



An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Brief for Minister for Defence

July 2014

Contents

1. The Minister for Defence and the Department of Defence.....	3
1.1 The Minister	3
1.2 Statutory framework for the Department and the Defence Forces	3
1.3 Management Advisory Committee.....	4
1.4 Strategic Management Committee	4
1.5 Role of civil element of the Department	4
1.6 Roles of the Defence Forces	8
1.7 Defence Forces Organisation.....	9
2. Defence Expenditure.....	11
2.1 Comprehensive Review of Expenditure (CRE).....	12
3. Defence Modernisation.....	13
3.1 Background.....	13
3.2 Recent Modernisation.....	14
3.3 Improved Productivity	18
4. White Paper on Defence 2014 – 2024	21
4.1 Green Paper on Defence	21
4.2 Preparation of the new White Paper	21
5. National and International Security	22
5.1 National Security Committee	22
5.2 Domestic Security.....	22
5.3 Aid to the Civil Authority and other tasks.....	23
5.4 International Security	25
6. Emergency Planning	32
7. Defence Forces Equipment.....	34
8. Human Resources in the Defence Forces	35
9. Conciliation and Arbitration	36
10. Litigation.....	38
11. Legislation.....	40
12. Defence Property	41
13. Ombudsman for the Defence Forces.....	43
14. Civil Defence	44
15. Irish Red Cross Society.....	45
16. Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection Project	46
Appendix 1. Defence Estimate Vote 36 for 2014	47
Appendix 2. Defence Forces Personnel serving overseas.....	48
Appendix 3. Senior Management (Civil Servants)	50
Appendix 4. Senior Management (Military Officers).....	51
Appendix 5. Lisbon Treaty Guarantees	52

1. The Minister for Defence and the Department of Defence

1.1 The Minister

The Constitution vests supreme command of the Defence Forces in the President and also provides that the exercise of such command shall be regulated by law. The governing legislation is contained in the Defence Acts, 1954-2011, which provide that military command of, and all executive and administrative powers in relation to, the Defence Forces, including the power to delegate command and authority, shall be exercisable by the Government and through and by the Minister for Defence. By law, the Minister for Defence is also the head of the Department of Defence.

The Minister also has other responsibilities in relation to Emergency Planning and the Irish Red Cross Society.

1.2 Statutory framework for the Department and the Defence Forces

The Constitution of Ireland vests the right to raise and maintain military or armed forces exclusively in the Oireachtas and expressly prohibits the raising and maintenance of any other military or armed force for any purpose whatsoever. The Department's mandate has a constitutional and statutory basis which seeks to ensure the civil control of the armed forces of the State.

The Department of Defence was established by the Ministers and Secretaries Act, 1924 and the Act assigns to the Department “*the administration and business of the raising, training, organisation, maintenance, equipment, management, discipline, regulation and control according to law of the military defence forces*”.

Under the Defence Acts, 1954-2011, the Department has civil and military elements. The civil element is headed by the Secretary General and the military element by the Chief of Staff. Both elements provide supports to the Minister in the management of defence.

The Ministers and Secretaries Act provides that the Minister is ‘Head’ of the Department. The Secretary General is the “principal officer” of the Department and as such is the Minister’s principal policy adviser. He is also appointed by the Minister for Finance as the Accounting Officer for all defence expenditure in accordance with the Exchequer and Audit Departments Act 1866. The authority, responsibility and accountability of the Secretary General are further elaborated in the Comptroller and Auditor General (Amendment) Act, 1993 and the Public Service Management Act, 1997. The 1997 Act also requires the Secretary General to prepare a Strategy Statement for the Minister’s approval and an annual report on performance. The process of drafting a new Strategy Statement will now begin.

The Defence Acts 1954 to 2011 provide the legislative basis for the Defence Forces (*Óglaigh na hÉireann*) and provide that Defence Forces Headquarters (DFHQ) is the military element of the Department of Defence. The Chief of Staff of the Defence

Forces heads DFHQ. The Chief of Staff is the principal military adviser to the Minister. As provided for in the Defence Acts the Minister has assigned duties to the Chief of Staff. The Chief of Staff is directly accountable to the Minister for the performance of these duties, which include responsibility for the military effectiveness, efficiency, organisation, and economy of the Defence Forces. As provided for in the Acts and with the approval of the Minister, the Chief of Staff has, in turn, delegated responsibility for certain duties to the Deputy Chief of Staff (Operations) and to the Deputy Chief of Staff (Support).

The Act also provides for delegation by the Minister of military command to General Officers Commanding the Brigades, the Defence Forces Training Centre, the General Officer Commanding the Air Corps and the Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service. In practice, matters relating to command are normally channelled through the Chief of Staff. In effect, this means that day-to-day operational control of the Defence Forces rests with the Chief of Staff for which he is directly responsible to the Minister.

1.3 Management Advisory Committee

The Management Advisory Committee (MAC) comprises the Secretary General, the two Assistant Secretary Generals and the Director. The Committee takes a central role in the formulation of strategy, in the development and monitoring of the business planning process and deciding resource allocation. Policy on key strategic and management issues is formulated before submission, as appropriate, for consideration at a political level, or otherwise is implemented. The MAC also has a key role in relation to corporate governance. The MAC meets on a weekly basis. The Minister occasionally attends meetings of the MAC.

1.4 Strategic Management Committee

The Strategic Management Committee (SMC) is a joint civil-military committee providing a forum for the discussion of major policy issues. The SMC members are the Secretary General of the Department of Defence (Chairman), the Chief of Staff, the two Assistant Secretary Generals, the Director, the two Deputy Chiefs of Staff and the Assistant Chief of Staff. The General Officer Commanding the Air Corps and the Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service attend in respect of matters affecting their services. Close co-operation on all matters between civil and military elements are a priority. The SMC meets on a monthly basis. The Minister occasionally attends meetings of the SMC.

1.5 Role of civil element of the Department

The primary role of the civil element of the Department is to support the Minister as head of the Department and in particular to provide policy advice and support on Defence matters, including assistance with policy formulation and the implementation of policy as directed by the Minister.

The civil element also has a number of specific roles, which include the management of legal, regulatory and litigation policy and related matters on behalf of the Minister; the management of human resources and industrial relations matters; and the

coordination of the delivery of security, emergency and community services by the Defence Forces.

In addition, the civil element provides liaison between the Defence Forces and other Government Departments, public authorities, the EU and public representatives. Policy in respect of overseas operations, in furtherance of Ireland's commitments in the area of international security and peacekeeping, is also coordinated by the civil element.

Civil servants discharge financial management and audit functions in connection with the Secretary General's role as Accounting Officer and provide administrative support services to the Defence Forces, including payroll and the management of major procurement and infrastructural programmes. There has been a significant degree of delegation of financial authority to the Defence Forces in recent years, particularly in the area of the procurement of goods and services.

An illustration of the senior management structure of the civil element of the Department is shown in Appendix 3. A brief summary of each branch of the civil element follows:

- **Civil Defence Branch** is located in Roscrea, Co Tipperary and is responsible for the management and development of Civil Defence at national level. The Civil Defence Branch provides policy direction, centralised training through the Civil Defence College, and a range of other supports to the Civil Defence Organisation, which is based in local authority areas throughout the country.
- **Conciliation and Arbitration (C&A) Branch** has overall responsibility for industrial relations within the Defence Forces. It interacts on behalf of the Minister with the representative associations for members of the Permanent Defence Force, the Reserve Defence Force and the Army Nursing Service. It sets the rates of pay and allowances for members of the Defence Forces in consultation with the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform. The Branch also formulates the terms and conditions for recruitment into and promotion within the Defence Forces. It has led the industrial relations aspects of the implementation of the re-organisation of the Defence Forces from a three to two Brigade structure. The Branch has also led the negotiation and implementation of the Public Service Agreements and other Public Sector reforms, more recently the Haddington Road Agreement.
- **Contracts Branch** manage major procurement projects for specialised and defensive equipment for the Defence Forces involving the procurement of new naval vessels, armoured personnel carriers, helicopters and personnel equipment and munitions required to ensure operational capacity is maintained. The Branch supports the High Level Planning and Procurement Group (HLPPG) and the affiliated Working Group. The Branch is also involved in several public reform initiatives, such as liaising with the recently established Office of Government Procurement, overseeing the roll out of the External Services Delivery model and assisting in the implementation of the recently completed Review on Stocks and Inventory in the Defence Forces.

- **Defence Forces Personnel Policy Branch** has overall responsibility for formulating and monitoring the implementation of Human Resource Policy within the Defence Forces.
- **Executive Branch** is responsible for policy, planning and performance management inputs in relation to the provision by the Defence Forces of aid to the civil power (i.e. an Garda Síochána), and aid to the civil authority (e.g. local authorities, Health Service Executive, etc.) roles performed by the Defence Forces. Other responsibilities of the branch include the Ministerial Air Transport Service, the Army Equitation School, the Irish Red Cross Society, and the organisation of ceremonial events.
- **Finance Branch**, based in Renmore, Galway, is the largest Branch in the Department. The Branch acts as a shared service provider to the Department, the Defence Forces, and the Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces. It is responsible for making and accounting for all payments including payroll and pensions on behalf of the Department and the Defence Forces; for the co-ordination of Estimates-related work; and for the administration of military pensions as well as the formulation of pensions policy. In volume terms per annum, payments comprise some 500,000 in the payroll area and 24,000 expense claims; some 145,000 pension payments; and some 42,000 invoice based payments.

The Branch is also involved in two major Shared Services initiatives: Payroll Shared Services (PSS) and Financial Management Shared Services (FMSS). In the case of PSS, the Department is migrating all civil and military payrolls and travel and subsistence processing to the Payroll Shared Service Centre in line with the agreed timeframe. The payroll project will involve the transfer of a significant number of the Department staff to the PSS and the Department is working with the PSS on the staffing and accommodation requirements for its Galway centre (one of three national centres). For Financial Management Shared Services, the Department is actively engaged in interdepartmental working groups reviewing finance functionality and security requirements. This phase of the project will assist in establishing a procurement exercise to establish the full costs of implementing Financial Management Shared Services. The phase is likely to conclude in early 2015.

- **Human Resources Branch** provides a broad range of corporate support roles to the organisation including the provision of HR services for the civil service element of the Department and civilian employees based in military installations. The Branch is responsible for the Industrial Relations mechanisms, accommodation and facilities management and Health and Safety requirements. The Branch services the Department's Training and Development function and the Department's Press and Information Office, which co-ordinates the processing of requests under the Freedom of Information Acts.
- **Information & Communication Technologies Branch (ICTB)** proactively develops and provides information and communications technology (ICT)

services to support the achievement of the Department's mission and objectives. The branch is also responsible for hosting the Defence organisation's enterprise resource planning solutions which addresses financial, inventory and asset management functionality across the organisation. The Branch is also responsible for maintaining oversight of all ICT expenditure within the Defence Organisation (including ICT expenditure by the Defence Forces).

- **Internal Audit Unit** provides an independent objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve the Department's operations. The Unit reports on the adequacy of controls that operate in the various areas of activity of the Defence Organisation. An annual summary report is presented to the Audit Committee and the Secretary General (Accounting Officer).
- **International Security and Defence Policy (ISDP) Branch** is responsible for the ongoing assessment, formulation and development of Defence inputs to Government policy on Ireland's international Security and Defence issues. The work of ISDP Branch centres on issues related to: the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy; Defence policy on commitments to EU Headline Goal; Ireland's participation in Partnership for Peace; Ireland's membership of the United Nations and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (international security and policy issues); Ireland's involvement on UN mandated peace support operations and Battlegroups and Ireland's participation in the European Defence Agency.
- **Legislation Branch** is responsible for the formulation and implementation of the legislative reform programme in the Defence Organisation. This programme of work involves the simplification and reform of both primary and secondary legislation. The Branch is currently in the process of drafting primary legislative provisions regarding the use of DNA by the Military Police as well as legislation in relation to the Red Cross Society. The Branch is also working on the modernisation and simplification of a number of Defence Force Regulations (DFRs).
- **Litigation Branch** provides advice on policy to the Minister for Defence in relation to civil legal claims. The Branch develops and co-ordinates policy in relation to claims and judicial review management strategy. It processes all personal injury claims made against the Minister apart from claims that have been delegated to the State Claims Agency (SCA). The Branch is responsible for overseeing claims delegated to the SCA in accordance with an agreed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The Branch plays an active role in the management of litigation risk through regular meetings with the State Claims Agency.
- **The Office of Emergency Planning (OEP)** has important strategic responsibility in relation to cross Government emergency planning coordination and oversight. OEP supports the Minister in his role as Chairman of the Government's Taskforce on Emergency Planning. It also presents an

annual report to Government on Emergency Planning. The office is also responsible for the operation of the National Emergency Coordination Centre. (NECC).

