the improvement of strategic Gaeltacht roads. As a result, it embarked on a seven-year plan, the objective of which, when completed, is having one good road of suitable standard into every Gaeltacht area. Expenditure on the improvement of Strategic Gaeltacht Roads in 2000 amounted to £5.673m/€7.317m.

Of the expenditure of £9.697m/€12.313m in 2000, £1.505m/€1.911m involved the development of improved harbour facilities on Tory Island, Co. Donegal. £1.221m/€1.55m was paid under the Scéim na mBóithre Áise and various other projects such as footpaths, town renewal etc in the Gaeltacht. A total of £0.8m/€1.087m was expended to assist the provision or improvement of Community Centres/Irish language Colleges and leisure facilities. A total of £0.363m/€0.461m was expended to improve small County Council quays, in partnership with the relevant County Councils. A total of £0.3m/€0.381m was expended to commence development work on the harbour facilities in Baile Fuar Uisce, Co. Donegal.

## **Placenames Commission and Placenames Branch.**

In 2000 the Placenames Branch with the support and advice of the Placenames Commission continued to research Irish placenames and to make correct versions of Irish placenames and other information available. Research on administrative names in Cork, Kerry and Wexford continued as part of the research programme for counties. Research commenced in order to supply Irish versions of electoral areas to the Central Statistics Office.

## **Iomairt Cholm Cille/The Columba Initiative**

The Columba Initiative is a tripartite project, which has the following as its main objectives:

- to strengthen the links between Ireland (North and South) and Scotland; and
- the improvement of existing contacts between these communities.

The main event of the year was a Youth Parliament held in Derry in March in which third level students from all three regions participated. This Department spent nearly £50,000/€63,486 on this project during 2000.

## **An Coimisiún faoin nGaeilge sa Ghaeltacht**

In April 2000 the Government established a Commission on Irish in the Gaeltacht to make recommendations in order to strengthen Irish as the ordinary language of the Gaeltacht population. The Commission has a wide remit to examine the extent to which Irish is the spoken language in various Gaeltacht areas. It examines the effectiveness of policies and schemes of the various State agencies that are dealing directly with supporting Irish in the Gaeltacht. It also examines the factors that could damage the preservation of Irish in the Gaeltacht.

The Commission will make recommendations as to how the Planning and Development Act, 2000, will be implemented from the point of view of preserving language and culture in the Gaeltacht and has also been asked to prepare an Action Plan for language policy in the Gaeltacht.

As a first step the Commission has engaged in a wide-ranging public consultation process. Advertisements were placed in the media looking for submissions in writing and public meetings were arranged all over the country and especially Gaeltacht areas.

## **Offshore Islands**

***Core Policy Goal:*** *To promote the sustainable development of the populated offshore islands in particular and to seek to ensure the provision for islanders of adequate levels of services.*

### ***Supporting Objectives***

- *To facilitate the provision of an adequate all year round level of access to transport for island communities;*
- *To encourage island communities through their development organisations to work with Government Departments, State agencies and local authorities in developing island infrastructure, industry, agriculture, fishing, tourism, etc; and*
- *To promote and co-ordinate Government policies in relation to the islands.*

Responsibility for the offshore islands was assigned to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands in July 1997. During 2000, the Department continued its work on the development of the islands and steps were taken to provide sufficient levels of service to islanders through financing infrastructural projects on the offshore islands.

### **Funding for Capital Projects**

A sum of £3.27m/€4.15m was spent in 2000 to aid the provision and improvement of island infrastructure such as marine works, roads, coastal protection etc. Substantial funding (£1.2m/€1.5m) was provided to the local authorities in respect of coastal protection works and improvements to roads and water supply on islands. Other works financed during 2000 included:

- Grants of £0.71m/€0.9m paid to provide/improve electricity supply on 7 offshore islands;
- Approximately £0.21m/€0.78m spent on a study of piers serving Clare Island and Inishturk off the Mayo coast;
- Over £0.2m/€0.25m spent on works on piers serving two islands off the Cork coast;
- £0.402m/€0.51m paid to commence building a new bridge to Inishnee in Co. Galway;
- £0.221m/€0.28m paid to set up a waste recycling scheme on the Aran Islands;
- £0.054m/€0.068m paid to Údarás na Gaeltachta for preliminary work on the development of an airstrip at Clifden, Co. Galway to serve Inishbofin; and
- £0.165m/€0.209m paid to Donegal County Council to carry out major improvement works on the harbour facilities at Léab Gharbh, Arranmore Island, Co. Donegal.