- **Planning and Organisation Branch** provide a strategic analytical planning and organisation function for the Department. The branch undertakes key strategic reviews such as comprehensive reviews of expenditure, and plays a key role in driving the modernisation agenda within Defence. It supports the Department in the development of major policy proposals and led the preparation of proposals regarding the re-organisation of the Defence Forces, the preparation of the Green Paper on Defence and is currently leading the development of the new White Paper on Defence. The Branch is also responsible for the production of the Department's Strategy Statement and Annual Report.
- **Property Management Branch** is responsible for the overall strategic management of the Defence Organisation's property portfolio. The Branch formulate policy relating to key infrastructural issues such as the disposal of military property identified as surplus to requirements and the management of the Capital Build Programme of barrack refurbishment. The Branch is also responsible for the development of a new Military Archive building to be completed as part of the Government Centenary Commemoration Programme.

1.6 Roles of the Defence Forces

In the context of the White Paper on Defence, published in 2000, the Government decided that the roles of the Defence Forces would be:

- to defend the State against armed aggression; this being a contingency, preparations for its implementation depend on an on-going Government assessment of the security and defence environment;
- to aid the civil power (meaning in practice to assist, when requested, an Garda Síochána, who have primary responsibility for law and order, including the protection of the internal security of the State);
- to participate in multinational peace support, crisis management and humanitarian relief operations in support of the United Nations and under UN mandate, including regional security missions authorised by the UN;
- to provide a fishery protection service in accordance with the State's obligations as a member of the EU;
- to carry out such other duties as may be assigned to them from time to time, e.g. search and rescue, air ambulance service, Ministerial air transport service, assistance on the occasion of natural or other disasters, assistance in connection with the maintenance of essential services, assistance in combating oil pollution at sea.

1.7 Defence Forces Organisation

The Defence Forces are organised on conventional military lines providing a sufficiently flexible structure to carry out all the roles assigned by Government. The Defence Forces consist of a Permanent Defence Force (PDF) and a Reserve Defence Force (RDF). The former is a standing force and provides the primary capabilities for military operations at home and military peace support operations abroad. The RDF provides a contingent conventional military capability to augment and assist the PDF in situations where such additional capabilities are required. In addition, civilian employees are engaged throughout the Defence Forces. These civilian employees provide a range of general operative, trade and other services in military installations.

PERMANENT DEFENCE FORCE

The Permanent Defence Force (PDF) consists of the Army, the Air Corps and the Naval Service with an overall establishment of 9,500 personnel.

Army

The Army provides the land component of the State's Defence capabilities. The Army currently provides the deployable military capabilities for overseas peace support, crisis management and humanitarian operations augmented by personnel from the Air Corps and Naval Service. On a day-to-day basis the Army provides a broad range of operational outputs. These include activities in support of an Garda Síochána such as providing cash escorts, prisoner escorts and explosive ordnance disposal. The Army also undertake tasks in support of the civil authorities such as the provision of assistance in severe weather events and are an integral part of the State's response to many contingencies. The Army is structured into two all-arms brigades, consisting of combat, combat support and combat service support elements. Each brigade is designated a territorial area of responsibility with specific garrison locations. The Defence Forces' Training Centre (DFTC), located at the Curragh, Co. Kildare, supports the entire Defence Forces.

Air Corps

The Air Corps is based at Casement Aerodrome, Baldonnell, Dublin and consists of an operational headquarters, two operational wings, two support wings, the Air Corps Training College, and a Communication and Information Services Squadron. On a day-to-day basis the Air Corps undertakes Army Support, Fishery Protection Patrols, and provides a Ministerial Air Transport Service.

The Air Corps routinely undertakes tasks such as providing air cover for cash in transit operations. They support an Garda Síochána by providing pilots and technical support for the Garda Air Support Unit (GASU). The Air Corps also provides support to the HSE through the provision of an emergency inter-hospital air ambulance service. The Air Corps also provides support for the HSE's pilot Emergency Aeromedical Support (EAS) Service. In addition, the Air Corps undertakes a number of other approved operations in support of the civil authorities.

Naval Service

The Naval Service is based at Haulbowline, Co. Cork and has a flotilla of eight ships. It has an operational headquarters, an operations command, a logistical support

command and a Naval Service College. The Naval Service provides the maritime component of the State's Defence capabilities. The Naval Service is the State's primary sea going agency and provides a broad range of supports in the maritime domain. On any given patrol day the Naval Service can carry out a number of taskings on behalf of other state agencies such as the Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA), an Garda Síochána and the Revenue Commissioners.

In addition Naval Service vessels participate from time-to time in foreign visits in support of Irish diplomacy and trade.

RESERVE DEFENCE FORCE

The Reserve Defence Force (RDF) consists of the First Line Reserve, the Army Reserve and the Naval Service Reserve. The Army Reserve has an establishment of 3,869 personnel and the Naval Service Reserve has an establishment of 200 personnel. The RDF contributes to Ireland's defence capability by providing a capacity to augment the PDF in the event of a major crisis. On a day-to-day basis, the Army Reserve and Naval Service Reserve undertake training in preparation to assist the PDF, when required.

2. Defence Expenditure

The Department has two Votes: Vote 35 (Army Pensions) and Vote 36 (Defence).

In 2014, the gross allocation (excluding capital carryover) under the Defence Vote (Vote 36) is €676.9m, and €221m under the Army Pensions Vote (Vote 35), a combined total of €897.9m. The total gross outturn in 2013 was €889.8m, comprising €666.1m in the Defence Vote and €223.7m in the Army Pensions Vote.

Defence Vote 36

The Defence Vote 36 estimate includes provision for the pay and allowances of Permanent Defence Force personnel; civilians employed with the Defence Forces throughout the country and civil service staff. It also provides for payment of members of the Reserve while on full-time training. In 2014, pay accounted for approx. 74% of the Defence Vote while the non-pay element accounted for the remainder.

The non-pay element provides for capital expenditure and non-pay current expenditure. The Non-pay current expenditure provides for the day-to-day standing costs of the Defence Forces, expenditure on operations and the procurement of equipment. A Breakdown of the Vote 36 2014 Estimate is outlined in Appendix 1.

Vote 35 Army Pensions - Funding of military pensions in 2014 and future years

Defence Forces pensions expenditure – under Vote 35 – is primarily demand-led and non-discretionary. The military pensions gross spend increased by some 30% between 2007 and 2012. The number of Defence Forces' retirements on pension more than doubled in the 5 years up to 2012, reflective of recent public service trends. There are now some 12,000 military pensioners, including spouses and children of deceased members, a net increase of about 1,000 since 2007. Due to the higher than expected numbers of retirements, the approved annual allocations were insufficient to meet the actual pension costs arising over the last number of years and supplementary estimates were required. Those shortfalls were met from savings from the Defence Vote (36), which arose due to prudent management, with the result that there has been no extra demand on the Exchequer over what was initially voted for the Defence Vote Group in those years. A similar approach will be taken in 2014. The funding of military pensions up to 2017 is being considered in the context of the ongoing Comprehensive Review of Expenditure.

International Comparators

The tables below indicate how Defence expenditure in Ireland compares with some other EU member States. The figures have been extracted from the 2012 Defence Data of European Defence Agency (EDA) participating Member States.

Table 1. Defence Expenditure as % of Overall Govt Expenditure

Year	Ireland	UK	Portugal	Sweden	Finland	Luxembourg	Average 26 pMS ¹
2012	1.31%	4.74%	3.02%	2.18%	2.62%	0.87%	3.04%

Table 2. Defence Expenditure as % of GDP

Year	Ireland	UK	Portugal	Sweden	Finland	Luxembourg	Average 26 pMS
2012	0.55%	2.30%	1.43%	1.13%	1.47%	0.38%	1.50%

Ireland is second lowest in this category with Luxembourg being the lowest.

Table 3. Defence Expenditure per Capita

Year	Ireland	UK	Portugal	Sweden	Finland	Luxembourg	Average 26 pMS
2012	€196	€691	€223	€487	€528	€314	€380

2.1 Comprehensive Review of Expenditure (CRE)

In 2011, the Government undertook a Comprehensive Review of Expenditure (CRE) and set out the expenditure ceiling for Defence for the period 2012-2014. This provided sufficient funding to stabilise the strength of the Permanent Defence Force within a strength ceiling of 9,500 personnel and the continued delivery of a broad range of defence outputs.

In Budget 2014, the Government announced a decision to undertake a new Comprehensive Review of Expenditure in 2014. This will inform a revised current expenditure budgetary framework for the period 2015-2017. In tandem with this a review of capital expenditure is also being undertaken and this will inform a revised capital expenditure framework for the period out to 2019/2020.

The Department has forwarded submissions on both the CRE and Review of Capital Expenditure to the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform. It is anticipated that there will be further engagement on these important Reviews in the coming weeks and months.

¹ All EU Member States except Denmark participated in the EDA. Croatia became the 27th EDA Member State on 1 July 2013.

3. Defence Modernisation

3.1 Background

During the 1990's a series of external reviews critically examined the Defence Organisation and a series of sweeping reforms were introduced. This included the downsizing of the Permanent Defence Force to a strength ceiling of 11,500 personnel in the latter half of the 1990s.

Subsequent to these external reviews, the reform agenda has been driven from within the Defence Organisation. The White Paper on Defence (2000) introduced a major reform agenda and has framed a comprehensive programme of modernisation in the intervening period.

The White Paper on Defence (2000) was the first such White Paper in the history of the State. Subsequent to its publication, the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces reorganised and progressively improved the quality of services provided to client organisations at home whilst enhancing our peacekeeping capacity overseas.

A key goal of the White Paper was to ensure that the State had modern and sustainable Defence Forces with the capacity and flexibility to undertake all roles assigned by Government. Key decisions contained in the White Paper were:

- A further reduction in the size of the Permanent Defence Forces to 10,500.
- Investment of resultant pay savings in equipment and infrastructure.
- A policy of continuous recruitment to the Defence Forces
- Naval Service to be developed around the provision of an 8-ship flotilla.
- Air Corps to continue to provide a variety of military and non-military services.
- Reserve Defence Force to be modernised with a strength of approx 12,000
- A wide range of organisational reforms to enhance the Defence Forces' capabilities.

This further downsizing of the Defence Forces allowed for the necessary investment in equipment from within the existing Defence allocation. The policy of reinvestment of the proceeds of property sales (including barrack closures), also allowed for a progressive development of defence assets from what was objectively identified as an extremely low base level.

In marked contrast to broader public sector trends during this timeframe, the Defence Organisation was downsized and transformed into a more effective force and defence expenditure decreased in real terms. This delivered significant enduring savings to the exchequer. The modernisation programme within Defence was unique to the public sector, as it was funded by cuts and closures within the organisation itself. As the organisation downsized, infrastructure was rationalised while at the same time outputs increased in both qualitative and quantitative terms.

The period since 2008 has resulted in a reduced resource envelope for defence and this required a revision of key policy parameters that were set out in the White Paper (2000)

3.2 Recent Modernisation

Arising from the economic downturn, the resource envelope for defence has reduced significantly in recent years. In order to maintain Defence Forces operational outputs to the greatest extent possible within this reduced resource envelope, the Department and the Defence Forces have implemented a further series of significant reforms.

Barrack Closures

Since 2008, there have been eight barracks closed under the modernisation programme. In 2008, the Government approved the closure of Monaghan (sold to the VEC), Longford (part sold to the VEC and part to Longford County Council), Rockhill (to be auctioned later this year) and Lifford (sold to Donegal County Council). All closed in March 2009.

In 2011, the Government approved the closure of Cavan (sold to the VEC), Castlebar (sold to Mayo County Council), Clonmel (sold to South Tipperary County Council) and Mullingar (currently licenced to Westmeath GAA Board). These barracks closed in March 2012.

Permanent Defence Force Strength Levels and Re-Organisation

The report of the Special Group on Public Sector Numbers and Expenditure Programmes (July 2009) highlighted the fact that the Defence Organisation was unique in the public sector, having reduced in size over the period from 2001. In its report, the Group acknowledged the ongoing reform in the Defence Organisation. The report recommended a further reduction in numbers of 500 Permanent Defence Force personnel to 10,000 over a period of two to three years. The report also recommended a reduction of 20 Departmental staff during that same time period. These recommended reductions were achieved in a much quicker timeframe than anticipated by the Group.

Agreement was reached with the Department of Finance and official confirmation received, in October 2010, on the Employment Control Framework (ECF) for the Defence Forces. The ECF was based on a figure of 10,000 all ranks Permanent Defence Force personnel appropriately configured across the Army, Naval Service and Air Corps to enable them to meet the roles assigned by Government.

The National Recovery Plan (NRP) 2011-2014, provided for further reductions in the numbers in the Defence Organisation. Nominally, this was intended to reduce the strength of the Permanent Defence Force to 9,600 and also encompassed reductions in the number of civilian employees. The NRP also provided for a reduction in the number of civil servants employed in the Department. However, the funding envelope envisaged for Defence could only have been achieved through further significant personnel reductions.

In December 2011, following the completion of a Comprehensive Review of Expenditure, the Government decided to stabilise the strength of the Permanent Defence Force within a strength ceiling of 9,500 personnel.

The organisational structures that were in place at that time were initially designed for a PDF strength of 11,500 personnel and were no longer viable for a strength ceiling of 9,500 personnel. In this context, Minister Shatter initiated a major re-organisation of the Defence Forces incorporating a reduction in the number of Army Brigades from three to two. The Chief of Staff and Secretary General of the Department brought forward detailed proposals regarding the re-organisation, including the geographical boundaries of Brigades and the location of the two Brigade Headquarters in Dublin and Cork. The Minister fully accepted these recommendations.

The re-organisation consolidated a large number of under-strength Units into a smaller number of Units and personnel were re-deployed from administrative and headquarters functions to operational Units. This optimised the operational effectiveness of the Permanent Defence Force within the available resources.

The re-organisation of the Permanent Defence Force commenced in July 2012 and was substantially completed by 30th November 2012.

Employment in the Defence Organisation has decreased from 18,063 in 1981 to 9,981 at the end of May 2014 as follows:

	1981	1996	2000	March 2009 (prior to moratorium)	End May 2014
Permanent Defence Force	15,201	12,034	10,618	10,400	9,089 ²
Civilian Employees in Barracks	2,163	1,352	1,200	820	532
Department of Defence	699	434	422	392	351
Overall	18,063	13,820	12,240	11,612	9,972

Recruitment to the Defence Forces

As the current strength numbers are below the strength ceiling of 9,500, a new General Service recruitment campaign for the Permanent Defence Force personnel (both the Army and the Navy) commenced in March this year. The Defence Forces plan to induct up to 400 personnel to the Permanent Defence Force (both Army and Navy) and up to 500 personnel to the Reserve Defence Force (both Army Reserve and Naval Service Reserve) in 2014. Arrangements are also underway to hold a Cadetship Competition for the Army, Air Corps and Naval Service in 2014. It is planned to

² Recruitment to the Defence Forces is underway

award a total of 40 cadetships from this competition comprising of 20 Army, 9 Air Corps and 11 Naval Service.

Civilian Employees

Civilian employees, engaged under the provisions of the Defence Act 1954, are based at some twenty military locations around the country. The majority of these employees are made up of the craft, general operative and related grades involved mainly in the maintenance of military installations. The remaining civilian employees are mostly involved in clerical and storekeeping duties for the Defence Forces and also include aircraft inspectors and various technical grades. There has been a 36% reduction in the number of Civilian Employees since 2008. The Department is working with the military authorities in order to ensure the most effective use of civilian employee resources while at the same time ensuring a proper level of service at military locations.

Department of Defence Civil Service Staff

In contrast to employment numbers in the civil service as a whole, the number of civil servants in the Department has fallen consistently over the past 20 years. When substantial higher-level policy roles emerged, they were resourced entirely through internal savings without any additional resources from the exchequer. These included the establishment of the Office of Emergency Planning and the development of the international security and defence policy role. Since 2008, the number of civil servants employed in the Department has reduced by a further 15%. As a result, the Department has managed numbers within the ECF ceiling of 351 set for 2014. Initiatives such as Shared Services will see further substantial reductions in Department of Defence Civil Service numbers over the coming years.

Reserve Defence Force

Following the publication of a Value for Money Review of the Reserve Defence Force in November 2012, the Reserve Defence Force has undergone further significant reforms. The Reserve Defence Force was re-organised within a single force structure alongside the Permanent Defence Force. The number of Reserve Units was significantly reduced and the number of Permanent Defence Force personnel assigned to train and administer the Reserve was reduced to 57 personnel (from an establishment of 320 personnel). This significantly reduced direct expenditure on the Reserve Defence Force and it is anticipated that reforms being undertaken will enhance the overall capacity of the Reserve.

3.2.1 Public Service Stability Agreement, 2013-2016 - 'The Haddington Road Agreement'

The Haddington Road Agreement acknowledges the significant level of reform that took place across the public service under the *Public Service Agreement 2010-2014*. The Integrated Reform Development Plan for the Defence Organisation is currently being implemented.

In addition to the Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme, a framework exists which facilitates the Representative Associations engaging with the official side in talks parallel to those taking place between the Social Partners at national level.

The Public Service Agreement (Croke Park Agreement) on public service pay, pensions, jobs and transformation acknowledged the major process of change, modernisation and transformation which has been ongoing in the Defence Organisation since the 1990's. Talks on an extension to the agreement commenced in early 2013.

Discussions on a Defence Sector agreement were held between Defence sector civil and military management and the Representative Associations of members of the PDF in parallel to the discussions which were held with the public sector trade unions affiliated to ICTU. Arising from those discussions, the Labour Relations Commission issued proposals which were considered, but initially rejected following a ballot, by a majority of public sector staff representatives.

Further discussions then ensued and revised proposals designed to save €1 billion from the Public Service pay bill were agreed by public service unions in May 2013 including in respect of measures applying to the Defence Forces, as set out in the Defence Sector Collective Agreement. This new '*Public Service Stability Agreement 2013-2016 - The Haddington Road Agreement*' built on the measures set out in the Croke Park Agreement and all parties reaffirmed the commitment to continue to co-operate fully with change and reform measures provided within it to enable the ongoing modernisation and maintenance of the Defence Organisation.

The following were carried out under the Haddington Road Agreement:

- new pay scale rates incorporating pay reductions for the Defence Forces were compiled and implemented with effect from 1 July 2013;
- duties attracting Technical Group 1 pay were incorporated into standard duties for new enlisted personnel;
- Security Duty and related allowances were flat rated at weekday rates;
- a 10% reduction in certain Defence Force Allowances was implemented;
- Border Duty and Special Instructor Allowances were eliminated for Officers;
- the voluntary buyout of Border Duty Allowance for enlisted personnel was agreed,
- additional incremental points in pay scales for new enlisted personnel post 1 July 2013 were agreed.

Four barrack closures, extensively facilitated by the Croke Park Agreement and the commitments given by the Representative Associations under that agreement to cooperate with major reorganisation and change, were also completed. This reorganisation is delivering more operational staff for front line duties and the elimination of administrative posts. Work also continues on the reviews of Technical Pay and Security Duty allowances as originally provided for under the Croke Park Agreement and the consolidation of under strength Defence Force Units within a revised two Brigade Structure.

3.3 Improved Productivity

Prior to the current economic difficulties, the modernisation agenda and the associated development strategy, outlined in the White Paper on Defence (2000), had delivered significant efficiencies within the Defence Organisation. Since 2000, new capabilities have been developed throughout the organisation, even though civil and military staff levels have been reduced significantly. The Department of Defence has undertaken additional responsibilities, while downsizing, such as the Office of Emergency Planning (OEP), a significantly increased workload associated with the Common Security and Defence Policy and the additional workload arising from the work of the Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces.

The Defence Forces have progressively improved their capabilities and are now capable of operating with high-tech European armies on demanding peace support operations. In fact, we have become partners of choice in international peace support operations. This capacity to partner other countries, known as “interoperability”, is crucial in overseas peace support operations, which have seen an increased reliance on more robust Chapter 7 UN mandates and increased use of regional organisations such as the EU, to lead such missions. The EU led deployment to Chad, led by an Irish General, demonstrated the significant advances that have been made.

In addition, the Defence Forces continue to provide ongoing services in Aid to the Civil Power (e.g. cash in transit escorts, Explosive Ordnance Disposal services, prisoner escorts, etc.) and Aid to the Civil Authority (e.g. Air Ambulance service, Search and Rescue, etc.) The introduction of Service Level Agreements with other Departments and Agencies has improved performance measurement.

3.3.1 Reviews of the Defence Forces

A major review of the provision of medical services in the Defence Forces was commissioned by the Department and undertaken by PA consultants. Implementation of the recommendations will result in a much needed improvement in the delivery of such services.

Value for Money Reviews of Aircraft Maintenance in the Air Corps, Clothing Procurement, Naval Service Vessel Maintenance and Military Training Lands have all improved business processes and improved the efficiency of service delivery. Reductions in the number of clothing stores, the adoption of power by the hour contracts for aircraft maintenance and the redeployment of staff have followed such reviews. Critical analysis of defence equipment and infrastructure expenditure by the joint civil/military High Level Planning and Procurement Group has ensured that such expenditure is prioritised and explicitly linked to capability priorities.

A Value for Money Review of the Reserve Defence Force was published in November 2012 and this has framed the current reforms of the Reserve. A focused policy assessment on stockholdings in the Defence Forces has been completed. The report and associated findings, prepared by Mr. Aidan Dunning, former Secretary General at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, is expected to have an impact across the Defence Organisation.

3.3.2 Ongoing Reform

Shared Services

The Department has actively participated in key whole-of-Government reforms such as procurement reform and provision of shared services in human resources, payroll, financial and pensions areas.

The Department will join PeoplePoint, (Civil Service HR and Pensions Shared Services Centre) in the near future. The precise timetable has to be determined by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in light of the progress they are making in relation to the services supplied to Departments who have joined PeoplePoint already. This shared services initiative will centralise HR and Pension processes and systems to ensure a more consistent and efficient HR and Pensions.

The Department's office in Renmore was selected by Government as one of three locations for a Payroll Shared Services Centre (PSSC) for the Civil Service - to be managed and operated under a single governance structure. Work is underway to prepare for the transfer of Defence payrolls (including pensions) to the PSSC. It is envisaged that all of the Department's payrolls will be moved to PSSC before the end of 2015, with Civil Servants and Civilian Employees payrolls moving by October 2014. The Department's office in Renmore has also been selected as a potential location for Financial Shared Services.

As part of the Civil Service Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) project, the Government decided on Tuesday 17th December 2013 to proceed with the next phase of the financial shared services project to specify the detailed functional and business requirements and to carry out an open procurement exercise that will enable the cost of implementing a proposed Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC).

The preferred option outlined in the Memorandum for Government is for the establishment of a Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC), staffed and managed by the Civil Service in three locations, which are Galway, Killarney and Tullamore, with a single finance technology platform for all Departments / Public Sector Bodies (PSBs) and an expected implementation timeframe of up to five years.

Procurement Reform

As part of the recent establishment of the Office of Government Procurement (OGP), it was recognised by Government that the acquisition of military equipment/ munitions, etc was to remain a specialised function within the Defence organisation. As part of this new procurement model, the Department of Defence has established a Category Council, to liaise with an Garda Síochána and the Irish Prison Services to examine the scope for 'collaborative purchasing'. This process is ongoing.