In addition to the above expenditure:

- Galway County Council was requested to carry out a preliminary study of the development of the harbour facilities at Cill Rónáin, Inis Mór and an Caladh Mór, Inis Meáin; and
- A grant of £1.45m/€1.84m was approved for Mayo County Council to provide a cable car between the mainland and Inishbiggle at Bullsmouth.

## **Funding for Current Projects**

A sum of £1.346m/€1.709m was spent in 2000 to assist current projects, especially to provide or improve ferry and air services to the islands. The services assisted during 2000 included:

- A passenger and freight service from Galway to the Aran Islands;
  
- A daily ferry service for passengers between:
  - (i) Inis Mór, Árainn and Ros a'Mhíl, and
  - (ii) Inis Meáin and Inis Oírr and Ros a'Mhíl;
  
- Ferry services between Inishbofin, Inishturk and Clare Island and the mainland;
  
- A ferry service between Cape Clear Island and the mainland;
  
- A ferry service between Tory Island and the mainland; and
  
- An air service between the Aran Islands and the mainland.

Ferry services were commenced between Sherkin, Whiddy and Bere Islands and the mainland in 2000.

As part of the ferry services, which are subsidised by the Department, special services are provided, where necessary, to bring pupils to schools on the mainland.

### **Interdepartmental Committee for the Islands, the Gaeltacht and the Irish language**

This Committee was set up in 1998 with the Minister of State as Chairperson in order to:

- Co-ordinate the implementation of Government policy regarding the Islands, the Gaeltacht and the Irish language;
- To make every effort to ensure that that policy is implemented effectively; and
- To review the provision of services from Departments and State organisations to the Islands and to the Gaeltacht and to make the system more efficient through negotiation and agreement.

Considerable progress has been made by this Committee in fulfilling its terms of reference and this work will continue during 2001. Arising from the work of this Committee and in recognition of the higher cost of living associated with the islands, a special allowance of £10/€12.69 per week was granted to pensioners living on islands in Budget 2000.

### **Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann / The Irish Islands Federation**

Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann acts as a representative body for development organisations and co-operatives on offshore islands. The Comhdháil encourages these communities to participate in local development and provides a forum to establish communication between the various island communities. It has regular contact with the Department regarding the different problems which islanders face and assistance is provided to the Comhdháil to resolve those problems. In 2000, the Department approved an annual management grant of £40,000/€50,789 for the Comhdháil.

## **Support Services**

**Personnel**

**Corporate Development**

**Information Technology**

**Financial Management**

## **Personnel**

**Core Policy Goal:** *To support the Department's overall strategy through the effective management of its human resources.*

### **Supporting Objectives:**

- *To develop and implement a strategy for human resource management;*
- *To introduce a structured process of performance management;*
- *To ensure that the skills and competencies required for effective operation within the Department are identified and made available through targeted training programmes;*
- *To ensure that the training function facilitates the personal and professional development of staff, thereby linking the development of the individual to the overall needs of the Department;*
- *To promote and develop good internal communications at all levels; and*
- *To foster an integrated corporate culture within the Department.*

During 2000 Departmental staff peaked at just over 2100 (including some 1,250 industrial staff at the peak season) in over 150 different grades at some 130 different locations throughout the country.

### **Staffing Developments**

Additional staff were sanctioned for the Department during the year in a number of key areas including Corporate Development, I.T., Finance and Accounts, Internal Audit as well as the Personnel and Training Division itself.

During 2000 it continued to be difficult to recruit skilled labour (such as stonemasons, stonecutters and carpenters etc.) in the National Monuments area. To alleviate this problem work commenced on the expansion of the Apprenticeship Schemes and a nation-wide recruitment campaign commenced in late 2000.

All industrial staff of Waterways Division as well as most of its professional, technical and general service staff were seconded to the North/South Body *Waterways Ireland* enabling it to assume the functions formerly carried out by the Waterways Division of the Department.

## **Services**

Many of the bodies under the aegis of the Department availed of the advisory service provided by Personnel Division in relation to staff, pay and superannuation issues.

The Employee Assistance Service Officer continued to provide a work-based, confidential support, referral, and short-term counselling and information service to both existing and retired staff of the Department. In all 213 people were in contact with the service in the year 2000.