Department officials are represented on the OGP Executive and Steering Boards which meets bi-monthly and quarterly respectively.

The Department is currently working with the OGP in respect of data sharing to facilitate procurement analytics.

Defence Organisation Integrated Reform Delivery

A change delivery team within the Department prepares the Integrated Reform Delivery Plan for the Defence Organisation with input from all Branch managers and the General Staff of the Defence Forces. Responsibility for implementation of the specific actions in the plan fall to both military and civil members of the Strategic Management Committee (civil and military senior management chaired by the Secretary General), jointly in some cases, as appropriate. Implementation is overseen by the Management Advisory Committee and the SMC on a continuous basis.

Key elements of the Integrated Reform Delivery Plan include:

- Departmental/Sectoral Reforms such as the preparation of the White Paper on Defence
- Improved interoperability and capability through NATO/Partnership for Peace (PfP) Planning and Review Process (PARP) and EU/European Defence Agency (EDA) capability development
- Continued implementation of the reorganisation of the Defence Forces
- Progression of Defence enterprise initiatives
- Reform of primary legislation relating to the Irish Red Cross Society
- Review of legislation relating to Civil Defence
- Shared services
- Public procurement
- Property management
- Digital Government
- Alternative models of delivery of service
- Leadership and HR reforms
- Public Expenditure and Organisation Performance
- Haddington Road Reforms.

4. White Paper on Defence 2014 – 2024

Since its publication in February 2000, the White Paper on Defence has provided the policy framework for Defence and has under-pinned the modernisation agenda within the Defence Organisation. In the intervening period there have been significant changes in the defence and security and environment and whilst the policy framework has allowed for the progressive development of required capabilities, the Government decided that there was a requirement to update the Defence policy framework in order to ensure that it provides for the emergent challenges of the next decade. In April 2012 Government decision S180/20/10/1590 approved the initiation of a process to prepare a new White Paper on Defence and the preparation of a Green Paper on Defence.

4.1 Green Paper on Defence

In June 2013 Government decision S/180/20/10/1590 approved the Green Paper and agreed to its publication and noted the timetable for the preparation of the White Paper, as previously agreed. Following this approval Minister Shatter published the Green Paper on Defence in July 2013. This initiated a broad public consultation process which was intended to inform the development of the new White Paper on Defence. The Green Paper invited submissions from all interested parties and 122 written submissions were received from a diverse range of individuals and organisations.

Officials from the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces met with a number of those who made submissions in order to further explore specific aspects of those submissions.

Discussions have also been held with other Government Departments on cross-cutting policy issues and likely future demands from Government bodies and State agencies. These discussions will continue, as required, throughout the White Paper process. The views of international organisations have also been sought with a particular focus on likely future trends in international peace support operations.

4.2 Preparation of the new White Paper

Working Groups comprising of civil and military representatives from the Department of Defence and the Defence Forces have been established. Having regard to the inputs received from a wide variety of stakeholders, they are considering future operational demands and the defence capabilities required to meet projected future operational requirements. This ongoing work will underpin recommendations regarding defence provision for the next decade.

Work on the White Paper is continuing and it is anticipated that a draft will be submitted to the Government for consideration in the latter half of 2014.

5. National and International Security

5.1 National Security Committee

The role of the Committee is to ensure that the Taoiseach and Government are kept informed of high-level security issues and the State's response to them. The Committee comprises the Secretary General to the Government, Secretary General Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Secretary General Department of Justice and Equality, the Garda Commissioner, Secretary General, Department of Defence and the Chief of Staff. The Committee receives threat assessments from the Garda Commissioner and the Chief of Staff.

The Chief of Staff and the Director of Intelligence advise the Minister for Defence on intelligence and security matters and operations. The Minister has the legal authority at the request of the Director of Intelligence to authorise, inter alia, certain communications intercepts, the carrying out of surveillance and the use of tracking devices in accordance with the relevant legislation. The Secretary General advises the Minister on all policy issues in this regard.

5.2 Domestic Security

Internal security is primarily the responsibility of an Garda Síochána with the Defence Forces playing a key role in providing, on request, aid to the civil power (ATCP) and other assistance and support. In contrast to many countries, Ireland has a predominantly unarmed police force and, as a result, the Defence Forces provide internal security supports of an on-going and contingent variety. The issue of the level of demand on the Defence Forces is kept under review in consultation with the relevant Government Departments and the Garda Authorities.

5.2.1 Garda Air Support Unit (GASU)

The Air Corps supports an Garda Síochána in the operation of two helicopters and a fixed wing aircraft, which form the GASU. The Air Corps provides regulatory oversight and piloting for all three aircraft and also provides maintenance for the fixed wing aircraft. The Air Corps support to GASU is covered by the terms of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Department of Justice and Equality.

5.2.2 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)

Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams regularly respond to requests made by an Garda Síochána, to the relevant Brigade, for assistance in dealing with a suspect device or for the removal of old ordnance. EOD teams operating in ATCP provide a unique response capability within the State to deal with EOD incidents. This capability has been developed over many years in operational environments, both at

home and overseas and has been further enhanced in the area of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) operations.

5.2.3 Cash Escorts

The Department of Defence has a formal agreement in place with the Irish Banking Federation (IBF), and its member banks, which provides that the banks pay the Department the full economic cost incurred as a result of provision by the Defence Forces of cash in transit escorts. The cost incurred in respect of each 12 month period to end-December is paid during the following year. The total cost of the service provided to the banks in 2012 was €7.1m and payment was received in 2013. The total cost for 2013 was €7.5m and an invoice for this amount has recently issued to the IBF.

XX
XX
XX
XX
XX
XX
XX
XX
XX

The Department of Defence also recoups the full economic cost incurred as a result of escort and security services provided to the Central Bank in the previous year. The total cost of this service in 2012 was €1.4m and this amount was received from the Central Bank in 2013. The total cost for 2013 was also €1.4m and an invoice for this amount is to issue presently.

5.2.4 Joint Task Force on Drug Interdiction

The Joint Task Force (JTF) on drug interdiction, which was established in 1993, enhances co-operation between an Garda Síochána, the Naval Service and the Revenue Commissioners in enforcing the law in relation to drug trafficking at sea. The JTF is brought together when an Garda Síochána and the Revenue Commissioners review intelligence received and consider that a joint operation should be mounted.

5.2.5 Prison Security

The Permanent Defence Force continue to provide security at Portlaoise Prison. They also provide prisoner escorts at the request of An Garda Síochána.

5.3 Aid to the Civil Authority and other tasks

In addition to providing aid to the civil power and participating in overseas peace support operations, the Defence Forces undertake a broad range of tasks on a day-to-day basis and can provide assistance across a number of contingencies. Recent

examples include the assistance provided to the Local Authorities and the HSE during the series of storms between December 2013 and February 2014.

Sea fishery protection is one of the roles assigned to the Defence Forces as outlined in the White Paper on Defence. The Naval Service and the Air Corps undertake fishery protection patrols on a continuous basis.

The White Paper on Defence recommended the formalisation of arrangements surrounding these tasks through the development of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with relevant Departments and Agencies.

The Department has pioneered the development of Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) and Service Level Agreements (SLA) in order to improve working relationships, service delivery and performance measurement. The general approach, where services are provided by the Defence Forces on a recurring basis to other Government Departments and Agencies, is to agree a MOU or a SLA as a framework for the provision of services. The Department of Defence has completed MOUs with:

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government;
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport; and
- Department of Education and Skills, and Cork Institute of Technology (in relation to the National Maritime College of Ireland).

SLAs have been agreed with:

- Sea Fisheries Protection Authority regarding the role played by the Naval Service and the Air Corps in enforcing sea fisheries legislation;
- Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission for the provision by the Air Corps of an Air Transport Service to GSOC Investigators;
- Department of Health – regarding the inter-hospital Air Ambulance Service provided by the Air Corps;
- Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) – regarding Air Navigation Services between the IAA and the Air Corps;
- Department of Justice and Equality – regarding the Garda Air Support Unit;
- OPW – regarding provision of services by the Air Corps;
- Irish Coast Guard – regarding Search and Rescue support and other services provided by the Defence Forces to the IRCG;
- Marine Survey Office – regarding the provision of assistance by the Naval Service in routine and emergency situations;
- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport – regarding the provision of a rescue fire fighting service by the Air Corps at Dublin Airport;
- Marine Institute (MI) – regarding surveys, information sharing and training between the MI and the Naval Service;
- Met Éireann – regarding the exchange of meteorological data between the Naval Service and Met Éireann; and

- Irish Aid in relation to the Rapid Response Initiative.

The development of these agreements has facilitated a planned and efficient response and assists in setting performance targets, monitoring the delivery of services and the measurement of outputs. Discussions are ongoing with Government Departments and agencies regarding the developments of further SLAs.

5.3.1 Ministerial Air Transport Service

There are two aircraft currently dedicated to the Ministerial Air Transport Service, the Gulfstream IV and the Learjet 45. The Gulfstream IV aircraft has been in service for 23 years and has accumulated 13,170 flying hours to date. No provision has been made in the 2014 budgetary process for its replacement and the aircraft is to remain in service for so long as routine maintenance is sufficient. If any costly non-routine maintenance or major structural repair is required to be carried out, the aircraft will be grounded and a decision, on the future of the jet, will be required. There are currently no plans to sell this aircraft. The Learjet aircraft will remain in operation.

5.3.2 Emergency Aeromedical Support (EAS) Service

The Air Corps supports the HSE's pilot Emergency Aeromedical Support (EAS) service which has been operating out of Custume Barracks, Athlone since June 2012, and which is focussed primarily on the west of Ireland. A full evaluation of the pilot EAS service was undertaken by an inter-agency Audit and Evaluation Group, and in June 2013, a Report was submitted to the Minister for Health for his consideration. The Minister for Health accepted the Report's recommendations and a Working Group, chaired by the Department of Health, was established to examine options for the provision of an EAS service into the future. The Group met on five occasions and a draft Report is to be prepared by the Department of Health – this Department has yet to see the first draft of the Report. Whilst the initial 12 month pilot period has expired, the Department has agreed to extend the Air Corps' participation in order for the Working Group to complete its work.

5.4 International Security

5.4.1 EU Common Security and Defence Policy

With the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009, the EU's European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) was renamed the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). CSDP is an integral part of the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy, which encompasses the EU's international obligations to the maintenance of international peace and security. CSDP's primary function is to provide the Union with an operational capacity to undertake peacekeeping and crisis management missions outside the territory of the Member States. In addition to military tasks, there is a significant civilian and humanitarian dimension. The EU has at its disposal a wide range of instruments which it can deploy in this regard. These include economic, political, administrative, rule of law, diplomatic, etc.

Ireland's participation in CSDP takes place within the framework of our commitment to the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security. Based on the provisions of the Treaty on European Union, amended by the Lisbon Treaty, Ireland has continued to participate in the ongoing development of EU military and civilian crisis management capabilities under CSDP. The two main structures for the development and implementation of CSDP are the Political and Security Committee (PSC) and the EU Military Committee (EUMC). These bodies are supported by the Council Secretariat and the EU Military Staff respectively. Ireland is represented at ambassadorial level in the PSC and by a Brigadier General, representing the Chief of Staff, within the EUMC. Defence personnel, both civil and military, based in Ireland's Permanent Representation to the European Union, work proactively in representing Ireland's national interests within the Union, in association with colleagues from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Participation in CSDP imposes no obligation on a Member State to participate in any EU operation. The deployment of troops and personnel or the commitment to contribute financially remains the exclusive prerogative of each Member State, to be decided in accordance with its own national decision making processes. The Lisbon Treaty makes some amendments to existing Treaty provisions on security and defence but does not change their essential features. The Lisbon Treaty expands the scope of tasks undertaken in EU crisis management operations and introduces new processes for solidarity, assistance and cooperation. However, under the guarantees secured by Ireland there is no fundamental change to the Irish approach to supporting EU actions in CSDP - (copy of guarantees are attached at Appendix 5).

While there is no formal Defence Ministers Council, Defence Ministers meet twice during each 6 month EU Presidency, (one informal meeting and one meeting with Ministers for Foreign Affairs). Ministers also meet in the format of the European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board.

Current Situation on follow up to European Council of December 2013

Following the Heads of State and Government discussion on security and defence the European External Action Service (EEAS), European Defence Agency (EDA) and Commission prepared a detailed overview of the actions to be taken forward at EU level and by the Member States to implement the December conclusions of the European Council, as well as the Council conclusions on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of November 2013.

Particular deliverables expected in the first semester of 2014 will be:

- Maritime Security Strategy by June 2014
- Recommendations on Equipment Support
- Report on financing of Common Security and Defence Policy missions and operations
- Implementation Proposals on Rapid Response including EU Battlegroups;
- Roadmap for the development of defence industrial standards

Particular deliverables expected in the second semester of 2014 will be:

- EU Cyber Defence Policy Framework

- Policy Framework on Defence Cooperation
- European Defence Agency reporting on effective and efficient cooperation of Member States in pooled procurement projects;
- Review of the Athena Mechanism.

Military Capabilities Development

Battlegroups

Ireland has previously participated in the Nordic Battlegroup in 2008 and 2011 and in a German led EU Battlegroup in 2012. The other members of the Nordic Battlegroup were Sweden, acting as Framework Nation, Finland, Norway and Estonia and Croatia (2011 only). The members of the German led EU Battlegroup were Germany, acting as Framework Nation, Austria, the Czech Republic, Croatia and Macedonia.

Ireland will participate in the Nordic Battlegroup in 2015 and the German led Battlegroup in 2016. The Nordic Battlegroup will comprise Sweden, acting as Framework Nation, Finland, Norway, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. The German led EU Battlegroup will comprise Germany, acting as Framework Nation, Luxembourg, Austria, the Czech Republic and the Netherlands.

The proposed Defence Forces contribution to each Battlegroup will be a Reconnaissance Company and related combat support elements (180 personnel). It is proposed that Ireland will also take command of a multinational Reconnaissance Group Headquarters, providing Ireland with a more significant role within these Battlegroups.

The EU and the UN

Relations between the EU and the United Nations have developed over time into a rich and diverse network of co-operation and interaction, spanning virtually the entire range of EU external relations. The main areas in which the UN is active today – such as promoting international peace and security, promoting respect for human rights, protecting the environment, fighting disease, fostering development and reducing poverty – are also key priorities for the European Union.

As a guiding principle, EU-UN cooperation in crisis management is based on the added value to both organisations and on producing operational benefits building on complementarity of efforts on the ground, within the overall aim of ensuring EU-UN effectiveness and coherence on peace and security. In obtaining mutual advantages, three areas of cooperation have showed to be of key importance: (i) the Plan of Action to enhance CSDP support to UN peace keeping; (ii), the EU-UN Steering Committee on Crisis Management; and (iii) the extensive cooperation in theatre.

Ireland regards EU-UN co-operation in the area of Crisis Management as an important tool in strengthening effective multilateralism by allowing both organisations to work together to respond more effectively in times of crisis. The relationship between the EU and UN is a key consideration in advancing the role of the Union in international crisis management. In this regard, Ireland developed a Food For Thought paper – Enhancing EU/UN Co-operation. Following this, on 3 July 2012 the EU's Political and Security Committee endorsed the "Plan of Action to Enhance

EU CSDP Support to UN Peacekeeping" containing 13 Actions. A timeframe had been set for the implementation of the different Actions, for a total duration of two years. It was also underlined that the Plan itself does not commit any resources from the EU or its Member States to the UN. Member States will always have the last word as far as the use of their resources is concerned.

The European External Action Service (EEAS) has issued the third Report on progress in implementing the Plan of Action to Enhance EU CSDP Support to UN Peacekeeping. Good progress has been made on many of the actions with a timeframe of completion of the work by the end of 2014. The development of a General Framework, between the UN and EU, on how both organisations would cooperate in theatre will require further examination beyond the end of 2014.

The EU and NATO

The involvement of NATO was foreseen since the outset of ESDP, (now referred to as CSDP). It arises from the need for the EU to have access to certain NATO assets and capabilities (e.g. transport, headquarters, etc.) for substantial crisis management and peacekeeping missions. Permanent arrangements between the EU and NATO, known as 'Berlin Plus', have evolved in accordance with principles specified by successive European Councils since Feira, Portugal, in 2000. These principles include full respect for the autonomy of EU decision-making, recognition of the different natures of the EU and NATO, and no discrimination against Member States of either organisation. Currently, twenty-two (22) of the twenty-eight (28) members of the EU are also members of NATO.

Co-operation between the EU and NATO is mutually beneficial; in particular where the two organisations operate in the same theatre, e.g. NATO led mission in Kosovo (KFOR) and the EU Civilian mission in Kosovo (EULEX), and EU Police mission (EUPOL) and ISAF in Afghanistan. While respecting the decision-making autonomy of both organisations, other key priorities for cooperation are to ensure that capability development efforts are mutually reinforcing, as well as combating terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

European Defence Agency

The European Defence Agency (EDA) was established under a Joint Action of the Council of Ministers on 12 July, 2004, "to support the Member States and the Council in their effort to improve European defence capabilities in the field of crisis management and to sustain the European Security and Defence Policy as it stands now and develops in the future". Its role is now formalised under the Lisbon Treaty.

Ireland joined the EDA when it was established during the Irish Presidency in 2004. The Steering Board of the Agency comprises of EU Defence Ministers of the participating Member States.

The EDA's principal purpose is to support Member States in the area of capability development in relation to the commitments made under the military Headline Goal. The EDA also affords EU Member States the opportunity of keeping track on best practice in modern technology in the development of capabilities and supports greater efficiency and competition in the European defence equipment market. Ireland is

supportive of developments which improve market efficiencies, potentially yielding economies of scale for equipment procurement for the Defence Forces and providing opportunities for Irish enterprise, given the convergence in the research activities of both the civil security sector and the military sector.

Ireland participates in the framework of the EDA. Such participation does not impose any specific obligations on Ireland other than a contribution to the budget of the Agency. As part of the Lisbon Treaty package it was agreed that participation by Ireland in any specific project or programme of the agency would be subject to Government and Dáil approval. This requirement was enacted into legislation in the Defence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009.

Ireland is currently participating in a Research Project in relation to Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Detection, in which two Irish entities were awarded contracts. Ireland is also involved in a Maritime Surveillance project that will allow for the sharing of maritime information among participating member States Naval Forces. Another area of interest for Ireland is Countering Improvised Explosive Devices. In this regard, Ireland together with four other Member States is involved in a training programme for Manual Neutralisation Techniques. Ireland is taking a lead role, in a Naval Training initiative and has seconded a Naval Officer to the European Defence Agency in relation to this work.

Department of Defence and Enterprise Ireland engagement

As part of a policy agreed by Government in July 2011, the Defence Forces provides support to Enterprise Ireland supported companies, by way of evaluation of technology research and innovation, provision of information on military requirements and the Defence Forces considered views on trends in specific capability development requirements, for projects which contribute to the development and enhancement of Defence Forces domestic and overseas capabilities. In addition, the Defence Forces are involved with academia and research institutes in various projects, who benefit from the expertise offered by the Defence Forces.

Defence is working closely with Enterprise Ireland to identify further initiatives within the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme and the EDA, which may be suitable for Enterprise Ireland support and Irish Enterprise participation. The Defence Forces are involved in a number of academic collaborations, research and commercial projects.

5.4.2 NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP)

Ireland joined Partnership for Peace (PfP) on 1 December 1999. Participation in PfP is entirely voluntary. The essence of the PfP programme is a partnership formed individually between each Partner country and NATO, tailored to individual needs and jointly implemented at the level and pace chosen by each participating government. Ireland's engagement in PfP is supported through Ireland's Partnership Liaison Office at NATO Headquarters in Brussels.

Ireland's 5 priority areas of interest are:

- Co-operation on International Peacekeeping;
- Humanitarian operations;
- Search and Rescue;
- Co-operation in the protection of the Environment; and,
- Co-operation in Marine Matters.

Ireland's annual Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme (IPCP) (formerly IPP) under NATO PfP focuses on the enhancement of skills and expertise in such areas as operational and generic planning for peacekeeping and peace support operations, communications, command and control, operational procedures and logistics. Activities include training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences, staff exercises and tabletop exercises.

Ireland, in common with other neutral EU Member States who are members of PfP, also participates in the PfP Planning and Review Process (PARP) mechanism for planning in relation to peace support operations. The scope of Ireland's involvement in PARP is focused on enhancing interoperability so that Defence Forces personnel can operate efficiently and effectively in a multi-national environment. In early June 2014, Ireland finalised its 2014 Partnership Goal package. Ireland has reinforced the connection between national defence capability planning and the most recent Partnership Goals Package agreed with NATO by ensuring the Partnership Goals are consistent with national capability development plans and procurement programmes.

5.4.4 Defence Ministers Meetings

Greece assumed the EU Presidency on 1 January 2014. Meetings that have taken place to date involving Ministers for Defence are as follows:

- Informal Meeting of Defence Ministers in Athens 20-21 February 2014;
- Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) with the participation of the Ministers of Defence and European Defence Agency (EDA) Steering Board took place on 15 April 2014, in Luxembourg.

Italy assumed the Presidency on 1 July 2014 and meetings scheduled which will involve Ministers for Defence are as follows:

- Informal Meeting of Defence Ministers to take place on 9-10 September 2014;
- Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) with the participation of the Ministers for Defence will take place on 18 November 2014.

5.4.5 Current Peace Support Operations involving the Defence Forces

A key element of Ireland's contribution to international peace and security is the commitment of personnel to international peace support operations (PSO's) under a UN mandate. As of 1 June 2014, Ireland is contributing approximately 417 Defence Forces personnel to 13 different missions throughout the world.

The main overseas missions in which Defence Forces personnel are currently deployed are the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) with 199

personnel and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights in Syria with 135 Defence Forces personnel.

Other missions in which Defence Forces personnel are currently deployed are the EU Training Mission in Mali (EUTM Mali) with eight (8) personnel; the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina with seven (7) personnel; the NATO-led international security presence (KFOR) in Kosovo with twelve (12) personnel; and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan with seven (7) personnel. Five (5) personnel were deployed in August 2013 for service with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in South Sudan. Ireland also contributes 26 observers and staff to various United Nations and OSCE missions, 3 personnel to the Nordic Battle group headquarters in Sweden and 15 other personnel to staff appointments at UN, EU and OSCE headquarters.

Following a request from the United Nations and Dáil Éireann approval on 21 April 2011, Irish troops returned to serve in the Lebanon in May 2011. Between June 2012 and November 2013, Ireland served as part of a joint Irish/Finnish Battalion when a contingent of the Finnish Armed Forces began serving alongside Irish soldiers working to support UNIFIL's mission mandate. Also, Ireland held command of the joint Irish/Finnish Battalion during that period. Finland, in accordance with agreements entered into on the deployment of the joint battalion, assumed command on 26 November 2013. This mission continues to represent Ireland's largest overseas deployment. The current Irish contingent (45th Infantry Group) was deployed to UNIFIL in May 2014.

The Defence Forces completed their withdrawal from the EU Training Mission in Somalia (EUTM Somalia) on 14 April 2014. The Defence Forces had been serving with that mission since April 2010. Ireland also provided the Mission Commander during the period August 2011 to February 2014. While it is anticipated that Irish personnel will complete their service with the ISAF mission in the period September to December 2014, this will be kept under review in the context of the current proposed NATO-led follow on training mission.

6. Emergency Planning

Following September 11, 2001, the Government established a Task Force on Emergency Planning, chaired by the Minister for Defence and assisted by a newly formed Office of Emergency Planning (OEP).

The Minister for Defence chairs the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning which comprises those Ministers and/or senior officials of Government Departments and public authorities, which make a key contribution to the emergency planning process. It includes senior officials of all government departments, senior officers of an Garda Síochána and the Defence Forces and officials of other key public authorities, which have a lead or support role in Government emergency planning. The Government Task Force is the top-level structure which gives policy and direction, and which coordinates and oversees the emergency planning activities of all Government Departments and public authorities. It promotes the best possible use of resources and compatibility between different planning requirements.