Within its existing limited resources the Training Unit achieved significant progress in meeting the Department's training. Over 1900 training days were provided during 2000 on 91 courses dealing with subjects ranging from Basic Sea Survival to Project Management and Stress Management. The sub group of the Partnership Committee on training continues to act as Steering Group for training.

Significant progress was also maintained made in the development of the Department's Guidelines and Operating Standards in relation to Health and Safety within all areas of the Department during 2000.

## **Accommodation**

Plans for the new Departmental Headquarters on the site earmarked for this purpose at Infirmary Road in Dublin which had emerged from international design competition in 1999 were frozen in the light of the Government strategy on decentralisation announced in 2000 financial statement. This has reasserted a shift of focus to improving the quality of accommodation for Departmental staff at existing locations pending decisions on the threat of decentralisation. Thus efforts continued during 2000 to find new premises to accommodate staff, who have to vacate premises at 51 St. Stephen's Green. The Placenames Branch of the Department was relocated to Lower Hatch Street and accommodation will be provided early in 2001 for the National Monuments and Architectural Protection Division beside Harcourt Road. During the year also refurbishment works were carried out to the office accommodation in Na Forbacha. A new area headquarters was provided for the Eastern Region in Trooperstown Wood in Co Wicklow and new accommodation also arranged for staff in Athlone, Castlereagh, Cork, Kildare, and Knowth.

## **Performance Management and Development**

Preliminary arrangements were made during the year for the introduction of the Performance Management and Development System in the Department. A project team, comprising representatives of both management and unions, was appointed at the beginning of the year to act as a Steering Committee for the project. Information packs on the new system were issued to staff in May. A Project Manager was appointed in September to oversee the introduction and implementation of the new system. The Department's senior management attended a workshop in December and had commenced implementation of the first phase of the Performance Management and Development System by the end of the year.

## **Corporate Development**

The Corporate Development Division established in 1999, continued to advance and co-ordinate the ongoing change management process in the Department, to facilitate and co-ordinate the Department's Partnership process and co-ordinate and monitor the operation of Freedom of Information in the Department.

### **Partnership**

The Partnership process in the Department continued to operate successfully, building on the success of the previous year. The year 2000 saw the commencement of the extension of Partnership structures to the Cultural Institutions, and to the regions with the establishment of the Western Partnership subgroup.

The Department's Partnership Committee continued to oversee the Department's Modernisation Programme, producing an Internal Communication Strategy and advancing staff training and development. The Committee established a subgroup to review the Department's first Quality Customer Service Plan and to prepare a new Plan for the years 2001-2004.

Probably the single most significant recent development in Human Resources Management for the Irish Civil Service is the introduction of a comprehensive system of performance management and development. This is being advanced through Partnership, as is the onerous task of developing an overall Human Resources Management strategy for the Department.

### **Freedom of Information**

During the year the Department received 275 requests under the Freedom of Information Act, 1997, of which 117 were granted, 49 part-granted and 42 refused. A total of 11 applications were withdrawn or handled outside the FOI Act while 22 were transferred to another body. A further 34 cases were still live at the end of the year. The categories of requesters were as follows:

Journalists	102
Business	15
Staff	2
Oireachtas members	6
Others	150

The Freedom of Information Act came into effect for RTÉ and TG4 from 1 May 2000, and the IRTC and Arts Council from 21 October 2000. The Government's intention to extend the Act to Enterprise Bodies, including Údarás na Gaeltachta, in January 2001 was also confirmed during 2000.

## **Information Technology**

**Core Policy Goal:** *To develop and put in place appropriate IT systems in all offices and areas of the Department for the purpose of supporting policy and organisational goals and acting as a management tool to facilitate organisational change.*

### **Supporting Objective:**

*To develop a strategic IT Investment Plan, which will form an integral part of the Department's corporate strategy and address, inter alia, investment in staff training for the installation and use of IT systems within the Department, the redesign of business processes and procedures, and the achievement of greater efficiency and the provision of better services to the public through the application of the IT function.*

In order to best achieve the IT Units objectives, the section was restructured in 2000 into two teams, one responsible for technology support and the other team with responsibility for advancing the priority business projects outlined in the Departments IT Strategy report. An Internet project, giving users access to both Internet e-mail and web browsing facilities was rolled out to all the main networked users in the Department during 2000. The remaining users will be facilitated during the first half of 2001. Improvements to the network infrastructure and the extension of IT facilities to sites without such facilities also commenced in 2000 and will be completed in 2001. Projects for the re-design of the Department's Website, the development of an e-strategy for the Department and the development of a Planning Applications tracking system also commenced during the year. The total IT staff was increased from seven to fourteen.