The Government Task Force meets, on a regular basis, to review emergency planning issues and to share information. Three subgroups (Risk, CBRN and Communications) pursue specific issues at a working level as directed by the Task Force.

The *“Framework for Major Emergency Management (2006)”* sets out the structure enabling the Principle Response Agencies (an Garda Síochána, the Health Service Executive and Local Authorities) to prepare for, and make a coordinated response to, major emergencies at local and regional level. The framework became operational on 30 September 2008 and all agencies now follow the procedures detailed in the document.

Government departments retain their lead role in respect of specific emergency planning and response (e.g. the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive for health related emergencies/pandemics and the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in respect of nuclear incidents, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in respect of animal disease, etc).

The Office of Emergency Planning is a civil-military office within the Department of Defence, established to support the work of the Task Force. The Office works with all departments and agencies involved in emergency planning and it carries out a cross-departmental oversight function, which forms the basis of an Annual Report to Government.

Many Departments with lead responsibility for the various elements of emergency planning may have a need for the assistance of the Defence Forces and other specialised services in emergency situations. In order to ensure that there is clarity in relation to the availability and use of resources amongst all departments and agencies in an emergency situation, the Office of Emergency Planning has encouraged the completion of Memoranda of Understanding and Service Level Agreements between those departments which may need to share their resources and expertise.

A National Emergency Co-Ordination Centre (NECC) was established in 2007 where Ministers and/or Senior Civil Servants can convene to co-ordinate national responses to a major emergency. The NECC has been used on an ongoing basis since it was established and the NECC is equipped with robust communications systems and support facilities and is managed by the OEP. The NECC is available to all Government Departments and Agencies for use in emergency planning and response. It is the venue for meetings of the Government Task Force on Emergency Planning, Subgroups on Emergency Planning and the National Steering Group for the implementation of the Framework for Major Emergency Management. The Severe Weather National Coordination Group and other similar National Coordination Groups for other emergencies meet in the Centre when the need arises.

Key issues of concern at Task Force at present include Cyber Security, review of the Lead Roles and Responsibilities document (which sets out the relevant lead Government Department for 41 emergency types) and the response to the recent Severe Weather. The OEP and the key Lead Government Departments will be developing a National Framework for consideration by the GTF. The OEP is, also, reviewing the 'Be Winter Ready' campaign with a view to launching the 'Be Winter Ready 2014/2015' campaign in November 2014. The areas of risk mitigation and management are also of critical importance following the submission by the Government Task Force to the EU of a national Risk Assessment in April 2013.

7. Defence Forces Equipment

Despite the difficult economic climate, the continued application of a prudent approach to equipment purchasing and maintenance programmes by the Defence Organisation has ensured that the Defence Forces continue to have access to modern equipment. The budgetary situation will continue to dictate the level of funding available for new equipment and upgrades. Decisions will be made accordingly on a strictly prioritised basis with a view to ensuring the operational effectiveness of the Defence Forces.

7.1 Naval Service – New Ships Programme

A key priority identified in the Comprehensive Review of Expenditure 2011 was the replacement of ageing Naval Service vessels. Five of the eight Naval Service vessels are now at or near the end of their design life span. In line with Government approval a contract has been entered into with Babcock Marine for 2 replacement vessels (revised contract cost of €108m excl VAT) with an option for a third. The contract provided for the delivery of two Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), one in 2014 and the other in 2015 with payment extending out to 2016. The funding for these vessels was provided from within the Defence Vote. The first ship (L.E. Samuel Beckett) was recently accepted and was formally commissioned on 17 May 2014.

The Department has formally exercised the option – under the contract – to purchase a third and identical ship to the LE Samuel Beckett and LE James Joyce at a cost of €54m (excl VAT). This third ship will be delivered in 2016.

7.2 Asbestos on Ships

Earlier this year while work was being carried out on both LÉ Orla and LÉ Ciara material which was suspected as being asbestos was found on both ships. Both Cork Dockyard Ltd and the Naval Service called in external expertise to carry out a full survey and analysis of the ships which confirmed that the material was asbestos - a particular type of white asbestos called Chrysotile.

The Naval Service contacted the HSA and the EPA. The HSA has launched its own investigation into the incident and served the Naval Service with an improvement notice under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 2005.

All staff on board LÉ Ciara, LÉ Orla and in the Naval Service Dockyard including the civilian workforce, have been briefed on the situation to date. All Naval Service personnel who may have come into contact with asbestos have been screened by the Naval Medical Officer. Medical screening of civilian employees by an Occupational Health Practitioner has commenced and will be completed in the coming weeks.

As part of the requirements under the HSA Improvement Notice, the Naval Service has engaged an external company, Abestaways, who are specialists in asbestos removals to undertake the deep “environmental clean” of the two ships. This cleanup commenced on 26th May and is estimated to take a number of weeks. On completion of this process an independent asbestos consultancy company, Phoenix Environmental, will carry out air monitoring, analysis and third party assurance and reissue a re-occupational certificate as required by the HSA.

8. Human Resources in the Defence Forces

Day-to-day management of Human Resources (HR) in the Defence Forces is the responsibility of the Chief of Staff. A HR Strategy for the Defence Forces was completed and published in 2006. The Department in conjunction with the military authorities has an ongoing programme of reviews of Defence Forces personnel policies.

The Department retains an overall policy and co-ordinating role in the HR area and manages the Conciliation and Arbitration (C&A) Schemes for officers and enlisted personnel. The Secretary General is the Accounting Officer for all expenditure on pay and allowances.

Interpersonal Relationships

Dealing with the issue of bullying and harassment in the Defence Forces has been a priority since publication of the initial report 'Challenge of a Workplace' in 2002. In September 2004, an Independent Monitoring Group further reported in its publication "Response to the Challenge of a Workplace". A further review and implementation of the recommendations was conducted by an Independent Monitoring Group which reported in December 2008 (Second Report of the Independent Monitoring Group).

Amongst the recommendations made in the 2008 Report was that a further review be undertaken in 2013. This review commenced in September 2013 and is due to be finalised by the end of July 2014. The remit of this review, which is being independently chaired by Dr. Eileen Doyle, is to:

1. Report on progress since the publication of the *Second Report of the Independent Monitoring Group* (December 2008) as proposed in the recommendations of that report.
2. Take account of any relevant developments within the Defence Forces and developments in employment law and practice.
3. Make recommendations as appropriate.

In addition to Dr. Doyle, the Independent Monitoring Group undertaking the review consists of a representative of the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence, RACO and PDFORRA.

9. Conciliation and Arbitration

The Defence (Amendment) Act 1990 and Defence Force Regulation S6 provides for the establishment of representative associations for members of the Permanent Defence Force. Defence Force Regulation S7 provides for representation for members of the Reserve Defence Forces. Three representative associations have since been established: RACO (Officers), PDFORRA (enlisted personnel) and RDFRA (Reserve).

A Scheme of Conciliation and Arbitration (C & A) for members of the Permanent Defence Force was established in 1993 and provides a formal mechanism for both RACO and PDFORRA to engage with the Official side on matters which come within the scope of the Scheme.

The legislative position is the Defence Forces Representative Associations are prohibited from being associated with or affiliated with any trade unions or any other body without the consent of the Minister. Accordingly the Associations cannot be affiliated to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU). The basis for this is that it would be inappropriate to apply the provisions of the Industrial Relations Act 1990 to members of the Defence Forces and that the taking of any form of industrial action would be irreconcilable with military service. RDFRA do not come under the formal C&A scheme but are regularly consulted.

The Defence Forces is not comprehended by the Social Partnership agreements. However, the practice has been to negotiate a separate, parallel agreement with the Defence Forces Representative Associations. Such agreements typically contain commitments to modernisation and change similar to those in the Towards 2016 and previous agreements, which have driven the implementation of the White Paper on Defence.

The main focus of the engagement with the Representative Associations has been on (a) the effects of the moratorium on recruitment and promotion in the Defence Forces and the impact of reorganisation, (b) the implementation of the Defence Sector Agreement specific reform issues under the Public Service Stability Agreement 2013-2016 (the Haddington Road Agreement) including the Government decision on review of allowances, and (c) public sector reforms in respect of annual leave and sick leave.

9.1 Tenure of Employment (21 year contract soldier- a PDFORRA issue)

PDFORRA have submitted four claims at Conciliation Council concerning the terms and conditions of enlisted personnel who enlisted in the PDF after 1 January 1994 who, under current arrangements, are to be discharged unless they reach the rank of Sergeant within 21 years of enlistment. The policy of contract soldiers was introduced in order to lower the age profile of the PDF and to address the Government's objective of having an appropriate age profile to meet the challenges of a modern PDF. In April 2015, personnel who enlisted in 1994 will have served for 21 years and will be due to be discharged if they have not progressed past the rank of Corporal. PDFORRA are seeking a review of length of service so that Privates and Corporals would be permitted to serve to age 50 and Sergeants to age 60. They are also seeking

enhanced level of pension gratuity and severance arrangements for those about to be discharged, and exit support packages. In accordance with normal procedures, the Association's claim is being dealt with under the Conciliation and Arbitration Scheme for members of the PDF.

9.2 Promotion Systems (PDFORRA and RACO)

New merit based promotion systems are a key action under the Defence Sector Public Service Agreement.

Officers - New merit based promotion systems which reflect modern HR standards, including the elimination of seniority and the introduction of merit based systems of promotion at all levels, have been agreed and implemented for Generals and Officers up to the rank of Colonel.

Enlisted Personnel – a new system for NCO (Non Commissioned Officers) has been piloted and is currently being reviewed. The new scheme has opened up promotions for NCOs right across; it enables personnel to be promoted to all units throughout the country and has facilitated the redeployment of personnel across units and formations.

The Department of Defence and the Defence Forces have identified a requirement for the development of an integrated competency framework which will provide a key tool in order to strengthen Human Resource Management and the promotion on merit arrangements within the Defence Forces in accordance with Government policy. In this regard a Request for Tender from prospective service providers was issued on 29 January and a service provider was appointed to design and implement an Integrated Competency Framework for the Defence Forces. It is planned to incorporate the Competency Framework into the Defence Forces training, development and educational supports, promotion assessment system and annual performance appraisals.

10. Litigation

The management of certain categories of personal injury claims (injuries alleged to have occurred within Ireland) against the Department had been delegated to the State Claims Agency (SCA) since 1st September, 2005. The management of the remaining categories of personal injury claims (accidents overseas, PTSD, bullying and other harassment cases that had been managed by the Chief State Solicitor's Office) was delegated to the SCA in November 2011.

The SCA also has a role in the overseeing of risk management and is actively and continuously engaged with the Defence Forces with a view to obviating the risk of injury to civilian and Defence Force personnel. Representatives of the Department and the Defence Forces review periodically with the SCA incidents giving rise to claims and trends emerging in order to identify and obviate, if possible, the underlying causes of injury to civilian and Defence Force personnel.

Litigation cases taken against the Defence organisation comprise:

- Compensation for damage or injury arising from traffic accidents involving military vehicles;
- Payment of settlements, awards and legal costs arising out of personal injury claims against the Minister for Defence;
- Payment of settlements, awards and legal costs arising out of administrative law cases, e.g. judicial review and other legal proceedings concerning administrative decisions taken mainly in the area of personnel matters such as promotion, decisions following failure of compulsory random drug tests and decisions to discharge individual members from the Defence Forces.

In 2013, €3.8m was expended in regard to 489 claims, of which 159 were finalised and 330 were ongoing at the end of 2013. €2.3m was in relation to awards and settlements with the remainder (€1.5m) relating to legal costs inclusive of medical and miscellaneous costs. The estimate for 2014 is €5m.

Litigation Branch is also involved in monitoring developments in the areas of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and malaria chemoprophylaxis with a view to ensuring that adequate supports for personnel and safeguards against litigation are in place. Having regard to current and potential litigation, a Working Group was established in 2011 to examine the use of Lariam and other anti-malarial drugs in the Defence Forces and a Report was produced in June 2013. The Group investigated all the various allegations surrounding the use of Lariam and obtained advice from leading medical experts. The experts concur with the practices followed by the Defence Forces in prescribing Lariam. The State Claims Agency on behalf of the Minister for Defence is currently handling 30 cases taken by members or former members of the Defence Forces who allege personal injury as a result of their consumption of mefloquine (Lariam). High Court proceedings have been served in respect of 18 of these cases.