### **GIS**

A GIS Heritage browser was provided to over 100 staff members within the Dublin offices of the Department, who need online access to the full range of heritage databases and mapping. Similar data was made available to other GIS users in the public service, local authorities and state sponsored organisations through a data supply website: [www.heritagedata.ie](http://www.heritagedata.ie). A project to expand the available data from these resources to include the full archaeological documentary archive, will be completed in 2001.

## **Financial Management**

***Core Policy Goal:*** *To set in place and operate proper financial management systems to enable the efficient and effective management of the Department's resources and operations in accordance with best Government accounting procedures and in conformity with statutory and other requirements.*

***Supporting Objective:***

*To provide high quality financial information in a timely fashion to enable managers to efficiently and effectively manage and monitor programmes and projects, attain targets and review outcomes.*

### **Finance**

The throughput of payments increased by a further 10% in 2000. Significant advances were made in the preparations for the Euro Changeover.

Systems were put in place to co-ordinate, monitor and review the Department's input into the National Development Plan. Preliminary work was also commenced on the introduction of a new Management Information Framework for the Department and an officer was assigned to this task in September.

The Accounts Branch discharged its statutory responsibility in the payment and recording of interest paid under the Prompt Payment of Accounts Act, 1997.

### **Internal Audit**

During 2000 the Internal Audit Unit continued to provide a systems based audit service to the Department's senior management. The Unit is responsible for evaluating the adequacy, application and effectiveness of the Department's internal control systems.

Details of audit findings and recommendations were made available to the Secretary General and to other senior managers within the Department, as appropriate, for their consideration and attention. Copies of audit reports were also forwarded to the Comptroller and Auditor General's Office.

*Appendices*

**Financial Figures**

**List of bodies under the aegis of the Department  
Map**

## Financial Figures

Accounts of the sum expended, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2000, compared to the sum granted for salaries and expenses of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, for services administered by that Office, for payment of certain grants and Grant-in-Aid.

Service	Estimate Provision	Outturn Accruals	Closing
	£'000	£'000	£'000
ADMINISTRATION €'000	€'000		€'000
<b>A.1 Salaries, Wages and Allowances</b>	19,165	18,643	-
	24,334	23,671	
<b>A.2 Travel and Subsistence</b>	1,440	1,408	3
	1,828	1,787	3.8
<b>A.3 Incidental Expenses</b>	795	1,117	9
	1,009	1,418	11.4
<b>A.4 Post and Telecommunications</b>	805	1,004	1
	1,102	1,274	1.3
<b>A.5 Office Machinery and Other Supplies</b>	2,597	1,351	-
	3,297	1,715	
<b>A.6 Office Premises Expenses</b>	760	918	165
	965	1,165	209
<b>A.7 Consultancy Services</b>	578	298	-
	734	378	
ARTS AND CULTURE			
<b>B. Payments to match resources generated by the National Museum, the National Library and the National Archives (Grant-in-Aid Fund)</b>	956	699	-
	1,214	888	
<b>C.1 General expenses of the main Cultural Institutions (Grant-in-Aid Fund) (National Lottery Funded)</b>	9,905	9,905	174
	12,577	12,577	221
<b>C.2 Cultural Projects</b>	2,518	5,241	5

C.3	Cultural Development Incentive Schemes	3,197 5,064 6,430	6,654 2,873 3,647	6.3 -
C.4	Heritage Fund	500 635	-	-

Service	Estimate Provision	Outturn	Closing Accruals
£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000
<b>THE IRISH LANGUAGE AND THE GAELTACHT</b>			

D.	Gaeltacht Housing – Grants under the Gaeltafht Housing Act, 1929 to 1979	1,800 2,285	1,943 2,647	-
E.	Improvement Schemes in the Gaeltacht  <i>Original Estimate</i> £4,500,000 €5,713,821 <i>Supplementary</i> £5,000,000 €6,348,690	9,500 12,062	9,718 12,339	-
F.	Cultural and Social Schemes	3,900 4,952	3,738 4,746	1 1.27
G.	European Office for Minority Languages	40 51	40 50	-
H.1	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Current Spending (Grant-in-Aid)  <i>Original Estimate</i> £3,760,000 €4,774,215 <i>Supplementary</i> £150,000 €190,460	3,910 4,965	3,910 4,964	-

H.2	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Grants to industry (Grant-in-Aid)	13,500 17,141	13,500 17,141	-
H.3	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Capital Expenditure (Structural Buildings) (Grant-in-Aid)	14,000 17,776	14,000 17,776	-
H.4	Údarás na Gaeltachta – Election	160 203	53 67	-
I.	Bord na Gaeilge – Current Expenditure (Grant-in-Aid) (National Lottery Funded)	1 1.27	-	-
J.1	Payment to Ciste na Gaeilge (Grant-in-Aid)(National Lottery Funded)	1,150 1,460	1,150 1,460	-
J.2	Payment to an Foras Teanga (Grant-in-Aid)	5,967 7,576	5,967 7,576	-

Service	Estimate	Outturn	Closing	
Accruals	Provision		£'000	
£'000	£'000	€'000	€'000	
<b>BROADCASTING AND FILMS</b>				
<b>K.</b>	<b>Grant to Radio Telefís Éireann for Broadcasting. Licence Fees (Grant-in-Aid)</b>	<b>67,066 85,156</b>	<b>67,066 85,156</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>Payment to An Post for Collection of</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>-</b>

	<b>Broadcasting Licence Fees</b>	<b>8,888</b>	<b>8,888</b>	
M.1	Commissions and Special Inquiries	11	3	-
		14	3.7	
M.2	Expenditure in relation to the establishment of digital Broadcasting	1,416	1,001	-
		1,797	1,270	
M.3	Independent Radio and Television Commission – Current Expenditure (Grant-in-Aid)	1,513	-	-
		1,921		
M.4	Independent Radio and Television Commission – Capital Expenditure (Grant-in-Aid)	500	-	-
		635		
N.1	Irish Film Board – Administration Expenses (Grant-in-Aid)	804	804	-
		1,021	1,021	
	<i>Original Estimate</i>	<i>£ 704,000</i>		
		<b>€893,895</b>		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	<i>£100,000</i>		
		<b>€126,973</b>		
N.2	Irish Film Board – Capital Expenditure (Grant-in-Aid)	7,200	7,200	-
		9,142	9,142	
	<i>Original Estimate</i>	<i>£6,200,000</i>		
		<b>€7,872,376</b>		
	<i>Supplementary</i>	<i>£1,000,000.</i>		
		<b>€1,269,738</b>		
O.1	Radio Telefís Éireann – Grant for TG4 – Current Expenditure (Grant-in-Aid)	14,029	14,029	-
		17,813	17,813	
O.2	Radio Telefís Éireann – Grant for TG4 - Capital Expenditure (Grant-in-Aid)	870	870	-
		1,104	1,104	

Service	Estimate Provision	Outturn	Closing Accruals
£'000	€'000	€'000	£'000    £'000

	OIDHREACHT (HERITAGE)			
P.1	Grant-in-aid for An Chomhairle Oidhreachta (Heritage Council) Administrative Expenses	951 1,207	881 1,118	-
P.2	Grant-in-aid for An Chomhairle Oidhreachta (Heritage Council) (National Lottery Funded) Current Expenditure	1,500 1,904	1,500 1,904	-
P.3	Grant-in-aid for An Chomhairle Oidhreachta (Heritage Council) (National Lottery Funded) Capital Expenditure	4,050 5,142	3,150 3,999	-
Q.1	Education and Visitor Services	620 787	761 966	1 1.27
Q.2	Miscellaneous Services at Visitor Centres	238 302	147 186	-
R.	Maintenance and Supplies	237 301	50 63	-
S.	National Parks and Wildlife Service	16,001 20,317	14,872 18,883	200 254
	<i>Original Estimate</i> £18,551,000			
	€23,554,911			
	<i>Supplementary</i> £(2,550,000)			
	€(3,237,832)			

<b>T.1</b>	<b>Inland Waterways</b>	<b>2</b> <b>2.5</b>	<b>2,141</b> <b>2,718</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>T.2</b>	<b>Grant to Waterways Ireland</b>	<b>12,545</b> <b>15,929</b>	<b>10,009</b> <b>12,708</b>	<b>69</b> <b>87</b>
<b>U.</b>	<b>Architectural Inventory</b>	<b>520</b> <b>660</b>	<b>296</b> <b>376</b>	<b>3</b> <b>3.8</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>National Monuments And Historic Properties</b>	<b>31,970</b> <b>40,593</b>	<b>32,260</b> <b>40,962</b>	<b>1,003</b> <b>1,273</b>