A review of the Redress of Wrongs process was ongoing in 2013 and is due for completion in 2014.

11. Legislation

The following are the main areas of work being progressed within Legislation Branch:

1. Defence Forces (DNA) Bill

The Criminal Justice (Forensic Evidence and DNA Database System) Bill, which has recently been enacted, does not make provision for the taking of DNA samples by the Military Police. There are potentially serious consequences in the investigation of certain offences overseas as there is no legal basis for taking DNA samples by Military Police. (In criminal cases arising at home, an Garda Síochána can carry out any requirements relating to DNA and the risk should therefore not arise). Legislation Branch is currently working on preparing Heads of a Bill to address the situation.

2. Red Cross

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to initiate a detailed legal review of the basis, structures and governance of the Irish Red Cross to improve its functioning in the light of changing circumstances. Draft Heads of Bill have been prepared which include the incorporation and recognition of the Society, the restriction on the use of Red Cross Society emblems and the grants paid by the Minister. Subject to discussions with the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and Government approval, it is anticipated that a Red Cross (Amendment) Bill will be published during the lifetime of the Government.

3. Regulatory Reform

Preparing and assisting in the preparation of essential amendments to Defence Force Regulations which are required by the Department and the Military Authorities.

12. Defence Property

The Defence property portfolio consists of a diverse range of facilities from conventional military barracks to forts, camps, married quarters and training lands. The principal assets are 14 permanently occupied barracks, the majority of which were taken over from the British Government in 1922.

In addition to the occupied barracks Defence also administers 14 State owned and 4 rented properties, mainly for use by the RDF.

Defence has a portfolio of some 20,000 acres of land, mainly at the Curragh, Glen of Imaal and Kilworth Camp, which are used for military training. A Value for Money Review of Military Training Lands was completed and published in 2010 and a number of efficiency improving measures were recommended including the disposal of a number of ranges.

The modernisation process in Defence identified that the dispersal of personnel over an extended number of locations was a major impediment to essential collective training and imposed increased and unnecessary overheads on the Defence Forces in terms of barrack management, administration, maintenance and security. The consolidation of the Defence Forces formations into a smaller number of locations was a key objective of the White Paper on Defence (2000).

The Department and the Defence Forces continually review Defence Forces requirements in relation to barracks, infrastructure and other military installations. A total of fourteen barracks or posts have been closed over the past 12 years. In addition, there has been significant investment in infrastructure over recent years, leading to a significant improvement in the standard of accommodation. However, the restriction on resources over recent years has impacted on the desired level of investment in infrastructure.

The property portfolio includes more than 100 married quarters, mainly within the Curragh Camp. In accordance with standing policy, these are being discontinued and disposed of in a managed and orderly way.

The Department facilitates other Departments and State agencies in making Defence facilities available for a variety of purposes. This includes accommodation for asylum seekers, the provision of firing ranges to an Garda Síochána, and facilities to the media, film production, etc

Married Quarters / Overholders

In February 1997, the then Minister for Defence set out the policy on married quarters on the basis that they were largely an anachronism and that they should be discontinued in a managed and orderly way. There are currently approximately 100 married quarters in use.

Military personnel are obliged, under Defence Force Regulations, to vacate married quarters within a specified period of being discharged or retired from the Permanent

Defence Force.

The term overholder is used to describe former members of the Defence Forces and their families who have refused to leave married quarters within 21 days of leaving the Defence Forces. Currently there are approximately 40 of the married quarters properties occupied by overholders. The Department is, in accordance with normal procedure, seeking vacant possession of overheld married quarters. There are currently 2 cases before the courts and a number of others being prepared for court. Over the past twelve months, thirteen overholders have vacated married quarters.

13. Ombudsman for the Defence Forces

The Office of the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces became operational in December 2005. The Office was established under the Ombudsman (Defence Forces) Act, 2004, to provide serving and former members of the Defence Forces with an impartial and independent review of their grievances.

The majority of cases investigated by the Ombudsman for the Defence Forces concern grievances about non-selection for promotion, career courses and overseas service by serving members of the Defence Forces.

The current Ombudsman is Mr. Patrick Anthony McCourt. He is a former member of the Defence Forces. His last appointment prior to his retirement from the Defence Forces was that of military judge. He was appointed to the post of Ombudsman for the Defence Forces on 7th November 2012 following an open recruitment campaign run by the Public Appointments Service.

Shortly after his appointment, an application for a Judicial Review of the appointment was made to the High Court by a member of the Defence Forces and PDFORRA (Permanent Defence Forces Other Ranks Representative Association). Both the individual and PDFORRA challenged his appointment as Ombudsman for the Defence Forces on the basis that Mr McCourt was previously a member of the Defence Forces. The High Court judgment found that Mr. McCourt is lawfully entitled to hold the office of Ombudsman for the Defence Forces and he performs his full duties. The matter is currently under appeal by PDFORRA to the Supreme Court.

The Ombudsman for the Defence Forces publishes an Annual Report usually within four months of the end of a year. The Annual Report for 2012 was published on the 30th June 2014. The 2013 report will be published as soon as possible.

14. Civil Defence

Civil Defence policy at a national level is set down by the Department of Defence. The organisation is managed and developed at national level by the Civil Defence Branch of the Department. At local level Civil Defence is based in each local authority area under the operation control of the relevant local authority. On a day to day basis Civil Defence Units operate under the control of a Civil Defence Officer, who is an employee of the local authority.

Between 2003 and 2012 Civil Defence at national level was managed by a State authority known as the Civil Defence Board. In accordance with the Civil Defence Act 2012, the Civil Defence Board was dissolved with effect from 1 January 2013 and its functions were transferred back to the Department of Defence.

As of June 2014, there are 4,440 active members listed on the Civil Defence volunteer register. These volunteers are based in every local authority area in the country.

Civil Defence training and operations are funded by a combination of a central grant from the Department of Defence and a contribution from the relevant local authority on a 70/30 basis. As well as grant aid and policy advice and support, the Department provides other supports to local Civil Defence units such as central training for local instructors in a “train the trainer” system through the Civil Defence College in Roscrea. The Department also supplies vehicles, uniforms and personal protective equipment for volunteers and a wide range of other equipment to local authorities for Civil Defence use.

15. Irish Red Cross Society

The Society was established by the Irish Red Cross Society Order 1939 pursuant to the Red Cross Act, 1938 and is an independent charitable body corporate with full power to manage and administer its own affairs.

Whilst the Minister has no role in the day to day running of the Society, Irish Red Cross legislation has traditionally been sponsored and brought to Government by the Minister for Defence.

Since 1939, the relevant Establishment Order had undergone piecemeal changes only but in April 2012, Government granted approval for a substantial number of proposed changes to the 1939 Order. These represented the most wide ranging and fundamental set of changes to have occurred since the establishment of the Society. One of the key changes made was a substantial reduction in the number of Government nominees to the Society's General Assembly; from not less than one-third of its composition to not more than 10%. Furthermore, the legislation was also amended to provide that the Chairperson of the Society is now elected by the Society itself, in accordance with its own Rules and Constitution, rather than by the President.

In tandem with the Government's initiative in amending the legislation, the Society itself made a number of very progressive changes to its Constitution and Rules and now has in place a corporate governance framework that meets the rigorous standards set for good governance internationally by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

The Programme for Government contains a commitment to initiate a detailed legal review of the basis, structures and governance of the Irish Red Cross to improve its functioning in the light of changing circumstances. The Department is continuing work on the review in consultation with the Irish Red Cross Society. The review mainly relates to codification of the various legal instruments in effect since 1938. It is anticipated, subject to Government approval, that a Red Cross (Amendment) Bill will be published during the lifetime of this Government.

The Department of Defence provides an annual grant-in-aid to the Society which represents a contribution towards the salary and administration costs of running the Society's headquarters. The annual grant currently amounts to €869,000 of which €130,000 represents the Government's annual contribution to the International Committee of the Red Cross.

16. Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection Project

The Department, as part of the Government Centenary Commemoration programme, is cataloguing and partially digitising the military service pension files in the custody of the Military Archives. The purpose of the project is to make records and files relating to the period from Easter Week 1916, through the War of Independence and Civil War available to the public and to historians. This collection comprises nearly 300,000 files.

The project is overseen by a working group comprising representatives of the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces, the Department of the Taoiseach, the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, and the National Archives. A team of archivists is in place and work on the project continues to progress.

A phased release of material into the public domain is planned. The first release of material from the collection was completed in January 2014 and a second release is provisionally scheduled for September 2014.

Appendix 1. Defence Estimate Vote 36 for 2014

Subhead	Title	2013 Provisional Outturn €000	2014 Estimate €000
A.1	Administration (including pay of civil servants)	17,318	17,951
A.2	Administration (non-pay)	4,211	5,102
A.3	PDF Pay	413,394	422,466
A.4	PDF Allowances	40,077	35,279
A.5	Reserve Defence Forces Pay, etc	1,909	3,150
A.6	Chaplains – Pay & Allowances	1,108	1,225
A.7	Civilians employed with Defence Forces– Pay etc	29,251	32,370
A.8	Defensive Equipment	26,931	26,500
A.9	Air Corps	17,653	14,100
A.10	Military Transport	10,437	10,950
A.11	Naval Service	35,800	36,600
A.12	Bk Expenses & Engineering Eqpt	15,496	13,800
A.13	Buildings (excl capital c/o)	11,713	12,977
A.14	Ordnance, Catering & Clothing	11,784	14,970
A.15	Defence Forces Communications & IT	7,166	6,340
A.16	Military Training	1,998	1,950
A.17	Travel & Freight	2,074	2,568
A.18	Medical Expenses	2,776	2,600
A.19	Lands	1,540	1,000
A.20	Equitation	874	860
A.21	Compensation	3,798	5,000
A.22	Miscellaneous Expenses	2,700	3,066
A.23	EU Security & Defence Policy Costs	828	996
A.24	Civil Defence	4,352	4,240
A.25	Red Cross	869	869
Gross Total		666,057	676,929
B	Appropriations – in - Aid	48,437	36,638
Net Total		617,620	640,291