Service	Estimate	Outturn	Closing
Accruals	Provision	£'000	£'000
£'000	€'000	€'000	€'000

SEIRBHISÍ EILE (OTHER SERVICES)				
<b>W.</b>	<b>Islands</b>	<b>5,000</b> <b>6,348</b>	<b>4,615</b> <b>5,860</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>X.</b>	<b>Overseas Marketing</b>	<b>600</b> <b>762</b>	<b>522</b> <b>662</b>	<b>15</b> <b>19</b>
	<b>Gross-Total</b>	<b>273,654</b> <b>347,469</b>	<b>266,653</b> <b>338,579</b>	<b>1,649</b> <b>2,094</b>
	<i>Deductions:-</i>			
<b>Y.</b>	<b>Appropriations-in-Aid</b>	81,722 103,765	82,504 104,758	<b>-</b>



## **List of bodies under the aegis of the Department**

### **National Museum of Ireland**

Kildare Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 677 7444  
Fax: 676 6616  
Director: **Dr. Patrick Wallace**

### **National Library of Ireland**

Kildare Street, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 603 0200  
Fax: 676 6690  
Director: **Brendan O'Donoghue**

### **National Archives**

Bishop Street, Dublin 8..  
Tel: 407 2300  
Fax: 407 2333  
Director: **Dr. David Craig**

### **National Gallery of Ireland**

Merrion Square West, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 661 5133  
Fax: 661 5372  
Director: **Raymond Keaveney**

### **National Concert Hall**

Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 475 1666.  
Fax: 478 3797  
Director: **Judith Woodworth**

### **Chester Beatty Library**

Clock Tower, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2.  
Tel: 407 0750 / 407 0751  
Fax: 407 0760  
Director: **Dr. Michael Ryan**

**Irish Museum of Modern Art**

Royal Hospital, Military Road, Kilmainham  
Dublin 8.

Tel: 612 9900

Fax: 612 9999

Director: **Philomena Byrne (Acting)**

**Archbishop's Marsh's Library**

St. Patrick's Close, Dublin 8.

Tel: 454 3511

Fax: 454 3511

Keeper: **Dr. Muriel McCarthy**

**Irish Manuscripts Commission**

73 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Tel: 676 1610

Fax: 662 3832

Chairman: **Prof. G.J. Hand**

**The Arts Council**

70 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Tel: 618 0200

Fax: 676 1302

Director: **Patricia Quinn**

**Bord na Leabhair Gaeilge**

Rath Cairn, Áth Buí, Co. na Mí

Tel: 046-30419

Fax: 046-30420

Director: **Dr. Conchúr Ó Giollagáin**

**Foras na Gaeilge**

7 Merrion Square, Dublin 2.

Tel: 676 3222

Fax: 639 8401

Interim Chief Executive: **Mícheál Ó Gruagáin**

**Tha Boord o Ulster Scotch**

Franklin House, 10-12 Brunswick Street, Belfast Bt2 7GE

Tel: 048 90 231113

Fax: 048 90 231898

Interim Chief Executive: **John Hegarty**

**Údarás na Gaeltachta**

Na Forbacha, Gaillimh.

Tel: 091 50300

Fax: 091 503101

Chief Executive: **Ruán Ó Bric**

**Radio Teilifís Éireann**

Donnybrook, Dublin 4.

Tel: 208 3111

Fax: 208 3080

Director General: **Bob Collins**

**Independent Radio and Television Commission (IRTC)**

Marine House, Clanwilliam Place, Dublin 2.

Tel: 676 0966

Fax: 676 0948

Chief Executive: **Michael O’Keeffe**

**Broadcasting Complaints Commission**

PO Box 913, Dublin 2.

Tel: 676 7571

Chairperson: **Ray Murphy**

**Irish Film Board**

St. Augustine Street, Galway.

Tel: 091 561 398

Fax: 091 561 405

Chief Executive: **Rod Stoneman**

**The Heritage Council**

Rothe House, Kilkenny

Tel: 056 70777

Fax: 056 70788

Chief Executive: **Michael Starrett**

**Waterways Ireland**

17-19 Lower Hatch Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 647 3000

Fax: 678 7798

Interim Chief Executive: **John Martin**