Appendix 2. Defence Forces Personnel serving overseas as of 1st June 2014

1 UN MISSIONS

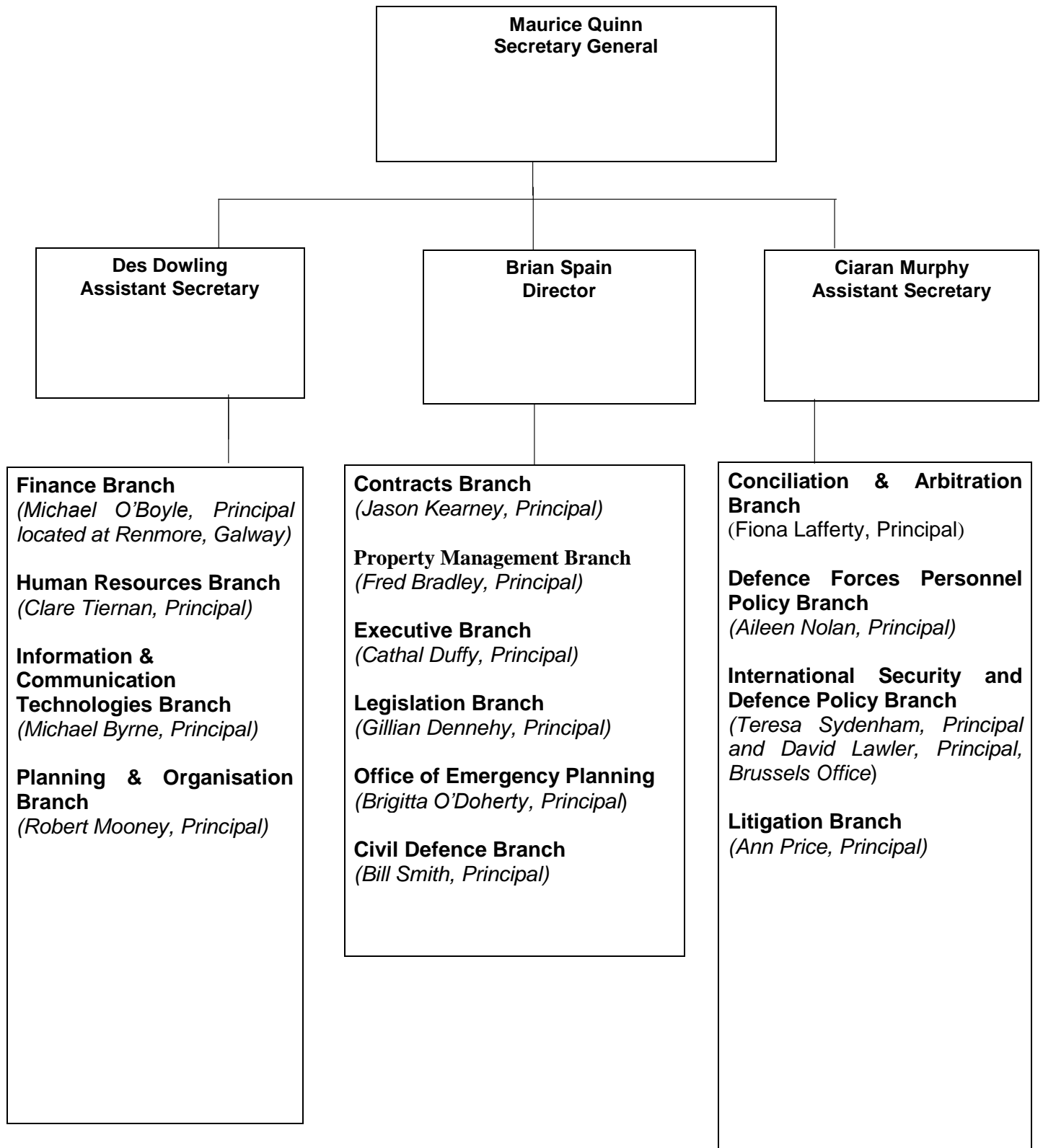
(i)	UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon) HQ	9
	UNIFIL 42nd Infantry Group	186
	UNIFIL Sector West HQ	4
(ii)	UNTSO (United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation) – Israel and Syria	13
(iii)	MINURSO (United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara)	3
(iv)	MONUSCO (United Nations Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo)	4
(v)	UNOCI (United Nations Mission in Ivory Coast)	2
(vi)	UNDOF (United Nations Disengagement Observer Force) HQ, Golan Heights, Syria	5
	UNDOF 44th Infantry Group	130
(vii)	UNMAS (United Nations Mine Action Service) – South Sudan	5
	TOTAL	361

UN MANDATED MISSIONS

(viii)	EUFOR (EU-led Operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina)	7
(ix)	EUTM Mali (EU-Led Training Mission)	8
(x)	KFOR (International Security Presence in Kosovo) – HQ	12
(xi)	ISAF (International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan)	7
	TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL SERVING WITH UN MISSIONS	395

2	<u>ORGANISATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE (OSCE)</u>	
(i)	OSCE Mission to Bosnia & Herzegovina	2
(ii)	OSCE Mission in Belgrade - Serbia	1
(iii)	Staff Officer, High Level Planning Group, OSCE HQ, Vienna	1
	TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONNEL SERVING OSCE	4
3	<u>EU MILITARY STAFF</u>	
	Brussels	5
4	<u>NORDIC BATTLE GROUP 2015</u>	
	FHQ Sweden	3
5	<u>MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES/ADVISERS/STAFF</u>	
(i)	Military Adviser, Permanent Mission to UN, New York	1
(ii)	Military Adviser, Irish Delegation to OSCE, Vienna	1
(iii)	Military Representative to EU (Brussels)	4
(iv)	Liaison Office of Ireland, NATO/PfP (Brussels)	2
(v)	EU OHQ Operation Althea, Mons, Belgium	1
(vi)	Irish Liaison Officer to SHAPE & Military Co-op Division, Mons, Belgium	1
	TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENCE FORCES PERSONNEL SERVING OVERSEAS	417

Appendix 3. Senior Management (Civil Servants)



Appendix 4. Senior Management (Military Officers)

Chief of Staff (COS)	Lieutenant-General Conor O’Boyle
Deputy COS (Support)	Rear Admiral Mark Mellett
Deputy COS (Operations)	Major-General Ralph James
Assistant Chief of Staff (ACOS)	Brigadier-General Colm Campbell
General Officer Commanding 1 Brigade	Brigadier-General Derry Fitzgerald
General Officer Commanding 2 Brigade	Brigadier-General Michael Beary
General Officer Commanding Defence Forces Training Centre (Curragh Camp)	Brigadier-General Seamus Ó’Giolláin
General Officer Commanding Air Corps	Brigadier-General Paul Fry
Flag Officer Commanding the Naval Service	Commodore Hugh Tully

Appendix 5. Lisbon Treaty Guarantees

ANNEX 1

DECISION OF THE HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT OF THE 27 MEMBER STATES OF THE EU, MEETING WITHIN THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL, ON THE CONCERNS OF THE IRISH PEOPLE ON THE TREATY OF LISBON

The Heads of State or Government of the 27 Member States of the European Union, whose Governments are signatories of the Treaty of Lisbon,

Taking note of the outcome of the Irish referendum of 12 June 2008 on the Treaty of Lisbon and of the concerns of the Irish people identified by the Taoiseach,

Desiring to address those concerns in conformity with that Treaty,

Having regard to the Conclusions of the European Council of 11-12 December 2008,

Have agreed on the following Decision:

SECTION A

RIGHT TO LIFE, FAMILY AND EDUCATION

Nothing in the Treaty of Lisbon attributing legal status to the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, or in the provisions of that Treaty in the area of Freedom, Security and Justice affects in any way the scope and applicability of the protection of the right to life in Article 40.3.1, 40.3.2 and 40.3.3, the protection of the family in Article 41 and the protection of the rights in respect of education in Articles 42 and 44.2.4 and 44.2.5 provided by the Constitution of Ireland.

SECTION B

TAXATION

Nothing in the Treaty of Lisbon makes any change of any kind, for any Member State, to the extent or operation of the competence of the European Union in relation to taxation.

SECTION C

SECURITY AND DEFENCE

The Union's action on the international scene is guided by the principles of democracy, the rule of law, the universality and indivisibility of human rights and fundamental freedoms, respect for human dignity, the principles of equality and solidarity, and respect for the principles of the United Nations Charter and international law.

The Union's common security and defence policy is an integral part of the common foreign and security policy and provides the Union with an operational capacity to undertake missions outside the Union for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

It does not prejudice the security and defence policy of each Member State, including Ireland, or the obligations of any Member State.

The Treaty of Lisbon does not affect or prejudice Ireland's traditional policy of military neutrality.

It will be for Member States - including Ireland, acting in a spirit of solidarity and without prejudice to its traditional policy of military neutrality - to determine the nature of aid or assistance to be provided to a Member State which is the object of a terrorist attack or the victim of armed aggression on its territory.

Any decision to move to a common defence will require a unanimous decision of the European Council. It would be a matter for the Member States, including Ireland, to decide, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon and with their respective constitutional requirements, whether or not to adopt a common defence.

Nothing in this Section affects or prejudices the position or policy of any other Member State on security and defence.

It is also a matter for each Member State to decide, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty of Lisbon and any domestic legal requirements, whether to participate in permanent structured cooperation or the European Defence Agency.

The Treaty of Lisbon does not provide for the creation of a European army or for conscription to any military formation.

It does not affect the right of Ireland or any other Member State to determine the nature and volume of its defence and security expenditure and the nature of its defence capabilities.

It will be a matter for Ireland or any other Member State, to decide, in accordance with any domestic legal requirements, whether or not to participate in any military operation.

SECTION D

FINAL PROVISIONS

This decision shall take effect on the same date as the Treaty of Lisbon.

ANNEX 2

SOLEMN DECLARATION ON WORKERS' RIGHTS, SOCIAL POLICY AND OTHER ISSUES

The European Council confirms the high importance which the Union attaches to:

- social progress and the protection of workers' rights;
- public services;
- the responsibility of Member States for the delivery of education and health services;
- the essential role and wide discretion of national, regional and local authorities in providing, commissioning and organising services of general economic interest.

In doing so, it underlines the importance of respecting the overall framework and provisions of the EU Treaties.

To underline this, it recalls that the Treaties as modified by the Treaty of Lisbon:

- establish an internal market and aim at working for the sustainable development of Europe based on balanced economic growth and price stability, a highly competitive social market economy, aiming at full employment and social progress, and a high level of protection and improvement of the quality of the environment;
 - give expression to the Union's values;
 - recognise the rights, freedoms and principles set out in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union in accordance with Article 6 of the Treaty on European Union;
-

- aim to combat social exclusion and discrimination, and to promote social justice and protection, equality between women and men, solidarity between generations and protection of the rights of the child;
 - oblige the Union, when defining and implementing its policies and activities, to take into account requirements linked to the promotion of a high level of employment, the guarantee of adequate social protection, the fight against social exclusion, and a high level of education, training and protection of human health;
 - include, as a shared value of the Union, the essential role and the wide discretion of national, regional and local authorities in providing, commissioning and organising services of general economic interest as closely as possible to the needs of the users;
 - do not affect in any way the competence of Member States to provide, commission and organise non-economic services of general interest;
 - provide that the Council, when acting in the area of common commercial policy, must act unanimously when negotiating and concluding international agreements in the field of trade in social, education and health services, where those agreements risk seriously disturbing the national organisation of such services and prejudicing the responsibility of Member States to deliver them; and
 - provide that the Union recognises and promotes the role of the social partners at the level of the European Union, and facilitates dialogue between them, taking account of the diversity of national systems and respecting the autonomy of social partners.
-

ANNEX 3

NATIONAL DECLARATION BY IRELAND

Ireland reaffirms its attachment to the aims and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which confers primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security upon the United Nations Security Council.

Ireland recalls its commitment to the common foreign and security policy of the European Union, as approved on several occasions by the Irish people through referendum.

Ireland confirms that its participation in the European Union's common foreign and security policy does not prejudice its traditional policy of military neutrality. The Treaty on European Union makes clear that the Union's security and defence policy shall not prejudice the specific character of the security and defence policy of certain Member States.

In line with its traditional policy of military neutrality, Ireland is not bound by any mutual defence commitment. The Treaty on European Union specifies that any decision by the Union to move to a common defence would have to be taken by unanimous decision of the Member States and adopted in accordance with their respective constitutional requirements. The Constitution of Ireland requires that a referendum be held on the adoption of any such decision applicable to Ireland and this requirement will not be affected should Ireland ratify the Treaty of Lisbon.

Ireland reiterates its commitment to the ideal of peace and friendly cooperation amongst nations and to the principle of the peaceful resolution of international disputes. It reaffirms its strong commitment to conflict prevention, resolution and peacekeeping, and recalls the record of achievement of its personnel, military and civilian, in this regard.

It reiterates that the participation of contingents of the Irish Defence Forces in overseas operations, including those carried out under the European common security and defence policy requires (a) the authorisation of the operation by the Security Council or the General Assembly of the United Nations, (b) the agreement of the Irish Government, and (c) the approval of Dáil Éireann, in accordance with Irish law.

Ireland notes that nothing obliges it to participate in permanent structured cooperation as provided for in the Treaty on European Union. Any decision enabling Ireland to participate will require the approval of Dáil Éireann in accordance with Irish law.

Ireland notes also that nothing obliges it to participate in the European Defence Agency, or in specific projects or programmes initiated under its auspices. Any decision to participate in such projects or programmes will be subject to national decision-making and the approval of Dáil Éireann in accordance with Irish law. Ireland declares that it will participate only in those projects and programmes that contribute to enhancing the capabilities required for participation in UN-mandated

missions for peace-keeping, conflict prevention and strengthening international security, in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

The situation set out in this Declaration would be unaffected by the entry into force of the Treaty of Lisbon. In the event of Ireland's ratification of the Treaty of Lisbon, this Declaration will be associated with Ireland's instrument of ratification.